

"Superstition, idolatry and hypocrisy have ample wages, but truth goes a-begging."

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

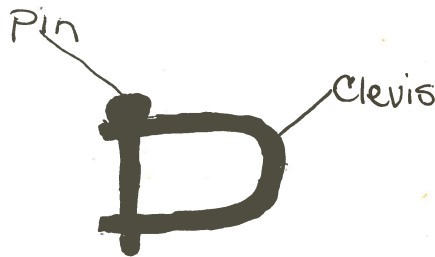
"Superstition is the religion of feeble minds."

Edmund Burke (1729-1797)

# Would you believe. . .

Compiled by Jan Gilroy and Becky Mosher

That when swallows fly low it's going to rain...  
If it rains and the sun is shining, it means its going to rain the next day...or that the devil is beating his wife...  
That thunder and lighting will sour fresh milk...  
When churning butter and the cream won't churn, you must steal a clevis pin from the neighbor. Put the clevis pin in the butter to make it clabber. When churned, return the clevis pin to the neighbor. Remember the clevis pin has to be stolen...



If you take a string and tie it to a key and drop it down a persons back, their bloody nose will stop...  
The first neighbors house the parents visit with a newborn child, will have a baby next...  
If a pregnant woman is frightened or scared, and wherever she places her hand on her self, the unborn child will have a birth mark there...  
If you have warts use stump water. Find an old stump in the forest and remove some water from around it. Put on the warts and watch them disappear...If this doesn't work rub on some bacon oil...  
Hide your mothers dishrag so she can't find it and your warts will disappear...  
When making a wedding dress for someone, put a hair in the hem to bring them good luck...  
Possession of a beetle's horns bring good luck...  
Eating black-eyed peas on a new years day will bring good luck...  
Touching a red pom-pom on a French sailor's hat will bring good luck...  
Chirping crickets in your house brings good luck...  
The tail of a lizard brings good luck, even better if it is green...

## It's death when. . .

a dog howls at night...  
Someone brings a rake, hoe or shovel in the house.

## It's bad luck...

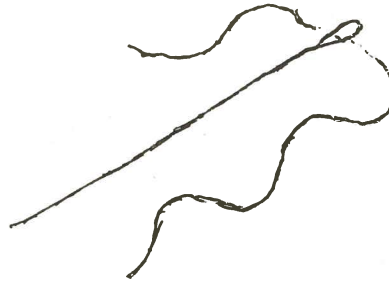
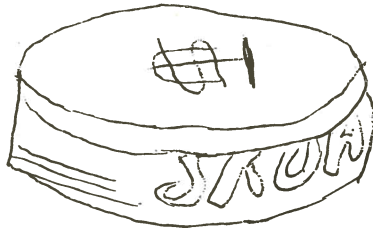
If a woman goes into a coal mine...

If you sweep the floor at night...

If birds fly in the auditorium on opening night...

If a whistle is heard in the make-up room on opening night...

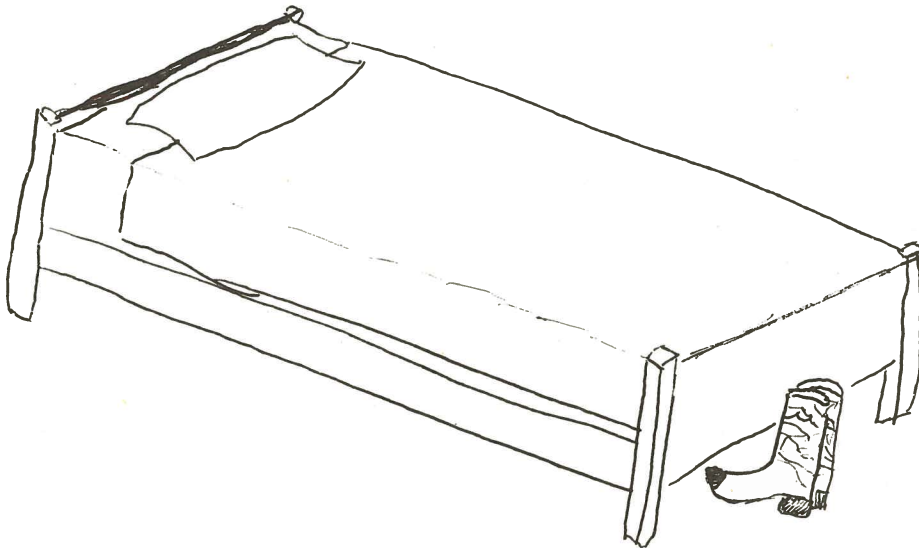
If when boxing you put the right glove on first...



Chewing tobacco is good for your teeth but bad for health...

If you borrow a needle from someone and give it back, it will cause evil spirits...

If you take a powder can, line it with beaver skin, divide it into two compartments and burn rotten wood in the top compartment while wearing it on your head, it will ward off bad spirits...



When you place the toes of your shoes under the foot of the bed pointing to the head, this will make your leg ache go away...

Dropping a fork on the floor means a lady is coming, a knife means a man will visit, a spoon, a child. The way the handle is pointing is the direction from which the visitor will arrive...

Spinning a knife means a fight...

Taking a piece of bread from the bread plate when you already have a piece, means someone is coming who is hungrier...

A loaf of bread turned upside down on the table means it's not paid for...

Never check your animals on Christmas Eve because they are talking and if you hear them you'll die within the year...



When the lower half of the quarter moon is pointing up it's going to be dry weather--when it's pointing down it's going to rain...

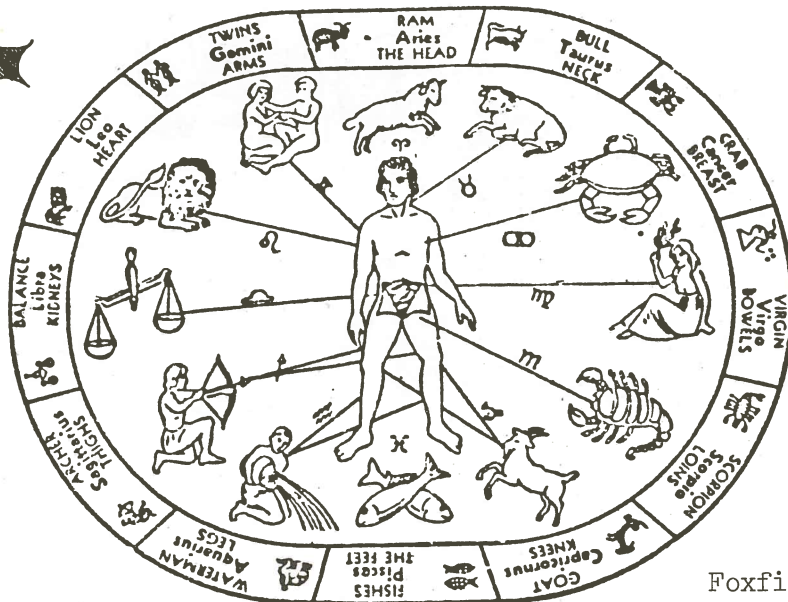
When the horns of the quarter moon is pointing down the cosmic forces are going into the earth to support the root growth. When these forces come back up, then there is support of the stem and the leaf...

If you dig post holes in the waning or darkness of the moon, you won't have enough dirt to fill the hole...

Never put shingles on the barn or house when the horns of the moon is up or the shingles will warp ..

Dehorn cattle when the blood is in the feet. To tell this, when the Zodiac goes around once everyday and changes every day, when the Pisces is on the bottom and that's when the blood is in the feet...

Haul manure when the horns of the moon is down. This makes it scatter easier...



Foxfire I

Thanks to the following people who contributed superstitions from this area and the friendly chats we had while visiting them...

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