

## Leap Year Leaps a Year

by Karen Marcille

Well, the last Leap Year of this century and this millennium is passing by. As you all know, the year 2,000 will also be a Leap Year. But did you realize that the first millennium, the year 1,000 wasn't a Leap year even though it is divisible 4? Yep!

Apparently, there are almost six hours left over each years so that every fourth year we receive the gift of an extra day in February. That is, every fourth year EXCEPT those centeniums which are NOT divisible by 400. The first 3 centeniums were NOT a Leap Year and neither were the last 3. In fact, out of the 19 centeniums so far, only four (400, 800, 1200 and 1600 AD) constituted a Leap Year. Not the year 1,000 unless divisible by 400, millenniums leap year. Unless divisible by 400, millenniums leap a leap year.

February 29th is the day which is added on every four years. February 29th is also known a Sadie Hawkin's Day, Save the Rhino Day, and/or Bachelor's Day. Four hundred years of European folklore has it that, during a Leap Year, a women's proposal to the bachelor of her choice, (but must be done in person) is obligatory consolation prize for any refusal being the gift of a silk gown. Women may also ask men to the local dance during a Leap Year. However, on February 29th, Bachelor's Day, men were/are considered immune to any proposals.

Those of us old enough to remember L'il Abner in the Star Weekly comics will remember Sadie Hawkin's, (the homeliest in the Hawkins family) who was in perpetual pursuit of an unwilling L'il Abner, for her husband. Sadie was in her glory during a Leap Year, and kept, L'il Abner on the run the whole year. So confirmed bachelor's take warning - this year. Hide, or pretend to. Ardent followers of the Sadie Hawkin's movement firmly believe a personal proposal to be obligatory.

So take heart, all you married wanna-be's. If you miss out this year, start planning now for the biggest blast of our time. The year 2,000. Plan the biggest, funnest Sadie Hawkins dances ever, complete with firepower and church ministers (to save time when you hook one, or get hooked) and want to be hitched instead. Y'all dress up in your best holes-in-the-knees jeans, shorts or bib overalls and remember, Daisy May started that fad, not the ME generation? Run for your (single) life. And may the best WO-MAN win.



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