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DO YOU KNOW?

James Patterson On...

INTRIGUING FACTS AND NUMBERS

THAT there are 164 thousand employed economists in the U. S. Sixty-three percent are employed in private industry, 21 percent at educational institutions, 13 percent in government and the rest at nonprofit and other institutions.

THAT food processing industries employed 1.4 million U. S. citizens in 1987 while U. S. restaurants and other eating establishments employed 3.8 million.

THAT average fixed costs per day of owning and operating an automobile in the U. S. increased 105 percent from 1975 to 1985.

THAT 21.3 million Americans, 11.5 percent of all persons 15 years old and over, were living alone in 1986.

THAT there are approximately 900 national agricultural nonprofit associations in the U. S., representing 4.5 percent of all nonprofit associations in 1987.

THAT of the 35 thousand libraries in the U. S., 44 percent are operated for public usage.

THAT the total value of all narcotics seized by U. S. Immigration Border patrol agents in 1986 was \$162 million.

THAT the U. S. Department of State issued 5 million passports to Americans in 1986; 58 percent were issued to women.

THAT 3 Departments of the federal government own 727 million acres of land. The Departments of the Interior, Agriculture and Defense own 70 percent, 26 percent and 4 percent of federally owned land, respectively.

THAT the U. S. Postal Service handled 147 billion pieces of mail in 1986, up 38 percent from 1980.

THAT expenditures for magazine advertisements of food and food products increased 95 percent from 1980 to 1986. In contrast, expenditures for magazine advertisements of tobacco and tobacco products increased only 11 percent.

THAT 137 billion gallons of water per day were used to irrigate U. S. crops during 1986.

THAT 34 million U. S. households maintain vegetable gardens at an average cost per garden of \$41 per household. Home gardening is a billion dollar industry.

THAT a labor force of 783 thousand employed by the U. S. minerals industries spent 1.7 billion man-hours to mine all domestic minerals in 1986.

THAT there are 16.6 thousand franchised convenience stores along U.S. roadways with 1987 sales of \$12.8 billion.

THAT mainland China, the U. S. and the Soviet Union accounted for 44% of the world's meat production in 1985.

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THAT U. S. farmers spent 108 labor-hours to plant and harvest 100 bushels of corn in 1936. In contrast, 3 labor-hours were required to plant and harvest the same amount of corn in 1986.

THAT in 1986, 7.8 million personal computers were sold in the U. S. with a total value of \$21.6 billion.

THAT over 6 thousand industrial robots, valued at \$250 million, were shipped from 60 U. S. manufacturers in 1986.

THAT estimated costs for marketing domestic farm-originated food products was \$272 billion in 1986, an increase of 118 percent from 1976.

THAT USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service evaluated over 136 thousand meat and poultry labels in 1987 for compliance with government standards.

THAT over 1 million international travelers attempted to enter the U.S. with prohibited plants and other vegetal materials in fiscal 1986.

THAT the perennial Belgian endive (*Cichorium intybus*), the vegetable of the 1988 Presidential campaign, is the commercial name for Witloof chicory according to the Benson plant classification (1957). *Cichorium intybus* is grown largely in Europe. The more common annual *Cichorium endivia* is native to Sicily and Greece and was first cultivated in the U.S. around 1806.

THAT U. S. per capita consumption of refined cane sugar and beet declined 27 percent from 1980 to 1986. During the same period, per capita consumption of corn sweeteners has increased 66 percent.

THAT during 1987, 288.5 million metric tons of U. S. grain were federally inspected, 88 percent of 1987 grain production.

THAT 183 million commodity futures contracts were traded on U. S. exchanges in 1986, a 20 percent increase from 1985.

THAT there were 367 mergers and acquisition transactions involving food processing firms from 1982 to 1986.

THAT 620 million pounds of shellfish were caught by U. S. fisherman within 3 miles or less of U. S. shores. The two types of shellfish with the largest quantities were crabs—35 percent of total and shrimp 32 percent.

THAT sales for merchant wholesalers of farm-product raw materials declined 37 percent from 1980 to 1986 while value of inventory declined 26 percent. During the same time, sales for merchant wholesalers of groceries and related products rose 51 percent with a corresponding rise in value of inventory of 55 percent.

THAT there were over 40 thousand reported cases of animal rabies in the U. S. since 1980.

CORRECTION:

An item which appeared in the DO YOU KNOW? department of the Third Quarter issue of *CHOICES* incorrectly gave 1986 as the year in which the Dow Jones Industrial Average was first computed. The correct year was 1896.