

## **The year 2010**

This special retrospective issue of the Helix Courier Limited Messenger newsletter covers the year 2010. Yet to come in this series is the year 1968, the year in which Helix was founded.

We hope you enjoy this series as much as we enjoy preparing it for you.

The year 2010 was the year of the tiger on the Chinese calendar. The UN declared 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity. 2010 was a tumultuous year with numerous natural disasters and political confrontations.

### **Canada Commits to Renewable Fuels in 2010**

**OTTAWA, Ont.** The Honourable John Baird and the Honourable Gerry Ritz formalized the Government of Canada's commitment to renewable fuels. Federal regulations requiring 5 per cent renewable fuel content in gasoline came into effect December 15, 2010.

"This federal 5 per cent requirement is estimated to result in a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of one megatonne per year over and above the reductions attributable to existing provincial requirements -- the equivalent of taking a quarter million vehicles off the road," said Minister Baird.

### **The Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill**

Also referred to as the BP oil spill, this disaster led to a continuous underwater flow from a damaged Gulf of Mexico oil well in 2010. The impact of the spill still continues even after the well was capped. This was the largest accidental marine oil spill in the history of the petroleum industry.

The spill stemmed from a sea-floor oil gusher that resulted from an April 20, 2010, Deepwater Horizon explosion. The explosion killed 11 men working on the platform and injured 17 others. On July 15, the leak was stopped by capping the gushing wellhead, after it had released about 4.9 million barrels of crude oil. It was estimated that 53,000 barrels per day were escaping from the well just before it was capped. On September 19, the relief well process was successfully completed and the federal government declared the well "effectively dead".

## **Natural Disasters in 2010**

Before a 7.0-magnitude earthquake struck Haiti on January 12, 2010, the Caribbean nation was already holding on by a thread. Haiti struggled with political corruption, desperate poverty, and starvation. With the country's infrastructure already precariously close to collapsing, the Haiti quake made for the most devastating Human impact natural disaster that the world has seen in a century.

The temblor, with its epicenter located 10 miles southwest of Port-au-Prince, radiated waves of destruction through the Haitian capital. Most of the poorly constructed buildings toppled as if they were made of paper.

Countries around the world pledged money and resources, but aid workers found getting help through Haiti's damaged port and limited airport a logistical nightmare and they had no easy way to manage the Haitians' overwhelming needs.

The death toll climbed to an estimate of more than 250,000 people.

### **Volcanic Eruption in Iceland**

Miraculously, Eyjafjallajökull took no lives after it erupted on April 14. The mountain spewed out a stream of steam and minuscule rock and glass particles. Winds carried a tremendous ash cloud (330,000,000 cubic yards) directly into the flight paths of almost every major European airport.

Volcanic glass particles can get into an airplane's engines and cause them to fail. Fearing the worst, the European Union immediately halted all flights in and out of 23 European countries for six full days. More than 100,000 flights were canceled, and some 8 million travelers had to make other arrangements — giant slumber parties at airports, or opting for trains, ferries, and cruise ships. Reportedly, "Monty Python" co-founder John Cleese coughed up \$5,500 for a cab to take him from Oslo to Brussels.

## A Profile of the World

Source: *The World Factbook, 2010*

Earth is a fascinating place. It is our home but it is also a tiny and insignificant speck in an unremarkable solar system in our Milky Way galaxy, itself only one of perhaps billions of such galaxies

How much do we really know about our planet? Based on information available in 2010, or in the most recent research available prior to 2010, here are some interesting facts:

### Geography

- **Age:** 4.55 billion years old.
- **Total area:** 510.072 million sq km (196.940 million sq mi). **Land area:** 148.94 million sq km (57.506 million sq mi). **Water area:** 361.132 million sq km (139.434 million sq mi). **Coastline:** 356,000 km (221,208 mi). **Note:** 70.9% of the world is water, 29.1% is land.
- **Climate:** Two large areas of polar climates are separated by two rather narrow temperate zones from a wide equatorial band of tropical to subtropical climates.
- **Terrain:** Highest elevation is Mt. Everest at 8,850 m (29,035 ft) and lowest land depression is the Dead Sea at -411 m (-1,349 ft) below sea level. The greatest ocean depth is the Mariana Trench at -10,924 m (-35,840 ft) in the Pacific Ocean.
- **Land use:** *Arable land:* 10.57%. *Permanent crops:* 1.04%. *Other:* 88.39% (2005 est.). *Irrigated land:* 2,770,980 sq km (1,721,886 sq mi).

### People

- **Population:** 6,768,181,146 (July 2010 est.).
- **Growth rate:** 1.13% (2010 est.).
- **Birth rate:** 19.86 births/1,000 population
- **Death rate:** 8.37 deaths/1,000 population
- **Sex ratio (at birth):** 1.07 males/females
- **Infant mortality rate:** 44.13 deaths/1,000 live births
- **Life expectancy at birth:** *Total population:* 66.12 years. *Male:* 64.29 years. *Female:* 68.07 years (2009 est.).
- **Total fertility rate:** 2.56 children born per woman (2009 est.).
- **Literacy:** Age 15 and over who can read and write (2005 est.). *Total population:* 82%. *Male:* 87%. *Female:* 77%.
- **Political divisions:** 195 sovereign nations, 61 dependent areas, and 6 disputed territories.

### Top 10 Baby Names 2010

#### Male

1. Jacob
2. Ethan
3. Michael
4. Alexander
5. William
6. Joshua
7. Daniel
8. Jayden
9. Noah
10. Anthony

#### Female

1. Isabella
2. Emma
3. Olivia
4. Sophia
5. Ava
6. Emily
7. Madison
8. Abigail
9. Chloe
10. Mia

### The Boy Scouts of America Celebrates its 100th Anniversary

About 45,000 Boy Scouts and their leaders from around the country gathered in Virginia to celebrate Boy Scouts of America's 100th anniversary, only a small number of the people that have been touched by the program of kindness, training and hard work that British war hero Robert Baden-Powell started at the turn of the last century.

The first scout rally in London in 1909 brought together 10,000 boys and some girls interested in learning skills and building character.

### Helix turned 42 in 2010!

On September 4, 2010, Helix Courier Limited celebrated its 42nd year in business. In the next special edition Messenger Newsletter, for March of 2011, we will focus on the year 1968, the year Helix was founded. A lot has happened in the years since then and we are grateful to all of you, customers and friends, who have kept us busy, financially successful, and happy to come to work every day.



Helix founder Sieg Pedde, front, and brother Alfred in 1971 or so, in our era of orange Volkswagens.