DECEMBER 1: FIRST DRIVE-IN GAS STATION

Profile America — Tuesday, December 1st. On this date in 1913, what is today the Gulf Oil Company opened the nation’s first drive-in gas station. Located at the intersection of Baum Boulevard and St. Clair Street in Pittsburgh, the filling station was a simple but pleasing structure, with a cantilevered pagoda-style roof to shelter the pumps, cars and station attendants. Supporting the roof was a storage room and a restroom for staff only. Before this innovation, gasoline was dispensed from sometimes awkwardly located pumps at such places as grocery and hardware stores, and even some pharmacies. In the ensuing 107 years, some of this earlier practice has come full circle. Nationwide, there are around 113,000 gas stations today. The vast majority — over 99,000 — are combined with convenience or food mart stores. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
First station and prior sales, accessed 6/29/2030: www.post-gazette.com/business/2013/12/01/FILL-ER-UP/stories/201312010079%E2%80%8B
Gas stations, County Business Patterns NAICS 447:
Gas stations with convenience stores, County Business Patterns, NAICS 447110:

DECEMBER 2: FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Profile America — Wednesday, December 2nd. Among other special observances being noted in December is Learn a Foreign Language Month, with the goal of getting people to broaden their outlook on the world through such learning. Increasingly, many different languages are heard across the nation — the Census Bureau encounters over 1,300 in a global total of more than 7,000. Sixty-seven million people over age 5, or almost 22 percent of the 308 million Americans so categorized, speak a language other than English at home. The leading non-English language is Spanish at over 41 million. It’s a long drop to second place, held by the several Chinese variants at 3.5 million. Other languages spoken in over 1 million households each are Korean, Tagalog, Vietnamese, French and Arabic. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
Occasion, accessed 6/29/2020: https://sonomalibrary.org/blogs/news/december-is-
DECEMBER 3: AUTOMATED PARKING

Profile America — Thursday, December 3rd. Black Friday is behind us, but the holiday shopping season continues to ramp up. For drivers, one of the travails of the season is finding a place to park. When surface lot spaces are filled, many turn to commercial garages. One innovative solution opened in early December in the nation’s capital in 1951. The Park-O-Mat garage was completely automated and held 72 cars in 18 levels of space just 25 by 40 feet. Without entering customers’ cars, the attendant would use two elevators to park or retrieve the vehicles. Today, in a nation with around 274 million motor vehicles, there are some 11,900 parking facilities across the country, generating over $9.6 billion in revenue annually. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
Motor vehicles, accessed 7/2/2020:
Parking lots and garages, County Business Patterns, NAICS 812930:
Revenues, Economic Census, NAICS 812930:

DECEMBER 4: MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT

Profile America — Friday, December 4th. This year marks the 151st anniversary of the entry of women into America’s legal profession. In 1869, Arabella Mansfield become the first woman admitted to the bar, while Ada Kepley became the first to graduate from a law school. Like the profession, law schools were previously the preserve of men. In the middle of the Revolutionary War, the College of William and Mary established the first law school on this date in 1779. The colonial Virginia, school didn’t hire the professors, as they were paid directly by their students. Today’s male and female attorneys are paid
well, with a median income of $129,000 per year. As a measure of our enduring devotion to legal authority, there are 172,000 law offices across the nation, employing over a million lawyers and clerks. Profile America is in its 24th year as a public service of the U.S. Census Bureau.

Sources:
Founding of law school, accessed 7/17/2020:
http://scholarship.law.wm.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3297&context=wmlr
Offices of Lawyers, County Business Patterns, NAICS 54111:
Income:

DECEMBER 5: PROHIBITION ENDS

Profile America — Saturday, December 5th. After nearly 14 eventful years, Prohibition ended on this date 87 years ago, and Americans were able to once again possess and consume alcoholic beverages. This marked the closing of an unusual chapter in American history, where an amendment to the Constitution was overturned by a subsequent amendment. The 18th amendment, banning nearly all sales and manufacture of alcohol, was ratified in 1919 and took effect in January 1920. The 21st Amendment ratified on this date voided the 18th. By the end of December of 1933, there were just 17 liquor stores in the entire country. Today, the number of liquor stores is approaching 35,000. On average, Americans spend around $583 a year on alcoholic beverages. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
1933 data: Historical Statistics of the United States, Part 2/page 849
Beer, wine and liquor stores, County Business Patterns, NAICS 445310:
DECEMBER 6: NATIONAL MINERS DAY

Profile America — Sunday, December 6th. The dangerous business of extracting useful metals, minerals, gas and oil from under the Earth’s surface goes back thousands of years. And it’s always been a dirty and dangerous business, such that miners in ancient Roman were particularly unfortunate, short-lived slaves. Safety and cleanliness have improved greatly in the past century, but mining remains difficult and hazardous. To express appreciation, in 2009 Congress declared December 6 National Miners Day. The output of our extractive industries is central to modern civilization, and so it extracts a lot of dollars as well. Exclusive of oil and gas ventures, mining is an $86 billion dollar annual business for some 5,800 establishments. There are 171,000 miners employed in this vital field. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
Roman mining, accessed 7/23/2020:
http://quatr.us/romans/people/slaves.htm#:~:text=Mining%20and%20the%20galleys.%20Other%20slaves%20were%20forced,ships%20as%20slaves%2C%20often%20chained%20to%20their%20oars.
Extraction industries revenues, Economic Census, NAICS 212:
https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=212&hidePreview=false&tid=ECNBASIC2017.EC1700BASIC&n=212
Employees, Country Business Patterns:

DECEMBER 7: CHANNEL SURFING

Profile America — Monday, December 7th. The reliable TV remote control, a crucial labor saving device for couch potatoes, was unveiled this month in 1957. Robert Adler of the Zenith Corporation received a patent for a mechanical unit that used a striker and four small aluminum chimes to generate ultrasound. The ultrasounds controlled on and off, and channel and sound up and down. There had been remotes before, but they
were attached to the receiver by a long, unsightly cord. Adler’s remote eventually incorporated electronically generated ultrasound and was in use until the early 1980s. Today’s remote controls use infrared technology to operate the nation’s television sets, sold on-line and in 6,800 household appliance stores across the country. You can find more facts about America’s people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
Remote development, accessed 7/7/2020: www.zenith.com/remote-background/
Household appliance stores, County Business Patterns, NAICS 443141: https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=443141%3A%20Household%20appliance%20stores&hidePreview=false&id=CBP2018.CB1800CBP&n=443141&vintage=2018

DECEMBER 8: NOTABLE GRADUATE

Profile America — Tuesday, December 8th. Oberlin College in Ohio has a distinguished history among American institutions of higher learning. Its fame would be secure just for its leadership before the Civil War in coeducational instruction and in admitting black students. Oberlin added to its luster on this date 170 years ago when it awarded the nation’s first four-year degree to an African-American woman, Lucy Stanton. She headed the school’s Ladies Literary Society and her 1850 antislavery commencement address — titled “A Plea for the Oppressed” — can be found on the internet. There are 29 million single race African-Americans in today’s population, and 22 percent have a bachelor’s degree or higher. For black women, that figure is over 24 percent. You can find more facts about America’s people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
Stanton biography and commencement address, accessed 7/20/2020: www.blackpast.org/aah/sessions-lucy-stanton-day-1831-1910
DECEMBER 9: FULL ACCOUNTING

*Profile America* — Wednesday, December 9th. Ancient Egyptians kept careful records and markings of goods kept in royal warehouses more than 53 centuries ago, overseeing the accumulation and disbursement of wealth. After some 5,200 years of development and refinement of accounting practices, New York State followed with the establishment of the certified public accountant. In December 1896, certificate number one, the first in the country, went to Frank Broaker of New York City. Properly so, as he was instrumental in pushing the state to enact a CPA law. Today, there are 134,000 accounting and bookkeeping establishments, which record over $152 billion of annual business. Of America’s 2.05 million accountants and auditors, over 61 percent are women. *Profile America* is in its 24th year as a public service of the U.S. Census Bureau.

Sources:


Broaker’s activism, page 3, accessed 7/2/2020:

Accountants’ offices, County Business Patterns, NAICS 5412:

Revenues, Economic Census, NAICS 5412:

Number of accountants & percent female (computation), American Community Survey:

DECEMBER 10: BIRTH REGISTRATION

*Profile America* — Thursday, December 10th. This month in 1823, Georgia became the first state to enact a birth registration law. It required county clerks to record in a book the dates of birth of all new Georgians upon obtaining satisfactory proof by way of affidavit or sworn oaths. Enumerations of people go back to antiquity, but births were little noted outside of family and church records, and the memory of neighbors. This informal method held true until Georgia’s action 196 years ago, which by 1919 were mirrored in all states. However, not until the 1930s was a standard registration system adopted throughout the country. In America today, babies are born, and nearly universally certified, at a rate of about eight per minute. You can find more facts about
DECEMBER 11: ROOMS AT THE INN

Profile America — Friday, December 11th. Many Americans drive on their vacations, and if they don’t stay with relatives they often stay at one of the nation’s many motels. The term motel came to have meaning only when the automobile started to dominate the landscape and the term “motor hotel” came into general use. The first motel opened on tomorrow’s date 95 years ago in San Luis Obispo, California. Named the Motel Inn, it had accommodations for 160 guests in individual chalets, each with bathroom, telephone and a garage; powerful selling points in 1925. Today, there are almost 55,000 hotels and motels nationwide, employing 1.6 million people. With over 5 million rooms available, occupancy averages just over 66 percent pre-pandemic. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
Hotels, motels and employment, County Business Patterns, NAICS 721110: https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=721110%3A%20Hotels%20%28except%20casino%20hotels%29%20and%20motels&hidePreview=false&tid=CBP2018.CB1800CBP&vintage=2018&n=721110
Occupancy rate, accessed 7/7/2020: www.hotelmanagement.net/own/occupancy-hits-30-year-high-u-s

DECEMBER 12: HOUSE CALL

Profile America — Saturday, December 12th. The first African-American to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives took his oath of office on this day 150 years ago. Joseph Hayne Rainey was born in Georgetown, South Carolina into a slave family. His father, a barber, bought the family's freedom. After the Civil War, he served briefly in the state senate before winning a special election in 1870 to the U.S. House. He served four
terms, the longest of any African-American during Reconstruction, which saw 22 blacks in the House and Senate. Rainey dedicated his efforts to civil rights for minorities. Since 1870, 154 African-Americans have served in the House and Senate. Currently numbering 54, they are among the 19,367 legislators nationwide. You can find more facts about America’s people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:

DECEMBER 13: RAZORS’ EDGE

Profile America — Sunday, December 13th. During the course of recorded history going back to ancient Egypt, men have felt fashion and cultural pressures to shave their facial hair. For centuries, their only recourse was the straight razor, which provided a close shave but had to be handled carefully to avoid cuts. Early this month in 1901, an American named King Camp Gillette applied for a patent for a safety razor with disposable blades. He began production in 1903, and received his patent in 1904. The electric razor was introduced in 1931, but old ways persist, mostly with updated safety razors with two or more blades. For even more old-fashioned shaves, there are 81,000 barbers nationwide today, any number of whom can wield a straight razor. You can find more facts about America’s people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
DECEMBER 14: END OF DEBT PRISON

Profile America — Monday, December 14th. Throughout history, debt had been a criminal offense, with penalties ranging from enslavement to mutilation. In Colonial America, some debtors were branded or whipped in public, but most were thrown in jail; debt being the only crime for which long-term imprisonment was common. But this month in 1821, Kentucky became the first state to abolish debtors’ prison. A federal ban followed in 1832. Americans are fortunate in the more forgiving attitudes toward debt, encouraged by our common use of credit, mortgages and other loans. By the end of 2019, the cumulative indebtedness in America’s 120-million households reached a record $14.15-trillion. That’s just under a household average $118,000. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
Debt in history, accessed 7/2/2020: https://rianjs.net/media/2008/A%20history%20of%20debt%20in%20America.pdf
Households: www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045219

DECEMBER 15: BILL OF RIGHTS DAY

Profile America — Tuesday, December 15th. Today is Bill of Rights Day, in honor of the date when the first 10 amendments to the Constitution took effect in 1791. The Bill of Rights added specific, important freedoms and government limitations to the three-year old Constitution. Among them are enshrined freedom of religion, speech, the press, the right to peaceably assemble and bear arms. Also the right to petition the government and be secure in property. When the Bill of Rights was passed, America’s population of about four million in the then-14 states had available about 100 newspapers exercising the First Amendment freedom contained in the Bill of Rights. Today’s population is around 330-million, and chooses from nearly 6,700 newspaper publishers nationwide. Profile America is in its 24th year as a public service of the U.S. Census Bureau.

Sources:
1790 population: www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/fast_facts/1790_fast_facts.html
Current U.S. population: [www.census.gov/popclock/](http://www.census.gov/popclock/)

**DECEMBER 16: FIRST LIFE INSURANCE POLICY**

*Profile America* — Wednesday, December 16th. America's first life insurance policy was issued this month 226 years ago in Philadelphia. The Insurance Company of North America was organized in 1792 earlier, with a capital of $600,000. But the 1794 life insurance venture proved to have a very short life itself, as only six policies were written in five years, and the service was dropped in 1804. The Insurance Company of North America still exists as a subsidiary of a multinational insurance group. Now, of course, life insurance is an enormous business worth over half-trillion dollars annually, with some 267 million policies in force. Nationwide, there are about 7,800 establishments employing 322,000 people to sell and administer life insurance policies. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:

**DECEMBER 17: A DICKENSIAN TALE**

*Profile America* — Thursday, December 17th. One of the most familiar and cherished Christmas stories has been around a long time — 177 years in fact. Tomorrow marks the anniversary of the 1843 publication of Charles Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol,” with sales starting on December 19. The first print run of 6,000 copies sold out in a week and
the book has never been out of print. The tale about the reformation of Ebenezer Scrooge and his "Bah, humbug!" dismissal of the Christmas season became a solid holiday tradition over the years. The story has been told on radio, on stage, in the movies, and on television. It’s a safe bet that “A Christmas Carol” will be aired this holiday season by many of the nation’s 2,103 television broadcasting, and 702 cable programming establishments. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
Publication, accessed 7/2/2020: www.history.com/this-day-in-history/a-christmas-carol-is-published
Sales, accessed 7/2/2020:
www.theguardian.com/books/booksblog/2009/dec/22/christmas-carol-flop-dickens
TV broadcasting firms, County Business Patterns, NAICS 51512: https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=51512%3A%20Television%20broadcasting&hidePreview=false&n=51512&tid=CBP2018.CB1800CBP&vintage=2018
Cable telecasting firms, County Business Patterns, NAICS 51521: https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=51521%3A%20&tid=CBP2018.CB1800CBP&n=51521&vintage=2018

DECEMBER 18: CONSUMER SPENDING

Profile America — Friday, December 18th. With just one week left before Christmas, holiday shopping is deep in its high stress period. The upcoming days promise to be the busiest time of the season as anxious crowds of shoppers descend on malls and shopping centers across the country. Faced with the time and effort of getting to these facilities, and then finding a parking place, a growing number of people have turned to ordering gifts online, or through traditional catalogs. These businesses sell over $550 billion worth of goods each year. The leading categories for such spending are in health aids, clothing, furniture and home furnishings, and electronics. Each year, Americans spend a total of more than $5.2 trillion at the nation’s retail stores. You can find more facts about America’s people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
E-commerce sales: www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/e-stats/tables/2017/table_5.0.xls
Total retail sales, retail trade: www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/arts/tables/2018/ecommerce.xls
DECEMBER 19: CHEWSY AMERICANS

Profile America — Saturday, December 19th. The month of December has given Americans a lot to chew on, beyond holiday cookies, fruitcakes and candies. Chewing gum was patented this month 151 years ago by Ohio dentist William Semple, whose hope in 1869 was that the flavored gum would help people keep their teeth clean. The first bubble gum, created by Walter Deemer of the Fleer chewing gum company, was sold in a single Philadelphia location the day after Christmas in 1928. Both gum varieties have spread globally, which unfortunately includes on sidewalks and under tables and chairs. About half of America’s 330-million residents chew either or both types of gum. Non-chocolate confectionary manufacturing, including chewing and bubble gum is a $10 billion per year business. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
Semple patent and flavor enhancement, accessed 7/17/2020: www.heartlandscience.org/agrifood/gum
Bubble gum sold, accessed 7/17/2020: https://books.google.com/books?id=2TEEaCrP1WscC&pg=PT186&lpg=PT186&dq=bubble+gum+December+1928&source=bl&ots=bbW1-U1N53&sig=53xEQLEFte-U51beANnrvLnQsw&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CEEQ6AEGoVChMmI5a31JGiyAVC9YeC
Population: www.census.gov/popclock/

DECEMBER 20: SINGLED OUT

Profile America — Sunday, December 20th. Throughout history, bachelors have had to put up with a lot of pressure from friends, family and society in general. They tend to be stereotyped, and for years, many television sitcoms have portrayed their supposedly dissolute lives. But no insult can rival that enacted in Missouri on this date 200 years ago, when the legislature voted to tax bachelors between the ages of 21 and 50, $1 a year — just for being unmarried. Obviously, the 1820 tax did not stand the test of time or legality. Today, 35 percent of males over age 15 have never been married, compared with some 29 percent of females. Together, they number around 85 million people, over a quarter of the total population of around 330 million. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.
DECEMBER 21: AFL-CIO FOUNDED

Profile America — Monday, December 21st. Two milestones in the history of our nation’s organized labor are noted this month. First, the American Federation of Labor came into being in 1886. Then in 1955, the AFL merged with the Congress of Industrial Organizations. The AFL-CIO created 65 years ago had a combined membership of 16-million, out of a national organized labor total of 17.7 million. At the time, some 15 percent of the work force belonged to unions. Today, the AFL-CIO remains the nation’s largest labor federation, with about 12.5-million members. But changes in the national manufacturing sector in recent decades have greatly reduced overall union membership. Today, some 14.6-million people belong to unions, which represent 11.6 percent of the workforce. You can find these and more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau, online at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
Labor union participation today, accessed 6/30/2020: www.bls.gov/news.release/union2.nr0.htm#

DECEMBER 22: PHONE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Profile America — Tuesday, December 22nd. The nation’s telephone systems are humming with activity as holiday wishes by the millions crisscross the country. It was much different in 1876, when there were all of three telephones in the country. But Alexander Graham Bell’s startup proved a keeper, and a decade later there were 167,000 phones in the nation. By the 50th anniversary year of the phone’s invention, there were nearly 18 million in the country. In 1926, a three-minute call from one of those phones in New York to another in San Francisco carried the considerable charge of $11.30, the equivalent of about $162 today. Now, 81 percent of households have
smart-phone service, and 96 percent of Americans own cellphones. You can find more facts about America's people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
Early telephone history: Historical Statistics of the United States: Colonial Times to 1970, pages 784 & 783:
Percent of population with mobile phone, accessed 7/7/2020:
www.pewwww.pewinternet.org/fact-sheet/mobile/winternet.org/fact-sheet/mobile/

DECEMBER 23: IT'S A GAS

Profile America — Wednesday, December 23rd. For much of the nation’s history, most homes were heated by multiple fireplaces. Now, fireplaces are primarily a source of charm and ambiance. On this date 101 years ago, a patent was issued to Alice H. Parker for a type of heating system that helped consign fireplaces to their current decorative status. The 1910 Howard University graduate designed a gas fueled furnace heating air for delivery throughout a home by ductwork. This design of 1919, while never manufactured, was a precursor to today’s central heat. Wood remains the heating fuel in some 2.3 million of America’s 122-million households, but utility gas dominates at over 58-million. Electricity heats nearly 48-million units, while once formidable coal warms just 114,000. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
Home heating fuels used, American Community Survey:

DECEMBER 24: CHRISTMAS EVE
Profile America — Thursday, December 24th. This is Christmas Eve, a time of gathering families close together and to wind down from the hectic weeks of shopping and mailing. But it also is a night of wrapping presents, especially toys — some of which have to be put together. Some parents will discover to their dismay that some treasure has been overlooked, and head out in hopes of finding an open store with the right solutions. Santa's elves get plenty of help from American toy makers. There are 532 enterprises across the country producing games, toys and dolls. These businesses employ around 6,200 workers. Nearly $600 billion worth of goods were bought online 2019. E-commerce accounted for 11 percent of all retail sales, and was about triple the figure for 2010. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
Toy and game manufacturers and employment, County Business Patterns, NAICS 33993:  
E-commerce, Business and Industry:  
www.census.gov/retail/mrts/www/data/excel/tsadjustedsales.xls

DECEMBER 25: CHRISTMAS

Profile America — Friday, December 25th. Today is Christmas Day — a joyous religious observance for many, but for almost everyone, one of the happiest days of the year. Outside or indoors, whether in balmy or snowbound climates, children are busy trying out their shiny new treasures, ranging from traditional bikes to the latest high tech toys. Inside, others are busy with video games and other electronic marvels. Many will have attended church services to honor the day. And in many of the 120 million households in America, holiday music, decorations and lights will be joined by the inviting aroma of a special dinner to be shared with family and friends. The men and women of the U.S. Census Bureau across the nation wish you and your loved ones a peaceful and happy holiday.

Sources:  
Number of Households: www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045216

DECEMBER 26: AMERICA PERKS UP
Profile America — Saturday, December 26th. The millions of Americans who for over a century and a half have enjoyed well-brewed coffee can direct some gratitude to James H. Nason of Franklin, Massachusetts. He received the nation's first patent for a coffee percolator on this date in 1865. The percolator still has a market niche, but since the 1970s has been overtaken by automatic drip and pod coffee makers, and increasingly, the elaborate variants of espresso brewers. World coffee production today is forecast at over 176 million bags of coffee; bags which weigh 60 kilograms each. Our nation taps into that output, as America's annual imports of unroasted or green coffee is valued around $4.6 billion per year. You can find more facts about America's people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
Value of coffee imports: https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/statistics/product/enduse/importsc0000.html?#questions

DECEMBER 27: ELECTRONIC ADVANCE

Profile America — Sunday, December 27th. One of the most important inventions of modern times dates back to Christmas Eve in 1947. Three Bell Laboratory scientists successfully tested what would become the junction transistor, vital to our information age. The three shared the Nobel Prize in physics in 1956. The transistor replaced bulky, fragile vacuum tubes, which generated a lot of heat as they amplified a signal. As a Bell colleague who coined the term “transistor” said, “Nature abhors the vacuum tube.” The first application that caught the public's attention was the transistor radio. Now, transistors are found in every electronic device that we all take for granted. Today, there are nearly 21,000 consumer electronics stores in America, with sales worth around $75 billion annually. Profile America is in its 24th year as a public service of the U.S. Census Bureau.

Sources:
Radio, TV and electronics stores, County Business Patterns, NAICS 443142:
DECEMBER 28: FIRST COED COLLEGE

Profile America — Monday, December 28th. Colleges and universities with both male and female students are the norm today. But 186 years ago, only a few women went to college and the idea of coed classes was a social innovation. In December 1833, Oberlin College in Ohio opened its doors to both sexes. That first year, the school had 44 students — 29 men and 15 women. Now, Oberlin has a student body of some 2,800 students and boasts one of the most comprehensive libraries of any college in the nation. For many decades, more males attended college than females. Today, nearly 56 percent of all students in higher education are women — over 10.5 million, compared with just 8.4 million men. You can find more facts about America’s people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
Oberlin history, accessed 6/30/2020: www.oberlin.edu/about-oberlin/oberlin-history
Male & Female enrollment/ t. 1 All Races: www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/demo/tables/school-enrollment/2019/2019-cps/tab01-01.xlsx

DECEMBER 29: CANDIED COUGH DROPS

Profile America — Tuesday, December 29th. The holiday season is mostly a time of cheer. But it’s also a time for that frequent winter misery — the common cold and the cough that often goes along with it. Seeking treatment for that symptom, let alone a cure for the cold, has a long history. In 1852, the sons of a restaurant owner and confectioner in Poughkeepsie, New York, began selling their father’s cough remedy. James Smith developed his first batch of candy cough drops in 1847. By 1872, the popular “Smith Brothers” remedy was packed in boxes for distribution and sale, becoming one of America’s first factory-packaged candies. The 44,000 drug stores nationwide generate around $270 billion in sales annually, including cough drops and other nonprescription medication. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau, online at <www.census.gov>.
DECEMBER 30: OLD ACQUAINTANCE

Profile America — Wednesday, December 30th. As a year draws to a close, it is common to reflect on the passage of time. How history will judge 2020 should be interesting and unique, but this year's anniversaries are woven into the fabric of today. Two hundred years ago, the first American book of pharmacopeia was published, and the tomato was determined to be non-poisonous. One hundred years ago, both the Volstead Act enacting prohibition, and the 19th amendment enfranchising women went into effect. Fifty years ago, the voting age was lowered to 18, and Monday Night Football premiered in September. A century ago, life expectancy at birth was 56 years for a baby girl and 53.5 years for a boy. Now, those figures are 81.1 years for girls and 76.1 for boys. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
1820 events, accessed 6/30/2020: www.onthisday.com/events/date/1820
1920 events, accessed 6/30/2020: www.onthisday.com/events/date/1920

DECEMBER 31: NEW YEAR’S EVE

Profile America — Thursday, December 31st. On this New Year’s Eve, some 330 million Americans of all ages and backgrounds are ready to greet the year 2021, perhaps relieved to be done with a most trying 2020. A hundred years ago, the nation’s population was around 106 million. Fifty years ago, it was 205 million. The 2010 Census counted just under 309 million people. To show how the nation is growing, New Year’s
Day will be the birthday of about 10,800 newborns, the first of whom will be reported in the media. These new arrivals will be joined by others — the 2,540 or so international migrants adding to our net population every day. And there's plenty to draw from — the population of the wider world is reckoned at around 7.7 billion people. The men and women of the U.S. Census Bureau wish you a happy, safe and prosperous New Year.

Sources:
1920 and 1970 population: www.census.gov/population/estimates/nation/popclockest.txt
Current U.S. & world population, with births and immigration calculated: www.census.gov/popclocck/