



GOLDEN AGERS

Celebrating Seniors, Enjoying Life & Laughter



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The History of Mike, the Headless Chicken

I know what you're thinking, but I swear I am *not* making this up. There is a book, a website, and a festival to prove it.

It all started with the Olsen family, who were farmers living in Fruita, Colorado in September of 1945. Most farmers in the 40s supplemented their rations with selling eggs, milk, chicken, etc. The Olsens were preparing a batch of 40-50 chickens for market. Lloyd would cut heads and Clara would pluck and clean them. It is not uncommon for a chicken to flop or stagger for a few minutes after beheading, but one young rooster was still alive after processing the chickens was done for the day. When Lloyd realized that one of the chickens was still alive the next morning, he decided to see if he could keep it alive. Before long, word spread around town & local folks were coming by to see the headless chicken at the Olsen farm.

A promoter heard about the famous chicken and came by for a look. He convinced the Olsens to take the chicken over to the University of Utah in Salt Lake to see if scientists could document that there truly was a "headless chicken" living in Fruita, Colorado. Scientists determined that part of one ear, the jugular vein, & the base of the brain that

controls motor functions were left intact allowing Mike to continue to live. Local papers in Salt Lake were spreading the news that a chicken was alive without a head & was in their town for a visit. Folks wanted to see the famous fowl & a sideshow was set up in Salt Lake. Before long, Life Magazine came out to take photos that would be featured in the magazine in October 22, 1945. Only a month & a half after Mike's beheading, he was featured in one of the country's most prominent magazines!

Mike's next stop was a sideshow on the boardwalk in Long Beach, California (a popular attraction with wartime troops). As Lloyd Olsen put it, "when the big ships would come in, those sailors would flock to see Mike." A ticket was **25¢** and there are estimates that at his peak, Mike was drawing up to 600 people a day. In his life, Mike also went to Phoenix, AZ and the Southeast USA.

Mike continued to grow as a normal chicken & spent time on the farm with the rest of the flock. He lived for 18 months. Clara saved clippings & ticket stubs which later became the book ***The Official Mike the Headless Chicken Book*** by Teri Thomas.

Now for the Important Stuff...

The Week of May 24-30 is:

- National Brass Band Week
- National African Violet Week
- International Axe Throwing Week

Some celebrations only last a day:

24th-Brother's Day

International Tiara Day
Yucatan Shrimp Day
Neighbor Day

25th-Hamburger Day

National Brown Bag-it Day
National Tap Dance Day
National Wine Day
Nerd Pride Day
World Football Day

26th-National Chardonnay Day

Paper Airplane Day

27th-Cellophane Tape Day

World Otter Day

28th-National Brisket Day

Slugs Return from Capistrano

29th-Heat Awareness Day

Mike the Headless Chicken Day
National Alligator Day

30th-International Potato Day

National Creativity Day

Have a great week & call me if you need a ride to church.

Serving Him & Loving it!

Carol

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Luke 7:23 ~ "Blessed are those who are not offended by me."



Things that made me laugh this week

- I used to have a handle on life, but it broke.
- Got called into a meeting with HR today, because apparently telling your coworker that you knew he was a C-section baby by the way he avoids labor is not acceptable.
- If I really like you, I'll be sarcastic & tease you relentlessly. If I don't like you, I'll be very polite & pleasant. I think I may have somehow gotten this backwards.
- I always thought saying, "we ride at dawn" sounded so tough, but dawn is really early. Could we ride around 10 after I've had my coffee?
- Due to inflation you can now eat food that has been on the floor for up to 7.3 seconds.
- A woman was accused of attacking her husband with several of his guitars. The judge asked, "first offender?" She replied, "No, first a Gidson, then a Fender."
- Nobody sees the 4 am workouts. Nobody sees me meal-prepping for hours every week. Nobody sees any of this. Because I don't do those things.
- McDonald's called out order 867 and I yelled back 5309 & nobody laughed & I felt really, really old and ate my burger in the playground area.
- Some people say the grass doesn't get wet in the morning...but it dew.
- When you take a nap so good you thought you missed the school bus. But it's Sunday. And you're 41 years old.
- I finally figured out what I want to be when I grow up. Younger.
- They said I needed to be more like Jesus, so I started drinking wine & calling people hypocrites.
- I saw two huge black birds in my garden today & they were stuck together. Turns out they were Velcrows.