

THANKSGIVING ELSEWHERE

Katie Berkley
Editor/Reporter



In China, on the 15th day of the eighth lunar cycle, the Chung Chiu, or Moon Festival begins. During this three day event, families reunite and share a dinner together composed of a special dish which roughly translates to “mooncake”. Similarly, Vietnam also celebrates its festival on the 15th day of the eighth lunar cycle. Their festival, called Têt-Trung-Thu, is only a one day event. This celebration is known as the Children’s Festival as the children of the community are showered with gifts and a candlelit procession at dawn.

In India, a four day festival called Pongal, or Harvest Festival takes place. The first day honors Indra, the king of gods and the god of rain and clouds. Families give offerings in hopes of a good harvest. The second day is meant to honor the sun god Surya Pongal. A special dish called sakkarai is made and sugarcane is eaten on top of it. The third day focuses on Mattu Pongal. Cowherds and shepherds paint and dress their bulls and cows in celebration of Mattu for blessing them with healthy cattle. The final day is called Kannaum Pongal. On this day, families travel to see each other and share crops and a large banquet.



In the older days of the United Kingdom, farmers offered the first cut sheaf of corn and a sacrificial animal to one of the fertility gods in hopes of a good harvest. It was believed that the first sheaf of corn held the “Spirit of the Corn”. Nowadays however, Thanksgiving is celebrated on the same day as American Thanksgiving and no longer contains offerings. Children bring fruit and vegetables to schools and churches which then distribute them to the needy and elderly citizens of the community.

In Germany, Erntedankfest is celebrated in October and September. The day begins with a sermon. Afterwards, a harvest crown is presented to the harvest queen. The day then draws to a close with a big feast with fattened chickens instead of turkey. All unused food is brought to the needy. The day ends with a lantern and torch parade followed by fireworks for the children to enjoy.

In Brazil, the Day of Thanksgivings takes place on the fourth Thursday of November. Not all Brazilians take part, however, as it is not an official holiday yet. Similarly to America, Brazilians gather with family and friends and partake in a large feast complete with turkey, potatoes, and their own traditional dishes.

The Yam or Homowo Festival takes place in Ghana typically in August. Yams are blessed by the chief to help ward off famine and to thank the spirits for a bountiful harvest. The day begins with a ceremony dedicated to the remembrance of the dead and to celebrate twins and triplets in the community. Special yam dishes are prepared for dinner. After a huge



feast, Ghanaians don ceremonial garbs and dance to tribal drums.

The first Canadian Thanksgiving took place in 1872 as a celebration when King Edwards VII made a recovery from a serious illness. It took another 85 years for Parliament to establish the second Monday in October as the official day. Much like its American neighbor, Canadians celebrate with parades, football, and turkey.

The Crop Over Festival takes place in Barbados after the sugarcane harvest. This festival is all about sugarcane and crowns are given to the man and woman who produce the most sugarcane. Fishcakes and barbecued chicken are hot items on the menu for the night. After the feasting, people challenge each other to climb greased poles or partake in eating and drinking contests. At the end of the day, a parade called the Grand Kadooment takes place. In it, people dress in elaborate costumes typically depicting a certain theme or idea.

In Malaysia, rice is the main focus of the Kadazan Harvest Celebration. This religious holiday is observed in May and honors the rice god Semangat. Homemade rice wine is prepared and distributed to adults as festivities take place, including carnivals, buffalo races, games, and agricultural shows.

Strength Tylenol shortly before their deaths. At this point, Johnson & Johnson, who owns the Tylenol corporation, spoke out on the situation, recalling more than 31 million bottles of the medicine. Additionally, they offered replacements to those who had bottles that may have been laced. They stated to the public that the poisoning would have taken place after bottles left the factory, and local police hypothesized that they must have been taken off the shelf, contaminated, and returned to the pharmacy they came from.

A Drop in Popularity

Tylenol’s dominance in the pharmaceutical market plummeted soon after these events, where their control dropped stagger-



Tylenol Killings

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Editor/Reporter



In Arlington Heights, IL, in October of 1982, mysterious events began occurring that would lead to the deaths of seven people, and a change in the medicine industry that remains present today. It began with the death of twelve-year-old Mary Kellerman, who took a single capsule of Extra-Strength Tylenol after experiencing a runny nose and a sore throat. The pill, which turned out to be laced with cyanide, caused her death by the next morning. It didn’t take long after this for the whole nation to be in fear of a similar fate, as it was still a mystery relating to what the deaths were originating from. Adam Janus, a postal worker in Arlington Heights, suffered a similar death, and mourning family members took Tylenol from the same bottle, causing them to perish, as well. It wasn’t until three more died, that the discovery was made that the victims all took Extra-

ingly from 35% down to less than 8%. In response to this drastic drop in control and revenue, Johnson & Johnson worked with the FDA to develop a better, tamper-proof packaging, which included a foil seal to make it obvious to consumers if the bottles were tampered with. The capsules used in the string of murders were replaced by ones that could not as easily be opened, as well, which made possible contaminations significantly less possible and common in the future. Within a year, these changes became a standard for the medicine industry and with Tylenol’s \$100 million investment into these revisions, their sales rebounded similar to the way they were previously, and critics who predicted their demise in light of the incident soon praised their handling of the situation. With this, they rebounded back to the top. In 1983, US Congress passed legislation that made it illegal to tamper with consumer products and years later in 1989, the FDA established regulations to make all medicine products tamper-proof.

WHY DO LEAVES FALL?

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Editor/Reporter



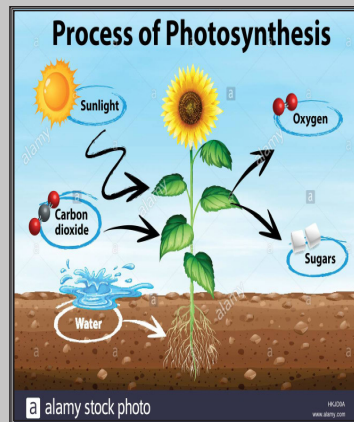
temperatures. They cannot withstand the cold and windy weather. During the process of photosynthesis, a large amount of water is lost from those leaves. Photosynthesis is the process in which green plants use sunlight to make food from carbon dioxide and water. When frozen, the water inside the leaves expands and the cells begin to rupture. The leaves then fall off because they are no longer able to perform photosynthesis. Otherwise, the tree would have several useless leaves with no purpose. They would have no way to produce food. As the leaves enter dormancy, they save their energy to reduce the metabolism of the leaves. Dormancy is a process where the trees prepare themselves for colder months in advanced. During dormancy, the trees progressively become more immune to the frost and freeze damage the subzero weather causes.

Why do the leaves change colors?

In Autumn, the leaves begin to change a variety of colors. Some may wonder why this occurs and what the scientific reasons are as to why they change these exotic



colors each year. There are two types of pigments that cause this change. Carotenoids are pigments that make the leaves turn orange and yellow. Anthocyanins make the leaves turn different shades of reds, purples, and pinks. The cause of the color change has to do with the pigments that follow with the cold weather. Since the cold and dry days no longer produce enough sun to keep the plants green, most plants break down that green pigment, chlorophyll. At this time, the colorful pigments come into play and fill the leaves with vibrant colors. The best time to spot these exotic leaves is when Summer comes to an end and the days are bright and warm, while the nights are cool and chilly. The trees are stripped from their leaves up until around the months of May and June, where the temperature starts to increase into the 70s and 80s. So next time you are lingering around town you will have an idea as to why the colorful leaves are flying above you, floating in the wind. Though we do not know why different species of plants vary in color, the array of falling leaves may be what you need to set the Fall mood.

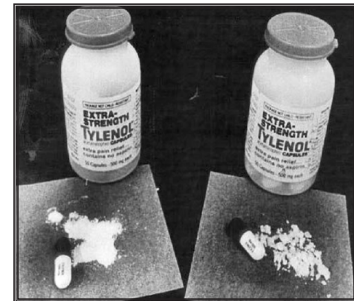


Copycats

Despite this, there have since been “copycat” attempts at recreating the horrific events from 1982. Four years after the initial crimes, Diane Elstroth died after taking two Extra-Strength Tylenol capsules in New York, similarly to the previous incidents. However, the seal on the bottle had not been breached, which meant that the cyanide had been introduced to the medicine before it left the factory. A local recall of the medicine uncovered that numerous other bottles had been tampered with, and after close inspection, it was discovered that the seals on the bottles had been carefully opened and resealed. The perpetrator of this crime, like in Chicago, has yet to be found.

The Investigation Today

Today, police in the Chicago area are still searching for the perpetrators behind the poisoning of the Tylenol Extra-Strength capsules and although there have not been many recent developments in the case, it’s still an active investigation. One man, James Lewis, claimed to be the



perpetrator in 1982, ordering a \$1 million ransom in exchange for halting the poisonings. After investigating this, it was discovered that Lewis lived in New York and had nothing to do with the crimes. However, for this, he was sentenced to 20 years in prison for extortion and he was released in 1995 after 13 years. Many unanswered questions still remain in these murders, especially regarding who is responsible. The good that can be taken from this is that there have not been any incidents in over 20 years, so consumers won’t have to worry about getting more than the headache relief they signed up for when taking a capsule of Extra-Strength Tylenol.