Happy 87th Birthday, Jerry Lewis!

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American comedian, actor, singer, film producer, screenwriter, and film director Jerry Lewis (born March 16, 1926) turns 87 on Saturday, March 16, 2013. In addition to his many achievements, throughout his career, Jerry supported fundraising for research in muscular dystrophy. From early 1950s to 2011, he served as the chairman of the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) and hosted annual fund-raising telethons raising over $2.6 billion [1].

As I was looking at numbers related to Jerry’s birthday and new age, I noticed some interesting numerical coincidences and connections. I decided to turn my findings into a brain teaser birthday gift for Jerry, in appreciation of his achievements and especially his tireless charity work that he pursued for so many years.

The following are my numerical findings related to Jerry’s birthday:

1. Jerry was born in 1926 which equals $2 \times 3 \times 3 \times 107$. The prime factors of 1926 add up to $2 + 3 + 107 = 112$. Interestingly enough, this number connects to Jerry’s birthday in three different ways. First, double the product of the digits of Jerry’s new age 87 (that is, $2 \times 8 \times 7$) yields 112. Second, the 112th prime number is 613, the reverse of which is 316, that is, Jerry’s birth date, March 16. Third, 112 and this year’s number 2013 “magically” lead to Jerry’s full birthday. How? Split 2013 in the middle as 20 and 13. These two numbers add up to 33. Multiply 33 with 112 resulting in 3696. Then, insert the digits of 112 in-between the digits of 3696 in an alternating fashion yielding 3161926! Wow! This date is March 16, 1926, Jerry’s birthdate! Isn’t this something?

2. Number 316 (representing March 16) equals $2 \times 2 \times 79$ where the difference of these primes yield $79 – 2 – 2 = 75$. Amazingly, the 75th day of this year (and every other non-leap year) is March 16, what a coincidence! In addition, the prime factors of this year (3, 11, and 61, since $3 \times 11 \times 61 = 2013$) also add up to 75! Wow!

3. If numbers 1 to 26 are assigned to the letters of the English alphabet as A = 1, B = 2, etc., the numbers assigned to the letters of “Jerry” add up to 76. Interestingly enough, Jerry birthday coincides with the 76th day of each leap year!

4. Jerry’s new age (87) and his birth date expressed in day-month date format as 1603 (representing 16 March) together leads to the full date of his 87th birthday. How? Double 87 resulting in 174. The 174th prime number is 1033. Go ahead and multiply 1033 with the reverse of 1603, what comes out? (3162013!) Fascinating, isn’t it?
Also, as an aside, Jerry’s 87th birthday expressed as 3-16-13 (or simply, 31613) is a palindrome day!

Thanks for making me laugh countless times while I was watching your comedy movies as a kid, Jerry Lewis, and have a happy 87th birthday!