

UNIMARK NEWS

OCTOBER 2022
4TH QUARTER



The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) core mission is to prevent crashes, injuries, and fatalities related to large trucks on our Nation's roads. The FMCSA prioritizes enforcement action using the Safety Measurement System (SMS). The FMCSA uses the SMS to identify carriers, with potential problems, for interventions as part of the Agency's safety compliance and enforcement program called Compliance, Safety, Accountability (CSA).

The SMS uses Behavior Analysis and Safety Improvement Categories, (BASICS): Unsafe Driving, Crash Indicator, Hours-of-Service Compliance, Vehicle Maintenance, Controlled Substances/Alcohol, Hazardous Materials, and Driver Fitness.

In each BASIC, the SMS calculates a quantifiable measure of a motor carrier's performance. Then they group carriers by BASIC with other carriers that have similar number of safety events (e.g., crashes, inspections, or violations). The carrier is then ranked based on their BASIC assigning them a percentile from 0-100 (The higher the number, the worse the safety performance). Violations are given a score based on their severity, then the score is multiplied based on time, and if the driver was placed out of service more points are added to the event. Below are some examples of violations and their initial point value.

1. Some of the 10 point violations:
 - Reckless Driving
 - Speeding 15 MPH or more
 - Using a mobile phone while operating a CMV
 - Texting while operating a CMV
 - Operating a CMV while ill or fatigued
2. Some of the 8 point violations:
 - Operating a CMV while CDL suspended
 - Flat tire or exposed fabric
3. Some of the 7 point violations:
 - Speeding 11 to 14 MPH over
 - 11 hour rule
 - 14 hour rule
 - 70 hour rule
 - Falsified Log
 - Load Securement
 - Failure to use a seatbelt

If there was going to be a worst of the worst list the following 10 violations would be on that list.

- Reckless Driving
- Speeding
- Speeding in construction
- Using mobile phone while driving
- Texting while driving
- Driving while ill or fatigued
- 11/14/70 hour violations
- Falsified Logs
- Load Securement
- Failure to use a seat belt

FMCSA takes the points and multiples them by 3 for the first six months after the violation, then the points are multiplied by two for the next six months, then they drop to the actual value for the next twenty four months. If a driver was placed Out of Service they add 2 points to that number.

It is important to note you do not have to receive a citation, if the inspection paperwork shows that a driver had the violation on a roadside inspection the points are assessed.

If a driver is pulled over after having been seen using their phone, and the officer performs an inspection and finds that the driver is also has a 70-hour and places the driver Out-of-Service the number of points the driver and the company will receive are as follows:

- 10 points for using a phone
- 7 points for being over on hours
- 2 points for being placed OOS

For a total of 19 points, then you take that 19 points and multiply it by 3 equaling 57 total points for one interaction with law enforcement.

If a company or driver gets too many points the FMCSA will conduct an intervention, which could involve anything from fines to losing the ability to operate. Insurance companies as well as Shippers, and Freight Forwarders use this data to determine the carriers they will work with and the rates they will charge or pay.

It is imperative that drivers and the company work together to keep these points to a minimum.

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Unimark™

LOWBOY TRANSPORTATION



- 100% Owner Operator Fleet
- No Forced Dispatch
- Run 48 States and Canada
- Home as often you choose
- 75% of revenue
- 100% of FSC to the truck
- Best Rates in the Wheeled Freight Industry
- Our Focus is on Revenue not Miles

SINGLE OPERATORS OR FLEETS
WE HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**I AM HONORED TO BE THE
PRESIDENT OF UNIMARK
BECAUSE OF YOUR
PROFESSIONALISM.**



Mark Wentlent
President

I think I say this every quarter, but truly the year has flashed by. The summer is gone, autumn is here, and winter is just around the corner. I hope each of you had a great summer, and were able to spend time with family and friends during the holidays and home time. I know most of you spend a lot of time away from home, so it is very important to take advantage of your time off and enjoy life.

Just a few weeks ago the country celebrated driver appreciation week. The way Unimark is organized, it is difficult to recognize each of your contribution to our organization. However, I hope all of you enjoyed a breakfast or lunch at the terminals. I truly wish I could have met each of you individually that week to shake your hand, and to let you know that YOU are the number one priority in Unimark. Our goal is to keep you safe, productive and happy. We keep you safe by providing the critical rules, procedures, and structure necessary in this very challenging job. We keep you productive by providing deck sets, single units and trying to keep inventory levels up for deckers in WV. All this is done so you all can earn a good living and provide what is important to you and your families. We keep you happy by treating each of you with dignity and respect and hopefully meeting your expectations during the day-to-day operations. I am honored to be the president of Unimark because of your professionalism.

As I looked back at this year and the operation, it has truly been a challenging year in many ways. Business has gone up and down depending of the lingering effects of the COVID pandemic. The national supply chain is still struggling, as parts problems continue to plague the OEMs. However, Unimark has fared better than similar organization because we have a wide customer base. While other organizations have had to lay-off drivers, we have been able to keep drivers moving. The good news is there is a large number of units waiting for parts, and

when they come in inventories will be very strong.

Another challenge has been hiring. With the shortage of drivers across the industry, it has been difficult to attract the number of drivers we need to service our customers. We will continue to look at every strategy to attract drivers and bring them into the Unimark family. I would ask each of you, if you know of drivers that are looking for a great opportunity, please send them our way.

Lastly, as I said in the opening autumn is upon us and winter is just around the corner. This time of the year brings many challenges to the operational safety of our jobs. School has started and school zones and populated areas have many kids on the roadways. Please slow down and stay alert when operating in these areas. Kids aren't thinking of safety, so we need to do it for them. As the weather changes and we start to get colder temperatures, snow, and shorter day light hours, driving becomes more of a challenge. If you find yourself in a position that you feel unsafe, pull over and take a break. Call management and let them know conditions are unsafe and you need to go down for the night. I want you safe, not hoping things are going to be all right. We will get you a room. As for the cold, you work outside, make sure you dress accordingly and wear your cleats so you don't slip and fall.

As we go into the last quarter of this year, there is a lot to be thankful for. We are getting out of the grips of COVID, the business is solid and there are projected high volumes for 2023. We live in the greatest country in the world. The future is ours to shape. There are exciting opportunities both professionally and personally. I hope all of you take advantage of the blessings we have.

Mark Wentlent
President, Unimark



Trivia champs looking to add some seasonal know-how to your repertoire, have you come to the right place. Whether or not you already have your costume picked out, treats and Halloween candy chosen (and hidden where you can't eat it all before the big night) and your scary movie cued up and ready to hit "play" — how much do you really know about Halloween?

Over the centuries, the spooky holiday has evolved from a day with religious origins, to one dedicated to mischief and mayhem to one of the most commercialized celebrations of the year. No shade, Valentine's Day. If you've got a trivia night to attend this year, need a fun caption for those Halloween social media posts or some conversational fodder for a Halloween party, consider this your study guide for all of the Halloween fun facts and history you need.

1. The holiday dates back more than 2,000 years.

Halloween is even older than Christianity itself. It all started as a pre-Christian Celtic festival called Samhain, which means "summer's end." Held around the first of November, the feast recognized the last day of the fall harvest and spirits crossing over, since they believed the veil between the living and spirit world grew thinnest at that time. People in Ireland, the United Kingdom and Northern France used to ward off ghosts by lighting sacrificial bonfires, and — you guessed it — wearing costumes to trick the spirits, according to History.com.

2. Trick-or-treating has existed since medieval times.

Taking candy from strangers on one night a year (and one night only!) isn't a new tradition. Back then, it was known as "guising" in Scotland and Ireland. Young people dressed up in costumes and went door-to-door looking for food or money in exchange for songs, poems or other "tricks" they performed. Today, the tradition has morphed into children to

getting dressed up and asking for candy. Hardly anyone performs for their candy these days — but a simple "thank you" will go a long way.

3. Some Halloween rituals used to involve finding a husband.



During the 18th century, single ladies devised Halloween traditions that were supposed to help them find their romantic match. According to History.com, women used to throw apple peels over their shoulder, hoping to see their future husband's initials in the pattern when they landed. When they bobbed for apples at parties, the winner would supposedly marry first. Most spookily, they even used to stand in a dark room, holding a candle in front of a mirror to look for their future husband's face to appear in the glass.

4. Immigrants helped popularize the holiday in the U.S.

When the Irish fled the potato famine in their country in the 1840s, they brought their Halloween traditions with them. The celebration spread across the country, until the mischievous Halloween pranksters reached an all-time high in the 1920s. Some believe community-based trick-or-treating became popular in the 1930s as a way to control the excessive pranksters.

5. Sugar rationing during World War II halted trick-or-treating.

Because of the shortage of sweet stuff, trick-or-treating wasn't as big of a thing

during WWII. After the rationing ended, it was all systems go on the candy-collecting front. Candy companies began launching advertising campaigns to cash in on the ritual and make sure kids were clamoring for their products to show up in their candy buckets and spare pillowcases.

6. Now Halloween is the second largest commercial holiday in the country.

It ranks second only after Christmas. Consumers spent approximately \$9 billion on Halloween in 2019, according to the National Retail Federation. Spending was down a bit in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but Americans still forked over \$8 billion overall, or an average of \$92 per person.

7. Most Americans spend on candy, decorations and costumes.

Many of us put our money where our mouth is when it comes to loving Halloween. The largest share goes toward candy, with 95 percent picking up the sweet stuff, 75 percent planning on buying decorations and 65 percent shopping for costumes. Overall, Americans spent an average of \$1,048 on winter holidays in 2019, if you're wondering why we all tighten our belts (and our wallets) in January.

8. The Irish also brought us jack-o'-lanterns.

As the story goes, an Irish man named Stingy Jack tricked the devil and therefore was not allowed into heaven or hell — so he spent his days roaming the Earth carrying a lantern; hence the name "Jack of the Lantern." Tell that story to the kids when you pick up your seasonal squash and try not to get goosebumps when you carve up your own pumpkins this year.

9. They used to be carved out of turnips, potatoes and beets.

Jack-o'-lanterns did originate in Ireland,

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Happy Birthday!

Bailey, Cedrick J
Blair, Alfred
Botello, Mario
Bowen, Justin
Carter, Logan
Colyer, Robert
Conklin, David
Corley, Frederick
Cox, Ronald
Cunningham, Mark
Daley, Cruz
Fominov, Gennadiy
Foster, Kenneth
Furlow, Emerson
Green, Alex
Greer, James
Griffin, Zannie
Havener, Jeffery
Hope, William E
Jacobs, Justin R

Locker, Chris
Marren, Thomas
McFadden II, Dwight
McNeilly, Stephen
Meikle, Brandon J
Money, Larry E
Phifer, Luther
Roberson, Curtis D
Seal, Jesse
Stookey, Stanley
Thompson, Chance
Varner, Hollie
Veras, Michael P
Verduzco, Juan
Ward, Don L
Williams, Michael
Yates, Rodney
Yin, Daren



Jackie Green



Jackie started with Unimark Lowboy in 2015 as a dispatcher in the Springfield office. In 2017 she was promoted to the Midwest Coordinator doing inventory control and building loads while still dispatching. In 2019 she moved and became the Terminal Manager in Avon Lake, OH handling the Ford account building relationships with the customer. She also currently handles the rail recovery for the step deck and lowboy. She is the daughter of a truck driver and has been working in logistics since the age of 21 – working in warehouse logistics, dispatching and as a broker before making the move to Unimark. In her spare time she totes her 15 year old daughter Brynn to all of her sporting events (Mainly Volleyball) and spending as much time as she can with her 27 year old daughter Tyler.



UnimarkTM

LOWBOY TRANSPORTATION

**Unimark Truck Transport
is looking for qualified drivers.
If you know someone that would be
a good fit please contact Recruiting
at (866) 254-2884.**



**YOU COULD EARN \$1000
FOR REFERRING A DRIVER**

MESSAGE FROM THE VP



We received a lot of comments on the History of Unimark, so below are some highlights of the history of JHT.

1933 - Greek immigrant, Nicolas Demos forms Kenosha Auto Transport (K.A.T.) in Kenosha, WI. hauling Nash Motors the automotive division of the Nash-Kelvinator Corp, later American Motors Corp, as well as trucks via a single drive, tow bar, and saddle mount for International Harvester later known as Navistar from Springfield, OH. Nicolas Demos was known for his industry leading designs of car hauling trailers such as the knockdown car hauler referred to as the AC Model trailer known as the Banana Wagon.

1955 - K.A.T. purchases Rode Chris Craft Transportation assets which resulted in the hauling of boats on empty car haul trailers. K.A.T. grew into one; if not the the largest, boat hauler in the US. Trojans, Grumman, Coleman, American Cup, and Heart of America were all major customers, as well as "Snow Birds" headed to and from Florida. Seasonal transportation of Christmas Trees from WI using boat trailers was common for K.A.T. In the mid-1950s the Interstate Highway System started construction. K.A.T. had over one thousand carhaul company drivers and owner operators out of Kenosha, WI. Nash motors was producing vehicles in Kenosha exceeding plant capacity. At this point K.A.T. Reality Inc. was formed and purchased the old Simmons Mattress Co. plant sitting on 43 acres adjacent to the Kenosha Harbor and leases this to Nash.

1964 - Jupiter Industries, Inc. of

Chicago, IL (Jerold Wexler/EdRoss) purchases K.A.T. Carhaul was starting decline due to railroad competition. Wexler/Ross were heavily involved in Chicago's Magnificent Mile development.

1968 - Bob Zellen was then appointed Interim President. K.A.T. begins hauling Volkswagon Beetles landing at the Kenosha Harbor headed to the Chicago area.

1973 - Jupiter Industries, Inc. acquires a competitor of K.A.T. - Dallas & Mavis Forwarding Co. Inc. D&M was a well known drive-away carrier for the then dealer routed heavy duty trucks assembled by Kenworth/Peterbilt (PACCAR), Freightliner, White Trucks/Ford medium/hevy trucks. JTC is formed to own K.A.T./D&M. K.A.T. was primarily moving drive-away for Navistar to the West Coast and Intra Canada with an exchange agreement with Dominion Auto Truck Transport (DAT) in Windsor, Ontario.

1978 - Dennis Troha and C.H. Bill Johnson became Executive Vice Presidents.

1980 - JTC's strategy was to eliminate dealer Will-Call in the heavy/medium duty truck business, as well as, eliminate rail transportation which was being used by Navistar Springfield, OH, and Ford Louisville, KY. GMC/Chevrolet trucks assembled in Michigan were transported via lowboy nationwide. In addition K.A.T. focused on being the sole transporter of AMC vehicles assembled in Kenosha, WI. JTC's strategy worked as it developed a prepaid freight mode for the dealer Will-Call routed truck assembly, and also became the sole AMC transporter from Kenosha.

1984 - K.A.T. acquires DAT and becomes the transporter inra Canada at the Windsor, Ontario exchange for Navistar Trucks and begins to market a single carrier transportation concept for the medium and heavy duty market.

1986 - JCT becomes the sole drive-away carrier for Navistar's Springfield, OH plant eliminating all

Navistar's use of rail transportation. Dennis Troha is named President of JTC on December 6, 1986; Bill Jamison is elevated to President of Jupiter Industries.

1987 - Ford suggests to JTC that it meet with several targeted business men who Ford wanted to develop under Fords Minority Business Enterprise objectives. Discussions with Charlie Johnson, C.A. Houston and Wade/Alice Houston led to the formation of a 49% JTC interest with Active Transportation, a Louisville, KY certified Minority Enterprise. Ford awards car haul work traffic to Active, which uses recently refurbished trailers.

1990 - By now, heavy duty truck manufacturers are producing conventional truck cabs as a result of the Motor Carriers Act of the 1980s which changed the way overall length of trucks would be measured. The once popular Cabover was now all but nonexistent and with it the 4-way saddle mount truck deliveries. Boom saddles were born and more creating a different and more efficient environment as well for JTC. During this time many west coast plants started to close looking for more profitable locations, many moved assembly facilities to Mexico.

1992 - PACCAR suggests to JTC that it set up a Mexico plant based drive-away operation. Due to Mexican laws that prohibit US companies operating on Mexican roads, a joint venture with Gestavo Vildosoia created Mexicana Logistics. PACCAR performed private carriage of its trucks at a Mexicali, MX plant conducted to a transporter.

1997 - JTC sells boat haul assets to Wally Wiggins.

1999 - JTC leveraged ESOP and JHT Holdings is formed.

2001 - Johnson, Houston do not recapitalize, Troha and sub dept lenders do. Troha becomes President and CEO of JHT.

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UNIMARK LOWBOY

Mike McGillan

Mike Leased to Unimark Lowboy in July of 2019, and is now on the Single Forward Extended Saddle (SFES) Recovery team. Mike goes from customer to customer picking up the SFES saddles and returning them to be distributed to the decking sheds.

Mike takes a lot of pride in the fact he was able to keep his record clean during over twenty five years of driving over the road. After so many years of driving and working for others he decided he would purchase his own truck. He said the timing was perfect he heard about Unimark Lowboy and decided he wanted the challenge that comes with our Lowboy fleet, and after three years with Unimark Lowboy he said he really appreciates the group of people he gets to work with each day. He also said Unimark has been a great company to work with and look forward to many more years with the company.

JAN PEKAREK



Jan has been with Unimark for 24 years. She has worked in billing, driver payroll and is currently a driver liaison. Any new driver that attends orientation will receive classroom training from Jan, during their stay. She is extremely knowledgeable on all Unimark's process'. She is always available to guide new and current drivers while on the road.



Jan is a lifelong resident of the Joplin area and has only worked at 2 other places during her life, prior to Unimark; McDonalds and Dillion Grocery store. Jan is happily married and has four grown sons and three grandsons that she loves spending time with. She enjoys camping, fishing, cooking, sewing, scrap booking, basket making, stain glass and her newest interest is laser engraving on wood. She is also involved with Cub Scouts and P.E.O. Jan is an excellent party planner and has organized some great ones for the Joplin team over the years. She is also a great math teacher is your school aged kids or grandkids are struggling!!!!!!

If you happen to be in the area or need a process explained to you, give Jan a call. She will instantly make you feel part of the team and provide you quick and easy solutions to your problem.

TIM EWALD

UNIMARK TRUCK TRANSPORT

Tim Ewald hails from Michigan where he worked at Chrysler Corp. for 20yrs as a team leader-coordinator. He had his hands full with raising two children, as a single parent, for 18yrs and kept the kids busy with the family hobby of short track racing at different tracks around the area.

Tim has lived in the Daytona Beach, FL area for the last 7 years and was a heavy wrecker operator prior to joining us at Unimark. He has superior mechanical skills and is excellent at handling any issues that arise with his units while he is out on the road.

Tim's children remain in Michigan, where his 23 year old son is a wrecker driver for some local police departments while his 25 year old daughter entered the medical field and works in the ER at a local hospital. One thing I would point out is that you might think twice before asking Tim's daughter out on a date! (Reference Photo)

We are very pleased to have Tim on the Unimark team. He has a complete understanding of decking/un-decking procedures, safety, logs, company policies and procedures. He employs excellent communication skills while working with management, staff and when he is training new drivers in OTR and un-decking operations. Tim is very good with his trip planning to ensure he is a productive and efficient as possible and sets a great example for his trainees. He is great working with customers even the most challenging, to obtain a positive result.

Thank you, Tim, for all that you do to contribute to the success of Unimark, our customers, and your fellow drivers. It is an honor, and a pleasure, to work with you. You have been a great addition to the team!



THE TIME BANDIT STEALS SLEEP WHEN YOU LET IT SLIP AWAY, BUT GOOD REST KEEPS YOU SAFE.



2002 - Unimark Truck Transport (UTT) is formed from Hook-Up a company within JHT Holdings. UTT was used as a field decking company. Unimark Car Haul had contracts with Subaru and Volkswagen.

2004 - UTT signs contract with Autocar, forming Unimark Lowboy Transport (ULT) a division of UTT.

2005 - February, AIP Capital Partners recapitalize JHT and become majority owner: T Michael Riggs becomes President and CEO of JHT Holdings.

September, JHT Holdings sells Dallas & Mavis Specialized Carrier Co. to Great Wide Logistics.

December, JHT Holding sells Active Car Haul LLC and Active Transportation Company LLC to FNBC Acquisition, Inc. ULT is awarded a contract with Workhorse Custom Chassis and ULT starts to grow.

2006 - AIP, Troha, and sub debt lenders sell all stock to the Spectrum Group Management, Zwim & Co., Goldman Sachs, and Stone House Capital Partners. UTT is awarded a contract with Vascor/Hino in CA shifting UTT's business from used trucks to new trucks.

2007 - James Welch becomes President and CEO of JHT Holdings. ULT absorbs Auto Truck Transport's lowboy drivers, equipment and contracts.

2008 - June, JHT Holdings files for Chapter 11, reorganization and exits with a new facility in October.

November, Michael Testman is named President and CEO of JHT Holdings. Unimark Car Haul is dismantled due to Subaru moving its transportation to rail. Hino moves from CA to WV and UTT becomes their sole carrier.

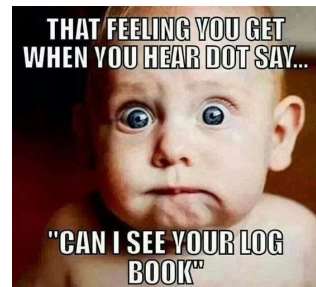
2010 - Hugh Sawyer names President and CEO of JHT Holdings. Jim Jonston resigns as President of Unimark and John Harrington is named Interim President.

2012 - John Harrington named President and CEO of JHT Holdings.

2013 - Unimark Transportation Services is formed in London, ON.

2014 - Mark Wentlent named President of Unimark.

2020 - Mike Smith is named Vice President of Unimark.



HOS VIOLATIONS

Hours of service continue to be an issue at Unimark. The top ten violations for the last six months for Unimark logs are represented in the graph below.



As you can see drivers not putting the proper load number on their logs is the worst violation at the moment representing 23% of all violations, with miles not being recorded a close second at 18%. Some of the other violations we see are Time Graph Inaccurate, Travel Time, Loading/Unloading not logged correctly, Fueling Inaccurate. These are "falsification" violations. Items like Pre/Post trip inspections, Failure to log "safety" inspections fall into the Equipment basic. If involved in an accident these violations could be used against the driver and the company in court. More and more drivers and company executives are being charged and fined personally when found as a result of an accident. You must also keep in mind that if in an accident law enforcement and the opposing lawyers can and will subpoena records such as dispatch records and times, flight, taxi, hotel, fuel, credit card, and phone records (company as well as personal). These type of records have been used to convict drivers and company personnel resulting in jail sentences. All these items also drive up the drivers and the companies CSA scores. This directly affects things like insurance rates, insurability, customer transportation decisions, as well as how often our trucks are pulled into scales and inspected. Saving a little bit of time today is not worth jail time or fines tomorrow. If you need assistance with logs or unsure about a regulation please call us in the Safety Department.





19 Thanksgiving Facts You'll Want to Tell Everyone You Know

Thanksgiving Day is mainly composed of three activities: spending time with family, watching football, and eating an extravagant feast. After you've caught up on everyone's personal life—whether you're reuniting with loved ones over Zoom or IRL this year—and chatted about what you're thankful for, you'll likely need something to keep the conversation going (and prevent any doomscrolling on social media!). What better way to do that than with Thanksgiving Day facts?

To be fair, however, Thanksgiving is itself a blend of facts and myths: Some so-called origins of our traditions lack evidence, while many parts of the holiday have become purely commercialized. Here's what we do know about Thanksgiving, from its origin to how we celebrate it today.

1. Historians have no record of turkey being eaten at the first Thanksgiving.

The first Thanksgiving Day feast happened in 1621 with three whole days dedicated to the celebration. Although turkey was plentiful in the region and a common food source, it's likely that it wasn't actually the star of the festivities and other "fowling" was served for the occasion. Instead, "ducks, geese, and swans" are believed to have been served to the English settlers and Native Americans.

2. Benjamin Franklin wished the turkey was the national bird.

In a letter to his daughter, Benjamin Franklin wrote, "For my own part I wish the Bald Eagle had not been chosen the Representative of our Country...For the Truth the Turkey is in Comparison a much more respectable Bird." And although Franklin didn't have his wish granted, his letter inspired a song performed in 1776, the Tony-winning musical about the drafting of the Declaration of Independence.

3. The first Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade had Central Park Zoo animals.

The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade was originally called the "Macy's Christmas Parade" to kick off the holiday shopping season. Held in 1924, the first parade included monkeys, bears, camels, and elephants borrowed from the Central Park Zoo instead of the traditional character balloons we know today.

4. Snoopy has made the most appearances in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Forty-four years after the first Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, Snoopy made his debut as a balloon in 1968. Throughout the years, the beagle has had a total of seven balloons, making 39 appearances "on and off through 2015" before he was replaced with Charlie Brown in 2016. He returned as an astronaut for the 2019 parade, bringing his balloon total to eight.

5. Sarah Josepha Hale was actually the "Mother of Thanksgiving."

Famously known for writing "Mary Had a Little Lamb," Sarah Josepha Hale was a 19th-century writer and editor who was nicknamed the Mother (or Godmother) of Thanksgiving. The name seemed fitting after she wrote a letter to President Abraham Lincoln and Secretary of State William Seward in 1863 calling for the declaration of Thanksgiving as a national holiday.

6. The first professional Thanksgiving Day football game was played in 1920.

A century ago, Thanksgiving Day fell on November 25 and there were six football games played, according to the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Non-league teams like Elyria Athletics that went up against league teams counted in standings. Football fans, whip these stats out from the results of that year's games and you will WIN at table talk:

7. Thanksgiving was once celebrated on the third Thursday in November.

Decades after President Lincoln officially declared Thanksgiving a national holiday, President Roosevelt wanted to mix things up by moving it up to the third Thursday in November instead of the fourth. By doing this, seven shopping days were added to the holiday season in 1939, but the change upset football

coaches whose weekend Thanksgiving games were switched to regular weekday games. Plus, calendars were printed with incorrect dates.

8. "Jingle Bells" was originally a Thanksgiving Day song.

Before becoming a Christmas anthem, "Jingle Bells" was an 1857 song titled "One Horse Open Sleigh," and its composer, James Pierpont, intended it to be a Thanksgiving Day song. But it became so popular around December 25 that in 1859 the title was changed to "Jingle Bells" and the rest is history!

9. Butterball has had a Turkey Talk-Line open for nearly 40 years.

If you find yourself with a million questions about cooking your turkey and Google is too overwhelming, reach for the phone, because the Butterball Turkey Talk-Line is real and there to help you. Open to U.S. and Canadian homes every November and December, the unique hotline, which first opened in 1981, is also available to take questions through online chat and email. Plus, there are Spanish-speaking experts! Each year, Butterball experts answer more than 100,000 questions for thousands of households.

10. Each year, about 46 million turkeys are cooked.

Thanksgiving Day and turkey go hand-in-hand, so this number shouldn't be too much of a surprise. Although not all Americans celebrate the holiday, there are still millions of families gathering around the table to eat one of the most special meals of the year—and for those who aren't satisfied with only one day of it, Christmas is also a popular occasion to cook another turkey.

11. The turkey's tryptophan doesn't actually make you tired.

On Thanksgiving Day, you probably expect to be tired after eating turkey, thanks to claims made about the amino acid tryptophan. But the holiday bird isn't actually to blame. The reason you can't imagine doing anything else but watch football on the couch is just because you over-ate. "After you've had a big meal your body goes into basically shutdown mode and sleep gets promoted,"

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after all. Once Halloween became popular in America, people used pumpkins instead. This year, you might consider adding some creative produce to your Halloween tableau for a more natural look that also has historical origins. When the holiday's over, they make a delicious dinner side too!

10. There's also traditional Halloween bread in Ireland.

It's called barmbrack or just "brack." The sweet loaf typically contains dark and golden raisins, as well as a small hidden toy or ring. Similar to the classic king cake at Mardi Gras, tradition dictates that the person who finds the item will come into good fortune in the coming year. That is, as long as they don't choke on the trinket.



11. Disney almost made Hocus Pocus a completely different movie.

Everyone's Halloween fav nearly didn't turn into the icon it is today. The original title, Disney's Halloween House, had a much darker and scarier script, according to IMDB. Not only that, but Leonardo DiCaprio was courted to play teenage heartthrob Max Dennison, but turned it down to appear in What's Eating Gilbert Grape instead.

12. Illinois produces up to five times more pumpkins than any other state.

If you're in the market for a truly destination-worthy pumpkin patch, look to the heartland. The Land of Lincoln has more than 15,000 acres devoted to gourd growing, according to the United States Department of Agriculture. Those Illinois farms typically grow more than 500 million pounds of pumpkins annually.

13. Candy corn was originally called "chicken feed."

The Goelitz Confectionery Company

originally sold the polarizing treat in boxes with a rooster on the front in order to appeal to America's agricultural roots, according to National Geographic. The sugary recipe has gone largely unchanged since the 1880s. Love 'em or hate 'em, you can't argue with that kind of consistency.

14. "Monster Mash" once reigned supreme on the Billboard charts.

Bobby "Boris" Pickett reached #1 on the Hot 100 in 1962 just before Halloween and hit the charts again in 1973 — but this time in August. You might even say it was "a graveyard smash!"

15. You can even visit a pumpkin patch in Hawaii.

Head to Waimanalo Country Farms in Oahu to pick pumpkins while you're on the islands, whether you live there or need a taste of home on vacation. Looking for squash in Florida? Try the Pickin' Patch in Dunnellon. It's a watermelon farm the rest of the year, but pivots to pumpkins for seasonal appeal.

16. The Michael Myers mask in Halloween has a fascinating backstory.

The famous horror movie villain comes from surprisingly innocent roots. When shooting the original 1978 film, production designer Tommy Lee Wallace picked up two masks from a Hollywood Boulevard magic shop: a clown mask and William Shatner as Captain Kirk in Star Trek.

"Tommy came in with the clown mask on, and we went, 'Ooh, that's kind of scary.' Then he put on the Shatner mask, and we stopped dead and said, 'It's perfect,'" actor Nick Castle told the New York Times. They spray painted it white, made the eye holes bigger and the rest is spine-tingling history.

17. The fastest pumpkin carving only took 16.47 seconds.

Stephen Clarke of New York holds the Guinness Book of World Records distinction, having carved his speedy lantern in October 2013. In order to nab the title, the jack-o'-lantern had to contain a complete face, including eyes, nose, mouth and ears. No word on whether the expression was silly or scary.

18. New York City throws the biggest Halloween parade in the U.S.

On an average year, the event draws more

than 2 million spectators and includes thousands of participants joining in along the route. It all began as the brainchild of Greenwich Village resident and puppeteer Ralph Lee, who just wanted to throw a whimsical walk from house to house for his kids and their pals. When a local theatre got wind of it, they joined in and expanded the event. It's gotten bigger, more creative and more theatrical just about every year since.

19. Princesses and superheroes rank as the most popular kids' costumes.

Adults dress as witches most frequently, according to the National Retail Federation. In 2019, the most popular costume for dogs was a pumpkin. The most popular costume for cats is hiding under the couch, hissing at the very idea.

20. Skittles are the top Halloween candy.

No chocolate? No problem! The bite-sized fruit candies outranked M&M's, Snickers and Reese's Cups, according to 11 years of sales data from CandyStore.com. And even though candy corn made the top 10, the tricolored treats also ranked among the worst Halloween candies, according to a CandyStore.com survey. No wonder Halloween night candy trades can get so heated.



21. A city in Canada banned teens over 16 from trick-or-treating.

According to CBC, anyone over the age of 16 caught trick-or-treating in Bathurst, Canada, faces up to a \$200 fine. The city also has a curfew for everyone, so even those under 16 aren't allowed out after 8 p.m. on Halloween. The rules were instituted to curtail after-dark mischief, after a rash of pranks.

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22. Harry Houdini died on Halloween in 1926.

The famous magician, illusionist and entertainer died from peritonitis caused by a ruptured appendix, according to Biography.com. However, as befits a man of mystery, multiple contradicting reports did surface at the time. Some say a band of angry Spiritualists poisoned him, others that it was a student punching him in the stomach (with his permission) that caused his appendix to burst.

23. Some shelters used to suspend black cat adoptions for Halloween.

They feared that the animals were in danger from satanic cults that wanted them for nefarious purposes in the days leading up to Halloween. Now though, shelters have gone in the opposite direction. Many even promote black cat adoptions in October, using the pre-adoption screening and interview process to weed out anyone with the wrong intentions.

24. Keene, New Hampshire, holds the record for the most jack-o'-lanterns on display.

In October 2013, the city broke the record with 30,581 lit pumpkins displayed around town. Talk about lighting up the night!

25. The night before Halloween is called Mischief Night or Goosey Night in some places.

For those who've lived on the East Coast and the Midwest, it's probably not news to you that lots of teens and tweens pull pranks on October 30. But from toilet papering the trees outside someone's house, to egging cars and more dangerous capers, the tradition never really made its way to the West Coast.

Dr. Daniel Barone explained to Business Insider, saying that the phenomenon is called "postprandial fatigue."

12. The majority of Americans secretly dislike classic Thanksgiving dishes but will eat them anyway.

A whopping 68 percent of Americans dislike Thanksgiving dishes like canned cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie, and even turkey itself, according to a 2019 Instacart survey of more than 2,000 U.S. adults conducted online by The Harris

Poll—but they'll still eat them in honor of tradition. Times are changing, however: 30 percent of Thanksgiving dinner hosts have served something other than turkey as their main course (pork is the second most popular option).

13. Many people enjoy Thanksgiving leftovers more than the meal itself.

The atmosphere on Thanksgiving Day is unlike any other: the kitchen bustling with last-minute cooking, the dining table set with the best china, and a football game playing on the TV. But according to a 2015 poll by the Harris Poll, people actually enjoy leftovers more than the actual meal. So confidently eat your leftover stuffing and mashed potatoes, because you won't be the only one doing so.

14. TV dinners are a Thanksgiving-leftover invention.

Well, sort of. In 1953, an overzealous Swanson employee overestimated the number of frozen turkeys the company should order for Thanksgiving—and the company was left with 260 tons of excess turkey after the holiday. But rather than eat the loss (financially, we mean), salesman Gerry Thomas came up with the brilliant idea to create pre-made turkey dinners served as re-heatable individual trays, just like airline meals. By the end of 1954, Swanson had sold 10 million frozen turkey meals, and the TV dinner industry was born.

15. President George H. W. Bush was the first to pardon a turkey.

In 1989, the 41st president pardoned the first turkey—that is, assured he would never become somebody's dinner—after noticing the 50-pound bird looked a little antsy at his official Thanksgiving proclamation. Since then, every president has upheld the tradition and a few of the turkeys have gone on to serve a different purpose. In 2005 and 2009, the birds went to Disneyland and Disney World parks to participate in the annual Thanksgiving parades.

16. President Calvin Coolidge was the first to pardon a raccoon in relation to Thanksgiving.

Yes, you read that right! In November 1926, President Calvin Coolidge was gifted a live raccoon intended to be his Thanksgiving dinner. He wasn't super

into the idea of eating a raccoon, so he decided to keep it as a pet instead. This wasn't unusual, as the president and First Lady Grace Coolidge were known to be animal lovers. They were often randomly sent pets—including ones on the unconventional side, like a bear and lion cubs.

17. The Wednesday before Thanksgiving is known as "Drinksgiving."

The holiday season is a time of celebration, which means toasts upon toasts are made. Before the annual feast even begins, there's the night before Thanksgiving—which has come to be known as one of the booziest days of the year. It's even dubbed "Black Wednesday" in some places. Bars aren't the only businesses that experience a boom on the eve of Thanksgiving; Uber has even offered free rides on that night over the past few years.

18. Black Friday, aka the day after Thanksgiving, is the busiest day for plumbers.

Sure, it's a big day for shoppers—but also drainage professionals. Plumbing and drainage companies don't really get the Friday after Thanksgiving off, since it's one of their busiest days of the year. (Why? You can only imagine.) In fact, the day is so busy for these services that Roto-Rooter Plumbing and Water Cleaning company actually calls it "Brown Friday."

19. The turkey bird is actually linked to the country of Turkey.

If you've ever wondered which came first, the bird or the egg country, we have a definitive answer: The turkey bird got its name from the country due to a case of mistaken identity! During the Ottoman Empire, guinea fowl were exported from East Africa via Turkey to Europe, and Europeans started calling the birds turkey-cocks or turkey-hens due to the trade route. So when Europeans first sailed to North America and discovered birds that looked similar to guinea fowl, they called them "turkeys."



CHRISTMAS TRIVIA

Test out your basic trivia knowledge with a Christmas quiz on your favorite Christmas movies, songs, and folklore to see how much you really know about the most magical time of the year. Some are easy, some are hard, but they're all fun Christmas trivia!

Question: Which popular Christmas beverage is also called "milk punch?"

Answer: Eggnog

Question: What did the other reindeer not let Rudolph do because of his shiny red nose?

Answer: Join in any reindeer games

Question: How many ghosts show up in A Christmas Carol?

Answer: Four



Question: Where was baby Jesus born?

Answer: In Bethlehem

Question: The movie Miracle on 34th Street is based on a real-life department store. What is it?

Answer: Macy's

Question: What are the two other most popular names for Santa Claus?

Answer: Kris Kringle and Saint Nick

Question: Elvis isn't going to have a white Christmas he's going to have a....

Answer: Blue Christmas

Question: What do people traditionally put on top of a Christmas tree?

Answer: An angel

Question: In Home Alone, where are the McCallisters going on vacation when they leave Kevin behind?

Answer: Paris

Question: In the classic Christmas movie, How The Grinch Stole Christmas, the Grinch was described with three words. What are they?

Answer: Stink, stank, stunk

Question: In which modern-day country was St. Nicholas born in?

Answer: Turkey (originally Patara, a city in the ancient district of Lycia, in Asia Minor)

Question: In the movie It's A Wonderful Life, what happened every time a bell rang?

Answer: An angel got his wings

Question: What words follow "Silent Night" in the song?

Answer: Holy night

Question: Which Hollywood actor played six different roles in The Polar Express?

Answer: Tom Hanks

Question: In Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, what was the first name of Scrooge?

Answer: Ebenezer

Question: Which country did eggnog come from?

Answer: England

Question: Which real-life person is Santa Claus based on?

Answer: The Christian bishop St. Nicholas

Question: What did Frosty The Snowman do when a magic hat was placed on his head?

Answer: He began to dance around

Question: What is Ralphie's little brother's name in the movie A Christmas Story?

Answer: Randy



Question: Which Christmas song contains the lyric "Everyone dancing merrily in the new old-fashioned way?"

Answer: "Rocking Around The Christmas Tree"

Question: What are you supposed to do when you find yourself under the mistletoe?

Answer: Kiss

Question: Which one of Santa's reindeer has the same name as another holiday mascot?

Answer: Cupid

Question: Which country started the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree?

Answer: Germany

Question: In the song "Winter Wonderland," what do we call the snowman?

Answer: Parson Brown

Question: In the movie Elf, what was the first rule of The Code of Elves?

Answer: Treat every day like Christmas

