

St. Valentine's Day Traced To Old Roman Custom Dating To 270 A. D.

During Revolutionary War First Flurry Appeared In U. S.

By STAFF WRITER
Saints and sinners alike have helped Dan Cupid to weave a web of romantic customs and historical controversy around the origin of St. Valentine's Day.

The "romantic customs" are of particular interest, since 1952 is Leap Year — when the rules of courtship can be side-tracked without notice. The "historical controversy" rages over these three questions:

1. Who was the original St. Valentine? 2. Why was February 14

When you think of prescriptions, think of VARNER'S—adv.

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Now In Japan



SGT. RAY S. OWEN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Burlin Owen, of Lake Toxaway, has been returned to Japan after eight months of duty in Korea. Sgt. Owen has been in the Marine corps for four years and now serves with the First Marine air wing.

chosen as St. Valentine's Day? 3. How did the Valentine custom come to America?

Apparently, St. Valentine's Day has always been considered the best time for sweethearts to "pop the question." Nevertheless, millions of Valentines are exchanged each year between friends and relatives, as well as those for sweethearts, wives, and husbands.

Like a sensitive barometer, their colorful designs and sentimental verses record the nation's romantic temperature and its degree of friendliness. Yet, comparatively little is known about how this quaint old custom began.

Most scholars agree that St. Valentine's Day was named for a young priest who refused to accept the traditional gods of Rome. But seven different Valentines are listed in the Calendar of Saints. So some spoilsports will probably say, "It was really six other guys!"

According to the experts, however, St. Valentine was jailed for his faith in Christianity. There he cured the keeper's daughter of blindness, but was beheaded soon afterwards. Following the execution on February 14, 270 A. D., it was learned he had thoughtfully written a letter to console the little girl, signed "From Your Valentine."

This act of kindness fired the imagination of people everywhere. Tokens of friendship, which neither implied nor encouraged a fluttery heart, were still exchanged on St. Valentine's Day more than 1,000 years later, when diminutive Dan Cupid finally took over.

Actually, the Romans had lavishly celebrated this date several centuries earlier, as the pagan Feast of Lupercalia. The ceremony itself blossomed from a pseudo-scientific belief that the birds of Italy began mating on February 14.

As the years passed, this willy-nilly approach to romance was bitterly opposed by church authorities—who wanted to substitute the name of a guardian saint for these impetuous young people. Despite the wisdom of this alternative, it was never as popular as taking a chance on love. So the pagan Love Festival continued to flourish.

It was during Revolutionary war days that the first flurry of Valentines broke out in America. Records show, however, that sweethearts had been exchanging Valentines for over 300 years by then.

It took a Frenchman, naturally, to get the ball rolling. According to the British Museum, where it is now on display, the oldest Sweetheart Valentine existing was designed by the Duke of Orleans in 1415. Imprisoned in the Tower of London after the battle of Agin-

Clemson THEATRE

Friday & Sat.

WAS HE THE OUTLAW PHANTOM OR LASH OF JUSTICE?

LASH LA RUE FUZZY ST. JOHN

THE FRONTIER PHANTOM

Sun. & Mon.

Alan Ladd and Robert Preston

In

"Whispering Smith"

A BIG TWO-GUN WESTERN IN TECHNICOLOR

court, he bribed a guard to smuggle it out.

It was a cute trick, and other French gallants soon set out with scissors and pastepot to improve on this idea. During the reign of Louis XIV, handmade Valentines reached a peak in elegance and sheer craftsmanship that was unequalled until modern graphic arts processes were developed.

Dan Cupid appeared on Valentines for the first time. Gilt paper, jewels, gaily colored ribbons, cut-out hearts, and expensive Venetian lace were also used to create unusual effects.

Here in America, colonial sweethearts improvised and made their simple pen-and-ink Valentines as best they could. This continued until 1840, when Esther Howland designed and printed a batch of English-style Valentines for her delighted classmates at Mt. Holyoke College for Women.

It was Leap Year—Just 28 Leap Years ago, in fact—and the unexpected demand encouraged her to "open shop" on a larger scale. After her college days ended, Miss Howland became the head of a firm specializing in Valentines.

SUCCESSFUL FISH SUPPER IS HELD

President Of Shriners Issues Regrets To All Who Waited In Line

Over 500 persons attended the fish supper last Friday evening at the Masonic temple. The event was sponsored by the Transylvania Shrine club, with members of the Order of the Eastern Star assisting.

W. C. Bangs, Shrine club president, says this week that he is extremely sorry that many people had to stand in line for awhile, but the situation was due to circumstances beyond the control of members of the club.

He expresses sincere appreciation to all who waited, and he says that every effort is being made to eliminate the trouble before another supper is held. It is understood that the power line into the building was not large enough to pull two deep-well fryers and only one could be used.

In expressing appreciation to all

Mother Of Local Woman Dies In S. C.

Funeral services for Mrs. Ansel West, 56, were held Saturday afternoon at 5:00 o'clock at the Mountain Creek Baptist church at Anderson, S. C.

Among the survivors is a daughter, Mrs. George McCloud, the former Katherine West, of Brevard.

firms who generously donated nice prizes to persons selling the most tickets, Henry R. Henderson, who was in charge of ticket sales, announces the following winners and prizes received:

Clayton Gardner, who sold the highest number of tickets, a GE electric alarm clock from the Electric Service company.

Roy Porter, second, received the Evans table cigarette lighter, given by Varner's drug store.

Herschel Townley, third place, selected the Ronson cigarette lighter, given by McFee's Jewelry shop.

John F. DeBord was the fourth place winner and he chose the meal ticket, given by Gaither's restaurant.

Beta Club Plans Valentine Dance In Hut On Saturday, February 16th

Charter Night Is Observed At Carr's Hill Baptist Church

Charter night was observed at Carr's Hill Baptist church Wednesday night with cards of membership presented to the following members of troop 14, which is sponsored by the church:

Morris McGaha, Lynn McGaha, Joe McGaha, Jack McKelvey, Billy McKelvey, John Bolick, John Henry Heath, John Allen McCrary, Eugene McCrary, Walter Raxter, Walter Cantrell, Keith Parker, Boots Davis and Leroy Landreth.

Troop leaders are: Earl Parker, scoutmaster; Perry Raxter, assistant scoutmaster; Quentin Cantrell, Walter Cantrell, and Phillip McGaha, troop committeemen. The Rev. Theo Rose is pastor of Carr's Hill church.

Money still talks these days but all it says is "goodbye."

Time Is 7 O'Clock; All Students Are Invited To Attend Event

The Beta club is sponsoring a "Valentine Dance" at the hut February 16, at 7:30.

The entertainment will include Ray Talley, The Blue-Zettes, FFA string band, and square and round dances.

The proceeds of the dance will be used to send delegates to the state convention. For refreshments, cookies will be free and punch will be five cents for two.

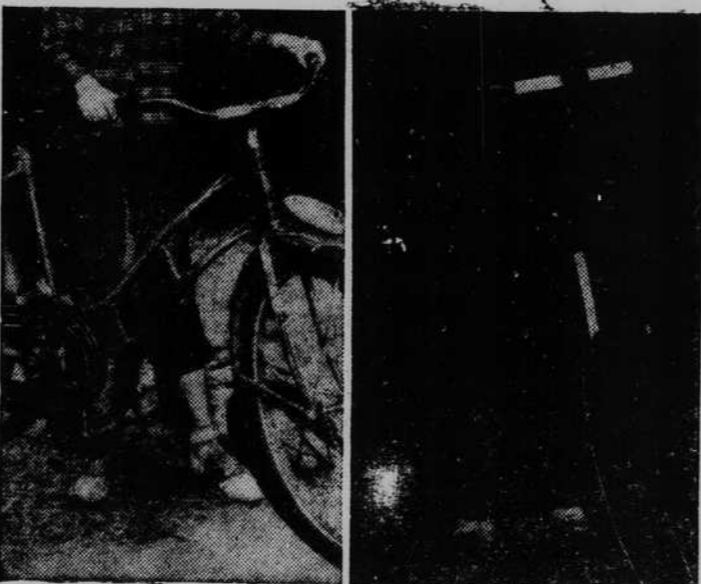
The entertainment committee is as follows: Hattie Bolick, Doris Ferguson and John Edward Cox. The refreshment committee includes: Joan Teague, Kimsey Jackson, Roberta Harris, and Betty Shipman. Kathleen Gaines and Margaret Johnson are on the advertisement committee. The decoration committee is Imogene Dickson, Betty Jo Byrd, Donald Greene and Patricia Parker.

Attention... ALL BOYS AND GIRLS WHO HAVE BICYCLES

MAKE THEM SAFER FOR NIGHT RIDING

The Monroe Wilson Post Of The American Legion Is Conducting A Bike Safety Campaign

Cycling in the Dark With Safety



Concerned about the growing night-time accident toll, the members of the local post of the legion have started a "Scotchlite-A-Bike" campaign in which it will equip every bicycle in the county with the reflective material, brilliantly visible to motorists at night when headlight beams strike its surface. With white "Scotchlite" on the handlebars and front fork and red "Scotchlite" on the rear fender, bicycles are plainly visible at long distances.

Photo at left shows how bicycle appears in daylight; right, the same bicycle as it appears to a motorist in the dark. The same material, now used on highway traffic signs, was used for airport markers and harbor buoys during the war. The reflectorized material can be cemented to any surface.

In addition to making the bicycles safer for night riding with "Scotchlite," the legionnaires will also register all bicycles in the town and county by name, serial number, make, etc., and these records will prove very valuable when bikes are stolen. Boys and girls bringing their bikes on Saturday for the "Scotchlite" are urged to have them thoroughly clean... it's silver tape for the front... red for the rear... and all FREE!

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