

Person Of The Month

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Statesman, scientist, philosopher and all around good fellow, Benjamin Franklin left us richer for his having been here. He entered this life in Boston on January 17, 1706, the fifteenth of his father's seventeen offspring. When only eleven years old, after a year of candle-making with his father, he was apprenticed to his half-brother, James, a printer. Not being able to get along with brother James, Benjamin took himself to New York and then to Philadelphia, where he arrived in 1723 practically penniless. Being an industrious lad, he soon had worked and made friends.

In 1724, Governor Keith offered to stake him to a print shop of his own and sent him to England for supplies. Like many other politicians, Keith back-watered on his offer and Benjamin was stranded in London. Returning to this country in 1726, he first went to work for an old employer, but later established his own shop with Hugh Meredith. Getting really busy, he bought and made a success of the Philadelphia Gazette; was appointed State Printer; began to write and sell Poor Richard's Almanac. In 1730, he somehow found the time to get married.

Franklin was soon Philadelphia's leading citizen, and in 1731 founded the Library Club which grew into the first circulating library in America. By 1732, he was made Grand Master of the Freemasons; was clerk of the Pennsylvania Assembly from 1736 to 1751; organized the city's first fire company in 1736; was appointed postmaster for the following year; contributed philosophical and scientific essays to his own and his half-brother's newspapers; discovered and proved the relation of lightning with electricity, and conducted research work which added to the understanding of electricity; organized Braddock's transport system; organized the Northwest territory against the Indian raids; founded the Academy of Philadelphia, which later became the University of Pennsylvania.

In 1753, Franklin was appointed Postmaster General for the Colonies. Going to London to get the King to take over the province from the Penn family, he stayed to battle against the Stamp Act which was repealed in 1766, largely through his efforts. He continued to fight for the rights of the Colonists, but in 1775 saw the war was coming and returned to Philadelphia. Joining the battle, he presided over the Constitutional Convention of Pennsylvania and was elected one of the committee to frame the Declaration of Independence.

In 1776 he went to France as one of three commissioners looking for food, money, ammunition and a military alliance. After the war he was appointed a member of the commission to negotiate the peace treaty with England, and after his return in 1785 was four times elected President of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. His last experience in public life was as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention.

Franklin just never found the time to complete his Autobiography of a full and interesting life which ended in 1790.

About the only big business that runs without advertising is the New York subway and that's in a hole.



"OH YES, AUNT MARTHA JUNIOR'S HAD SOME REMARKABLE RESULTS WITH THE CHEMISTRY SET YOU GAVE HIM."

Just For Fun

LIKE EGGS — FRESH AND NEW, YOU BET!

SOFT TOUCH

An Englishman spent a hectic two weeks in America. He never did manage to get himself straightened out on the names and uses of American currency.

"It was perfectly amazing how quickly I got used to American ways," he told his friends when he got back to London. "Take those American coins and bills, for instance. When I got out of a taxi, I just thrust all the American money I had at the driver and let him figure out the correct amount. Do you know, I was absolutely right every time. It took just what I had—to the last penny!"

FRESH

Dear Old Lady: "Little boy, does your mother know you smoke?"

Little Boy: "Does your husband know you speak to strange men on the street?"

LOOK OUT

An excited housewife demanded a personal interview with the postmaster of a large western city.

"Your department is completely inefficient," she told him. "A week ago my husband left here to complete a large business deal in New York. This morning I received a letter from him, and some idiot in your department post-marked it 'Atlantic City.'"

Winston Churchill, until recently, had a son-in-law for whom he had absolutely no use. The young man, an actor, was aware of the older man's dislike and tried everything to improve matters, without success. At a formal dinner party at the Churchill country estate the actor suddenly remarked, "Sir, who do you think will go down in history as the greatest statesman of his age?" "Mussolini," said Mr. Churchill instantly. The reply startled the guests, of course, and the young man gasped, "No, you can't mean that. Why Mussolini?" "It's very simple," said Churchill, puffing placidly on his cigar. "He is the only one of us who had sense enough to shoot his son-in-law."

TIME WILL TELL

Grandpa was celebrating his 100th birthday and from all sides he was being complimented on how well he appeared. "I'll tell ye the secret of my success," crackled the old fellow. "Grandma and I were married 75 years ago, and on our wedding night we made arrangement that whenever we squabbled, the one who was proved wrong would go out for a walk. Folks, I've been in the open air almost continuously for 75 years."

SPREAD AROUND

Mrs. Smith was lucky enough to find a vacant apartment. Inspecting the rooms, she inquired about some stains on the ceiling of one of the rooms. "Oh, don't worry about them," said the landlord. "the last man who had the apartment was a professor who was always experimenting with chemicals."

"Oh, then, these spots must be from the chemicals?"

"No, they're from the professor."

ASKING TOO MUCH

A sign on the wall of a famous restaurant proclaims: We have every kind of sandwich in the world. Just ask for it.

One night a wise guy demanded a whale sandwich. Temporarily confused, the waiter said he'd have to speak to the boss about the request. After a bit, the waiter came back and reported, "The boss says he'll be damned if he'll cut up a whole whale just for one sandwich."

WELL

A Kentucky hillbilly watched his wife cooking victuals.

"Better move a mite, maw," he suggested, "You be standin' on a live coal."

"Do tell," said Maw. "Which foot?"

SERVES YOU RIGHT

Mrs.: I stood in line for over an hour today.

Mr.: What for?

Mrs.: I don't know. It was all gone by the time I got there.

HEY, MISTER!

A very useful poker table can be made by screwing a three-foot square of plywood to the top of an orange crate. Such a table eliminates legs at the four corners and leaves more leg room.

Some of the ingenious Germans in Berlin have found a way to make windows without glass. They do it with beer and wine bottles. They simply cut the necks off the bottles and cement them together. This is a clever way to dress up summer cottages, doll houses for the kids or garages. Now you know what the face on the bar-room floor sees when it looks up.

If you wife or girl hasn't anything to do with her spare time, have her make you a close-knit, dark-colored sleeveless sweater (unless you happen to have one left over from summer). Worn under a shirt, it will do a lion's job of keeping you warm in the face of February's blustery winds.

If you're that man who has to take out the garbage, have your wife line the can with a size 16 grocery bag, reinforced with a couple of thicknesses of newspaper. This does much to save the garbage drips on your clothes.

Probably you get tired of carrying out tin cans at the end of every day. You'd just as soon let them collect for a week. Well, let the wife flatten out each day's empty cans, and put them in one of these . . . cloth or flour sacks. They can be suspended near the sink and will help keep the cans collected in one inconspicuous place.

LESS WALL SMUDGE. Thumbtacks, on the inside lower corners of a picture frame will prevent its touching the wall. This helps keep the frame from forming a black dust outline on the wall, and leaves enough air space for dust to drop through.

It is reported that at one of Toscanini's rehearsals with the NBC orchestra the harp player plucked the wrong string, causing the maestro to break a record number of batons and go generally wild. The orchestra began again, and when the time came for the harpist to play his note, he was so upset that he repeated his mistake. Toscanini left the rehearsal in speechless rage. When the orchestra assembled for the broadcast the next day, the harpist found that every string had been removed from his harp . . . except the one he would be called upon to pluck.

William Jennings Bryan, early in his career was interviewed by a reporter. "Put this in your paper, son," said the orator. "A man simply can't make a million dollars honestly."

Many years later, the reporter, now an editor had occasion to see Bryan in the same hotel in which the first interview had taken place. Bryan had in the meantime salted away quite a pile. "Remember what you told me about rich men?" queried the editor. "Certainly," Bryan shot back, "I said, 'A man simply can't make two million dollars honestly.'"

EDITOR'S PROBLEM

It's tough to find
For love or money
A joke that's clean
And also funny.

Among the distances recently shortened by the automobile is the distance between the introduction and the altar.