

By Nancy Whitaker

### LOVIN' IT

It has been said that, "Love makes the world go round." I love you is not only spoken in many different languages, but it is shown in many different ways. Love can be demonstrated by a kiss, hug, holding hands, flirting and whispering love words.

It is always nice to know that you are loved by a special someone, family members and friends. That age old attraction between humans has been around since the beginning of time.

Of course, Valentine's Day was just yesterday and the stores were full of flowers, chocolates, hearts, wines, and jewelry to buy for your sweetheart.

(Now maybe I sound like a cheapskate, but I would rather wait until the day after Valentine's Day to buy my gifts. Why? Because they are half price.)

It is a good thing that everyone doesn't think like I do, because what would be the point in having Valentine's Day on Feb. 14?

Almost everything in the world revolves around love, either the lack of it or the abundance of it. It is so funny how people and things we love do change with age.

As a baby and children, we love our mother and father. We get into school and we may love our friends or a certain teacher. Of course, little girls always notice little boys and vice versa.

I remember when I was just in kindergarten that I liked a little boy. I used to chase the poor little kid around and around trying to kiss him. I finally caught him at recess one day and planted a big one on him.

We date and suffer our first failed romance. We find a true love, get married and we vow to spend the rest of our lives with that person. Of course people fall in love, but can just as quickly fall out of love.

Here are some interesting facts about love and romance. Did you know that more than 10,000 marriages a year now are directly traceable to romances which begin during coffee breaks?

Another amazing fact is that the most recent research indicates just about 9,000 romantic couples each year take out marriage licenses, then fail to use them. I wonder if they change their mind, die, or just up and leave the country?

Another bit of trivia is that the longest engagement lasted 67 years, according to the Guinness Book of World Records. The happy couple finally wed at age 82. Wow. I wonder why they even decided to get married?

I have never seen a guy do this, but according to reports, one in five men propose on one knee. It is really nice to know this practice is still being somewhat followed.

Are you afraid to kiss because of spreading germs or getting a cold? Well, feel free and go ahead and smooch away. A team of medical experts in Virginia contends that you're more likely to catch the common cold virus by shaking hands than by kissing. So pucker up.

Now, perhaps we should all try morning kisses. Studies indicate that a man who kisses his wife good-bye when he leaves for work every morning averages a higher income than those who don't. Husbands who exercise the rituals of affection such as kissing tend to be more stable, more methodical and thus earn more money.

Studies also show that men who kiss their wives before leaving in the morning live five years longer than those who don't. I wonder if this pertains to women, too?

You are never too old to fall in love because Minnie Munro became the world's oldest bride when she married Dudley Reid at the age of 102 on May 31, 1991. Reid, the groom, was 83 years old. Of course by now there may even be another record set.

The oldest groom was Harry Stevens, who was 103 when he married 84-year-old Thelma Lucas at the Caravilla Retirement Home in Wisconsin on Dec. 3, 1984.

Love is so many things to so many different people. Love can make you feel good or bad; love can give you hope and love can give you a sense of well being. So go ahead and tell someone, "I love you."

Do you think that love makes the world go around? How old were you when you got your first kiss? Do you kiss in the morning? Let me know and I'll give you a Penny for Your Thoughts.