

# March 'springs' to life

**BY DEBBIE KOONTZ**  
LANCASTER — Once upon a time soldiers left at the end of February for a 31-day march, and found themselves in April!

And then there's the one about the guy who fell asleep on winter's 20th of March and woke up in spring!

The jokes describing March are as numerous as its days — 31 to be exact.

Though March traditionally enters with a blustery display and ends in subdued tones as nature stretches and yawns to wake up from its nap, such was not the case this year as warm temperatures pushed the mercury upward with slow but steady force.

To some, March means late minute panic over income taxes, to some a chance to order seeds for their summertime gardens, and to others a time to begin summer cleaning and outdoor repairs.



The farm animals usually notice spring's arrival and celebrate by being uncooperative and frisky, while their counterparts in the forested areas begin a season of scurrying and dancing, casting thoughts of another winter aside till late summer.

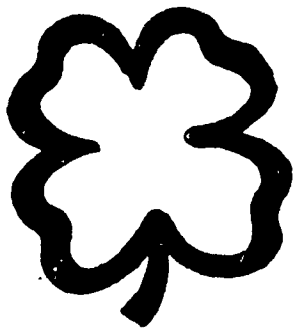
March is Red Cross Month, the Windy Month and the month harboring Girl Scout Week, National Poison Prevention Week and National Wildlife Week.

Perhaps it's symbolic that National Ag Day and the first day of spring occur on the same date this year (the 21st). Spring implies growth, freshness, and hope; Ag Day strives to present the same.

And while all this awakening is occurring in the Northern Hemisphere, many superstitious people are wandering the woods and rubbing gold urns wishing a leprechaun to appear. This could only mean St. Patrick's Day on the 17th, the day the Irish honor their patron saint. In the United States, those honoring the day usually wear green and collect shamrocks for good luck.

Though March lost Easter to April this year, it still can boast Palm Sunday on the 27th and the beginning of Passover on the 29th.

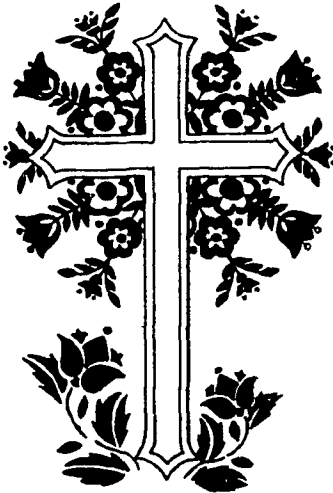
Four presidents of the United States were born in March: James Madison, Grover Cleveland, John Tyler and Andrew Jackson.



History buffs may find it interesting to note that Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Alexander Graham Bell, Sam Houston, and that great escape artist, Harry Houdini, were born in March.

This month you'll hear the crack of stitched horsehide against the bat as baseball practice begins and the snap of fishing line as it sails toward the stocked and waiting creeks and ponds.

Enjoy March; you'll have 31 days of it to repair those fences that



## SPRING

collapsed under the snow's weight, and repaint the barn that weathered under coarse and grueling winds.

And, oh yes, "the luck o' the Irish to ya'."

## Thomasville 4-H meets

THOMASVILLE — The members of the Thomasville 4-H Club met at the 4-H Center near Bair recently, as member Mike Welsh presented a slide presentation of various past activities.

Members were reminded that blue forms were due in the Extension Office on March 1.

Members are planning a family fun night on March 26.

The next meeting will be held on March 22 at the 4-H Center.

## Ephrata 4-H Club holds drop-in registration

EPHRATA — The Ephrata Community 4-H Club is holding a drop-in registration, March 7, at the Salem Lutheran Church, here.

Interested youths will find projects in bicycling, gardening, handyman and woodworking, knitting, electricity, horse and poney, foods, cake decorating, and crafts.

Members will be expected to attend all project meetings if possible and to participate in the local round-up on July 28 at the Trinity Lutheran Church, Ephrata.

For more information, contact 4-H Agent Donna Lucidi at the county Extension office or Kris Fortna at 733-4717.

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