



THE DAILY CHRONICLE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2021

On This Date

1732 – Ben Franklin, using the name Richard Saunders, began publishing *Poor Richard's Almanack*, an annual calendar that also offered weather predictions, sayings, poems, trivia, advice, and proverbs about frugality.

1843 – Charles Dickens' novella *A Christmas Carol* was published. Its first run of 6,000 copies sold out before Christmas Eve.

2012 – Chris Hadfield became the first Canadian commander of the International Space Station. He returned to Earth in May 2013 and retired soon after. The trip was the culmination of a 35-year career as a fighter pilot and an astronaut.

Did You Know?

When *A Christmas Carol* was published, Christmas wasn't celebrated as a festive holiday. Dickens' book revived the practice.



Quote of the Day

“The Constitution only gives people the right to pursue happiness. You have to catch it yourself.”

~ Ben Franklin

Happy Birthday!

Edith Piaf (1915–1963) was a French singer and actress who gained international fame thanks to her interpretation of the *chanson*, or French ballad. Piaf's nervous energy and small frame earned her the nickname “the Little Sparrow,” but passion and tenacity were hallmarks of her performances. She became one of France's most adored performers during World War II, with *La Vie en Rose* as her signature song. After the war, she toured Europe, South America, and the United States. Piaf also appeared on *The Ed Sullivan Show*.

