

COMING UP NEXT ON NEWSDEPTH...
IT'S KIND OF A SPACE DAY - AS NASA MAKES A HUGE ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT
A FAR AWAY GALAXY ...

[TAKE VO]

{***VO***}

AND OUR BUCKEYE BEAT SEGMENT LOOKS AT THE LEGACY OF OHIO
ASTRONAUTS - AS THIS STATE HAS MORE OF THOSE HEROES THAN ANY
OTHER.

[TAKE VO]

{***VO***}

BY THE WAY - YOU CAN WISH A HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR LAND OF HEROES
THIS WEEK! THE STATE OF OHIO IS A NICE, YOUNG, 214!

[TAKE VO]

{***VO***}

AND WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE CUTER.... THAN A PET REPTILE SMALL
ENOUGH TO LIVE ON YOUR THUMB?

NEWSDEPTH IS NOW!

THE VAST REACHES OF SPACE JUST GOT A LITTLE MORE CROWDED – AS NEW
PLANETS MAKE THEIR DEBUT!

HELLO EVERYONE. I'M RICK JACKSON. THANKS FOR JOINING US.

LAST WEEK NASA INTRODUCED US TO SOME STRANGE NEW WORLDS BEYOND
OUR SOLAR SYSTEM WHEN THEY ANNOUNCED THE DISCOVERY OF 7 NEW
EARTH-LIKE PLANETS. AND THIS OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD DISCOVERY COULD
HELP US ANSWER THE QUESTION OF WHETHER WE ARE ALONE IN THE
UNIVERSE! MARY MALONEY HAS MORE.

**Michael Gillon / Astronomer, University of Liege, Belgium: "This is the first time so
many earth-size planets are found around the same star."**

**A HUGE ANNOUNCEMENT FROM NASA WEDNESDAY AS ASTRONOMERS SAY
THEY'VE DISCOVERED AT LEAST SEVEN EARTH-LIKE PLANETS ORBITING A
STAR 40 LIGHT-YEARS AWAY...CALLED THE "TRAPPIST-1" SYSTEM.**

NASA SAYS THE DISCOVERY IS RARE FOR TWO REASONS...

ONE, THE PLANETS ARE SIMILAR IN SIZE TO EARTH ...

**AND TWO, THREE OF THE EXOPLANETS ARE IN WHAT NASA CALLS THE
"HABITABLE ZONE".. WHERE LIQUID WATER IS MORE LIKELY TO EXIST.**

**Michael Gillon / Astronomer, University of Liege, Belgium: "With three of these
planets in the habitable zone it is promising for the search for life in our solar
system."**

**DESPITE THE "TRAPPIST-1" SYSTEM BEING A BIT COOLER THAN EARTH..
RESEARCHERS BELIEVE IT'S THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR SUPPORTING
LIFE...GIVEN THE RIGHT ATMOSPHERE AND ENOUGH GREENHOUSE GASES.
THE FINDING COULD ALSO HELP US ANSWER THE AGE OLD QUESTION..ARE
WE ALONE?**

Thomas zurbuchen / Assoc. Admin., Science Mission Directorate: "The discovery

**gives us a hint that finding a second earth is not just a matter of if but when."
I'M MARY MOLONEY REPORTING.**

THANKS MARY. NASA SAYS AT LEAST THREE OF THE PLANETS COULD HAVE OCEANS ON THEIR SURFACES, AND ONE COULD EVEN SUPPORT LIFE.

BUT DON'T PACK YOUR BAGS QUITE YET – AS MARY MENTIONED, THESE NEWLY-DISCOVERED WORLDS ARE ABOUT 40 LIGHT-YEARS AWAY. THAT MEANS, USING TODAY'S ROCKET TECHNOLOGY, IT WOULD PROBABLY TAKE ABOUT 11,250 YEARS TO GET TO TRAPPIST-1.

OF COURSE THAT DIDN'T STOP NASA FROM GETTING CREATIVE. TO COMMEMORATE THE DISCOVERY, THE SPACE AGENCY TEASED US WITH THIS TRAVEL POSTER FOR THE NEW PLANETS. SO, REMEMBER, IF YOU'RE LOOKING TO TAKE ULTRA-LONG VACATION TO AN ULTRA-COOL DWARF-STAR, TRAPPIST-1E IS JUST THE TICKET!

THE TRAPPIST-1 SYSTEM IS NOT THE FIRST EXOPLANET WE'VE FOUND -- IN FACT, SCIENTISTS SAY WE'RE ENJOYING A "GOLDEN AGE" OF PLANET DISCOVERY! WITH NEW TELESCOPES LIKE THE KEPLER SPACECRAFT, NASA FOUND OVER A THOUSAND NEW EXOPLANETS LAST YEAR. AND NOW THAT THESE NEW PLANETS ARE POPPING UP IN OUR RADAR MORE AND MORE, WE THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW A BIT MORE ABOUT THEM -- SO LISTEN UP! MARGARET THOMPSON IS HERE TO EXPLAIN!

[SPOT ON SCIENCE: WHAT IS AN EXOPLANET?]

WITH NASA'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THEY RECENTLY SPOTTED SEVEN EXOPLANETS ORBITING A STAR THAT'S NOT TOO FAR AWAY, IT'S FUN TO IMAGINE JUST HOW DIFFERENT THE PLANETS OUT THERE ARE. MAYBE ONE HAS A SKY THAT'S ORANGE AND ALL THE PLANTS ARE PINK... BUT BEFORE I GET A HEAD OF MYSELF, JUST WHAT IS AN EXOPLANET?

WELL IT TURNS OUT EXOPLANET IS ACTUALLY SHORT FOR EXTRASOLAR PLANET. EXTRA MEANS OUTSIDE OF AND SOLAR REFERS TO OUR SUN, SO AN EXOPLANET IS A PLANET REVOLVING AROUND A STAR THAT ISN'T OUR SUN. MAKES SENSE.

IT'S FAIR TO SAY THAT SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME PEOPLE HAVE BEEN CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT IS OUT THERE IN SPACE AND WHETHER OTHER PLANETS OR BEINGS EXIST. BUT IT WASN'T UNTIL 1995 THAT TWO SWISS ASTRONOMERS DISCOVERED THE FIRST EXOPLANET CALLED 51 PEGASI B. SINCE THEN NASA HAS REPORTED FINDING ALMOST 3,500 EXOPLANETS WITH MANY OTHERS YET TO BE VERIFIED.

MOST OF THESE ARE ICE GIANTS OR GAS GIANTS, WHICH WOULDN'T MAKE FOR A COMFY HOME. BUT THE MORE ASTRONOMERS LOOK THE MORE THEY FIND PLANETS THAT SEEM LIKE EARTH AND COULD BE HABITABLE.

FINDING EXOPLANETS ISN'T REALLY THAT COMPLICATED IF YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TOOLS AND A GOOD SET OF EYES. THE MAIN WAY THEY ARE DISCOVERED IS BY SCIENTISTS SEARCHING THE SKIES FOR LIGHTS THAT FLICKER IN A PATTERN. WHEN A PLANET ORBITS AROUND ITS STAR, IT BLOCKS OUT SOME OF THE STARS LIGHT. BY PAYING CLOSE ATTENTION THE SCIENTISTS CAN NOTICE THE PATTERN OF THE SHADOW AS THE PLANET PASSES BY.

NASA IS EVEN ASKING REGULAR PEOPLE LIKE YOU AND ME TO HELP SPOT THE PLANETS BY LOOKING THROUGH THE SATELLITE IMAGES THEY HAVE OF SPACE. THERE ARE PHOTOS FROM THE PAST 20 YEARS FOR US TO LOOK THROUGH. I BETTER GET TO WORK FINDING MY PINK PLANET! I WONDER WHAT I'LL NAME IT?

AS MARGARET MENTIONED, HIDDEN PLANETS MAY BE LURKING AROUND THE EDGES OF OUR SOLAR SYSTEM, AND ASTRONOMERS FROM NASA WANT THE PUBLIC'S HELP TO HUNT THEM DOWN!

THROUGH A NEW WEBSITE CALLED BACKYARD WORLDS: PLANET 9, EAGLE-EYED CITIZEN-SCIENTISTS CAN NOW HELP SEARCH FOR OBJECTS FAR BEYOND THE ORBIT OF OUR FARTHEST PLANET, NEPTUNE, BY VIEWING BRIEF "FLIPBOOK" MOVIES MADE FROM IMAGES CAPTURED BY NASA. A FAINT SPOT SEEN MOVING THROUGH BACKGROUND STARS MIGHT JUST BE A DISTANT PLANET ORBITING THE SUN! SO, LOG ON, AND KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED!

IT'S NOT THE ELUSIVE 9TH PLANET, BUT ONE THING THAT'S BEEN FLOATING AROUND SPACE RECENTLY IS THE SPACE-X DRAGON CAPSULE. THE CAPSULE IS LOADED WITH MORE THAN FIVE-THOUSAND POUNDS OF EXPERIMENTS AND SUPPLIES FOR THE SIX ASTRONAUTS CURRENTLY LIVING ON THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION – AND LAST WEEK IT SUCCESSFULLY DOCKED AT THE STATION.

THIS IS THE 10TH SUPPLY MISSION THAT SPACE-X HAS FLOWN FOR NASA. SPACE-X IS A PRIVATE COMPANY THAT CREATES TECHNOLOGY FOR SPACE EXPLORATION -- AND THE FUTURE COLONIZATION OF MARS – NO, THAT'S NOT SCIENCE FICTION!

THE COMPANY ALSO ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK THAT IT WOULD BE TAKING THE GIANT LEAP INTO SPACE TOURISM, AS TWO THRILL SEEKERS ARE PAYING SPACE-X TO MAKE A TRIP AROUND THE MOON NEXT YEAR.

SPACEX C-E-O ELON MUSK ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK THE SPACE TOURISTS HAD ALREADY PLACED A SIGNIFICANT DEPOSIT FOR THE TRIP.

THE TRAVELERS WILL UNDERGO FITNESS TESTS AND BEGIN TRAINING LATER THIS YEAR.

THE NAMES OF THE FIRST TWO TRAVELERS HAVE NOT BEEN RELEASED -- AND SPACEX HAS NOT REVEALED THE PRICE OF THE ROUGHLY WEEK-LONG TRIP. BUT THEY ARE LIKELY PAYING MILLIONS FOR THE ADVENTURE.

LONG BEFORE SPACE TOURISM WAS ON ANYONE'S RADAR, THOUGH, SOME BOLD MEN AND WOMEN HAD TO GO WHERE NO MAN HAD GONE BEFORE.

THE FIRST MAN TO ORBIT THE EARTH - THE FIRST TO WALK ON THE MOON - AND THE FIRST TO STEP OUTSIDE THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION... WERE ALL U-S ASTRONAUTS – BUT THEY HAD SOMETHING ELSE IN COMMON –

ALL OF THEM - WERE BORN RIGHT HERE IN OHIO...
IN THIS WEEK'S BUCKEYE BEAT, WE LOOK AT THE LEGACY OF OHIO ASTRONAUTS - AND AT ONE SPECIAL MAN, WHO'S INCREDIBLE HIGHLIGHT REACHED A MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY LAST WEEK.

[Notes: EXCERPT FROM FILM CLIP ABOUT GLENN]

55 YEARS AFTER THE FLIGHT OF FRIENDSHIP SEVEN, WHICH ORBITED THE EARTH THREE TIMES IN FIVE HOURS - SPEAKERS IN THE ANNIVERSARY EVENT TALKED ABOUT HOW IMPORTANT IT IS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO CONTINUE TO REACH FOR SPACE. ONE OF THOSE SPEAKERS WAS PRESIDENT OF THE GREAT LAKES SCIENCE CENTER DR. KIRSTEN ELLENBOGEN.

[TAKE SOT]
{*SOT FULL***}**

THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER WAS DR. DONALD THOMAS, AN ASTRONAUT WHO FLEW FOUR MISSIONS ABOARD SPACE SHUTTLES COLUMBIA AND DISCOVERY....

HE WAS SELECTED AS A SPEAKER – BECAUSE, LIKE GLENN, HE IS ONE OF 25 ASTRONAUTS BORN IN OHIO - THAT'S A RECORD, WITH THE MOST ASTRONAUTS OF 'ANY' STATE IN AMERICA!

[TAKE SOT]
{*SOT FULL***}**

DOCTOR THOMAS, A CLEVELAND NATIVE, CALLED JOHN GLENN ONE OF HIS HEROES – AND RECALLED WATCHING THE SHUTTLE LAUNCH AS A BOY.

[TAKE SOT]
{*SOT FULL***}**

BECAUSE IT WAS PRESIDENTS' DAY AND SCHOOLS WERE OUT, THE AUDIENCE INCLUDED LOTS OF STUDENTS, INCLUDING CLASSES FROM MEDINA OHIO WHO WATCH NEWSDEPTH - AND RECOGNIZED RICK, WHO NASA HAD ASKED TO BE THE MODERATOR FOR THEIR PROGRAM!

AFTERWARD, MANY OF THEM WERE ABLE TO ASK QUESTIONS TO DR THOMAS, DR. KRISTEN ELLENBOGEN, AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE NASA GLENN RESEARCH CENTER, DR. PEREZ-HARRIS.

ASIDE FROM THE TRUTH ABOUT ASTRONAUT ICE CREAM, THE MESSAGE THEY HEARD BACK WAS TO STAY IN SCHOOL - AND STAY CURIOUS....AND

MAYBE WHEN OHIO GETS TO IT'S 35TH ASTRONAUTS... THEY'LL BE AMONG THE CREW!

AS YOU HEARD, OHIO CLAIMS MORE ASTRONAUTS THAN ANY OTHER STATE! WITH SO MANY INSPIRING BUCKEYES FILLING THOSE SPACE SHOES, WE'RE WONDERING: WOULD YOU TAKE ON THE TASK?

IN OUR POLL THIS WEEK YOU CAN TELL US: WOULD YOU APPLY TO ROCKET INTO THE FINAL FRONTIER AS AN ASTRONAUT? CLICK THE POLL BUTTON ON OUR WEBSITE TO TELL US YES OR NO.

AFTER YOU'VE VOTED, WRITE IN, AND TELL US: WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST STOP AS AN ASTRONAUT? EARLIER IN THE SHOW, WE TALKED ABOUT A FEW DESTINATIONS FOR YOUR STAR TREK – YOU HEARD ABOUT SPACE TOURISTS CIRCLING THE MOON, AND THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION, AND, OF COURSE, THE TRAPPIST-1 PLANETS...AND THERE ARE MANY MORE PLANETS THAT NASA DISCOVERED THIS YEAR, SO, IF YOU WANT, YOU CAN DO YOUR OWN RESEARCH TO LET US KNOW WHICH ONE YOU MIGHT WANT TO EXPLORE!

BUT NASA'S ISN'T JUST MAKING DISCOVERIES IN SPACE. IN FACT, A NASA GLENN RESEARCHER IN CLEVELAND RECENTLY HELPED TO ANSWER ONE OF THE GREAT MYSTERIES OF THE ART WORLD – HERE ON EARTH!

INTRICATE CARVINGS DEPICTING BIBLICAL SCENES OUT OF BOXWOOD SMALL ENOUGH TO FIT IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND HAVE LONG BEEN A SOURCE OF WONDER FOR ART ENTHUSIASTS... THE 16TH CENTURY CREATIONS WERE COVETED BY ELITE CLIENTS SUCH AS KING HENRY THE EIGHTH.

IT'S BEEN LARGELY UNKNOWN JUST HOW ARTISTS WERE ABLE TO USE SUCH PRECISE TECHNIQUES ON THE TINY TREASURES... HOWEVER THANKS TO MICRO CT-SCANNERS AND THE TEAMWORK OF SCIENTISTS, INCLUDING NASA GLENN'S RICHARD RAUSER, WE HAVE SOME ANSWERS.

THE MICRO-CT SCANS REVEALED THE PIECES WERE CARVED FROM SINGLE SLIVERS OF BOXWOOD, BUT IN PARTS, LIKE STAGE SETS, THEN HELD TOGETHER, GRAIN ALIGNED, WITH TINY BOXWOOD PINS SMALLER THAN A SINGLE GRASS SEED.

ONE CURATOR DESCRIBED THE PIECES AS, REPRESENTING "THE LIMITLESS POTENTIAL FOR HUMAN CREATIVITY IN A WAY THAT IS UNIVERSAL."

A NEW EXHIBIT FEATURING NEARLY 50 OF THE 'SMALL WONDERS' OPENED LAST WEEK AT NEW YORK'S METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART.

FROM MINIATURE ART, WE MOVE TO ANOTHER TINY DISCOVERY! A NEW SPECIES OF FROG HAS BEEN DISCOVERED IN INDIA, AND THEY'RE THE THUMBELINAS OF THE FROG WORLD!

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!

THESE FROGS ARE SO SMALL, THEY CAN FIT COMFORTABLY ON A COIN. RESEARCHERS SAY THE SEVEN NEW SPECIES WERE FOUND AFTER FIVE YEARS OF SEARCHING IN A MOUNTAIN RANGE IN SOUTHWESTERN INDIA.

BUT LEAD RESEARCHER S-D BIJU WARNS THAT THE FUTURE OF THESE NEWLY-DISCOVERED FROGS ARE ALREADY IN DOUBT DUE TO WHAT HE CALLS "CONSIDERABLE THREATS".

TO DISCOVER NEW SPECIES OF TINY FROGS -- AND UNDERSTAND TO MYSTERY OF THE BOXWOOD MINIATURES, YOU HAVE TO LOOK VERY CLOSE -- BUT TO SEE THE FULL EFFECTS OF HEAVY RAINS ON CALIFORNIA, YOU NEED TO ZOOM OUT -- WAY OUT! LUCKILY, NASA IS ABLE TO PROVIDE SATELLITE IMAGES FROM THEIR EARTH OBSERVATORY!

THESE IMAGES SHOW HOW RAIN CAUSED IN CALIFORNIA IS CARRYING SEDIMENT THROUGH WATERWAYS AND DUMPING IT INTO THE PACIFIC OCEAN. SEDIMENT IS MATERIAL THAT YOU USUALLY FIND ON THE BOTTOM OF A BODY OF WATER.

THE BROWN PACIFIC WATER INDICATES SEDIMENT-RICH AREAS; TEAL-ISH PACIFIC WATER INDICATES THE SEDIMENT MIXING WITH THE OCEAN'S SALTWATER.

IN SAN FRANCISCO NO SATELLITE IMAGES ARE NEEDED TO SEE THAT THE MASSIVE RAINS HAVE TURNED THE USUALLY LOVELY BAY INTO A MUDDY MESS!

OUR BAY IS A MESS. LOOK AT THIS VIEW FROM SKY SEVEN. A MASS OF FLOATING DEBRIS WAS VISIBLE NEAR THE RICHMOND-SAN RAFAEL BRIDGE ON WEDNESDAY. CLUSTERS LIKE THESE ARE CLOGGING THE WATERS FROM HERE TO ANGEL ISLAND AND ALCATRAZ.

EXPERTS SAY ALL THE RAIN WE HAVE HAD IS TO BLAME - OUR FERRIES ARE THE ONES PAYING THE PRICE.

Ernest Sanchez / Water Emergency Transportation Authority: "Four vessels that have had propellers bent, and in some cases had to be replaced. In three other cases, the water jets have sucked in debris and we've had to stall and stop and get that debris out of the water jet engine,"

PERSONAL WATERCRAFTS HAVE ALSO BEEN DAMAGED. IT'S SO BAD, THE COAST GUARD ISSUED AN OFFICIAL WARNING TO WATCH OUT FOR THE JUNK AND TO MAKE SURE YOUR STUFF DOESN'T BECOME PART OF THE PROBLEM.

Lt. Megan Mervar / U.S. Coast Guard: "We really encourage boaters to make sure that their vessels are secure, double check their mooring lines. Even small craft -- make sure kayaks, canoes, paddle boards. Make sure those are secured. Any gear that's along the banks. Make sure you've got all of that secured otherwise it could become marine debris,"

THE HIGHER WATER LEVELS AND FASTER CURRENTS HAVE PUSHED DEBRIS DOWNSTREAM. IT'S NOT JUST TRASH BUT ALSO A LOT OF PLANT MATTER AND LOGS.

SOME FERRY ROUTES HAVE BEEN DELAYED OR EVEN CANCELED, WITH BUSES HAVING TO TAKE THEIR PLACE.

OFFICIALS SAY THERE'S NOT MUCH WE CAN DO BUT TRY TO STEER AROUND

IT AND TO WAIT.

Ernest Sanchez / Water Emergency Transportation Authority: "We haven't had situation like this for a while because our rains have been light. But now that we're back into a rainy season, which is great, we do have this issue to work through. And it will eventually work itself out," .

BUT THIS MASSIVE RAIN ISN'T JUST MUCKING UP THE OCEAN AND BAY – IN FACT, IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, MUDSLIDES FORCED THE CLOSURE OF A BUSY HIGHWAY.

A MUDSLIDE IS A LARGE PILE OF WET EARTH THAT SUDDENLY AND QUICKLY MOVES DOWN THE SIDE OF A MOUNTAIN OR HILL.

IN THIS CASE, MUD AND WATER SPILLED ONTO HIGHWAY 101 FROM THE HILLSIDE IN VENTURA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA. PART OF THE HIGHWAY WAS CLOSED, AS CREWS WERE ON SCENE WORKING TO CLEAR THE DEBRIS.

[CLIP] SGT. TOM WEBSTER/CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

"AS YOU KNOW YEARS PAST WE'VE HAD DIFFICULTIES WITH HOLDING BACK THE MUD FROM THE HILLSIDES ONTO THE HIGHWAY. SO IT'S BEEN A COMMON OCCURRENCE OVER THE YEARS."

WHILE CALIFORNIA STRUGGLES WITH WET WEATHER, THE MIDWEST – INCLUDING OHIO -- HAS BEEN WARMER THAN USUAL. FOR YOU, THAT PROBABLY MEANS YOU CAN PLAY OUTSIDE WITHOUT A COAT, BUT, FOR MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCERS IT MEANS IT'S TIME TO GET TO WORK! THE MAKERS OF OUR FAVORITE PANCAKE TOPPING HAVE STARTED WORKING AHEAD OF SCHEDULE FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW.

MAPLE SYRUP COMES FROM CERTAIN VARIETIES OF MAPLE TREES, WHICH ARE FOUND MOSTLY IN THE MIDWEST AND NORTHEAST UNITED STATES. UP NEXT, WE HEAD TO ONE OF THOSE STATES, WISCONSIN, TO HEAR FROM A SYRUP PRODUCER WHAT CONDITIONS ARE NECESSARY TO GET THE SWEET STUFF FLOWING.

[WI: MAPLE SYRUP TAPPING STARTS]

Nats: Drill and hammering

"I tapped one tree, it was running in the afternoon when I tapped it. And I left the tap out until today which is Thursday, and I got almost two gallons out of that tap, which is a pretty good run. The weather has been good but again it's early so that's why we're kind of cautious about just putting a sample tap out."

Nats: Drill

BILL ROETHLE AND HIS SON BRAD ARE BUSY AT WORK DRILLING AND TAPPING INTO THE LARGEST MAPLE TREES THAT COVER THEIR FIVE ACRES. THEY ARE KEEPING A CLOSE EYE ON THE WEATHER AND HOPING TO STAY IN THE SWEET SPOT FOR TEMPERATURE SWINGS.

"If it just gets 25, 28 in the evening at night and then 35 during the day, it really doesn't run that good. It really runs probably good when it hits like 20 at night and 40, 45 during the day."

AND WITH TEMPERATURES EXPECTED TO REACH 50 OR ABOVE. . THIS WEEKEND LOOKS PROMISING.

Nats: Tapping

"So we're going to get a good run, probably Friday and Saturday."

Reporter:

"Now there is such a thing as too much warm weather, if it doesn't get cold enough at night, the sap won't run because it doesn't warm up during the day."

Nats: Drill

"The forecast for it not to go below freezing again probably not till next weekend so, I'm not really anticipating to get any more until maybe next weekend or the weekend after, which would be more normal. But I didn't want to miss out on the first run here. We actually probably missed out on a significant amount of sap for this last week."

WELL, THAT WAS PRETTY SWEET – BUT NOTHING IS SWEETER THAN HEARING FROM ALL OF YOU! AND LAST WEEK, WE ASKED YOU ABOUT YOUR FAMILY HISTORY. IN OUR POLL, WE WANTED TO KNOW WHO THE LAST IMMIGRANT IN YOUR FAMILY WAS, AND MOST OF YOU -- 73% TO BE EXACT – SAID YOUR GREAT GRANDPARENTS, OR AN OLDER GENERATION, WERE IMMIGRANTS.

NOW, LET'S FIND OUT WHAT YOU ALL HAD TO SAY ABOUT YOUR IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS AS WE OPEN OUR INBOX!

JOY FROM MARYLAND ELEMENTARY TELLS US ABOUT HER GRANDFATHER, WRITING:

AMERICA IS A MELTING POT OF IMMIGRANTS AND AMERICANS. I, AM A DESCENDANT OF IMMIGRANTS. MY GRANDPARENTS WERE FROM CHINA. MY GRANDFATHER WAS ONE OF THE LAST PEOPLE TO LEAVE FROM CHINA DURING THE WORLD WAR II.

EMERSON FROM WESTWOOD ELEMENTARY KNOW A LOT ABOUT HIS ITALIAN GREAT-GRANDFATHER, TELLING US:

THE LAST PERSON IN MY FAMILY WAS MY GREAT GRANDFATHER. HE CAME OVER WHEN HE WAS AROUND 30 YEARS OLD AND WAS BORN IN SICILY, ITALY. THAT IS A SMALL ISLAND BY ITALY. HIS WHOLE FAMILY LIVED THERE. HE WENT THROUGH ELLIS ISLAND AND THE BOAT HE RODE IN WAS CALLED THE ARGENTINA. HE MOVED TO CLEVELAND BECAUSE MOST OF HIS FAMILY WAS ALREADY THERE AND ALL SPOKE THE SAME LANGUAGE AS HIM.

KARIM FROM ROXBORO IS ESPECIALLY CLOSE TO THE IMMIGRANTS IN HIS FAMILY, WRITING:

I VOTED IN THE POLL THAT MY PARENTS WERE THE LAST TO BE IMMIGRANTS, BUT REALLY IT WAS MY OLDEST SISTER. THEY CAME TO AMERICA FROM MOROCCO. THEY CAME TO AMERICA BECAUSE THEY WANTED MY OLDEST SISTER AND THEIR FUTURE CHILDREN TO HAVE A BETTER OPPORTUNITY IN EDUCATION AND THRIVE TO BE THE BEST VERSIONS OF OURSELVES.

CLAIRE FROM SHERWOOD ELEMENTARY HAS A WEE BIT OF O' IRISH IN HER HISTORY, EXPLAINING:

MY GREAT, GREAT GRANDMA WAS BORN IN IRELAND BUT THEN MOVED TO THE UNITED STATES IN HER LATE TEENS. A FEW YEARS LATER SHE MOVED TO CANADA. I THINK THIS IS AMAZING TO BE SO YOUNG AND TO MOVE TO A FOREIGN COUNTRY. I WOULD BE KIND OF AFRAID OF TRYING TO FIND A JOB AND HOW PEOPLE WOULD TREAT ME. I AM GLAD SHE SAFELY MADE IT TO AMERICA LAND OF THE FREE AND HOME OF THE BRAVE!

CONNOR FROM KENSINGTON INTERMEDIATE SHARED HIS ANCESTOR'S IMMIGRANT STORY WITH US, WRITING:

MY GREAT GRANDFATHER GEORGE WAS AN IMMIGRANT. HE TRAVELED BY SEA FROM GREECE TO ELLIS ISLAND IN THE 1920'S. HE WAS ASSIGNED A JOB ON THE RAILROADS IN BOSTON. YEARS LATER HE ENDED UP IN CLEVELAND AND OPENED A SUCCESSFUL DINER.

THANKS CONNOR – AND THANKS ALSO TO JOY, EMERSON, KARIM, AND CLAIRE FOR DIGGING INTO YOUR PAST TO BRING US THOSE INSPIRING STORIES! WE CAN ALL LEARN A THING OR TWO FROM THE BRAVERY OF OUR ANCESTORS.

AND, NOW, WE'RE ABOUT TO DIG INTO THE PAST OF OUR FAVORITE STATE – AND, OH BOY, WE JUST CELEBRATED A BIRTHDAY! IT LOOKS LIKE KNOW OHIO'S MARY FECTEAU IS STILL CELEBRATING OVER THERE...

[KNOW OHIO]

MARY:

OH, DON'T MIND ME! I'M JUST CELEBRATING STATEHOOD DAY!

IT'S ONLY THE MOST EXCITING TIME OF YEAR TO BE AN OHIOAN – OH, ASIDE FROM WHEN THE CAVS IN FINALS, OR THE INDIANS IN THE WORLD SERIES, OR LIKE WHEN OSU BEATS MICHIGAN! OK, IT'S PROBABLY LIKE THE FOURTH OR FIFTH MOST EXCITING TIME OF YEAR TO BE AN OHIOAN.

STATEHOOD DAY IS THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAY OHIO BECAME A STATE – WHICH WE OBSERVE EVERY YEAR ON MARCH 1ST. BUT OHIO DIDN'T EXACTLY HAVE A SMOOTH ROAD TO STATEHOOD.

BEFORE OHIO BECAME A STATE, IT WAS A TERRITORY. SPECIFICALLY, A PART THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY. THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY WAS A BIG PATCH OF LAND THAT ALSO INCLUDED WHAT IS NOW MICHIGAN, INDIANA, ILLINOIS, AND PARTS OF WISCONSIN AND MINNESOTA. INSTEAD OF BEING A STATE CONTROLLED BY THE U.S. PRESIDENT AND THE REST OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, THE TERRITORY WAS RULED BY A GOVERNOR. IN THE EARLY 1800'S THAT GOVERNOR WAS ARTHUR ST. CLAIR.

ARTHUR ST. CLAIR BELONGED TO A PARTY CALLED THE FEDERALISTS – AND HE STOOD IN THE WAY OF OHIO BECOMING A STATE IN 1802. SEE, ARTHUR WANTED THE BOUNDARY OF OHIO TO BE SMALLER – ENDING AT THE SCIOTO RIVER, SO THE POPULATION WOULD BE SMALLER. THIS IS BECAUSE HE WAS A BIT POWER HUNGRY – ACCORDING TO THE RULES AT THE TIME, IF THE POPULATION WAS SMALL ENOUGH – UNDER 60 THOUSAND PEOPLE, ST. CLAIR

COULD CONTINUE TO REIN OVER THE TERRITORY WITHOUT INTERFERENCE FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

BUT A DIFFERENT POLITICAL PARTY IN OHIO – THE DEMOCRATIC-REPUBLICAN PARTY – LED BY MEN LIKE THOMAS WORTHINGTON, NATHANIEL MASSIE, AND EDWARD TIFFIN – WANTED STATEHOOD – AND THEY ASKED THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR HELP. ALTHOUGH OHIO'S POPULATION WAS STILL A LITTLE SMALL, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGREED THAT IT SHOULD BE A STATE – AND ON APRIL 30, 1802, PRESIDENT THOMAS JEFFERSON SIGNED THE ENABLING ACT. THIS ACT CALLED FOR OHIO TO BE MADE A FORMAL STATE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

BUT THAT DIDN'T STOP ARTHUR ST. CLAIR, THE FEDERALIST, FROM MAKING A STINK ABOUT IT! ST. CLAIR WANTED TO DELAY STATEHOOD, AND TOLD THE FRAMERS OF THE OHIO CONSTITUTION THAT THEY SHOULD IGNORE PRESIDENT JEFFERSON'S ENABLING ACT.

INSTEAD OF DOING THAT – THE OHIO DELEGATES RATTED HIM OUT! THEY TOLD PRESIDENT JEFFERSON ALL ABOUT THE SMACK-TALKING ST. CLAIR WAS DOING. AND JEFFERSON PROMPTLY FIRED HIM!

AFTER THE DRAMA, IT TOOK NEARLY A YEAR FOR OHIO'S RIVAL POLITICAL PARTIES TO COME UP WITH A CONSTITUTION, AND FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO APPROVE IT. A CONSTITUTION IS A SET OF RULES THAT GUIDES HOW A COUNTRY OR STATE WORKS.

DEMOCRATIC-REPUBLICANS WANTED A CONSTITUTION THAT FAVORED A SMALL GOVERNMENT WITH LIMITED POWERS – AND BECAUSE MOST OF THE PEOPLE DRAFTING THE CONSTITUTION WERE OF THAT PARTY, THEY GOT THEIR WISH!

THE UNITED STATES SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EACH APPROVED THE CONSTITUTION, AND OHIO OFFICIALLY BECAME THE SEVENTEENTH STATE ON FEBRUARY 19, 1803.

BUT WAIT – THEN WHY DO WE WAIT UNTIL MARCH 1ST TO CELEBRATE STATEHOOD DAY?! WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE MARCH 1ST 1803 IS WHEN OHIO'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY MET FOR THE FIRST TIME!

SO HAPPY BIRTHDAY OHIO!

THANKS MARY. SO, OHIO BECAME A STATE IN 1803 – THAT MEANS IT JUST CELEBRATED ITS 214TH BIRTHDAY – BUT, TO ME, IT DOESN'T LOOK A DAY OVER 100!

AND CELEBRATION IS ALSO IN ORDER FOR A MAN WHO LIVES UP TO THE PHRASE "BETTER LATE THAN NEVER."

HAVE YOU EVER RETURNED A BOOK TO THE LIBRARY LATE? USUALLY IT'S NOT TOO BIG OF A DEAL. YOU MIGHT HAVE TO PAY A SMALL FINE FOR BEING TARDY.

BUT WHAT ABOUT RETURNING A BOOK 75 YEARS AFTER IT WAS DUE?! THIS WEEK OUR A PLUS GOES TO ROBERT LOCKMAN WHO RETURNED THE LOST BOOK EVEN THOUGH IT MEANT HE MIGHT BE CHARGED A HUGE FEE.

ELAINE STEFANKO/LIBRARIAN:

"FIVE-HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS ABOUT, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN. BUT WE NEVER CHARGE OVER THE PRICE OF THE BOOK. BUT THERE WAS NO FINE IN THIS CASE."

LOCKMAN'S DAD TOOK THE BOOK OUT FROM THE LIBRARY WHEN HE WAS ONLY 9 YEARS OLD. FIVE DAYS AFTER HE CHECKED IT OUT THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR HAPPENED AND THE BOOK WAS FORGOTTEN.

WHEN LOCKMAN FOUND THE BOOK IN HIS BASEMENT HE HEADED TO THE LIBRARY DESPITE KNOWING HE MIGHT HAVE TO PAY \$550. LUCKILY THE LIBRARIANS TOOK PITY ON HIM AND DIDN'T CHARGE HIM.

FOR DOING THE RIGHT THING, HE GETS OUR NEWSDEPTH A PLUS.

LIBRARY WORKERS PLAN TO PUT THE BOOK ON DISPLAY BECAUSE OF ITS UNIQUE STORY.

SPEAKING OF LATE, NEWS CAT SLEPT IN THIS MORNING, BECAUSE SHE STAYED UP LATE WATCHING HER PETTING ZOO PICK THIS WEEK! LET'S SEE WHAT'S GOT HER CAT-EYES GLUED TO THE SCREEN.

[PETTING ZOO INTRO]

HI THERE NEWS CAT! I HEARD THIS WEEK'S STORY HAD YOU FEELING FIERCE.

ALTHOUGH NEWS CAT'S PRETTY ADEPT WITH TECHNOLOGY SHE'S GOT SOME ROUGH RELATIVES, WHO AREN'T SO FOND OF IT!

NEWS CAT'S GOT A STORY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A DRONE MEETS A PACK OF SIBERIAN TIGERS. SPOILER ALERT: IT DOESN'T END WELL FOR THE DRONE!

TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE ANIMAL KINGDOM CLASHES WITH HIGH-TECH, CLICK THE PETTING ZOO BUTTON ON OUR WEBSITE. LOOKING FEROCIOUS NEWS CAT -- THANKS!

AND, AS ALWAYS, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU. AFTER YOU VOTE IN OUR POLL, WRITE TO US. SEND YOUR E-MAILS TO NEWSDEPTH AT IDEASTREAM.ORG - OR MAIL YOUR LETTERS TO 1375 EUCLID AVENUE, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44115.

YOUR LETTERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MONDAY AFTERNOON TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE NEXT SHOW. YOU CAN ALSO TWEET AT US @ NEWSDEPTH OHIO.

THANKS FOR WATCHING, I'M RICK JACKSON. WE'LL SEE BACK HERE NEXT WEEK.