

# HISTORY & FOLKLORE



**From Illustrated Press of Liberty County, Thursday, March 26, 1970 –**  
**Dayton fliers at Liberty Municipal Airport have just landed after taking pictures for the Dayton News. At left is Leard Conner, editor of the Dayton News, and at right is Bob Jamison, pilot and chairman of the board of Dayton State Bank.**



**From Illustrated Press of Liberty County, Thursday, June 6, 1963 –**  
**City officers Evans and Cornelius and workmen complete the job of returning several of Liberty’s streets from one-way status to two-way traffic. The only remaining streets are Sam Houston and Trinity in the courthouse square. – W.R. Johnson photo**

From Texas Illustrated, October 1986 –

## The Spokane Calendar, 1916

by Kevin Ladd

A preacher up in Spokane, Washington, proposed in 1916 an idea for a new calendar. Parts of the minister’s idea are only amusing, but I must say there is some merit to other parts. I think it would be easier to explain the troop movements at the Battle of Shiloh, but I shall attempt this nonetheless.

His idea was to create 13 months instead of our present 12. That is simple enough. If one takes the usual number of days in a year (365), subtracts one day (let’s say New Year’s Day), and then divides that new figure (364) by 13, one comes up with the magical number of 28 days. That still leaves New Year’s Day hanging there like the weekly wash.

The preacher proposed that New Year’s Day need not be included in any month. Just let it simply exist for itself. No month. No day of the week.

Let’s say the last day of the year falls on Saturday, well, New Year’s Day would be the next day, but it wouldn’t occupy a day of the week. It would just exist. Then, the next day would be Sunday and the first of the New Year.

Now, we come to the sticky question of what to name that new month and where to place it.

The minister desired to call that month Holiday. Can’t you just see Walter Cronkite reading the news? It is Holiday the second and here’s the news. I suppose the minister meant that month to be a time when everyone took off from their work.

I suppose our particularly dubious readers are already asking the musical question, “Where does Leap Year go?” The good minister left no stones un-

turned. He proposed that when Leap Year rolled around, the extra day would be sandwiched into the middle of the middle month (Holiday), which would put it right square in the middle of the year. It would lie right in there between the 14th and 15th of the month of Holiday and would not occupy a day of the week, either.

There are several advantages to this idea. One, let’s divide the days of the month (28) by the number of weeks (4) and we arrive at the figure of 7 days. That would mean that any day of the month would always be on the same day of the week regardless of the month.

The minister argues that people could memorize the calendar like the multiplication tables. (Unfortunately, I have not completely mastered the multiplication tables. So that destroys that argument.)

Another advantage is that each month would be of the same length. It would be easier for businesses to calculate wages or send out bills because a month would mean 28 days and not 28, 29, 30 or 31. Also, one calendar would serve any year. You would not have to go out and purchase a new one or receive 14 of them at the end of every year.

Perhaps, this all sounds complicated to us. But can you imagine how confusing it sounded to those people in the 1400s when our current (Gregorian) calendar was proposed? “Well, now, thirty days hath September, April, June, and November...”

*Information from the Chambers Family Vindicator Collection Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center*



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