

ROLL OUT *The Red Carpet* FOR MOM

MOM'S THE WORD

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The origin of Mother's Day

We all have mothers, which makes mothers as universal as the air we breathe! But it took Ms. Anna Reeves Jarvis, a Philadelphia school teacher, to come up with the idea of the modern Mother's Day as a celebration to mark the universality of mother-

ing. That's how it is, now, but here's how it was:

Ms. Jarvis and her family, came from rural West Virginia. At the turn of the 20th century, the family migrated to Philadelphia. It was there that the thought of a universal Mother's Day came to

her, first expressed to a group of friends in 1907. So persuasive was her concept, so diligent was her dedication, that by 1908 she marshaled the support to carry out the first observance of Mother's Day in May 1908, back in her familiar surroundings of Grafton, West Virginia.

If was a simple sermon in a rural church, which is still standing and now revered as a historical link to an idea whose time had come.

That was proved by the proclamation of Mother's Day as a state holiday just two years later by then-Governor William Glassman. And, behold, just three years later, the U.S. Congress proclaimed that Mother's Day should henceforth be a national holiday, marked by a Presidential Proclamation. The first was issued by President Woodrow Wilson in 1914.

But the first Mother's Day required the interest and support of civic organizations in Philadelphia, and the persuasiveness of John Wanamaker, a Philadelphia department store magnate, to jump-start the observance. His interest and support galvanized other local influentials, and so it was that Mother's Day dawned on the world in may 1908!

Today, some 90 years after its founding, Mother's Day observance is universal throughout the United States and Canada (celebrated by 95 percent of all people old enough to celebrate) and in more than 100 countries around the world.

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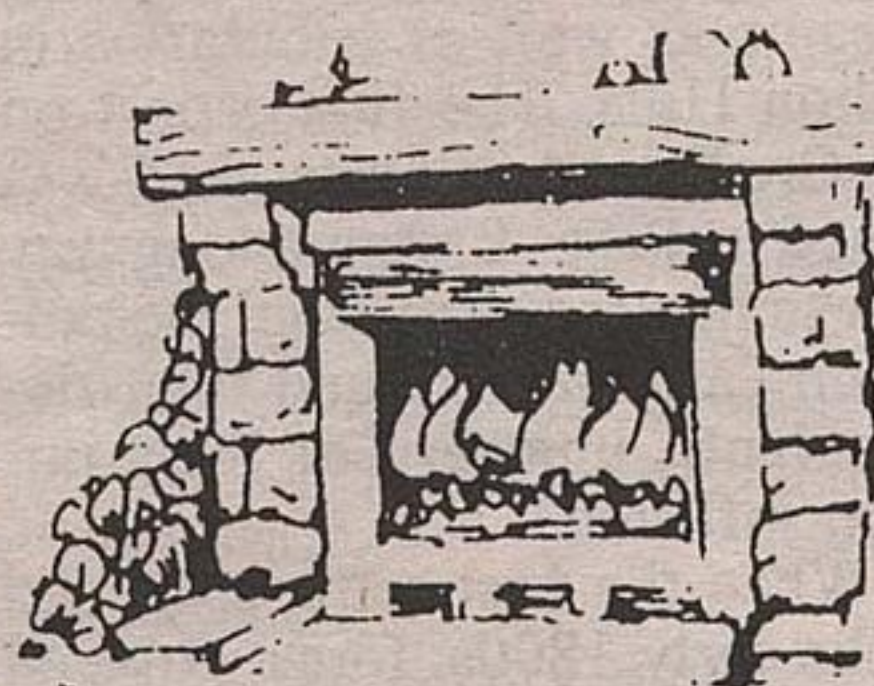
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