

## **MARCH 1: FM RADIO DEBUTS**

*Profile America* — Monday, March 1st. FM radio is 80 years old today. In 1941, the first commercial FM station went on the air — W47NV in Nashville, Tennessee. FM — standing for frequency modulation — was first proposed by Edwin Armstrong in 1922. By 1934, he was demonstrating to network officials how FM was unaffected by static, like all the radio stations then on the air, which used AM, or amplitude modulation. World War II interrupted the advance of FM broadcasting, which surged in the 1960s when it began transmitting in stereo. Today, some 76,000 people work in around 17,600 licensed radio stations, of which over 13,000 broadcast on the FM band, including low-power FM stations. *Profile America* is in its 24th year as a public service of the U.S. Census Bureau.

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## **MARCH 2: FIRST BLACK-OWNED BANK**

*Profile America* — Tuesday, March 2nd. The capital of the vanquished Confederacy was the site of the first chartered black-owned bank in the nation. Known as the Savings Bank of the Grand Fountain, United Order of True Reformers, it was founded on this date in 1888 by former slave and Union Army veteran William Washington Browne. Opened in 1889, its deposits on the first day totaled \$1,269. The bank provided mortgage loans and other banking services that were difficult for African-Americans to obtain in the segregated, repressive climate after Reconstruction. When the bank opened, Richmond had a population of just over 81,000 people, 32,000 of them African-American. Today, Richmond is home to some 230,000 people, nearly half of them African-Americans. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <[www.census.gov](http://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, #842

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### **MARCH 3: FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT**

*Profile America* — Wednesday, March 3rd. On this date 150 years ago, the nation's first civil service employment reform came into effect. The launch of the Grant Civil Service Commission authorized setting rules and regulations for federal hiring. This initiative under President Ulysses S. Grant was intended to move federal employment from the practice of political spoils and favoritism to one based ideally on merit. The commission operated into early 1883, when it was replaced by the U.S. Civil Service Commission, which existed through 1978. Its functions now are dispersed to three other entities. When Grant's Commission was formed in 1871, there were 51,000 civilian federal employees. Recently, that number is around 2.9 million, not counting a spike for the 2020 Census. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

Sources:

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Current federal employment, accessed 10/20/2020:

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### **MARCH 4: DEADLY INFLUENZA**

*Profile America* — Thursday, March 4th. While the COVID-19 pandemic took hold here about one year ago, a much more devastating public health crisis in America and world history emerged on this date 102 years earlier. The first cases of what was called "Spanish flu" were reported in 1918 among soldiers at Fort Riley, Kansas. Then it went viral in the worst sense of the word. By 1920, nearly one-in-four Americans had suffered from this strain of the flu, killing about 675,000. Worldwide, estimates put the death toll at 50 million or more. Even less dramatic strains of flu, like the COVID virus, can be deadly. Confronting such health issues today are 12,000 medical laboratories

nationwide, along with 122,000 medical scientists and over 12,000 biomedical engineers. You can find more facts about America's people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

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Medical scientists and biomedical engineers, American Community Survey:

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### **MARCH 5: WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**

*Profile America* — Friday, March 5th. This is Women's History Month — a time to recognize the often overlooked vision, courage, and accomplishments of the nation's women. One example is Clara Barton, who ministered to wounded soldiers in the Civil War and went on to found the American Red Cross. Another is actress Hedy Lamarr, an Austrian immigrant who became a pioneer in technology leading to today's cell phones. In recent years, women have excelled in educational attainment. In 1970, men received nearly 60 percent of all college degrees. Today, 28.1 million women hold bachelor's degrees, while the figure for men is 25.2 million. Women also lead in master's degrees, with 12.7 million having that distinction, versus 9.7 million men. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

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Hedy Lamarr, accessed 9/21/2021: [www.women-inventors.com/Hedy-Lamarr.asp](http://www.women-inventors.com/Hedy-Lamarr.asp)

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### **MARCH 6: MANDATORY VACCINATIONS**

*Profile America* — Saturday, March 6th. Even before the COVID pandemic, the issue of mandatory vaccinations has been in the news in recent years. But governmental involvement in vaccination has a long pedigree, tracing back 211 years to this date. In 1810, Massachusetts enacted a law to “diffuse the benefits of inoculation for the Cow-Pox.” Such vaccinations of the mild, bovine cowpox virus immunized humans from smallpox, then a leading cause of disfiguring illness and death. This particular discovery dated from Great Britain just 14 years earlier. From producing simple medicines to complex vaccines and antibiotics, the pharmaceutical industry encompasses over 1,340 establishments doing about \$158 billion of yearly business. You can find more facts about America’s people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

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## **MARCH 7: VOTER REGISTRATION**

*Profile America* — Sunday, March 7th. The right to vote began to receive some verification more than two centuries ago, when Massachusetts acted on this date in 1801 to register voters. At that time, the franchise was limited to men — usually those of local repute and owning property. Town assessors drew up publicly posted lists of voters. If any voter was omitted, documents proving eligibility were accepted. Only after the Civil War did voter registration become widespread. Today, North Dakota is the only state without a registration requirement, although proof of residency must be shown. In 2018, out of a voting-age population of 229 million citizens, nearly 67 percent were registered to vote. In Massachusetts, registration was just 68 percent. You can find more facts about America’s people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

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### **MARCH 8: DOG LICENSING**

*Profile America* — Monday, March 8th. "Don't accept your dog's admiration as conclusive evidence that you are wonderful." Whatever is the merit in the remark by the late advice columnist Ann Landers, there are few bonds of esteem stronger than that between owners and their dogs. But that relationship comes with responsibilities, including one set on this date in 1894, when the first statewide dog license law was enacted by New York. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was designated to carry out the provisions of the law. In big cities, the fee was \$2 a year. There are an estimated 77 million dogs in American households. Devoted dog owners spend an annual average of over \$410 on visits to the nation's 32,000 veterinary services offices. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

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Ann Landers, accessed 9/29/2020:

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### **MARCH 9: NUTRITION AND FROZEN FOOD**

*Profile America* — Tuesday, March 9th. A number of various causes are recognized in March. Two of these seem to go hand in hand, or hand to mouth — National Nutrition

Month and National Frozen Food Month. The goal of the first is to make consumers aware of just how easy it is to eat healthy meals. And one of the ways this is possible is because of frozen food. Developed by Clarence Birdseye, the first commercially available items were quick-frozen fish fillets in 1925. Frozen food became increasingly popular as refrigerated freight trains and trucks were able to carry it to all parts of the nation. In America today, some 700 packaged frozen food manufacturers produce over \$32 billion worth of heat and eat products. You can find more facts about America's people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

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### **MARCH 10: FIRST PHONE CALL**

*Profile America* — Wednesday, March 10th. For many Americans, trying to envision life without our various telephones would be like trying to live without indoor plumbing. Or perhaps even food. The crucial utility is 145 years old today. In 1876, Alexander Graham Bell made the first and very local telephone call in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Over a wire to his assistant in the next room, Bell said, "Mister Watson, come here; I want to see you." Now, the public has an insatiable appetite for multipurpose phones, and there are 277 million cell phone users in America's population of around 330 million. Of America's 123 million occupied housing units, some 1.3 million, or just over 1 percent, have no phone service available. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

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Cell phone subscriptions, accessed 9/21/2020:

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Households with phones, American Community Survey:

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### **MARCH 11: NATIONAL PEANUT MONTH**

*Profile America* — Thursday, March 11th. This is National Peanut Month — celebrating one of the nation's — and the world's — favorite snack foods, and absolutely America's most consumed underground nut. They are enjoyed in many ways — roasted in the shell, used in salads and stir-fry recipes, in cookies and, of course, ground into peanut butter. Primarily grown in the south, the peanut crop exceeds 7 billion pounds. American nuts, especially peanuts have a global customer base. In 2019, about \$7 billion worth were exported. Canada and the European Union together account for almost half of America's peanut butter exports. Mexico accounts for 8 percent, while populous Japan gets by with over 3 percent of the spread. You can find more facts about America's people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

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### **MARCH 12: WOMEN'S STATE COLLEGE**

*Profile America* — Friday, March 12th. The first state college for women was established on this date 137 ago in Mississippi. Known as the Mississippi Industrial Institute and

College, classes opened in the fall of 1885 on the campus of a former college in Columbus. Now called the Mississippi University for Women, it is ranked as one of the top schools in annual lists of America's best colleges. The now coed school of 2,700 students has a number of its campus buildings on the National Register of Historic Places. Today, there are over 21.8 million graduate and undergraduate students enrolled in colleges nationwide. Some 56 percent are women. That's over 12.1 million, or 8.8 percent of the female population over the age of 15. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

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National enrollment, American Community Survey:

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### **MARCH 13: DEAF HISTORY MONTH**

*Profile America* — Saturday, March 13th. Deaf History Month starts today and runs through April 15th. The commemoration marks three key dates for the nation's deaf community. The first school for deaf students opened its doors in April 1817. The same month in 1864, President Lincoln signed the charter of what today is Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. And on this date in 1988, Gallaudet selected its first deaf president. Today, about 11.5 million Americans have some sort of hearing impairment, ranging from difficulty in hearing conversation to total hearing loss. That's about 3.5 percent of the population. In addition, over 50 million of our population experience some level of tinnitus — a constant ringing in the ears. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

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### **MARCH 14: FIRST WOMAN DENTIST AND PHARMACIST**

*Profile America* — Sunday, March 14th. Two young women, whose determination resulted in their being the first of their gender to enter their professions, are among those celebrated in this Women's History Month. Lucy Hobbs Taylor was the first American woman to receive a degree in dentistry, graduating from the Ohio College of Dental Surgery in 1866. And, this month in 1883, Susan Hayhurst became the nation's first woman pharmacist when she graduated from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. Today, of the nearly 115,000 dentists nationwide, almost 32 percent of them are women. Among the country's nearly 250,000 pharmacists, about 55 percent are women following in Susan Hayhurst's footsteps. You can find more facts about America's people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

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Female dentists and pharmacists, American Community Survey:

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### **MARCH 15: WAR ON POVERTY**

*Profile America* — Monday, March 15th. The first maneuver in what we've come to know as the War on Poverty was made on tomorrow's date 56 years ago. Following President Lyndon Johnson's State of the Union call for tackling poverty in America, the Economic Opportunity Act was introduced, and passed by Congress. The landmark legislation was signed into law in August. The poverty rate in 1965, at the implementation of the

programs, was around 16 percent, down from some 23 percent in 1959. The poverty rate continued to fall to a low of 11.1 percent in 1973. More recently, the Census Bureau reported the nation's official poverty rate in 2019 was 12.3 percent, down from 13.1 in 2018. You can find more facts about America's people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

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### **MARCH 16: BLACK PRESS DAY**

*Profile America* — Tuesday, March 16th. Today is Black Press Day, an annual observance celebrating the anniversary of the 1827 publication of the country's first African-American newspaper. Called "Freedom's Journal," it was printed in New York City, and was the brainchild of John Russwurm, who was the second of his race to earn a college degree in America. At the time, there were just under 12 million people in the young nation, including about 300,000 free Blacks. Today, our population is around 330-million---and they are served by fewer than 1,300 daily newspapers. Including five in New York City, some 200 newspapers—either daily or periodical—have as their primary audience the nation's 42-million African-Americans. You can find more facts about America's people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

Sources:

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### **MARCH 17: ST. PATRICK'S DAY**

*Profile America* — Wednesday, March 17th. This is a day when people of all ethnicities are cheerfully encouraged to wear something green. It is St. Patrick's Day, a rare national holiday observed outside its native land. The day honors Bishop Patrick, born in England, who brought Christianity to Ireland in the fifth century, using a shamrock to illustrate divinity. The celebration here goes back to Colonial times. New York City's parade has taken place every year since 1762, and today is the largest such event in the nation. The greatest number of Irish immigrants arrived in America in the middle of the 19th century, when the home country was reeling from the potato famine. Now, over 30 million Americans claim Irish descent, over six times the population of Ireland itself. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

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### **MARCH 18: CHILD LABOR**

*Profile America* — Thursday, March 18th. Children have worked for family enterprises like farms and small shops for countless generations. But child labor in dangerous mines, and factories of the Industrial Revolution was quickly regarded as a social ill. Thus, Massachusetts became the first state to regulate child labor this month in 1842. The modest measure prohibited children under the age of 12 from working more than 10 hours a day. Now, all states have statutes regulating child labor, and nationally, the

Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 provides basic protection for children under 16. Today, out of a population of nearly 330 million people, about 70 million are age 16 and younger. Meanwhile, over 167 million Americans over the age of 16 are in the workforce. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

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Population age groups, Annual Estimates of Population: [www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/demo/tables/age-and-sex/2018/age-sex-composition/2018gender\\_table1.xls](http://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/demo/tables/age-and-sex/2018/age-sex-composition/2018gender_table1.xls)

Current labor force, American Community Survey:

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### **MARCH 19: CERTIFIED NURSES DAY**

*Profile America* — Friday, March 19th. This is Certified Nurses Day, an occasion to show appreciation for the thousands of nurses whose professional attainment goes beyond registered nurse. The March 19 date is set on the birthday of doctor of education and registered nurse Margretta Madden Styles, the driving force in the development of advanced nursing practice. Certified Nurses work in the specialties of neonatal care, obstetrics and women's health care, and there are more than 100,000 overall. Certified or not, nationally there are 3.1 million nurses overall, with median annual earnings of over \$73,000. They not only work in the nation's 6,900 hospitals but also in more than 90,000 nursing homes and residential care facilities. You can find more facts about America's people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

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### **MARCH 20: FIRST U.S. BANK ROBBERY**

*Profile America* — Saturday, March 20th. Banks had operated in America for about a half century before someone tried to make a substantial but unauthorized withdrawal. On this date 190 years ago, Edward Smith committed the country's first bank robbery — hitting the City Bank on New York's Wall Street. He entered the bank after it closed, using a duplicate set of keys, and got away with \$245,000. By some calculation, that 1831 haul would be worth \$7.3 million today. But Smith was caught, convicted and spent five years in New York's Sing-Sing Prison. Now, there are 90,000 commercial banking establishments nationwide. As one 20th century bank robber supposedly noted, that's where the money is — bank deposits total around \$12 trillion. *Profile America* is in its 24th year as a public service of the U.S. Census Bureau.

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<https://americasbesthistory.com/abhtimeline1831m.html>

Inflation calculator: [www.officialdata.org/us/inflation/1831?amount=245000](http://www.officialdata.org/us/inflation/1831?amount=245000)

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### **MARCH 21: SINGLE PARENTS' DAY**

*Profile America* — Sunday, March 21st. This is Single Parents' Day — observed on this date every year since 1984 to recognize all those women and men who are raising children without partners. Single-parent families may result not just from out-of-wedlock births, but also from divorce, separation, a death in the family or adoption. Historically, about 85 percent of children in America were raised in two-parent households. Today, just over 70 percent of children are raised by both parents. Of America's nearly 74 million children under 18 years old, a little over 3 million are being raised by fathers alone. More than 15.7 million are growing up with just their mothers. You can find more facts about America's people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

Sources:

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Children's living arrangements, Current Population Survey:

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### **MARCH 22: COINING A PHRASE**

*Profile America* — Monday, March 22nd. One of the most distinctive and near universal American colloquialisms — the affirmation “OK” — appeared in public for the first time on tomorrow's date in 1839. There have been claims that “OK” derives from languages as diverse as Greek and Choctaw, and that it appeared in earlier American documents. But it was first published in a Boston Morning Post story with a brief definition. While “OK” took off around the country, and eventually the world with variants in some two dozen languages, time KO'd the Boston Morning Post. That paper folded in 1956 after 125 years of publication. Nationwide today, there are nearly 6,700 daily, weekly, or digital newspaper publishers still doing OK. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

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Etymology, accessed 9/24/2020: [www.scienceabc.com/social-science/what-is-the-origin-of-the-word-](http://www.scienceabc.com/social-science/what-is-the-origin-of-the-word-ok.html#:~:text=What%20is%20The%20Origin%20Of%20The%20Word%20%E2%80%99COK%E2%80%9D%3F,3%20It%E2%80%99s%20%E2%80%99CO.K.%E2%80%9D%20to%20Cross%20Language%20Barriers.%20)

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<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=511110%3A%20Newspaper%20publishers&tid=CBP2018.CB1800CBP&hidePreview=false>

### **MARCH 23: NATIONAL AGRICULTURE**

*Profile America* — Tuesday, March 23rd. Among the blessings of civilization are the broad availabilities of food and clothing, such that we don't have to reflect on how this abundance is created in the first place. To celebrate this great human achievement, today is National Agriculture Day, and we're already in the midst of National Agriculture Week. These programs focus on consumers' appreciation of the bounty. They'll learn that from pizzas and orange juice to cosmetics and clothing, agriculture delivers what we take for granted. In the America of 1920, there were nearly 6.5 million farms, and some 32 million people lived on farms. Today, the number of farms has shrunk to a bit under 2.1 million. America has 911 million acres of farmland, averaging 443 acres per farm. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

Sources:

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[www.agriculture.com/news/business/farms-in-us-drops-size-grows](http://www.agriculture.com/news/business/farms-in-us-drops-size-grows)

### **MARCH 24: STATE BAN ON DISCRIMINATION**

*Profile America* — Wednesday, March 24th. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibited discrimination based on sex as well as race in hiring, promoting and firing. Its ban on sex discrimination was not in the forefront of the effort. This month in 1872, the state of Illinois enacted the first such ban on discrimination. It came about through the lobbying of Alta Hulett, who had been prevented from sitting for the Illinois bar exam. The new law cleared the way, and she became Illinois' first female attorney, and the world's youngest at age 19. Today, over one-half of America's workers in law occupations are women, as opposed to the 4.9 percent figure for lawyers and judges as recently as

1970. You can find more facts about America's people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

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State level action, accessed 9/25/2020: [www.historyandheadlines.com/march-22-1872-illinois-first-state-gender-equality-hiring/](http://www.historyandheadlines.com/march-22-1872-illinois-first-state-gender-equality-hiring/)

Alta Hulett, accessed 9/25/2020: <https://womenslawyers.wordpress.com/a-timeline-of-womens-history-in-the-legal-profession/>

Women in law 1970: [www.census.gov/newsroom/facts-for-features/2017/cb17-ff03.html](http://www.census.gov/newsroom/facts-for-features/2017/cb17-ff03.html)

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### **MARCH 25: RUBBED OUT**

*Profile America* — Thursday, March 25th. The fact that pencils have erasers is supposed to indicate that no one is perfect. But it's doubtful that people were perfect before this month 163 years ago. In March 1858, Hyman Lipman was granted a patent for a pencil with an incorporated rubber eraser. Lipman's eraser could be sharpened, as it protruded from the wood sheath at the end opposite the graphite. The familiar wood-encased pencil dates back to 1662, when they were mass-produced in Nuremberg, Germany. Nearly 360 years on, and despite all of our electronic marvels, some 14 billion pencils are produced globally every year. American annual production is around 2 billion, and sales of pencils and art supplies come to around \$1.3 billion. You can find more facts about America's people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

Sources:

Hyman Lipman, accessed 9/18/2020: <https://pencils.com/hymen-lipman-pencil-patent/>

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Development, accessed 11/28/2018: <http://pencils.com/pencil-history/>

Revenues, Economic Census, NAICS 339942:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=339942&tid=ECNBRIDGE22012.EC1200CBDG2&hidePreview=false>

### **MARCH 26: AMERICA'S FIRST SHOPPING CENTER**

*Profile America* — Friday, March 26th. Everyone who loves convenience in shopping can thank visionaries Edward Delk and J.C. Nichols, who conceived, designed and built America's first shopping mall. The Country Club Plaza, on the outskirts of Kansas City, opened this month in 1923 to wide acclaim. It was the first shopping area to have stores facing inward toward a promenade, rather than facing out toward a road. There were parking spaces for 5,500 cars; a notable figure when there were a little over 13 million cars in America. Today, the Country Club Plaza is still in business — along with nearly 116,000 other purpose-built shopping centers. Pre-pandemic, these facilities were where much of the nation's roughly \$5.3 trillion in annual retail sales were recorded. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

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Autos in 1923: 1933 data: Historical Statistics of the United States, Part 2, page 716: [www2.census.gov/library/publications/1975/compendia/hist\\_stats\\_colonial-1970/hist\\_stats\\_colonial-1970p2-chQ.pdf](http://www2.census.gov/library/publications/1975/compendia/hist_stats_colonial-1970/hist_stats_colonial-1970p2-chQ.pdf)

Retail trade: [www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/arts/tables/2018/sales.xls](http://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/arts/tables/2018/sales.xls)

### **MARCH 27: MOBILE COMPUTER**

*Profile America* — Saturday, March 27th. A triumph of mobile computing was achieved on this date 60 years ago. In 1961 division of the Sperry Rand Corporation equipped a trailer truck to haul a UNIVAC I computer from New York City to North Carolina to process data for the Douglas Aircraft Corporation. The UNIVAC I, fully assembled, weighed in at a nimble 7,237 pounds. Nearly 91 percent of America's 123 million households have computers. Even the country's seniors participate heavily. Over 86 percent of senior households have computers, and nearly 79 percent access the internet. In marked contrast to the unwieldy UNIVAC of 1961, 86 percent of American

households are using smartphones or other hand-held devices for true mobile computing. *Profile America* is in its 24th year as a public service of the U.S. Census Bureau.

Sources:

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Household computers, American Community Survey:

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Senior computer usage, American Community Survey:

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Hand-held computing, American Community Survey:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=hand%20held%20computer&tid=ACSST1Y2019.S2801&hidePreview=false>

### **MARCH 28: BIRTH OF A BRAND**

*Profile America* — Sunday, March 28th. One of the most successful brand names of all time got its start this week 135 years ago. Atlanta pharmacist John Pemberton brewed up the first batch of Coca-Cola — designed as a hangover cure. The 1886 product went on sale at Jacob's pharmacy a few weeks later, and sold an average of nine servings a day at the start. Success followed quickly, and until 1905, contained extracts of cocaine, as well as the caffeine-rich kola nut. Today, the firm's products account for close to two billion servings a day around the world. Americans on average drink just over 38 gallons of carbonated soft drinks a year, a rate that has been in decline lately. Still, some 56,000 people are employed in the \$38 billion a year business of soft drink manufacturing. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

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Value of Shipments, Annual Survey of Manufacturers, NAICS 312111:

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### **MARCH 29: MOM AND POP BUSINESSES**

*Profile America* — Monday, March 29th. While shoppers and communities often welcome the opening of a major department store or a branch of a big-box chain, they are also the cause of some concern. Small local businesses face greater competition and more vulnerability in shutdowns, yet those small businesses are an outsized engine of economic growth. Additionally, they are important distinguishing features in local communities. That's why today is Mom and Pop Business Owners Day. Nationally, there are around 7.8 million business establishments, employing 129 million people. Over half 3.7 million business have 5 or fewer employees, for a total of almost 6 million workers and owners. Additionally, there are 25.7 million individual proprietorships nationwide. *Profile America* is in its 24th year as a public service of the U.S. Census Bureau.

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### **MARCH 30: DOCTORS DAY**

*Profile America* — Tuesday, March 30th. Today is recognized as National Doctors' Day, a salute the highly skilled and vital profession of healing. First observed in 1933, the March 30 date was chosen by the initiators in Georgia to commemorate the first use of anesthesia. As it happens, by a Georgia doctor nearly 90 years earlier. In 1990, legislation was introduced in the House and Senate to establish a national Doctor's Day. Following overwhelming approval by the United States Senate and the House of Representatives, on October 30, 1990, President George Bush signed the measure. Currently, if an apple a day doesn't deliver on the folksy promise, there are some 780,000 physicians, surgeons and specialists nationwide to choose from in search of wellness. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

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

### **MARCH 31: THREE MILE ISLAND**

*Profile America* — Wednesday, March 31st. One of the most frightening domestic industrial accidents occurred late this month 42 years ago at the Three Mile Island Nuclear Power Plant on the Susquehanna River, south of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. A cascade of alarms and emergency responses started with a mechanical or electrical failure in a water pump cooling the plant's number two reactor. The plant reportedly came close to a hydrogen gas explosion and a meltdown of its uranium core, which would have caused extensive radiation contamination. The 1979 incident sparked a large-scale review of nuclear power safety. Today, there are 57 such plants operating 95 nuclear reactors in 29 states, and employing almost 46,000 workers. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

Sources:

Three Mile Island incident, accessed 10/20/2020: [www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/fact-sheets/3mile-isle.html](http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/fact-sheets/3mile-isle.html)

Number of nuclear facilities and reactors, accessed 10/20/2020:  
[www.eia.gov/tools/faqs/faq.cfm?id=207&t=3](http://www.eia.gov/tools/faqs/faq.cfm?id=207&t=3)

Employment, County Business Patterns, NAICS 221113:  
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