On This Date

1812 – Artificial pearls were first manufactured by rosary maker M. Jacquin in Paris.

1812 – Napoleon’s French army was expelled from Russia after a brutal six-month invasion that resulted in the loss of 530,000 lives.

1901 – The first table tennis tournament was held at the London Royal Aquarium.

1911 – Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen became the first person to reach the South Pole, beating out a team of rival South Pole explorers led by Robert Falcon Scott.

Train Trivia

Modern passenger trains use magnets to suspend, guide, and propel them. They do not need engines and do not burn fuel. Instead, they are magnetically propelled by electric power fed to coils located on the guideway.

Quote of the Day

“I’ve come to believe that whoever I am didn’t start on December 14, 1946, and isn’t going to end on whatever that mysterious date is in the future.”

~ Patty Duke, actress

Happy Birthday!

Patty Duke (1946–2016) was a stage, film, and television actress who won an Academy Award, three Emmy Awards, and two Golden Globes. She is best known for portraying Helen Keller in The Miracle Worker. Duke won her Academy Award for the role when she was only 16. She also had her own show, The Patty Duke Show. Duke was married four times and had three children. Her sons, Mackenzie and Sean Astin, are both successful actors.