

*Laugh Your Head Off
All-Readers' Edition*

Founded And Edited By Maple Buescher

A fun
"Cooking
Corner"
with two
fun
recipes!

Page 5

Issue

Number

24

2015

Sport of the Month:

Archery

by Kari Elsila

Katie Elsila
confirms
that "Beauty
Is Where
You Find It"

Inside

Title	Author	Page
Sport of the Month: Archery.....	Kari Elsilä.....	3
Cooking Corner.....	Multiple.....	5
Beauty Is Where You Find It.....	Katie Elsilä.....	10
The Brave Women of Woolworths..	David Elsilä.....	11
Issue Number 24: fun facts.....	Michael Buescher.....	14
last Issue Number 23: fun facts...	Michael Buescher.....	15
Jokes, Riddles, and Other Fun Stuff..	Multiple.....	17



Fuzzy Bear says, “Hi, everyone! It’s me, Fuzzy Bear. My cub, Furry Bear, and I will be popping up throughout this issue of *Laugh Your Head Off*. And this is a **very** special issue, because it’s all written by readers. Thanks to everyone who contributed, and enjoy!”

WELCOME

*to the third annual Laugh Your Head Off
All-Readers' Edition!*

*Everything you see in this issue, from
Fuzzy and Furry Bear, to jokes, to articles,
was written by a LYHO reader!*

*The readers who submitted their work took the
time to write and give something to our
magazine,*

and we thank them!

*Please enjoy this third annual unique issue and
take some time to think about the readers who
wrote what you're reading. You'll find a bio of
each author at the end of their piece. [Enjoy!](#)*

Sport of the Month: Archery

By Kari Elsila

Robin Hood. William Tell. Cupid. What do they all have in common?

Bulls-eye! All are associated with archery, or the practice of using a bow to shoot arrows. But how did archery evolve, and how is it used today?

History of Archery

Archery is associated with many of the world's ancient cultures. Archaeologists suspect that archery may have originated up to 15,000 years ago, but the earliest concrete evidence is between 8,000 and 9,000 years old. Deities and heroes in several mythologies are described as archers, including Artemis and Apollo (Greek), Diana and Cupid (Roman), and Shiva (Indian).

Bows were created as an alternative to spear-throwing, and were used to launch arrows made of wood with flint points. Archery was first used as a way to hunt animals, but was then adapted as a tool of warfare.

Classical civilizations, including the Greeks, Parthians, and Chinese, fielded large numbers of archers in their armies. Archers sometimes rode on horseback, combining range with speed.

In medieval Europe, archery was highly valued on the battlefield. The Mongols perfected archery on horseback, and used it to dominate the Asian steppes and eastern Europe. Horse archers would fire while approaching their target, then turn around in the saddle and fire again after they passed.



Fun Fact: The sports term "Second String" derives from the fact that medieval archers would carry a second string in the event that their "first string" snapped.

By the Hundred Year's War, the English had perfected archery on foot. Archers were drawn from the peasantry, and trained rigorously from childhood. In combat, they would often fire two arrows, one on a high trajectory, and one on a low trajectory. These two arrows would hit the enemy simultaneously from two different angles, making defense difficult.

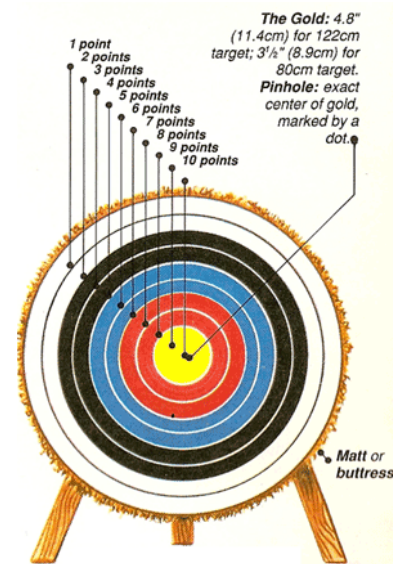
The development of firearms rendered bows obsolete in warfare. Although bows had a longer range and could fire much more frequently than the earliest guns, guns could penetrate most armor and required minimal training. They were also tactically superior, as soldiers could shoot at each other from behind obstructions.

Archery for Sport

From its historical use in hunting and combat, archery became a pleasure sport. Competitive archery involves shooting arrows at a target for accuracy from a set distance or distances. The first known organized archery competition occurred in 1583, in Finsbury, England, attracting 3,000 participants. Following this event, recreational archery societies were formed around the world; for example, the Company of Scottish Archers was formed in 1676 and is one of the oldest sporting bodies in the world.

Towards the end of the 19th century, archery declined as sports such as croquet and tennis became more fashionable among the middle class. However, it was still popular enough to debut at the 1900 Olympics in Paris, France. In 1904, it became one of the first Olympic sports to include women. After appearances at the 1908 and 1920 Games, archery was dropped from the Olympics until the 1972 Games, in Munich, Germany. Today, there are four Olympic archery events: men's and women's individual and two team events.

Archery is a simple sport but it requires great skill and accuracy. The object is to shoot arrows as close to the center of a target as possible, shooting from about 230 feet away. Olympic targets are 48 inches across, with 10 rings. At the center is a 4.8-inch gold ring worth a maximum of 10 points. Archers compete head-to-head in a single-elimination tournament, each shooting 12 arrows. Archers score each end by summing the scores for their arrows. The winner advances to the next round.



Hunting

There is much controversy over hunting with a bow. Some people believe that bows are an acceptable way to kill game, while others find the practice distasteful. In North America, bow hunting is usually legal and often encouraged over rifle hunting.



If you're interested in learning more about archery, visit www.teamusa.org/USA-Archery. Happy shooting!

Kari Elsila is a resident of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, and has many fond memories of participating in archery as a child. She's the proud mother of LYHO founder and editor Maple Buescher.



Cooking Corner

Enjoy baking two fun treats with recipes

submitted by LYHO readers Tienne

McKenzie and Harriet McKenzie

SWEET AND SALTY FLAVORED POPCORN

RECIPE SUBMITTED BY TIENNE MCKENZIE

“...A fun recipe we’ve been enjoying...”

Ingredients

1/2 cup corn kernels

1 tablespoon coconut oil

1/2 cup sugar

1 tablespoon water

A few drops of food coloring (to color the popcorn)

1/2 cup marshmallows

Directions

1. Pop the popcorn in a popcorn maker, air popper, or large pan (don't forget the lid, and shake often). Salt to taste. Place half of the popped popcorn in a large bowl; reserve the other half.
2. In a small saucepan, combine sugar, coconut oil, and water. Bring to a boil and simmer for about three minutes, then stir in the food coloring and



Here's a picture of pink Sweet and Salty Flavored Popcorn that someone made.

marshmallows. Stir until smooth.

Combine with unflavored popcorn for a sweet and salty treat!

3. Pour over popcorn in bowl and stir gently until all popcorn is covered. Pieces will stick together, but that's OK.

4. Heat an oven to 250°F. Place a piece of parchment on a baking sheet and then place the popcorn on it.

Bake for 10 minutes, checking often. When it's dry and comes apart easily, it's ready. Combine with unflavored popcorn for a sweet and salty treat!

Tienne McKenzie lives by the mountains in Colorado with her husband and four kids. She has enjoyed reading LYHO since it started, and is especially fond of Furry Bear and the original fiction stories. She spends her time cooking, taking care of the kids, and volunteering. Whenever Tienne can, she loses herself in a good book. Tienne is looking forward to the next issue of LYHO!

Furry

WORLD-FAMOUS GRANOLA RECIPE

RECIPE SUBMITTED BY HARRIET MCKENZIE

“...The wonderful smell of granola will fill the kitchen...”

Ingredients

4 cups oats

3/4 cup unsalted cashews

3/4 cup unsalted peanuts

1/2 cup sliced almonds

3/4 cup dried cherries or raisins

1/2 cup cooking oil (any kind)

1/2 cup honey

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F.
2. Combine oats and nuts in a bowl (but NOT the cherries or raisins!).
3. Heat the cooking oil and honey on low heat until melted.



A finished batch of homemade granola, ready to be eaten.

4. Pour the liquid over the dry ingredients (oats-and-nuts mixture) and mix.
5. Spray a 9 × 13 pan with Pam or some other oil (not the cooking oil you used) so granola won't stick.
6. Spread the granola evenly into the pan.
7. Bake for 20 minutes. (Edges should be brown and the wonderful smell of granola will fill the kitchen.)
8. Take it out and stir.
9. Bake for another 20 minutes, checking often to ensure the granola doesn't burn.
10. Put into a container and stir cherries or raisins in. Let it cool without a top.
11. When it's cool, break it up with a fork.

When it's cool, break it up with a fork and enjoy!

Enjoy!

Harriet McKenzie is the aunt of the editor of LYHO. She lives in Boulder, Colorado, and Empire, Michigan. Her grandchildren are avid readers of LYHO. She's known for her granola recipe, and so she thought she'd share it with LYHO.



Furry Bear says, "Yum! Can't wait to try these recipes. The popcorn reminds me of the snowflakes where I live, and I love a warm breakfast like granola to keep me toasty. Thanks for submitting, Tienne and Harriet!"

"BEAUTY IS WHERE YOU FIND IT"

A SHORT STORY BY KATIE ELSILA

"Beauty is
where you
find it,"

a wise person once said. I found something beautiful today where I least expected it...propped up next to a trash container on a busy street in Manhattan. Pausing at the corner waiting for the traffic signal to change, I spied a beautiful sculpture of a lovely Greek goddess. I felt surprised, amused, and curious.

Who would trash such an alluring representation of an ancient beauty on a busy twenty-first century street and why? Not being in position to claim the urban treasure, I took a photo to capture this delightful discovery for I have no doubt that if I had returned to take another look, the goddess would have disappeared. Hopefully she has found a new life in the home of an appreciative owner!

Katie Elsila lives in Michigan, but spends as much time as possible in New York City. She enjoys walking all around the city and keeping her eyes and ears open for amusing anecdotes to report to her favorite publication, Laugh Your Head Off.



THE BRAVE WOMEN OF WOOLWORTHS

The Day They Stopped Working and Took Over the Store

By David Elsila

It was a cold, windy morning in downtown Detroit. The day was Saturday, February 27, 1937, and despite the weather thousands of people were walking along Woodward Avenue planning to shop in the dozens of stores lining the street.

Inside the Woolworths Five-and-Dime store, the sales staff of more than 200 young women and girls, some only 16 or 17 years old, were getting ready for the horde of weekend shoppers. Some of them, in bright uniforms, were brewing coffee and putting out pastries at the lunch counter. Others were checking the displays of goods like combs, lampshades, pens and pencils, and other items in the counters on the first floor. Still others were filling all the glass containers at the candy counter, one of the most popular places in the store. All day long, they were scheduled to stand on their feet to serve customers.

Suddenly, at 11 a.m. sharp, a young man named Floyd opened one of the front doors. He took out a whistle and loudly blew it. At that signal, the women stopped what they were doing. They closed the cash registers. They turned off the lights. They politely told customers to leave the store. And 108 of the women stayed inside, locking the doors and not letting anyone in.

What led these women to shut everything down and lock out customers on one of the busiest shopping days of the week?

For months, they had asked the store manager for a raise in their pay and for better working conditions. They were required to work 52 hours or more a week, standing on their feet most of that time. They were paid no more than 28 cents an hour. They had to buy their uniforms and pay for laundering them. They had no health insurance or vacations. But every time they approached the

manager, all they would was, “Well, we’ll see what we can do.” There were no promises.

Finally, the women decided that they had to do something drastic and dramatic to get the attention of the manager and his bosses. They secretly made preparations to occupy the store once they heard Floyd’s whistle. They brought in mattresses to set out in the aisles, where they could sleep at night. They organized a kitchen crew to feed the workers at the lunch counter. They even created a hair salon in the basement to give haircuts and permanents to each

The women decided that they had to do something dramatic to get their boss’s attention.



A hazy photo from 1937 shows sleeping cots set up in the aisles of Woolworths so women can sleep.

other, and they organized an entertainment committee to play music for each other. Finally, they unrolled big sheets of brown paper and wrote in big letters “All We Want Is A Living Wage” and pasted them in the front windows where passersby could see them.

The reaction of customers was swift. Most sympathized with the women workers. Many of them wrote to Woolworths’ management and urged them to treat the women fairly. Many customers started shopping at a competing five-and-dime store down

the street, Kresge’s, which had given their workers a raise. Stories in the newspapers reported what the women had done.

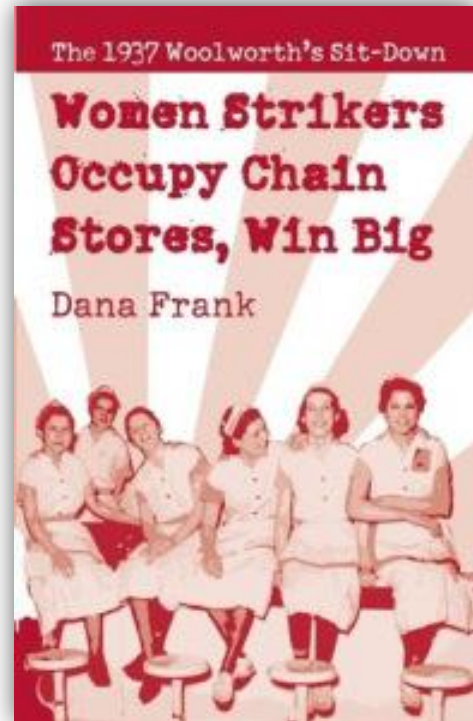
When the store’s management saw how much support the women were getting, they decided they had better listen. Three days later, the store’s manager began to talk with the women. They consulted the store’s owners in New York, where Woolworths had its headquarters. The owners finally decided that if they didn’t meet with the women, then these kinds of actions might spread to Woolworths stores all over the United States.

Finally, management and the women reached an agreement. The women would get a five-cents-an-hour raise in pay. They would also be paid an extra 50 percent for any hours worked over 48 hours a week. They would get their

uniforms for free, and the store would pay for laundering them. They would be paid even for the days that they had occupied the store, at half their regular pay.

Today, many workers around the U.S. are taking a lesson from what these Woolworths women did 78 years ago. At many businesses that pay low wages – places like Wal-Mart or McDonalds – both women and men workers have been setting up picket lines or taking part in one-day strikes to demand higher pay. Just recently, many cities like Los Angeles, Seattle, San Francisco, and elsewhere have passed laws to raise the minimum wage of workers to \$15 an hour.

The women of Woolworths would be proud that what they did in 1937 is inspiring workers in 2015. It is just one more example of how people can learn from the past to solve the problems of the present.



A handbill trumpets the story about the Woolworths strike.

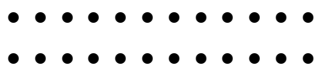


Furry Bear says, “In the Arctic, our minimum wage is 12 fish for each hour of polar bear work!”

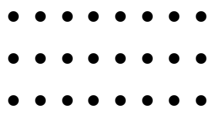
Dave Elsila has lived for 40 years in Michigan, where he and his wife Katie raised three children. He enjoys writing, and was the editor of both Solidarity magazine and the American Teacher newspaper. He is now editor of Looking Back, Moving Forward, the publication of the Michigan Labor Historical Society. He reads many periodicals, and one of his favorites is Laugh Your Head Off.

Issue #24 by Michael Buescher

This is issue number twenty-four of *Laugh Your Head Off*. For your enjoyment and enlightenment, here are some fun facts about twenty-four!

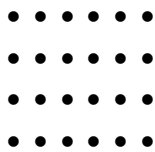


Twenty-four is divisible by a lot of numbers: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12, and 24. So you can make rectangles 2 x 12, 3 x 8, or 4 x 6.

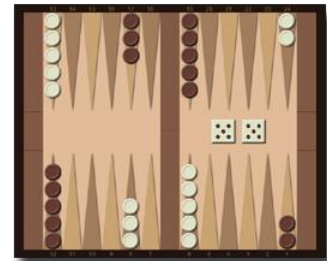


Twenty-four is particularly interesting because $24 = 1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4$. There's a fun way to write this: $24 = 4!$ Leave it to mathematicians to use an exclamation point for something exciting.

$$4! = 24$$



There are 24 hours in a day, and 24 points on a backgammon board.



When movies were made on film (rather than digital) there were 24 frames per second.



In NBA basketball, when a team gets the ball, they have 24 seconds to take a shot; otherwise the other team gets the ball back. This 24-second clock was introduced in 1955, and led to higher-scoring games. The all-time record for the lowest score is when the Pistons beat the Lakers in 1950 by a score of 19-18. That's the *Fort Wayne* Pistons over the *Minneapolis* Lakers.

If you have four books, there are twenty-four different ways to arrange them on a shelf.

If you have four letters, there are twenty-four different ways to arrange them to make a "word." For example, the letters A, C, S, T can be arranged in these ways:

ACST	<u>CAST</u> →	SACT	TACS
ACTS	<u>CATS</u> →	SATC	TASC
ASCT	CSAT	SCAT	TCAS
ASTC	CSTA	SCTA	TCSA
ATCS	CTAS	STAC	TSAC
ATSC	CTSA	STCA	TSCA



Of course, only four of these are actual English words (ACTS, CAST, CATS, SCAT). Can you find four letters whose twenty-four arrangements make five or more actual English words? Post a message at <http://www.laughyourheadoff.us/>

Another interesting feature of 23 is part of *The Birthday Problem*. The question is, when you have n people in a room, what is the probability that two of them share the same birthday? Amazingly, this probability is over 50% for the first time when there are only 23 people in the room.



Both Sophie Germain and the Birthday Problem are well-

documented on the Internet – you can learn a lot more with a simple search!

Incredibly, no one knows how many Germain primes there are!

Michael Buescher has enjoyed both fun and numbers since he was very young. He lives in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, where he spends his days as a high school math teacher, husband to Kari, and father to two remarkable daughters.

Michael Buescher has enjoyed both fun and numbers since he was very young. He lives in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, where he spends his days as a high school math teacher, husband to Kari, and father to two remarkable daughters.



Furry Bear says, “Thanks for the math facts, Michael! Your article about the number 23 is a **prime** example (get it?) of the kind of reader content we love!”

JOKES, RIDDLES, AND OTHER FUN STUFF

Jokes, submitted by Kari Elsila and David Elsila
(answers in box below)

- Why did the jockey take his saddle to bed?
- Which letter is the coolest?
- What do frogs like to drink on hot summer days?
- What does the sun drink out of?
- Why do bananas use sunscreen?
- How do teddy bears keep their dens cool in the summertime?
- What does a shark eat for dinner?
- In what place does Friday come before Thursday?

Answers

The jockey took his saddle to bed in case he had night mares.

The coolest letter is "Iced T".

Frogs like to drink Croak-a Cola.

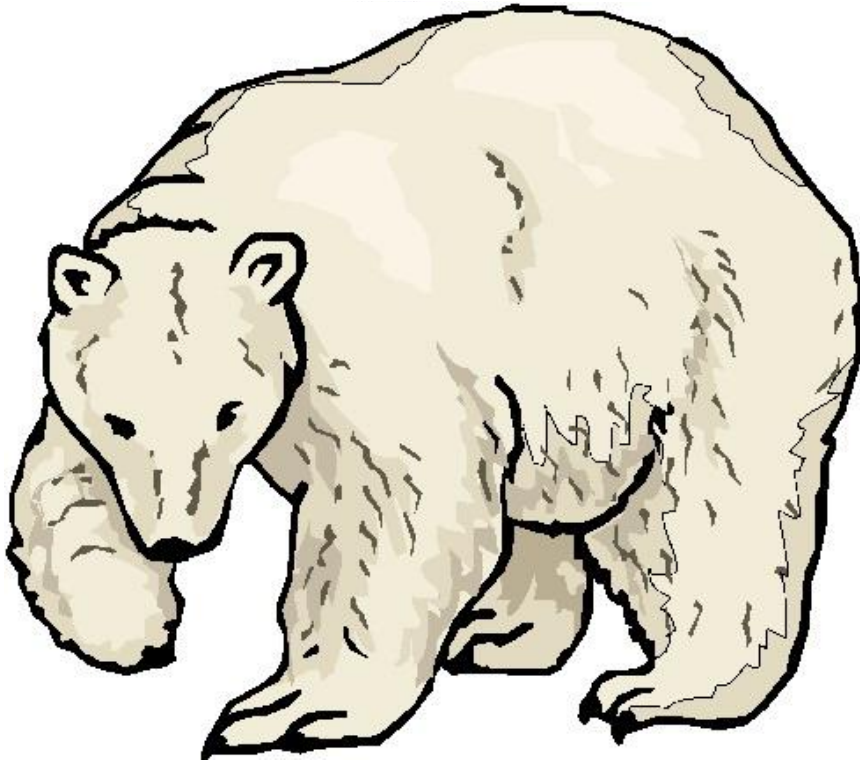
The sun drinks out of sun glasses.

Bananas use sunscreen so they don't peel.

Teddy bears keep their dens cold using bear conditioning.

For dinner, sharks eat fish-and-ships.

Friday comes before Thursday in the dictionary.



Fuzzy Bear says, “What a fantastic issue! Thanks to all who contributed. Maybe next year, we can have an ‘All-Polar Bear’ edition!”

Furry Bear says, “Ha, ha – what a great idea, Mom! And remember, readers can submit content for *any* issue. Just send your stories, pictures, poems, photographs, jokes, riddles, recipes, or anything else to maple@mbuescher.com. Thanks for reading!”

