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# Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- In the early 1800s, a railroad marketer set up a head-on collision between two trains as a publicity stunt. Some 40,000 people came to watch, and the resulting boiler explosion killed three spectators. But ticket sales soared, and railways everywhere staged train crashes right up until the Great Depression.
  - The Zombie tit is a species of bird that has learned to track down tiny bats, split open their skulls, and feed on their brains.
  - On average, a 4-year-old will ask 400 questions in one day.
  - One of the weirdest scandals in sports history occurred in 1973 when New York Yankees players Fritz Peterson and Mike Kekich decided to trade families – wives, children, even dogs! After the couples became close friends, Peterson fell in love with Kekich’s wife and vice versa. “It’s a love story. It wasn’t anything dirty,” Peterson told a reporter in 2013. Peterson is still married to the former Mrs. Kekich, but Kekich and the former Mrs. Peterson later split up.
  - Dustin the Turkey, a hand puppet from an Irish TV show, has campaigned for president of Ireland in two separate elections – representing the “Poultry Party.”
  - Pepper spray and tear gas are technically classified as chemical weapons and thus are forbidden in warfare.
  - When Prohibition started, alcohol could only be bought for medicinal and religious purposes, from a pharmacy or a doctor. “Medicinal whiskey” was prescribed for just about anything and used to treat conditions such as toothaches and the flu. With a prescription, a patient could legally purchase up to one pint of hard liquor every 10 days.
  - The human body gives off enough heat in 30 minutes to bring a gallon of water to a boil.
- \* \* \*

**Thought for the Day:** “I would rather die a meaningful death than to live a meaningless life.”  
– Corazon Aquino

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