

Citizenship Granted to Native Americans

On June 2, 1924, Congress granted citizenship to all Native Americans born in the U.S. Because the right to vote was governed by state law, until 1948 some states barred Native Americans from voting. In addition to extending voting rights to Native Americans, Congress created the Merriam Commission that was completed in 1928 and described how government policy oppressed Native Americans and destroyed their culture and society.

The poverty and exploitation spurred passage of the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act. This legislation promoted Native American autonomy by prohibiting allotment of tribal lands, returning some surplus land, and urging tribes to engage in active self-government. Rather than imposing the legislation on Native Americans, individual tribes were allowed to accept or reject the Reorganization Act. From 1934 to 1953, the U.S. government invested in the development of infrastructure, health care, and education, and the quality of life on Indian lands improved. With the aid of federal courts and the government, over two million acres of land were returned to various tribes during this period.

The Marshall Plan

On June 19, 1947, representatives of 22 European nations met at the invitation of the British and French foreign ministers to participate in the design of a plan for rebuilding war-torn Europe. In a Harvard University commencement address two weeks earlier, U.S. Secretary of State George C. Marshall had called for a massive European aid package designed to stabilize the world economy and discourage the spread of communism. Over 12.4 billion dollars were transferred to Western Europe under the Economic Recovery Program known as the "Marshall Plan." Not completely altruistic, the legislation creating the plan specified aid dollars be spent in the U.S.

Even now a model for positive economic diplomacy, the Marshall Plan was a rational effort by the United States aimed at reducing the hunger, homelessness, sickness, unemployment, and political restlessness of the 270 million people in sixteen nations in West Europe. Marshall Plan funds were not mainly directed toward feeding individuals or building individual houses, schools, or factories, but at strengthening the economic superstructure (particularly the iron-steel and power industries).

Summer Anniversaries

Americans were reluctant to invest in Europe because their profits were available only in local currencies that were little desired by U.S. businesses and investors. The Marshall Plan guaranteed that these investors would be able to convert their profits earned in European currencies into U.S. dollars. Grants and loans in U.S. dollars enabled managers in Europe to purchase in America specialty tools for their new industries. Marshall Plan money also paid for industrial technicians and farmers to visit U.S. industries and farms to study American techniques. Plan funds even paid the postage on privately contributed relief packages.

Over its four-year life, the Marshall Plan cost the U.S. 2.5 to 5 times the percent of national income as current foreign aid programs.

On December 10, 1953, George C. Marshall received the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway. He accepted it, not as his individual triumph, but as the representative of the American people, whose efforts and money had made the program a success.

Edison's Phonograph

August 12, 1877, is the date popularly given for Thomas A. Edison's completion of the model for the first phonograph, a device that recorded sound onto tinfoil cylinders. It is more likely, however, that work on the model was not finished until November or December of that year, since Edison did not file for the patent until December 24, 1877.



Edison displayed the phonograph, during a visit to Washington D.C.

While working to improve the efficiency of a telegraph transmitter, Edison noted that the tape of the machine gave off a noise resembling spoken words when played at a high speed. This caused him to wonder if he could record a telephone message. Edison began experimenting with the diaphragm of a telephone receiver by attaching a needle to it. He reasoned that the needle could prick paper tape to record a message. His experiments led him to try a stylus on a tinfoil cylinder, which, to his great surprise, played back the short message he recorded, "Mary had a little lamb."

Edison's discovery was met first with incredulity, then awe, earning him the moniker "The Wizard of Menlo Park." By 1915, sound recording, which evolved from Edison's invention, was rapidly becoming established as an American industry.

Columbus's first voyage to the New World

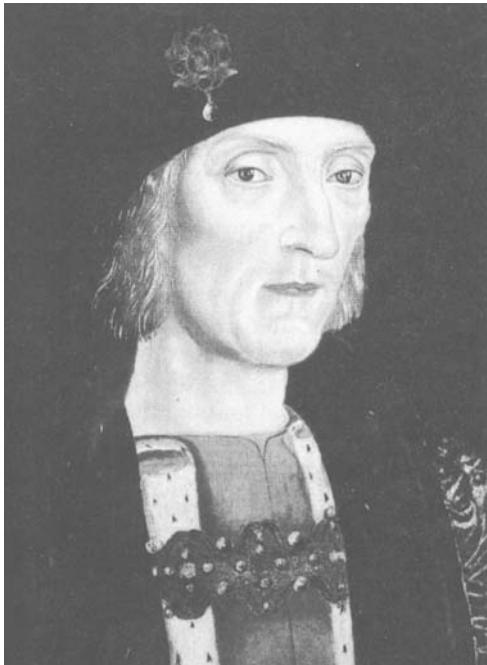
On August 3, 1492, Christopher Columbus set out on his first voyage to what would come to be known as the New World. With three ships and a crew of 90, Columbus hoped to find a western route to the Far East. Instead, the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria landed in the Bahama Islands.

Christopher Columbus set sail in an era of maritime advances, charting his route with the aid of a mariner's compass, an astrolabe, a cross-staff, and a quadrant. The most popular map for mariners at the time was Ptolemy's Geography or Cosmography, printed in 1482 but compiled by the Alexandrian geographer, astronomer, and mathematician Claudius Ptolemy in the second century A.D.

Early on the morning of October 12, 1492, a crewmember spotted land. At daylight, Columbus went ashore and planted the flag of his sponsors, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain, on the Bahamian island of Guanahani. Columbus eventually created a base of operations for his first and second trips on the island the Europeans called Hispaniola, now the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

The Panic of 1857

The catalyst for the Panic of 1857 was the failure on August 24, 1857 of the York branch of the Ohio Life Insurance and Trust Company. It was soon reported that the entire capital of the Trust's home office had been embezzled. What followed was one of the most severe economic crises in U.S. history. New York bankers almost



Christopher Columbus

immediately put severe restrictions on even the most routine transactions. In turn, many people interpreted these restrictions as a sign of impending financial collapse and reacted with panic. Individual holders of stock and of commercial paper rushed to their brokers and eagerly made deal that "a week before they would have shunned as a ruinous sacrifice."

The Report of the Clearinghouse Committee, produced in the years following the "The Panic of 1857", found that "A financial panic has been likened to a malignant epidemic, which kills more by terror than by real disease."

Probejenia

Probejenia este o sărbătoare cu data fixă (6 august) ce marchează hotarul dintre vara și toamna în calendarul popular. La Probejenie frunza codrului începe să-a schimbe culoarea, iarba încețează să mai crească, apele se răcesc, vietuitoarele se retrag pentru iernat în ascunzături. Din aceasta zi omului îi este interzis să se mai scalde în apele râurilor și să omoare, conform obiceiului, sarpele care îi ieșe în cale. Fiind celebrata în aceeași zi cu Schimbarea la Fata, la Probejenie se manână peste și struguri. În aceasta zi se recoltează multe plante și fructe de leac: ieșteanul, avrameasa, usturoiul, florile de musetel, alunele, crengile încarcate de prune etc. Se crede că adunarea în această zi și după un anumit ritual a plantelor și fructelor le sporește puterea de vindecare a bolilor. În popor există credință potrivit careia cine se roagă în această zi să scape de un viciu, de o patima, reușește.

Victor Brauner

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Brauner settled in Paris in 1930 and became a friend of his compatriot Constantin Brancusi. Then he met Yves Tanguy, who would later introduce him to the circle of the Surrealists. He painted "Self-portrait with a plucked eye", a premonitory theme. In 1935 returning to Romania, he opened a new personal exhibition at the Mozart Galleries. In 1938 he returned to Paris, and painted a number of works featuring distorted human figures with mutilated eyes. Some of these paintings, dated as early as 1931, proved gruesomely prophetic when he lost his own eye in a scuffle in 1938. That same year, he met Jacqueline Abraham, his wife. He created a series of paintings called "lycanthropic" or sometimes "chimeras".

At the outset of World War II Brauner fled to the South of France, where he maintained contact with other Surrealists in Marseilles; later he sought refuge in Switzerland. Returned to Paris, Brauner was included in the Exposition Internationale du Surréalisme in Paris in 1947. His postwar painting incorporated forms and symbols based on Tarot cards, Egyptian hieroglyphics, and antique Mexican codices. In the fifties Brauner traveled to Normandy and Italy, and his work was shown at the Venice Biennale in 1954 and in 1966.

He died in Paris on March 12, 1966.



Three Men / Trei Barbati



Chimera / Himera



The Boy with Pitcher / Baiatul cu Ulciorul



Self Portrait / Autoportret



Adam and Eve / Adam si Eva