

District of Ross Mills
Ross Mills Newsletter
February 2020

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We know the message the Valentine sends, but where did that tradition come from?



1410



VALENTINE'S DAY The holiday known as Valentine's Day comes on February 14 each year. It is sometimes called St. Valentine's Day, for it is the feast day of two saints who were both St. Valentine.

The idea of sending valentines on St. Valentine's Day had nothing to do with honoring either of the St. Valentines. No one knows where the idea came from.

Ross Grange Hosts Speakers

Chair Yoga with Connie Dalbo was the program of the January 13 meeting of Ross Grange. Members enjoyed learning exercises to do as they were able. Following her presentation, refreshments were served by Opal Sprague. Betty Wakefield shared 2019 pictures and financial comparisons of former years of the Holiday

Happenings Craft Fair. Some of the proceeds from this were given to the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign, The Blue Star Mothers, and the St. Susan's Soup Kitchen.

The charter was draped in memory of Violet Engrstom, age 100. Mrs Wakefield wrote a Resolution of Respect for the Grange memorial book.

John Griffith, County Director of Emergency Services and Fire Coordinator was the speaker for the January 27 meeting. He explained the use of Fly Cars and where they are located in the county. This system was started before his appointment. Fire departments are still very involved in emergencies but sometimes do not have the volunteers available when needed. Members asked questions which were all answered. Following his presentation, Mary Jane Griffith served refreshments.

The 2020 Grange Legislative Handbook has been received from delegate action at October 2019 State Grange Session. The 10 Priorities for 2020 were also reviewed. The plans for changes to Route 60 as given in the Post Journal were discussed.

The next meeting will be at the Falcon's Nest February 10 with the program presented at 1:00 PM by Helen Peterson.

Why We Have Seasons

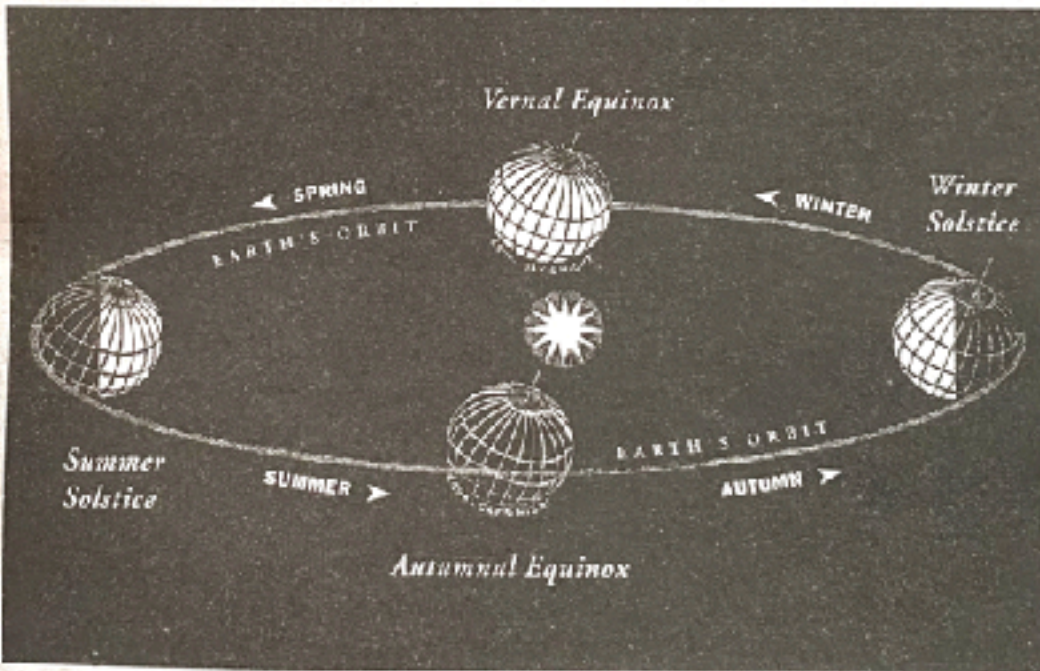


The seasons occur because as Earth revolves around the Sun, its axis remains tilted at 23.5 degrees from the perpendicular. This tilt causes different latitudes on Earth to receive varying amounts of sunlight throughout the year.

In the Northern Hemisphere, the summer solstice marks the beginning of summer and occurs when the North Pole is tilted toward the Sun. The winter solstice marks the beginning of winter and occurs when the North Pole is tilted away from the Sun.

The equinoxes occur when the hemispheres equally face the Sun. At this time, the Sun rises due east and sets due west. The vernal equinox marks the beginning of spring; the autumnal equinox marks the beginning of autumn.

In the Southern Hemisphere, the seasons are the reverse of those in the Northern Hemisphere.



THE FIRST DAYS OF THE 2020 SEASONS

VERNAL (SPRING) EQUINOX: March 19, 11:50 P.M. EDT

SUMMER SOLSTICE: June 20, 5:44 P.M. EDT

AUTUMNAL (FALL) EQUINOX: Sept. 22, 9:31 A.M. EDT

WINTER SOLSTICE: Dec. 21, 5:02 A.M. EST

CALENDAR

The article to the left is from the Farmer's Almanac; 2020.

The Valentine's articles on the previous page is from the Golden Book Encyclopedia; 1960.

VOICE

VOICE Long ago no animals had voices. How quiet the world must have been—no frogs croaking, no birds singing, no dogs barking, and no people talking. Of course, in those days there were no frogs, birds, dogs, or people. The kinds of animals that lived then were simpler animals.

The first animals with voices probably used them to call their mates. The voice of the male frog is a croak which tells his mate, "Here I am." His mate then can answer his call by coming close enough for him to see her. Many of the amphibians and reptiles that have voices use them only at mating time.

Birds have calls and songs for their mates and also for their young. Father birds perch high in the branches of a tree and sing to their mates and to all the rest of the world. Mother birds sing, too. Most bird songs are gay and cheerful. Birds also use their voices in another way. When their babies are in danger they warn them by giving a danger note. When a mother hen gives a warning, the babies all run to hide under the mother's wings. A few kinds of birds, such as parrots and parakeets,

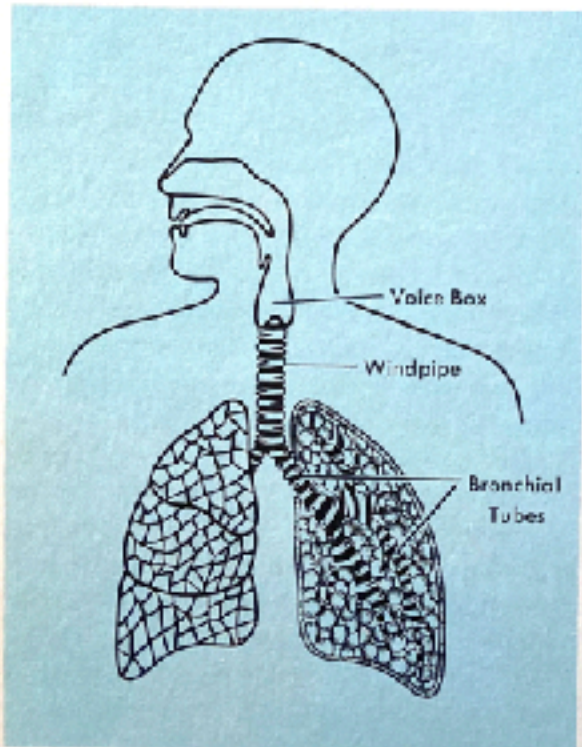
can use their voices so well that they can be taught to say words.

Almost all mammals are able to call their mates and their babies. A few like the giraffe make very feeble sounds.

All animals with voices have vocal cords. These vocal cords are in a voice box of some kind. Our vocal cords are in a voice box called the larynx. The Adam's apple is the front of the voice box.

Air passes through the larynx as it goes in and out of our lungs. No sounds are made as the air goes through the larynx to the lungs. Sounds are made only as air passes between the vocal cords when it is forced from the lungs out of the body. The air causes the vocal cords to move back and forth very fast, or vibrate. The vibrations cause sound. The more tightly our vocal cords are stretched, the higher the sound they make. The more air we force past them, the louder the sound. When we are still children we learn to make our voices high or low, loud or soft.

But our vocal cords alone do not make it possible for us to say or sing words. The tongue, the lips, and the teeth are needed. Learning to talk means learning to control not only our vocal cords but also the position of our tongue and lips. Singing well means, in addition, good control of the breath. This, in turn, means good control of the diaphragm, the sheet of muscle that helps us breathe. No wonder it takes years of training to become a great singer. Of course, a great singer must have good vocal equipment (good vocal cords and a good throat) to begin with. (See PARROTS AND PARAKEETS; SOUND.)



Turtle
(Feeble Voice)



Butterfly
(No Voice at All)