

# ***Not Quite Right News from Mark Golden™***

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## **The Holi-daze Are Coming!**

While we are on the verge of Thanksgiving, Halloween is but a fading sweet memory. We see Christmas looming nearer and nearer (and that Jewish holiday). New Year's Eve sits, waiting its turn. Stores start selling Halloween paraphernalia the day after July 4<sup>th</sup> Independence Day. Advertising, concerning Thanksgiving follows hard during the wee morning hours after Halloween. Valentine's Day rears its pink and red pretty-bowed head mere hours after we've sobered up from crossing over to the newest New Year's Day celebration.

Is this an American collage of festivities, a runaway train of celebrations? Or, a train wreck of obligations?

What was considered a joke in a keynote speech at the International Holiday Faire Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, soon grew into a form similar to freshly mixed, hardening cement! The significant idea was to institute a "one year on, one year off" holiday regimen. The concept of actually finishing a workout, turning off the holiday treadmill and getting down off it with time to move on to something (anything) else, was very attractive to all ears. The idea of a "non-year-every-other-year" is really nothing new. Benjamin Franklin had scribbled notes into his journal in 1781 suggesting the same thing. He never proposed it to any colleagues of his, fearing he would be regarded as an "anti-religious and anti-patriotic" lunatic.

The sense of a year free from the bother of often dangerous travel, fancy foods to prepare, special dinnerware, table debates, leftovers to parcel out and consume, shopping in crowded stores, expenses for gifts, long distance phone calls and seeing certain people we just don't like nor get along with...created a hush in the Holiday Faire Convention. What was meant as a whimsical jibe stirred a pandemonium of applause. The mix of vendors, merchants and everyday shoppers raised their beleaguered heads a little higher, exuding a loud "Yes!" Some said it was like a "universal plea" for the relief that an eventless twelve months would surely bring. The holi-daze would be kept in-check for the first time in modern history! The never meant to be taken seriously idea made its way to the local newspapers and onto the ever waiting, ever willing, always hungry Internet.

It was a mistaken grandiose vision of (perhaps) a better world; one with less stress, less preoccupation; one which created more productivity, and less spending! Rushing around would vanish—for a time. Lists of items that bring glory and allay fears would just be set away into a dresser drawer. The home would go on as usual without any decorative chores to be annually and repetitively done. Items in storage would have a thicker layer of dust. A collective heaving, a public sigh would ripple across the land as the first non-holiday date passed and the next one in line was seen on the “holiday-free” horizon.

If pursued, the legal issues would sadly take years in the courts. Changing calendars would not be much of an effort. Of course there would be those who would oppose such a “normal year-holiday year-normal year,” etc. When queried, store owners said that they might “enjoy the change” and were willing to accept the financial losses in lieu of rebounding the next holiday year’s spending spree. All kids, upon hearing of the idea, rejected it, perceiving no holiday gifts and many cried. Greeting card companies gave a loud sounding “Hrumpft!” promising to sue whoever would need the suing.

Yet, the enormous amount of extra time people would have could spark untold resources of creativity, inventions, explorations, or literature. A generation with holiday free-ness could do the unplanned, the unexpected and maybe the impossible!

What will Santa, Mrs. Claus and the elves do with their year off? Well, she looks forward to her husband’s weight loss due to not binging on cookies and milk. Mr. Claus confided that he’s gotta list of construction and hobby projects which he’s been unable to get to for nearly a century. Elves? They’re going to catch some of the football games, some will travel to the tropics, others said they’ll put their curvy pointed shoes away and binge on their favorite shows which they’ve saved on TiVo.

Another story from REAL LIFE (that I made up!) This parody news story is for amusement. Any similarity to real people, places or things is fictitious and not to be taken as fact.