

APRIL 1: Community College Month

Profile America — Friday, April 1st. April is Community College Month, an observance recognizing the importance of scaled down centers of higher learning to millions of striving Americans. Community, or junior colleges are an American invention that put publicly funded higher education at close-to-home facilities. The first such institution was Joliet Junior College, opening in Illinois in 1901. Nationwide today, about 1,200 public and independent community colleges serve as local first steps in higher education. There are over 18 million students enrolled in America's colleges and universities, including in graduate programs. Some 4.3 million, over one-third of first- and second-year undergraduate students, attend community colleges. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

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First junior college, accessed 8/19/2021: www.jic.edu/about-jic/history

Number of community colleges, accessed 8/19/2021: www.aacc.nche.edu/research-trends/

National college enrollment, Current Population Survey:

<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/demo/tables/school-enrollment/2019/2019-cps/Tab05-2019.xlsx>

APRIL 2: First Federal Building

Profile America — Saturday, April 2nd. Critics of federal spending initiatives in an age of budget deficits often allude disdainfully to the government's ability to create money. Ironically, the first federal building commissioned under the country's new constitution was intended to do just that. On this date in 1792, President George Washington and Congress established the National Mint in the then-capital city of Philadelphia. The mint issued the gold, silver and copper coinage as the legal tender of the young republic. In the 230 years since building the mint at 7th and Arch Streets, the government moved to Washington and raised many more buildings — a process that continues. In June of last year alone, office construction was valued at \$2.9 billion out of total federal construction worth some \$23 billion. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>

Sources:

Joseph Nathan Kane, Kane's Famous First Facts, Fifth Edition, H.W. Wilson Co., New York, NY 1997, #2115.

Philadelphia Mint, accessed 8/30/2021:

www.usmint.gov/about_the_mint/mint_facilities/?action=pa_facilities

Federal construction in 2020:

www.census.gov/construction/c30/pdf/fedsa.pdf

APRIL 3: Public Health

Profile America — Sunday, April 3rd. National Public Health Week begins tomorrow — a time to recognize the partnership of government, business and nonprofit organizations that has worked to make American public health a leader in confronting threats to well-being. This dynamic goes back a long way. This month in 1795, the city of Baltimore set up a permanent, elected board of health, successor to the nation's first such appointed agency. The first board was created by Maryland's governor to cope with yellow fever epidemics beginning in 1792. Still, Baltimore was affected in 1794 and hundreds died as a result. Across the country, there are 1.38 million people employed full time in state and local government hospitals, and in health services. An additional 283,000 work part time. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

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Occasion, accessed 8/26/2021: www.nphw.org/about-nphw#:~:text=Future%20National%20Public%20Health%20Week%20dates%3A%20%20April,2%20April%203-9%2C%202023%203%20April%201-7%2C%202024

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Yellow fever, accessed 8/26/2021:

<http://bobarnebeck.com/history.html>

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Baltimore deaths from yellow fever, accessed 8/26/2021:

https://books.google.com/books?id=ZAqmDwAAQBAJ&pg=PT50&lpg=PT50&dq=baltimore+deaths+yellow+fever+in+1793&source=bl&ots=lvsv75q8gR&sig=OXJpkdArT9qDuoYYI5afU2tw9PM&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEWjy4v-Qy6_YAhWGGQ98KHc2QARYQ6AEIVzAH#v=onepage&q=baltimore%20deaths%20yellow%20fever%20in%201793&f=false

Public employment in health and hospitals, state and local:

www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/apes/datasets/2020/2020_state_local.xls

APRIL 4: C Major

Profile America — Monday, April 4th. Today is Vitamin C Day, celebrated — if that's the word — every April 4 on the anniversary of the isolation of this vitamin. The breakthrough was made 90 years ago by two doctors at the University of Pittsburgh. Before 1932, people knew that eating citrus fruit and fresh greens warded off certain diseases, such as scurvy, but didn't know why. Also known as ascorbic acid, vitamin C is required to sustain human life. Studies have shown that people with a high daily intake of vitamin C seem to gain protection against immune system deficiencies,

cardiovascular disease, eye disease and even skin wrinkling. Health benefits have Americans ingesting a large assortment of pills. Nationwide, there are some 10,300 health supplement establishments, with combined annual sales of over \$6-billion. *Profile America* is completing 25 years as a public service of the U.S. Census Bureau.

Sources:

Occasion, accessed 8/19/2021: www.worldnationaldays.com/vitamin-c-day/

Isolating the vitamin, accessed 8/19/2021: www.nytimes.com/1988/01/25/obituaries/cg-king-91-dies-found-vitamin-c-in-nutrition-study.html

Health benefits, accessed 8/19/2021: www.webmd.com/diet/the-benefits-of-vitamin-c

Health supplement establishments, NAICS 446191:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=446191&tid=CBP2019.CB1900CBP>

Health supplement revenue, NAICS 446191:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=446191&tid=ECNBASIC2017.EC1700BASIC&hidePreview=false>

APRIL 5: Library Week

Profile America — Tuesday, April 5th. April is a significant month for the American printed word. In 1800, the Library of Congress was founded, and mid-month in 1828, Noah Webster copyrighted the first dictionary of American English. The annual observance of National Library Week began on Sunday. While computers and electronic media are of increasing importance in the services libraries offer, books remain at the core of their collections, with the Library of Congress alone holding some 40 million in its collection of 172-million materials. There are an estimated 117,000 libraries across the country, from the familiar public libraries to those in schools, academies and governments. State and local libraries employ 91,500 people full time, and 93,000 part-timers. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:

Library of Congress founded, accessed 8/19/2021:

www.memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/apr24.html

National Library Week, accessed 8/19/2021:

<https://nationaltoday.com/national-library-week/#:~:text=National%20Library%20Week,%E2%80%93%20April%203-9%2C%202022>

Noah Webster's dictionary, accessed 8/19/2021:

www.webstersdictionary1828.com/NoahWebster

Library of Congress book holdings, accessed 8/19/2021: www.loc.gov/about/general-information/#year-at-a-glance

Number of libraries, accessed 8/19/2021:

www.ala.org/tools/libfactsheets/alalibraryfactsheet01

State and local government library employment, state and local table:

www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/apes/datasets/2020/2020_state_local.xls

APRIL 6: Teflon

Profile America — Wednesday, April 6th. For much of history, a cooked meal was followed by the drudgery of scrubbing the pans used to prepare it. But something was discovered on this date in 1938 that changed all that, a solidified refrigerant gas that we now know as Teflon. Developed by Roy Plunkett of the DuPont Company and tested for about 10 years, slippery Teflon revolutionized cooking utensils in the 1960s. By the time he died in the early 1990s, most new cooking pans in the nation were coated with his invention. Today, Teflon is used in everything from semiconductors to communications cables and even clothing. The nation's 2,445 basic chemical manufacturers employ some 155,000 people, and generate annual sales of over \$206 billion. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>

Sources:

Discovery, accessed 8/30/2021: www.thoughtco.com/invention-of-teflon-4076517

Plunkett biography, accessed 8/30/2021: www.sciencehistory.org/historical-profile/roy-j-plunkett

Adaptability of Teflon, accessed 8/30/2021: <http://toefco.com/the-many-uses-of-teflon-a-k-a-ptfe/>

Manufacturers and employees, County Business Patterns, NAICS 3251:
<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=3251&tid=CBP2019.CB1900CBP>

Receipts for shipments, Annual Survey of Manufacturers, NAICS 3251:
<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=3251&tid=ASMAREA2017.AM1831BASIC01>

APRIL 7: Brews Control

Profile America — Thursday, April 7th. The years of Prohibition, from 1920 to 1933, were considered a noble experiment that failed, as the crime associated with bootlegging caused problems worse than the lone problem of drunkenness. The crumbling of the unpopular Volstead Act accelerated on this date 88 years ago, when the act was amended to permit beer of 3.2 percent alcohol to be brewed and sold. In remembrance, today is National Beer Day. Prohibition's earlier beer allowed only .05 percent alcohol. Called "near beer," and much disdained, one humorist declared that whoever named it was a bad judge of distance. Today, there are 4,300 breweries nationwide, with 85,000 employees and annual sales of around \$30 billion. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:

Beer comeback, accessed 8/24/2021:

www.cnn.com/2008/LIVING/04/07/new.beers.eve/index.html

“Near beer” quote, accessed 8/24/2021: www.alcoholsayings.com/the-man-who-called-it-near-beer-was-a-bad-judge-of-distance/

National Beer Day, accessed 8/24/2021:

www.holidayscalendar.com/event/national-beer-day/

Breweries, employment and revenues, Economic Census, NAICS 312120:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=312120&tid=CBP2019.CB1900CBP>

Revenues of breweries, Annual Survey of Manufacturers, NAICS 312120:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=312120&tid=ASMAREA2017.AM1831BASIC01>

APRIL 8: Popular Demand

Profile America — Friday, April 8th. On this date in 1913, the 17th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified, establishing direct popular election of senators. Previously, members of the Senate were elected by each state’s legislature. After the Civil War and into the Progressive Era, growing sentiment held that senators ought to be popularly elected in the same manner as representatives. Thus, by the time of the amendment’s passage 109 years ago, at least 29 states were nominating senators on a popular basis. In 2020, out of about 168 million registered voters, some 155 million cast their ballots for 33 Senate seats. That in addition to the entire House of Representatives, and state and local offices. You can find more facts about America’s people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at www.census.gov.

Sources:

Amendment and ratification, accessed 8/26/2021:

<https://legaldictionary.net/17th-amendment/>

Background, accessed 8/26/2021:

<http://constitution.findlaw.com/amendment17.html>

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www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/tables/p20/585/table02_1.xlsx

APRIL 9: First Health Insurance

Profile America — Saturday, April 9th. Health insurance coverage has been a major topic of media and political interest for the past decade or so, but the concept goes back 175 years. The Massachusetts Health Insurance Company of Boston was organized this month in 1847 to offer group policies with benefits in the form of income replacement. Whatever the merits of the venture, the company failed, and it took about a half century before health insurance began to catch on in the United States. The

Census Bureau's American Community Survey shows that out of a population of over 323 million, some 293.5 million, or nearly 91 percent, were insured. Some 114 million Americans have additional or exclusive public health insurance coverage. You can find more facts about America's people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <www.census.gov>.

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Joseph Nathan Kane, Kane's Famous First Facts, Fifth Edition, H.W. Wilson Co., New York, NY 1997, #4534.

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<http://archives.lib.state.ma.us/bitstream/handle/2452/94308/1847acts0214.txt?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

Massachusetts Health Insurance Company, accessed 8/20/2021:

<http://healthncare.info/history-healthcare-insurance-united-states/>

Health insurance industry, accessed 8/20/2021:

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Insurance coverage, American Community Survey:

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Public insurance coverage, American Community Survey:

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APRIL 10: Child Labor

Profile America — Sunday, April 10th. Children have worked throughout history, especially on family farms and in trades. But their employment in industrialized settings raised many popular objections. This month in 1836, Massachusetts became the first state to prohibit children under age 15 from working in factories. But it wasn't until the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 that long, dangerous child labor was ended nationally. The restrictions on child labor scarcely dent the national labor force. Pre-pandemic, there were 158.8 million working Americans age 16 and older. Young people starting out swell the employment numbers for food preparation at 9-million, some of retail sales' 15.5 million, and building and grounds cleaning and maintenance at 5.9-million. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:

Joseph Nathan Kane, Kane's Famous First Facts, Fifth Edition, H.W. Wilson Co., New York, NY 1997, #4573.

Federal oversight, accessed 8/31/2021: www.dol.gov/dol/topic/youthlabor/

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Workforce, American Community Survey:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=S2401&tid=ACSST1Y2019.S2401&hidePreview=false>

Retail sales and fast food, accessed 11/5/2020:

www.bls.gov/oes/current/area_emp_chart/area_emp_chart.htm

APRIL 11: National Pet Day

Profile America — Monday, April 11th. If every dog has its day, then today is probably it. Every April 11th is when dogs are joined by cats, rabbits, birds, and other companion animals in National Pet Day. The observance dates back to 2005 to acknowledge the contentment pets bring to our lives, and to sustain awareness of the animal populations at risk in shelters. Starting with dogs thousands of years ago, people worldwide have taken to keeping a growing number of domesticated animal species for pleasure and companionship. To provide for the health of America's pets, there are over 32,000 veterinary establishments, and more than 71,000 practicing veterinarians. Including veterinary costs, Americans spend on average \$1,126 annually on their pets. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:

Occasion, accessed 8/19/2021: www.holidayscalendar.com/event/national-pet-day/

Pet keeping, accessed 8/19/2021: www.britannica.com/animal/pet

Veterinary establishments, County Business Patterns, NAICS 54194:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=54194&tid=CBP2019.CB1900CBP>

Veterinarians, American Community Survey:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=B24124&tid=ACSDT1Y2019.B24124&hidePreview=false>

Spending on pets, accessed 8/19/2021: <https://spots.com/pet-ownership-statistics/>

APRIL 12: Portable Typewriter

Profile America — Tuesday, April 12th. On this date 130 years ago, a patent for the first truly portable typewriter was issued to George C. Blickensderfer of Stamford, Connecticut. His 1892 "type writing machine" featured a revolving type-wheel, a precursor to the type-ball of 1970s typewriters. The wheel reduced the number of moving parts from 2,500 to 250. This improved reliability and reduced the weight by one-fourth. The Blickensderfer Manufacturing Company eventually became one of the world's largest typewriter manufacturers in a crowded field. In 1900, U.S. manufacturers shipped 145,000 typewriters. 1967 was the peak year with nearly 2 million produced.

Today, manual typewriters are out of production, and only a few electric models are manufactured. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:

Joseph Nathan Kane, Kane's Famous First Facts, Fifth Edition, H.W. Wilson Co., New York, NY 1997, #2387.

Blickensderfer machine, accessed 8/23/2021: <http://connecticuthistory.org/the-portable-typewriting-machine-today-in-history/>

Domestic typewriter manufacturing, Historical Statistics of the United States: Colonial Times to 1970, pp. 694 and 695:

www2.census.gov/library/publications/1975/compendia/hist_stats_colonial-1970/hist_stats_colonial-1970p2-chP.pdf?#

Typewriters today, accessed 12/23/2019: www.huffpost.com/entry/worlds-last-typewriter-factory-closes_n_853670

APRIL 13: Gastronomic Milestone

Profile America — Wednesday, April 13th. This month holds the 67th anniversary of the opening of a small hamburger restaurant in Des Plaines, Illinois. It was the first of what would become one of the world's best-recognized brand names — McDonald's. The 1955 shop belonged to Ray Kroc, whose main interest at the time was selling the machines that mixed milkshakes. The name came from two McDonald brothers who ran a hamburger shop in California. The first day's revenue at the Illinois start-up was \$366.12. That original shop is now a museum housing artifacts from the growth of the chain via franchising. In America today, there are over a quarter-million fast-food outlets serving hamburgers and other comestibles, with earnings of well over \$250 billion per year. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:

Joseph Nathan Kane, Kane's Famous First Facts, Fifth Edition, H.W. Wilson Co., New York, NY 1997, #2464.

Kroc biography, accessed 8/27/2021:

www.mcdonalds.com/us/en/our_story/our_history/the_ray_kroc_story.html

Franchise story, accessed 8/27/2021: www.famousdaily.com/history/mcdonalds-restaurants-founded.html

Fast food establishments, County Business Patterns, NAICS 722513:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=722513&tid=CBP2019.CB1900CBP>

Fast food revenue, Economic Census, NAICS 722513:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=722513&tid=ECNBASIC2017.EC1700BASIC>

APRIL 14: Lifesaving Medicine

Profile America — Thursday, April 14th. One of the world's foremost lifesaving medicines — insulin — became available 99 years ago tomorrow. Insulin is a hormone produced by the pancreas and is critical in the processing of carbohydrates in the human body. It was first isolated 100 years ago by a Canadian team led by Dr. Frederick Banting at the University of Toronto. In 1923, the effect in treating diabetes was like a miracle. One year, the disease was an automatic death sentence; the next, people who were affected had hopes of living full and productive lives. One of the first beneficiaries was the daughter of U.S. Secretary of State Charles Evans Hughes. Pharmaceutical and medicine manufacturing employs 266,000 people in over 2,600 establishments nationwide, with sales values of about \$211-billion. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:

Insulin availability, accessed 8/24/2021: www.historyorb.com/events/date/1923/april

Development, accessed 8/24/2021: <https://insulin.library.utoronto.ca/>

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Pharmaceutical and medicine manufacturing and employment, County Business Patterns, NAICS 3254:

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Pharmaceutical and medicine manufacturing value, Annual Survey of Manufacturers, NAICS 3254:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=3254&tid=ASMAREA2017.AM1831BASIC01>

APRIL 15: Leading The Charge

Profile America — Friday, April 15th. To borrow from some recent advertising slogans, although many Americans couldn't imagine leaving home without them, and they're everywhere they want to be, there was a time when credit cards were rare. They were issued only by individual merchants. But that limitation ended this month in 1952, when the Franklin National Bank in New York launched a credit card for use by the customers of varied merchants. In this, the bank was following the lead of the Diners Club charge card, created in 1950. Today, credit card offers fill the mails...and the cards, our wallets. The financial sector, which includes over 89,000 banks, backs these offers through 650 issuing establishments, which employ some 67,000 people. You can find more facts about America's people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:

Joseph Nathan Kane, Kane's Famous First Facts, Fifth Edition, H.W. Wilson Co., New York, NY 1997, #3810.

Card, accessed 8/24/2021: www.nytimes.com/2000/05/11/business/william-boyle-credit-card-pioneer-dies-at-88.html

Diners Club, accessed 8/24/2021:

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Credit card issuers and employment, County Business Patterns, NAICS 522210:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=522210&tid=CBP2019.CB1900CBP>

APRIL 16: Professional Firefighters

Profile America — Saturday, April 16th. For much of history, firefighting was an improvised voluntary activity. The ancient Romans had a permanent corps of firefighters called vigiles, who were neither volunteers nor professional — they were slaves. But for centuries thereafter, volunteer units were the rule. The first professional fire department in America was established at the beginning of April in 1853 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Members of the company received \$60 per year, with lieutenants earning \$100, and captains \$150. The real money was made by the pump wagon drivers — \$365. Today, while trained volunteer companies perform much firefighting, there are some 350,000 professional firefighters and supervisors nationwide. Their median annual pay is \$71,000 and \$95,000, respectively. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

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Firefighting history, accessed 8/20/2021:

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Firefighters, American Community Survey:

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Median earnings, American Community Survey:

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APRIL 17: First Public School

Profile America — Sunday, April 17th. America's oldest school in continuous existence celebrates its 387th birthday this month. The Boston Latin School started in 1635 with a handful of students meeting in the headmaster's home. Stressing a classical education and the development of independent thought, the school has long been considered one of the top public secondary schools in the nation. Its list of graduates includes John Hancock, George Santayana, and Leonard Bernstein. Today, there are over 80 million children and adults enrolled in school throughout the country — from nursery school to college. They comprise 25.4 percent of the entire population age 3 and older. Of those students, 16.9 million are in high school. You can find more facts about America's people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at www.census.gov.

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Ben Franklin and alumni, accessed 8/27/2021:

www.bls.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=203830&type=d&pREC_ID=404406

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APRIL 18: First Laundromat

Profile America — Monday, April 18th. For urban dwellers, the difficulty — or at least the expense — of doing their laundry began to ease on this date 88 years ago. In 1934, the first public, self-operated laundry in the country opened in Fort Worth, Texas. The first name for the business was "Washateria," eventually replaced with the now familiar "Laundromat." Early facilities were not necessarily coin-operated, and there was always an attendant on duty. The automatic washing machine came along in 1937, and by the late 1940s, the first unattended, 24-hour Laundromats were opened. Now, there are over 10,500 dry cleaners and coin-operated laundromats across the country. Employing more than 40,000 people, they do \$4.3 billion of grime-fighting business annually. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at www.census.gov.

Sources:

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APRIL 19: All News

Profile America — Tuesday, April 19th. The first all-news radio format in America was heard on this date in 1965, as WINS-AM in New York City switched from rock ‘n’ roll to rip and read. The station faded out the last song, the Shangri-La’s “Out in the Streets,” and became “all news, all the time.” The experimental format has been successfully replicated in cities around the country, with 43 domestic stations currently devoted to all-news, still including WINS. The most listened-to such station is a competitor in New York City. Seven-hundred seventy-six more stations are found in the news-talk format. In America today, there are 15,428 radio stations, employing around 90,000 people, with annual industry revenues of nearly \$21 billion. *Profile America* is completing 25 years as a public service of the U.S. Census Bureau.

Sources:

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News-Talk, accessed 8/23/2021: <http://radio-locator.com/cgi-bin/finder?format=nst&s=R&sr=Y>

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APRIL 20: Ford Launches Assembly Line

Profile America — Wednesday, April 20th. The American automobile industry began to crank up this month in 1913 — as Henry Ford set up the first moving assembly line in Highland Park, Michigan. Before the assembly line, workers spent over 12 hours building a single Model T. Afterward, it took only 93 minutes. Ultimately, a new car came off the assembly line every 24 seconds, and 15 million were built over the years of production. Prices dropped too. In 1909, a basic Model T roadster cost \$825 — by 1925, it was down to \$260. Now, American automakers — Ford still among them, of course — manufacture close to \$105 billion worth of vehicles annually. Production peaked in 2016 at over 12-million passenger and commercial vehicles. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

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APRIL 21: First Movie Theater

Profile America — Thursday, April 21st. For over a century and a quarter, going to the movies has been one of the American people's great pleasures. The first time paying Americans gathered as an audience to watch a motion picture was this week in 1896, at the Koster and Bial's Music Hall on West 34th Street in New York City. The movie was a plotless novelty at the end of a live vaudeville show, showcasing a new projector of Thomas Edison's. Previously, people viewed short films individually by peering into a hand-cranked peepshow unit. Now, there are over 4,450 movie theaters affected by the pandemic. Previously, these theaters employed 149,000 people, and took in about \$16 billion annually. You can find more facts about America's people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <www.census.gov>.>.

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APRIL 22: A Taste Negation

Profile America — Friday, April 22nd. On this date 37 years ago, executives at one of America's and the world's most famous consumer brands were expecting good news on the morrow about a new and improved product. After research, experimentation and extensive taste testing, a reformulated Coca-Cola was launched in 1985. The company was surprised by the negative, noisy consumer reaction, and New Coke became something of a synonym for product failure. The original Coca-Cola was rushed back to retailers by the summer. New Coke staggered on for a time alongside "the Real Thing," but is no longer available in America. Five-hundred 88 American establishments engage in soft drink manufacturing, employing some 65,000 people in the \$37.6 billion a year business. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

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APRIL 23: Slowing Immigration

Profile America — Saturday, April 23rd. One-hundred one years ago today, the Census Bureau announced that the total foreign-born population of the United States had increased by only 2.6 percent since the 1910 census. This was down sharply from the first decade of the 20th century, when the increase was over 30 percent. The dramatic plunge was primarily due to reduced immigration because of the Great War of 1914 to 1918. Additionally, during the years of that conflict, over 2 million Germans, Austro-

Hungarians, Irish and Russian people repatriated to Europe. In 1920, the foreign-born population totaled 13.9-million in a nation of 106-million, or just over 13.1 percent. In America today, some 45-million residents are foreign born, about 13.6 percent of our population. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

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APRIL 24: A Higher Power

Profile America — Sunday, April 24th. On tomorrow's date 68 years ago, Bell Laboratories in New York announced the prototype manufacture of a new solar battery, or what we now call a solar cell. The new cell was capable of a 6 percent energy conversion efficiency with direct sunlight, as opposed to about a 1 percent rate with earlier creations. In the 1954 demonstration for the press, the Bell inventors placed the array of several small silicon strips in sunlight. The cell captured the free electrons and turned them into electrical current, powering the rotation of a 21-inch Ferris wheel. In America today, solar energy heats some 249,000 homes. Solar panels are manufactured by 9 domestic businesses, with annual industry revenue of over \$200 million and rising. You can find more facts about America's people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <www.census.gov>.

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APRIL 25: Let The Games Begin

Profile America — Monday, April 25th. What might be considered the birth certificate of the home video game industry was issued on this date 50 years ago. That 1972 event was the award of a patent to German-born engineer and inventor Ralph Baer for the first television gaming and training apparatus, as the patent office put it. Video games had already been developed, but for dedicated set up in amusement arcades. Baer's Odyssey System for Magnavox sold only 200,000 units, as many potential customers mistakenly believed it would work only on Magnavox televisions. Odyssey was eclipsed by Atari's home system in 1975. Nationwide, there are some 14,500 computer software publishers, employing 690,000 people, many in application design. This industry earns over \$275-billion annually. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

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APRIL 26: First License Plates

Profile America — Tuesday, April 26th. Many automobile license plates proclaim glories of the issuing states. Others spell out something dear to the drivers but indecipherable

to anyone else. Those plates, and the more basic ones are requirements to drive on public roads. New York was the first state to require license plates on motor vehicles late this month in 1901. At the time, there were fewer than 15,000 sputtering automobiles in the entire country, traveling over muddy, rudimentary roads without a license for the driver or the automobile. Now, there are around 276-million cars, trucks, buses, and motorcycles in the nation, all sporting license plates. The nation's 46,500 car dealers issue temporary tags with sales, which even in the pandemic year totaled 14.5 million new light vehicles. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

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APRIL 27: Praise For The Pros

Profile America — Wednesday, April 27th. Today is Administrative Professionals Day. It falls in the middle of Administrative Professionals Week — a time to recognize a job well done and to promote the growth and training required by today's changing and increasingly technical workplace. For years, the observance was known as Secretaries' Day. The change in name reflects the change in the nature of these jobs. These positions were once thought of mainly as message takers, typists and coffee makers. The job of an administrative professional has evolved into a complex role, closely tied to the field of office automation. Nationwide, there are around 5.5 million people working as administrative assistants and other office support workers. Women comprise over 86 percent of this workforce. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

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APRIL 28: Zippers

Profile America — Thursday, April 28th. Today is the 109th anniversary of an invention many — if not most — of us use every day without a second thought, but occasionally with a struggle. In April 1913, Hoboken, New Jersey, resident Gideon Sundback patented the zipper. He called his invention the “hookless fastener.” Improved and patented again in 1917 as the “separable fastener,” for many years the invention was used mainly on rubber boots. Such was the use by the B.F. Goodrich Company, which gave the fastener the now familiar name “zipper.” But in 1930, fashion designer Elsa Schiaparelli became the first to display them on clothing. Manufacturing zippers and other clothing fasteners is a \$1 billion a year business for some 100 establishments in America. You can find more facts about America’s people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <www.census.gov>.

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APRIL 29: National Arbor Day

Profile America — Friday, April 29th. Today is National Arbor Day, an observance going back 150 years to celebrate nature’s bounty of trees. Arbor Day comes with plenty of flexibility, though, as different states note the occasion on different dates, and even in a different month. Julius Sterling Morton moved to the tree-poor Nebraska Territory in the mid-1850s with his wife, and while he worked as a newspaper editor and politician, they

campaigned for tree planting. On April 10, 1872, it became the first state to celebrate Arbor Day. Nationwide, there are just over 1,000 people in 169 establishments engaged in operating forest nurseries, and gathering forest products. In addition, there are about 13,300 plant nurseries, garden centers and farm supply stores to aid in greening the United States. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

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APRIL 30: Louisiana Purchase

Profile America — Saturday, April 30th. This is the 219th anniversary of perhaps the greatest real estate deal in American history — one that doubled the size of the nation, putting it in position to become a world power. The year was 1803, and the deal was the Louisiana Purchase. The young United States bought nearly 830,000 square miles from France at the cost of four cents an acre. The land stretched from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains and from the Gulf of Mexico to the Canadian border. The sale encompassed all or parts of 14 of today's states. Appropriately enough, Louisiana became a state on this date in 1812. At the time, just 77,000 people lived there. Now, Louisiana is home to nearly 4.66 million. *Profile America* is completing 25 years as a public service of the U.S. Census Bureau.

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