



JIM C'S QUIZ OF THE WEEK

MOTHER'S DAY - 5/13/2007

HOW DID "*MOTHER'S DAY*" ORIGINATE?

Mythology: Early Mother's Day celebrations can be traced back to the spring celebrations of ancient Greece, honoring Rhea, the Mother of the Gods. The Romans called their version of the event the Hilaria, which was celebrated on the Ides of March by making offerings in the temple of Cybele, the Mother of the Gods.

England (1600s): the event was expanded to include all mothers with "Mothering Sunday" being celebrated on the 4th Sunday of Lent.

United States: Anna Jarvis (1864 – 1948) from Grafton, West Virginia, started the "*Mother's Day*" movement in Philadelphia to honor all mothers after her own mother's death in 1905. She wrote hundreds of letters and gave impassioned speeches to state and national politicians, newspaper editors, and church leaders.

She wanted "*Mother's Day*" observed on the second Sunday in May, close to Memorial Day to associate a mother's sacrifice for her family in the same way that service people had for their country.

The first official "*Mother's Day*" was observed in May 1907. By 1914 President Woodrow Wilson gave the day national recognition. A sad footnote – Anna Jarvis spent all of her money and the last 20 years of her life trying to stop the commercialization of the holiday.

Conventional Wisdom: Mother Day = Love, Honor & Recognition

Moment of Zen: Jarvis wanted a day of sentiment, not profit