

# Arts and Entertainment

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## AMUSEMENT PARKS

**Carousel patent** was granted on July 25, 1871, to Willhelm Schneider of Davenport, IA. It was a two-story carousel and not very successful or practical.

**Roller coaster** was invented by Lemarcus Adna Thompson, a former Sunday school teacher, and put in operation in June 1884 by the L.A. Thompson Scenic Railway Company at Coney Island, NY (now part of New York City). It traveled along a 450-foot-long, wood-and-steel track at a speed of six miles per hour. The cars started from a peak and ran downgrade, the momentum carrying the cars up an incline. The passengers got out, the attendants pushed the train over a switch to a higher point on a second track, and the passengers returned. The highest drop was only 30 feet. Thompson obtained a patent on January 20, 1885, on a roller-coasting structure and another patent on December 22, 1885 on a gravity switchback railway. The first high-speed roller coaster was The Cyclone, which opened at Coney Island on June 26, 1927. Its one-and-a-half minute ride hit speeds of up to 60 miles per hour.

**Mechanized shooting gallery that was fully automatic** was invented in 1890 by Charles Wallace Parker of Abilene, KS, whose first sale was made to Leon Brownie of Houston, TX.

**Ferris wheel** was invented in 1892 by George Washington Gale Ferris, a railroad and bridge engineer. It was erected on the Midway at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, IL, in 1893. It consisted of 36 cars, each capable of holding 60 passengers. The highest point of the wheel was 264 feet. The total weight of the wheels and cars was 2,100 tons, the levers and machinery was 2,200 tons, and of the passengers per trip was 150 tons.

**Shoot-the-chutes** was built by Captain Paul Boyton and opened on July 6, 1895, at the amusement park at Coney Island, NY (now part of New York City). Each passenger toboggan held 16 persons. The inclined railway was 80 feet high with a 50 percent grade to the surface of a large body of water.

**Roller coaster with a loop-the-loop** was a centrifugal railway invented by Edwin Prescott of Arlington, MA, who received a patent for it on August 16, 1898. It was known as Boyton's Centrifugal Railway and was installed at the amusement park on Coney Island, NY (now part of New York City), in 1900. It had a 75-foot incline and a 20-foot-wide loop.

**Skee-ball alley** was built in 1914 by the National Skee-Ball Company of Coney Island, New York City, and the first battery was operated by William A. Norwood in April 1914 at the Coney Island amusement park.

**Theme park** was Santa Claus Land, a Christmas themed park in Santa Claus, IN, founded by retired businessman Louis J. Koch. The park, which opened on August 3, 1946, offered rides, food treats, an antique toy collection, and a wax museum, as well as a Santa Claus impersonator. The name was changed to Holiday World in 1984.

**Female Imagineer** was Harriet Burns, who joined Disney Studios in 1955 as a prop and set painter for the Mickey Mouse Club. She helped design and build the famed Mickey Mouse Clubhouse. Burns shared a workstation with Fred Joerger, who built models for WED Enterprises (WED = Walt Elias Disney), which would become Walt Disney Imagineering. Burns would soon design buildings and attractions for Disneyland alongside Joerger. Burns and Joerger, along with Wathel Rogers, formed the WED Model Shop team. Burns's models were instrumental in the creation of Sleeping Beauty Castle and the Matterhorn Bobsleds in Anaheim. Burns also designed and painted the set and figurines for the submarine ride, applied individual feathers to animatronic birds in the Enchanted Tiki Room, and created the birds for the film version of Mary Poppins. Burns designed models for classic attractions, including Pirates of the Caribbean and the Haunted Mansion. She also was on a Disney team that created attractions for the 1964 World's Fair in Queens, New York, including Great Moments with Mr. Lincoln, and the Carousel of Progress. Burns also was the first woman to have a window display on Main Street in Disneyland in her honor.

**Daily operating monorail in the Western Hemisphere** was Disneyland's Alweg Monorail System, which opened on June 14, 1959, as an attraction in *Tomorrowland*. It featured two trains each with three cabins and a bubble top in front. Vice President Richard Nixon and his family were among the dignitaries in attendance. Two years later, in 1961, the monorail was extended to reach the Disneyland Hotel.

**Theme Park attraction to use Audio-Animatronics technology** was the Enchanted Tiki Room, which opened to the public on June 23, 1963. Disney received a patent for this technology. The attraction featured music in a Polynesian setting with characters in the form of macaws with French, Irish, Mexican, and German accents. The cast includes over 150 talking, singing, and dancing birds, as well as lifelike flowers, magic fountain, tiki drummers, and tiki totem poles. The Sherman Brothers, known for their songwriting prowess, penned *The Tiki Tiki Tiki Room*.

**Log flume water ride** was opened at Six Flags Over Texas in Arlington in 1963. Riders speed glide through a river on "El Aserradero," then experience a nosedive over the falls at the conclusion of the ride. A second flume was added in 1968 due to the popularity of the first.

**Theme park built on a hill** was Universal Studios Hollywood. It featured an Upper Lot and Lower Lot, built into the landscape of the hilly terrain. The studio opened to the public in its current form on July 15, 1964, when a modern-day tour commenced, a throwback to 1915, when Universal City opened and tours of films being made were available.

**Theme park with a multi-level outdoor escalator** was Universal Studios Hollywood, which opened to the public in its current form on July 15, 1964. The theme park's Upper Lot and Lower Lot are connected to each other by a series of escalators, from which guests can get an incredibly panoramic view of the area around Hollywood. In addition to various attractions, the Upper Lot level features CityWalk, which is an entertainment and dining district within the theme park. To help guests who drive to the studios, the parking garages feature sections named after characters from Universal films.

**Human Audio-Animatronic figure** was President Abraham Lincoln for the Great Moments with Mr. Lincoln exhibit at the 1964 World's Fair in Queens, New York. In the exhibit, the 16th president stands up and delivers part of the Gettysburg Address, which had then recently passed its 100th anniversary. Disney imagineers have been working on taking Audio-Animatronics to the next level in the form of Autonomatronics. In 2009, first such figure, Otto, had its public debut. Otto can see, hear, and sense someone's presence, have a conversation, and react to guest emotions. In 2020, an updated version of Otto was revealed. This version of Otto combined Autonomatronics with lifelike audio-animatronic construction techniques in use at Disney theme parks.

**Theme park resort to offer multiple lodging options** was Walt Disney World in Florida. When the theme park opened on October 1, 1971, there were two hotels, the Polynesian Village Resort and the Contemporary Resort, both of which are still in operation. Realizing that its guests have a variety of budgets, Disney added more lodging experiences over the years for people staying on its property—everything from budget to luxury resort hotels. On the lower end of the pricing spectrum, guests can choose from thousands of rooms at several resort hotels. These include the All-Star Sports Resort, All-Star Music Resort, All-Star Movies Resorts, Art of Animation Resort, and Pop Century Resort hotels. The next level up are considered moderate resort hotels. These include Coronado Springs Resort, Caribbean Beach Resort, Port Orleans Resort—Riverside, Port Orleans Resort—French Quarter, and The Cabins at Disney's Fort Wilderness Resort. On the upper end of pricing, Disney guests can stay at the Wilderness Lodge, Animal Kingdom Lodge, and Grand Floridian Resort & Spa, as well as the BoardWalk Inn, Yacht Club Resort, and Beach Club Resort between Epcot and Disney's Hollywood Studios. Disney's famous monorail goes through several hotels, including the Contemporary Resort, Grand Floridian Resort & Spa, and Polynesian Village Resort. There is transportation to the theme parks to and from all of these resort hotels, and standard theme park parking. Guests at Disney resort hotels can take advantage of extended evening theme park hours, offered on select evenings, and can enter theme parks 30 minutes early.

**Theme park to provide its own transportation network** was Walt Disney World in Florida, when it opened on

etc.” It was published by Alexander Montgomery in New York City from January 1853 to December 4, 1854. The first issue contained 60 pages.

**Chromolithograph** was made in 1861 of John Banvard’s painting *The Orison*, which depicted the interior of the St. Eustace convent in Italy. It was 16 by 24 inches and was chromolithographed by Sarony, Major & Knapp. Proofs were \$10, prints \$5.

**Halftone engraving** was made by Stephen Henry Horgan and appeared in the *New York Daily Graphic* on March 4, 1880. It was entitled *Scene in Shantytown, NY*. The basis of the invention was a screen gradated from transparency to opacity.

**Abstract paintings by a modern artist** were the work of Arthur Dove, born in Geneva, NY. In 1910, he created a series of six paintings on linen, such as *Nature Symbolized, No. 1*, that took their inspiration from landscape but showed no clearly recognizable representational forms.

**Modern art exhibition of importance** opened at the 69th Regiment Armory in New York City on February 17, 1913. The controversial exhibition, organized chiefly by the American modernist painter Arthur Bowen Davies, scandalized the public with such avant-garde works as Marcel Duchamp’s *Nude Descending a Spiral Staircase*. More than 250,000 visitors received their first look at paintings by Paul Cézanne, Paul Gauguin, Vincent van Gogh, Edward Hopper, Henri Matisse, John Marin, Charles Sheeler, and others.

**Cover of the *Saturday Evening Post* by Norman Rockwell** appeared on the issue dated May 20, 1916. It depicted a boy pushing a baby carriage past a group of jeering pals. Rockwell, a native New Yorker who became famous for his anecdotal scenes of small-town American life, painted 319 more covers for the magazine. The last appeared in 1963.

**Native American art exhibition of importance** was the Exposition of Indian Tribal Arts, a traveling show assembled by artist John Sloan and writer Oliver La Farge in 1931. The highlight of the show was the collection of Navajo textiles of the Classic Period, worth up to \$1,000 apiece at the time. The first major museum show of



Rockwell’s debut cover. Photo via Wikimedia Commons. [Public domain.]

Native American art took place in 1940 at the Museum of Modern Art, New York City.

**Graffiti** came into prominence in the early 1960s in Philadelphia, PA, but has been around since ancient times. Hieroglyphics, for example, involved writing on walls in ancient Egypt. Typically, graffiti artists use paint from aerosol cans and draw their designs on subway cars, walls, bridges, and other visible platforms. Some graffiti espouses political beliefs. Graffiti was immortalized in the Simon and Garfunkel song “Sounds of Silence,” with the lyrics: “And the words of the prophets are written on the subway walls and tenement halls.” Ultimately, New York’s Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), among other authorities, used cleaning materials to reduce and eliminate graffiti. Starting in 1984, the MTA conducted a five-year program to accomplish that goal.

**Exhibition of the *Mona Lisa* in the United States** took place on January 8, 1962, in the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. The painting, Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece of 1506, was owned by the Louvre, in Paris. The loan of the painting was arranged by First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy and André Malraux, the French minister of culture. On the first day, 2,000 dignitaries were allowed to view the painting. The exhibition was opened to the public on January 9 and received 518,535 viewers during its three-week stay. The *Mona Lisa* was then moved to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, where it was seen by 1,077,051 visitors.

**Major solo show of work by a Black artist** was a 90-piece exhibition of the paintings of Henry Ossawa Tanner, co-sponsored by the National Collection of Fine Arts and the Frederick Douglass Institute. It opened in Washington, D.C., in 1969 and traveled to seven other major American museums. Tanner painted genre scenes depicting Black life and scenes from the Bible.

**Integrated modern art show in the United States** most likely took place in August and September 1971 at the DeLuxe Theater in Houston, TX's Fifth Ward. Organized by Black painter Peter Bradley and arts patron John de Menil, The De Luxe Show was a response to racial politics in the art world at the time. The show's purpose was to display abstract color field work by artists of different races and to bring contemporary art into a low income, predominantly Black, area. Sixteen artists participated in the show.

**Light sculpture created with a cityscape** was *Night/Light*, created by artist James Pelletier to commemorate the centennial of the invention of the light bulb by Thomas Edison. The sculpture involved a dozen office buildings along the East River waterfront in lower Manhattan, each of which was provided with a pattern of windows to illuminate. The result, which lasted for three hours on the night of October 21, 1979, was a display of geometrical forms that were reflected in the river.

**Sale of an American painting at a price comparable to that of European paintings** took place at an auction at Sotheby's, in New York City, on December 1, 1999. The painting was *Polo Crowd*, a 1910 work in oil by George Wesley Bellows. Microsoft founder Bill Gates paid

\$27,502,400, a record price for a painting by an American artist.

**Artist in residence at NASA** was performance artist Laurie Anderson from 2002 to 2004. The space agency gave her a \$20,000 commission to produce a piece of work. She often included elements of space exploration into her art, enhancing her performances with futuristic, electronic sounds. Her experience with NASA led to her solo performance piece *The End of the Moon*, which brought together music and an exploration of the impact of technological advancements. Anderson toured with *The End of the Moon* in 2004. She also created a film on the moons of the solar system that debuted in 2005.

**Artwork by a living artist sold for over \$100 million** was *Flag* by Jasper Johns, which was sold in a private sale to hedge fund manager Steven A. Cohen for an estimated \$110 million in 2010. The encaustic painting of a 48-star American flag was one of 40 works the artist made based on the flag of the United States. *Flag* was created by Johns in 1958.

**Non-fungible token (NFT)** was *Quantum*, which was created by Kevin McCoy 2014 at a conference called Seven on Seven and hosted by a digital art non-profit called Rhizome. *Quantum* was minted on the Namecoin blockchain. In June 2021, *Quantum* was sold for \$1.47 million at a Sotheby's auction.

**Artist to display works in the façade of the Metropolitan Museum of Art** was New York-based Kenyan artist Wangechi Mutu, in September 2019. She installed four sculptures into the niches on the façade that have been empty since 1902. Her sculptures were a set of four bronze caryatids who were stylized in the tradition of high-ranking African women.

**Painting by a living Black painter to sell for more \$21 million** was *Past Times* by Kerry James Marshall. The 1997 pastoral of Black figures at leisure sold for \$21.1 million at Sotheby's auction house. The painting was purchased by music mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs in May 2018. In November 2019, another of Marshall's paintings, *Vignette 19*, sold for nearly \$18.5 million at Sotheby's.

**Non-fungible token (NFT) artwork offered by a major auction house** was *Everydays: The First 5000 Days* by

The presentation was about 10 minutes long and was composed of short subjects and views. The pictures used the Kinemacolor film invented by Charles Urban and G. Albert Smith of England and licensed to Gilbert Henry Aymer and James Klein Bowen of Allentown, PA.

**Movie production company formed expressly to make and distribute movies** was the American Mutoscope and Biograph Company, founded in New York City on December 27, 1895, by William Kennedy Laurie Dickson, formerly an associate of Thomas Edison, and three others. The company made 12 feature films and thousands of shorts. Its first release was *Empire State Express* in 1896.

**Movie kiss** happened in *The Kiss*, a 20-second short made by Thomas Edison's Black Maria studio. It featured two famous actors of the time, May Irwin and John Rice, who were then appearing on Broadway in J. J. McNally's musical comedy *The Widow Jones*. The kiss that their characters share at the end of the play was filmed by cameraman William Heise at the studio in West Orange, NJ, in April 1896.

**Movie exhibition in a theater to a paying audience** was held on April 23, 1896, in Koster and Bial's Music Hall, 34th Street, New York City. Thomas Alva Edison's Vitascope depicted a series of short scenes, including a ballet scene, a burlesque boxing match, surf breaking on the shore, and a comic allegory entitled *The Monroe Doctrine*. The images were about half life-size and were shown in conjunction with other acts. The audience called for Edison, but he did not appear and refused to take a bow.

**Known on-screen kiss by a Black couple** was in *Something Good*, a short silent film released in 1898. The kiss was performed by stage entertainers Saint Shuttle and Gertie Brown, who also performed as dance partners.

**Movie western** was a 46-second short, *Cripple Creek Bar-Room Scene*, made at the Edison studio in West Orange, NJ, in March and April 1899. James White was the producer. The scene was set in a Colorado bar, where a barmaid (played by a man) subdues a drunken miner by spraying him with vichy water.

**Theater to show movies** was the Electric Theater, 262 South Main Street, Los Angeles, CA, a circus front tent-show called a "black top," which was opened on April

2, 1902, by Thomas Lincoln Tally. Among the first pictures shown were *The Capture of the Biddle Brothers* and *New York in a Blizzard*. The show lasted about one hour; the admission was 10 cents.

**Movie star** was Max Aronson, known as Bronco Billy, Max Anderson, and Gilbert M. Anderson. His first film appearance was in 1903 in *The Great Train Robbery*, in which he played the roles of the bandit, the brakeman, and the passenger who was shot. His first starring role was in *The Messenger Boy's Mistake*, for which he was paid 50 cents an hour.

**Movie with multiple plot lines** was *The Great Train Robbery*, directed by Edwin Stanton Porter for the Edison Company and shot in New Jersey in the fall of 1903. The movie, about 10 minutes long, followed the violent exploits of a gang of bandits as they rob a passenger train and stage a climactic shootout with a sheriff's posse. Porter introduced the use of jump cuts between parallel lines of action and shocking images that later became movie clichés, including the tossing of a body from a moving train. The film starred Max H. "Broncho Billy" Anderson.



The Great Train Robbery: the film's iconic image of Justus D. Barnes firing at the camera, in a sepia-toned print still. Photo via Wikimedia Commons. [Public domain.]

**Movie theater** was the Nickelodeon, which was opened on June 19, 1905, by Harry Davis in an empty store at 433–435 Smithfield Street, Pittsburgh, PA. It had 96 seats taken from Davis's other theaters. Among the first films shown were *Poor But Honest* and *The Baffled Burglar*. A

occupied a narrow margin of the film on which the pictures appeared.

**Portable movie camera** was the Victor Cine Camera, manufactured by the Victor Animatograph Company, Davenport, IA, in 1923. It was 3 by 6 by 8 inches, weighed 5 pounds, and cost \$55. It was first advertised on August 12, 1923.

**Movie with sound to be released as a feature or “talking picture”** was presented on August 5, 1926, at an invitation performance at the Warner Theatre, New York City. On August 6, a gala premiere was held at which seats sold for \$10. The show used the Vitaphone system, meaning that the film did not carry a sound recording but was synchronized with disc phonograph records of the musical score. The main feature was *Don Juan*, directed by Alan Crosland, which starred John Barrymore, Mary Astor, Warner Oland, Estelle Taylor, and Myrna Loy. The musical score was played by the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. It was preceded by a number of short features showing performances by Mischa Elman, Efrem Zimbalist, a marimba band, and other musicians.

**Celebrities to leave handprints at Grauman’s Chinese Theatre in Hollywood, CA,** were Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks, who pressed their palms into wet cement on April 20, 1927. Along with Sid Grauman, the two were part owners of the theater, which opened to the public on May 18, 1927.

**Feature film with recorded music and dialogue** was *The Jazz Singer*, which premiered in New York City on October 6, 1927. Directed by Alan Crosland for Warner Bros., it starred Al Jolson as a musically talented cantor’s son whose father can’t forgive him for deserting the synagogue in search of applause on Broadway. The film was originally planned as a mainly silent movie with musical sequences, and later altered to include scenes with dialogue after Jolson ad-libbed his signature line, “You ain’t heard nothin’ yet!”

**Black woman to star in a major motion picture** was Josephine Baker, who starred in the silent French film *Siren of the Tropics*, which was released in 1927. The film was directed by Mario Nalpas and Henri Étievant. Baker was also the first Black woman to be inducted into the Panthéon in Paris, one of the highest honors in France.

**Movie of feature length made outdoors** was *In Old Arizona*, a film version of O. Henry’s “The Caballero’s Way,” a Fox Movietone with sound recorded on the film. It was released on January 20, 1929. Most of the production was shot on location in Zion National Park and Bryce Canyon, Utah; in California’s Mojave desert; and at the old San Fernando mission in California. It was directed by Raoul Walsh and Irving Cummings and featured Edmund Lowe, Warner Baxter, and Dorothy Burgess.

**Movie by a major company for a Black audience** was the William Fox Movietone feature *Hearts In Dixie*, a musical comedy drama of the South featuring 200 entertainers, which was first shown on February 27, 1929, at the Gaiety Theatre, New York City. It was a Paul Sloane production, written and directed by Eugene Walter, with story and



Poster for the movie *The Jazz Singer* (1927), featuring Al Jolson. Photo via Wikimedia Commons. [Public domain.]



Blondie. Photo via Wikimedia Commons. [Public domain.]

Autoamerican. Blondie lead singer Debbie Harry rapped a few lines that included a mention two well-known rappers, Fab Five Freddy and Grandmaster Flash, at the end of the track.

**Rap song to reach number one on the Billboard Hot 100** was Vanilla Ice's "Ice Ice Baby," which achieved this ranking in November 1990. Originally released on August 22, 1990, as the B-side to a cover of "Play That Funky Music," disc jockeys began playing "Ice Ice Baby" instead. The song was featured on Vanilla Ice's debut album *To the Extreme* and reached the top of the charts in numerous countries, including the United Kingdom, Germany, and Australia.

**Rap song to win an Academy Award for Best Original Song** was Eminem's "Lose Yourself" from *8 Mile* in 2003. The Detroit-based rapper starred in the semi-autobiographical film, but had begun working on the song a few years earlier. "Lose Yourself" was a smash hit that spent

several months at number one. Eminem didn't attend the Oscar ceremony because he didn't think he had a chance of winning. After his win, two more hip-hop songs have won the same award, "It's Hard Out Here for a Pimp" by Three 6 Mafia for *Hustle & Flow* and "Glory" by John Legend and Common for *Selma*.

**Incorporation of digital downloads into Billboard music charts** took place in 2005. This encompassed tools such as Apple's iTunes, Amazon MP3, Rhapsody, and similar services. Previously, chart position favored and was based primarily upon radio airplay. With this change, *Billboard* recognized the growing importance of the internet as a major delivery mechanism for music.

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## SPECTACLES

**Fireworks** were used in 1608 by Captain John Smith, who fired a few rockets to entertain the Native Americans



*The Brooklyn Bridge. Photo by Dietmar Rabich, via Wikimedia Commons.*

**Railroad bridge across the Mississippi River** was the Rock Island Railroad Bridge between Rock Island, IL, and Davenport, IA. It was built of wood resting on stone piers. The piers were completed June 1854. The bridge was fully completed on April 21, 1856. On April 22, a train consisting of three locomotives and eight passenger cars crossed as a test.

**Steel arch bridge** was the Eads Bridge, built across the Mississippi River by James Buchanan Eads. It was built from St. Louis, MO, to East St. Louis, IL, at a cost of \$6.5 million. Construction started in 1869. The center span was 520 feet, the two side spans 502 feet each. On May 24, 1874, more than 15,000 people paid a toll to walk across; on June 3, the upper roadway was ready for vehicles; and on July 4, President Ulysses Simpson Grant made the formal dedication speech. It was the first bridge construction project to use pneumatic caissons.

**Cantilever bridge** was designed by Charles Shaler Smith for the Cincinnati Southern Railroad to cross the Kentucky River. It was built in 1876–77 near Harrodsburg in Mercer County, KY. A contract for an iron-truss bridge was let to the Baltimore Bridge Company on July 9, 1875,

for \$377,500. Construction started October 12, 1876, and was completed February 20, 1877. The bridge had three spans, each 375 feet long.

**Engineer who was a woman in the United States** was Emily Warren Roebling, whose husband, Washington Roebling, was chief engineer for the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge. In 1872, with her husband bedridden due to decompression sickness, she became the supervisor of the massive construction project. In 1882 she became the first woman to address the American Society of Civil Engineers. The first woman to earn a degree in engineering was Elizabeth Bragg, who graduated from the University of California in 1876.

**Railroad bridge entirely of steel** was the Glasgow Bridge, a 2,700-foot structure built by the Chicago and Alton Railroad Company over the Missouri River at Glasgow, MO. The contract for steel was dated October 12, 1878, and the bridge was placed in service about November 1, 1879.

**Highway bridge with concrete arches** was designed by Carl A. Trik, superintendent of bridges for the Bureau of



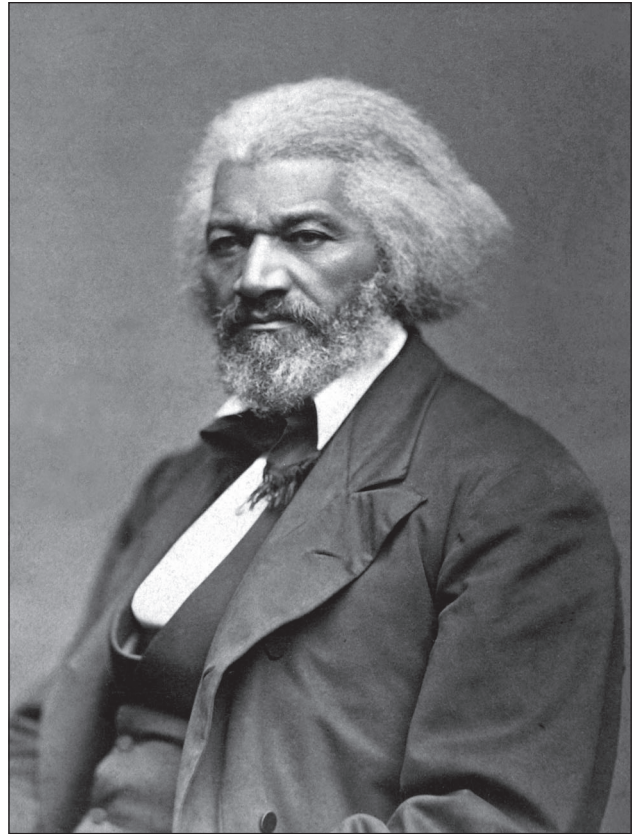
by a wing of Democrats who refused to accept the nomination of Horace Greeley that had already been made at Baltimore, MD. O'Connor declined the nomination, but his name nevertheless was listed and he received approximately 30,000 votes from 23 states.

**Presidential candidate to make campaign speeches in a foreign language** was James Abram Garfield of Ohio, who made several political speeches in German. He was elected in November 1880.

**President to be sworn in at his New York City home** was Chester A. Arthur. Arthur was sworn in upon the death of President Garfield who had been shot two months earlier and died on September 19, 1881. Arthur was sworn in again upon arriving in Washington, D.C., on September 22, before Chief Justice Morrison R. Waite, to assure procedural compliance. Arthur resided at the home of Senator John P. Jones while the White House underwent significant remodeling, including the addition of an elaborate 50-foot glass screen made by Louis Comfort Tiffany. Arthur, a widow, invited his sister, Mary Arthur McElroy, to serve as White House hostess.

**Vice presidential candidate who was a woman** was Marietta Lizzie Bell Stow of California, nominated by the Equal Rights Party in San Francisco, CA, on September 20, 1884. Previously, Stow ran for Governor of California as the candidate of the Women's Independent Political Party. She and Clara S. Foltz nominated Belva Ann Lockwood for President of the United States, and Stow ended up supporting her on the ticket of the National Equal Rights Party as their Vice Presidential candidate in the United States presidential election, 1884. Again, eight years later in 1892, Stow was a vice-presidential candidate, nominated by the "National Woman Suffragists' Nominating Convention" on September 21 at Willard's hotel in Boonville, New York presided over by Anna M. Parker, President of the convention. This time Victoria Woodhull was at the top of the ticket.

**Presidential nominee who was Black** was Frederick Douglass of Rochester, NY, who received one vote on June 23, 1888, on the fourth ballot of the Republican national convention. On June 25, on the eighth ballot, the convention nominated Benjamin Harrison, who was elected as the 23rd president. Douglass was later appointed U.S. minister to Haiti.



Frederick Douglass. Photo via Wikimedia Commons. [Public domain.]

**Presidential candidate to ride in a car** was William Jennings Bryan, who was given a ride in 1896 at Decatur, IL, in an automobile made by the Mueller Manufacturing Company, accompanied by his wife. There were only 10 cars in the United States at that time.

**Presidential candidate to appear in movie footage** was William Jennings Bryan, who was filmed receiving congratulations at his residence at Fairview, NE, after his nomination on July 10, 1908. The film was shown on July 12, 1908, at Hammerstein's Roof, 42nd Street and Broadway, New York City, having been developed on the train heading east.

**Election in which returns were broadcast on radio** was the presidential election of November 7, 1916. An experimental station, the De Forest Radio Laboratory in the Highbridge section of the Bronx, New York City, broadcast bulletins from the *New York American* on the results of the presidential race for approximately six hours. The

and for other purposes.” Violators were guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment of up to 20 years. If death resulted, a murder charge could be instituted.

**Freedom ride by civil rights activists** was the Journey of Reconciliation, organized by Bayard Rustin and George Houser. From April 7 to April 23, 1947, a team of 16 riders, eight Black and eight White, traveled through Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky, relying on a recent Supreme Court decision that disallowed segregation on interstate buses. Confrontations with the police resulted in multiple arrests, with some riders serving time on chain gangs.

**Year in which there were no reported lynchings of Black people** was 1952. Recordkeeping began in 1881.

**Mass boycott by civil rights protesters** took place in Montgomery, AL, over a period of 381 days in 1955–56, when the Black residents of the city refused to ride the municipal buses. The boycott was organized to protest the arrest on December 1, 1955, of a Black seamstress, Rosa Parks, for refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger, as required by law. The protest was led by a young minister, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Eventually the city agreed to treat all riders equally and to hire Black people as bus drivers.



*Rosa Parks being fingerprinted by Deputy Sheriff D.H. Lackey after being arrested on February 22, 1956, during the Montgomery bus boycott. Photo via Wikimedia Commons. [Public domain.]*

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Ammonia-fueled tugboat for commercial use in the world, 918  
 Asian woman to win an Academy Award for Best Director, 33  
 Cabinet secretary who was openly gay, 374  
 California condors known to be born by virgin birth, 581  
 Federal recognition of Juneteenth, 178  
 First Lady of a sitting U.S. president to hold a paying job outside the White House, 377  
 Hmong-American Olympian, 825  
 Human brain to wirelessly connect to a computer, 500  
 National Football League (NFL) head coach who was Muslim, 817  
 National Football League (NFL) team to win the Super Bowl in its home stadium, 817  
 National Hockey League (NHL) player to play in more than 1,775 regular season games, 833  
 Native American cabinet secretary, 374  
 Non-fungible token (NFT), 8  
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 Openly transgender person to be confirmed by the U.S. Senate, 374  
 Oxygen made on Mars, 691  
 Person born in the 21st century to win an Academy Award, 33  
 Private citizen to enter space on his own spaceship, 698  
 Second Gentleman of the United States, 387  
 Secretary of defense who was a Black man, 374  
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 U.S. president to be impeached twice, 368  
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**2022**

Deliberate crashing of a spacecraft into an asteroid, 691  
 Image of a black hole in the Milky Way, 639  
 Instagram user with 500 million followers, 446  
 International player to win the NBA scoring title, 791  
 Month the median home price in the United States exceeded \$400,000, 179  
 National Park Service ranger to retire at the age of 100, 585  
 Painting by an American artist to sell for at least \$195 million, 9  
 Public flight of a commercially available flying bike, 898  
 Supreme Court justice who is a Black woman, 317  
 Victoria's Secret model with Down syndrome, 80  
 Widespread use of armed drones in war where both sides employed them, 564  
 Woman referee at a men's World Cup match, 846  
 Year microplastics were detected in a human bloodstream, 680  
 Year more Americans said they smoked marijuana than cigarettes, 732

**2023**

Advertising mascot that was edible, 80  
 All-woman flyover team at the Super Bowl, 525  
 Arab-majority city in the United States, 290

Astronaut who was a woman and older than 60 to orbit Earth, 699  
 Astronauts who were Saudis to visit the International Space Station (ISS), 699  
 Black astronaut assigned to a lunar mission, 699  
 Concert tour to gross more than \$2 billion, 47  
 Liquid hydrogen-fueled commercial passenger and car ferry in the world, 918  
 Long haul commercial flight to use 100 percent sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), 885  
 Miss Teen USA to voluntarily step down, 9  
 Miss USA to voluntarily step down, 9  
 Over-the-counter oral contraceptive pill, 498  
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 Sikh man to complete U.S. Marines boot camp and maintain his Sikh articles of faith, 534  
 Swimmer to win six gold medals in the same event at the World Championships, 848  
 Threads user to reach one million followers, 446  
 U.S. Congress to include 128 women, 294  
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 Woman astronaut assigned to a lunar mission, 699  
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**2024**

American athlete to win an Olympic medal in women's hammer throw, 855  
 American gymnast to qualify for the Olympics as a single-event specialist, 825  
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 American political convention fundraising to exceed \$90 million, 359  
 Astronaut who was a woman to fly a test flight of an orbital spacecraft, 699  
 Athlete from the Refugee Olympic team to win a medal, 839  
 Athlete to win five straight Olympic gold medals in an individual Olympic event, summer or winter, 839  
 Black African to win a stage of the Tour de France, 807  
 Black Canadian to win an individual Olympic swimming medal, 849  
 Black woman and South Asian person to be the presidential nominee of a major political party, 359  
 Bluesky user to have a million followers, 446  
 Canadian athlete to win three gold medals at a single Olympic games, 839  
 Chess world champion who was 18 years old, 804  
 Chick-fil-A elevated drive-thru restaurant, 109  
 Chick-fil-A mobile pick up restaurant, 109  
 Child of a sitting president to be convicted of a crime, 368  
 Cloned endangered animal to give birth to healthy offspring, 581  
 College football team to get paid to play a game and score 70 points, 818  
 Commercial astronauts to perform a spacewalk, 699