

Cover art by Kara Sousa

American Élan

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Volume 113

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Fashion Throughout the Decade

Has your style held up
to the years? Pg. 13

Top 3 Vacation Destinations Inside

Hop in the car and hit the
road, it's easy as 1...2...3...!
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“My audience was my life.
What I did and how I did it,
was all for my audience.”

- Cab Calloway

MUSIC AND DANCE

Bessie Smith

By: Shannon Pederson

“Empress of the Blues” Bessie Smith

With her eyes on the prize and a voice full of fire, “Empress of the Blues” Bessie Smith blazes her way through the decade.

The turn of the 20s is beginning to brush our fingertips, but we’ve still got some of the best songs of the past 10 years stuck in our heads. But as the decade comes to a close, it’s clear that no singer made bigger strides in America’s ever-changing music scene than Bessie Smith. There’s no mistaking her powerful, resounding voice as it crackles through the speakers, and there’s no doubt that the next few decades will provide her nothing but opportunities to continue her growth and conquest of the blues genre.

Although she is now known as “Empress of the Blues”, Bessie Smith did not come from such lavish beginnings. Born on April 15, 1894, in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Smith fought hardship and heartache at a young age after losing both her parents and two of her brothers by the young age of 12. Smith and her remaining siblings were left to be raised by her impoverished aunt;

belt and barely a nickel in her pocket, Smith took her natural talent to the streets and became a public performer, accompanied gratefully by the guitar of her younger brother. Her natural energy and confident voice sparked interest throughout the town, and her efforts soon proved worth it; by 1912, Smith was a strong front-runner in the Moses Stokes minstrel show, where she met her inspiration and soon-to-be mentor, well-known blues vocalist, Ma Rainey.

Blown away by her abilities, Rainey swept Smith under her wing and began teaching her

with a hungry family under her the music industry, encouraging her to expand her talents and seek opportunities for success whenever possible. After marrying and moving to Philadelphia in 1923, Smith’s biggest opportunity presented itself, and Smith took no time to look back as she accepted. Columbia Records, a company once known for its wax records and ever so popular “Grafonola”, started the decade off by expanding its company into labels, and they were quick to snatch up Bessie Smith when they had the chance. One of Smith’s first song to be released from the label, a track titled “Downhearted Blues”, was received with critical acclaim, and within just 10 months of signing Smith, Columbia sold over 2 million of her records.

As hot as a Tommy gun and moving faster than any bullet around, Smith used the mid-20s to expand her reach and her styles in entertainment circuits across the country. Around the time of her first recording

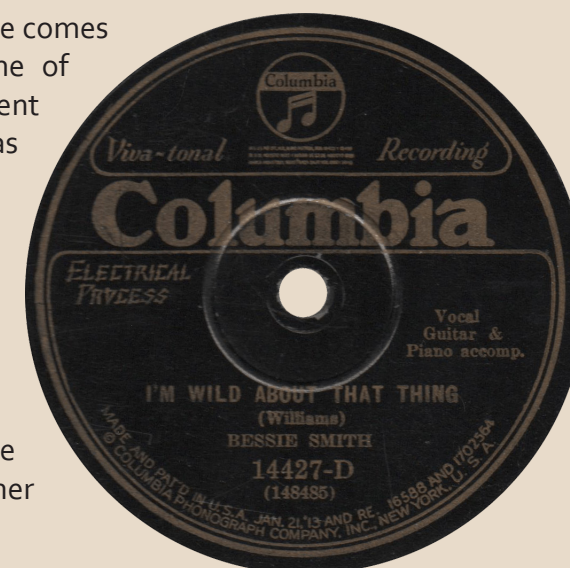
“I don’t want no drummer. I set the tempo.”

- Bessie Smith

session with Louis Armstrong in 1925, Smith strayed away from her classic blues influences and began worming her way into the country’s newest craze—jazz. She used the flexible, unchoreographed instrumentals of a small jazz band to her advantage, often straying from planned melodies and keys in any way she pleased, as long as it to the right story. To her, the music was meant to follow the poetry of her lyrics, not the other way around, and by using this technique with poise and confidence, she unwittingly influenced many jazz musicians to change up their style as well. From the mid-20s onward, jazz soloists began creating music drawn from their own experiences, unafraid of any kind of rules or “musical correctness”.

Now, as the decade comes to a close and some of Smith’s most recent releases, such as “Dirty No Gooder’s Blues” and “Don’t Cry Baby” echo in our heads, we await at the edges of our seats for what the New Year will bring us. While some argue that her

career is beginning to burn out, others stand fiercely by her side, calling for new albums, performances, and roles as an actress. No matter what the outcome of the next decade is, one thing is clear; Bessie Smith has proven herself a true empress that doesn’t just sing songs—she sings the life she’s living, and will continue doing so with a smile until the day she’s gone. ♠



Louis Armstrong

“Isn’t it a lovely day, Mr. Satchmo?”

By: Addisyn Winker

Louis “Mr. Satchmo” Armstrong blows everyone away with his influential music! Armstrong was born on August 4, 1901, in New Orleans, Louisiana. His father sadly abandoned Louis and his family shortly after his birth, this caused his mother to work more. Louis was raised by his grandmother until the age of five. At the age of six,

he moved to a school that accepted black children. While in school he did “odd jobs” for the Karnofskys, a family of Lithuanian Jews. During the earlier years of his current career, he followed his mentor, Joe “King” Oliver to Chicago to play in the Creole Jazz Band. While in Chicago, he spent time with other musicians and spending time with others such as Lil Hardin. Recently, Armstrong has relocated himself to New York to join Fletcher

Henderson’s band. So far in his career, he has been labeled as an extremely influential singer and skillful improviser. Armstrong can bend lyrics and notes in amazing ways with no troubles at all. Though Mr. Satchmo is a busy man, he has opened up about being part of the Knights of Pythias. Being a member of the Knights of Pythias you have to be in extremely good health and you need to believe in a Supreme Being, you also can’t be associated with any drugs, alcohol, or narcotics in any way. ♠

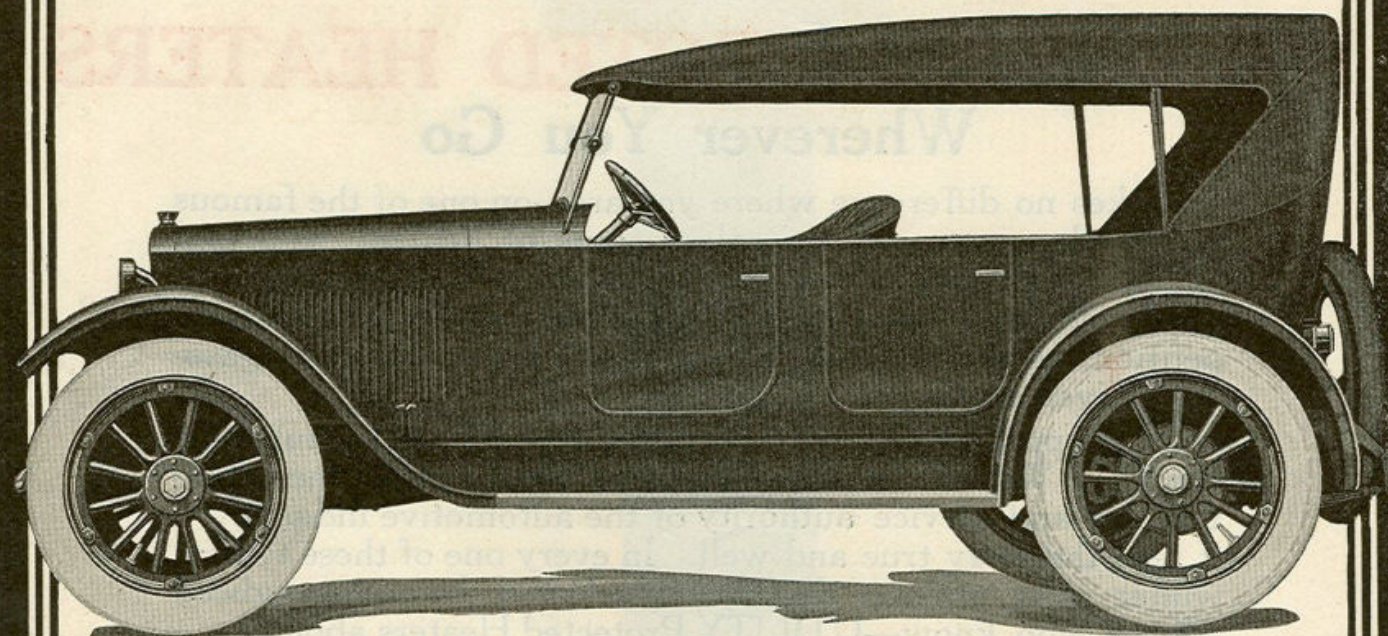


“If you have to ask what jazz is, you’ll never know.”

- Louis Armstrong

Photo courtesy of Encyclopedia Britannica, 2017

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THE LAST WORD IN MOTORDOM



“IT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF”

THE GARDNER MOTOR CO.
ST. LOUIS, U.S.A.

Photo courtesy of The Gardner Motor Co., 1921



“No time to marry, no time to settle down;
I’m a young woman, and I ain’t done runnin’
around.”

- Bessie Smith

PEOPLE AND

FASHION

Drink Delicious
**Orange-
CRUSH**



Thirsty? Here's the answer:

First, sparkling carbonated water—next, the juice of luscious oranges—next, the delightful flavor of their peel. Add the zestful tang of the fruit acid found in oranges, lemons and limes—a pure food color, such as you use in your cakes and candies—pure cane sugar. This is Orange-Crush, a wonderfully refreshing drink. At the better fountains everywhere.

Drink
Delicious

Orange-CRUSH

A Real Orange Drink for a Nickel

Babe Ruth

By: Addisyn Winker

“Swinging through the decade”

It's official: baseball has struck the nation. George Herman Ruth Jr, better known as Babe Ruth, has dominated the scene since the early 1920s. Before Ruth started baseball, he worked long days and long nights at his parents tavern and grew up in a rough neighborhood. In 1914, 19 year old George was noticed by the owner of the Baltimore Orioles, Jack Dunn, and was signed almost instantly. July 11th, 1914, Babe played and won his first Major League game with the Boston Red Sox.



Photo courtesy of PAUL THOMPSON / PUBLIC DOMAIN

Later on, the Boston Red Sox traded Ruth to the New York Yankees for \$100,000. In his first season playing for the Yankees, Babe Ruth swung his way to the record for the most home runs with a staggering 54 home runs. Recently in 1927, the New York Yankees were considered the best Major League Baseball team in existence with Ruth leading the charts with 60 home

runs for the season. Sadly, in 1918, his dad passed away due to a street fight and never got to see how good his son really became. This made Ruth's life hard; “If it wasn't for baseball, I'd be in either the penitentiary or the cemetery,” stated Ruth. Obviously baseball helped, as the nation could see throughout this amazing decade! ♠

“If it wasn't for baseball, I'd be in either the penitentiary or the cemetery.”

- Babe Ruth

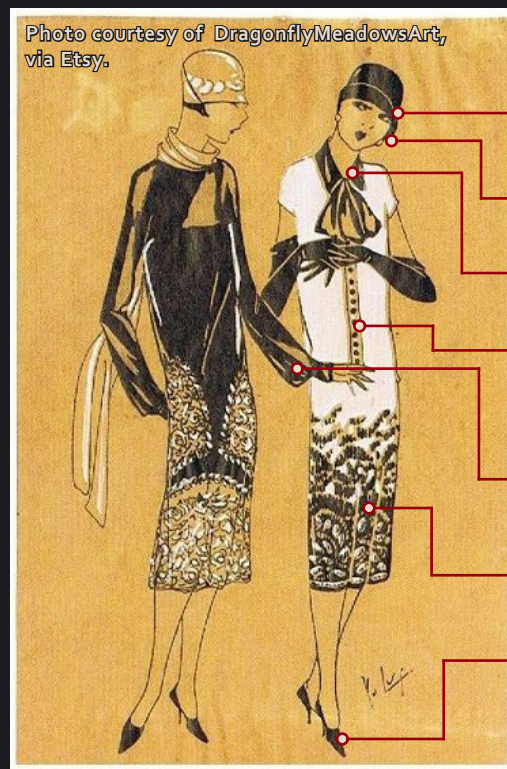
Fashion Through the Decade

By: Kara Sousa

A rise in flappers has struck the nation. Women have short wavy hair and loose dresses that go down to their knees or ankles. The neckline is lowered and women begin to show more skin. Their dresses are commonly covered with sequins and they wear lace and beading which may include feathers. Bob, Crop, and Fingerwave hairstyles are all the rage for women in the country. Many women wear cloche hats as well.

Women's shoes are typically designed for an easy shoe to dance in. They have a strap bar design so it won't fall off as everyone is dancing around. Colors that are popular now for women are black, blue, deep pink, violet, and gray. Everywhere you go you'll see women wearing these colors. Many day skirts had stripes, polka dots, geometric patterns, or simple floral designs. When wearing day dresses, many women wear a thin overcoat to match their dress.

Photo courtesy of DragonflyMeadowsArt, via Etsy.



Cloche Hat

Cropped Hair

Low Neckline

**Sequins and
Lace**

Light Overcoat

Floral Lace

Dancing Shoes

Men's fashion takes a change as well. Instead of being tailor-made, lots of men are buying less form-fitting suits for a much lower price. So if you want to save some money when buying a suit, don't go to a tailor. Many suits nowadays are only two pieces instead of three. Something else that has begun to get more common as of late is the white undershirt with the

high and detachable collars. Some headwear that has evolved over the decade would be top hats, Homburg hats, and Trilby hats. Common suit colors ranged from black and gray to tan, green, and blue. Some suit sets also had stripes. The common neckpiece would be a regular tie or a bowtie. Men's shoes haven't changed over the course of the decade. ♠

Photo created by Addisyn Winker, 2019

drink





ENTERTAINMENT

“We must laugh in the face of our helplessness
against the forces of nature — or go insane.”

- Charlie Chaplin

Vacation Frenzy

By: Shannon Pederson

As wages rise, free time increases and vehicles become more accessible to families across the country, vacation ideas that once seemed like a distant dream now feel like they're right in your backyard!

1. Catskills, NY

Yearning for beautiful mountain views, crisp fresh air, and a sunset of a lifetime? Look no further than Catskills, New York. At less than four hours away from New York City, this secluded location offers a unique and memorable experience for those feeling run down by monotonous city life. The sparkling lakes and endless hiking trails provide even the most stressed travelers a chance to wind down in mother nature.



Photo courtesy of Stereoscopic Company, via Getty Images



Photo courtesy of Associated Press

2. New York City, NY

Maybe chilly mountain views and bug bites aren't your thing—if you're more partial to delicious restaurants and a roaring nightlife, then New York City is for you! As the largest city in the United States, (over 6 million people—wow!) you'll never run out of things to do and people to meet. Try out Luchows, a homely German restaurant on E. 14th street, where you can enjoy traditional homemade German cuisine for a low price (try their German rye bread!). If you need to let out some energy, head down to the ever-popular Cotton Club on 142nd Street and Lenox Avenue. This club is known for its highly accredited blues and jazz performances that will leave you yearning for more.

3. Los Angeles, CA

Has the biting cold of the north been running you down lately? Then pack your bags and head for sunny Los Angeles, California! This rapidly growing oceanside city is packed with daytime activities filled with sunshine and fun for all. Head down to any of Los Angeles' most famous beaches—El Matador beach is a crowd favorite—to experience the true bliss of the summer sun. Or, try checking out Elysian Park for a wonderful afternoon among the palm trees. And don't forget Los Angeles' most well known feature; Hollywood! Catch a concert at the Hollywood Bowl Amphitheatre for a concert experience you will never forget and keep an eye out for your favorite actor or actress. ♠



Photo courtesy of Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Pole Sitting

Publicity Act or Dangerous Game?

By: Kara Sousa

Pole sitting was popular from the mid-1920s through the end of the decade. After a record is broken there is always someone else willing to try and beat it.

act to get publicity. It could easily be either of the two, as you never know what people might do these days for attention.

This came about from a man named Alvin 'Shipwreck' Kelly. This man is a stunt actor who used to be a sailor. In order to be able to do this effectively, a small platform is placed on top of the pole so the sitter has an easier time sitting down. Alvin Kelly set the first record for pole-sitting at 13 hours and 13 minutes in 1924. No one really knows or understands why Kelly decided to sit on a pole for 13 hours, some believe it was

a dare, and others believed it was an

Over the course of the next five years, other challengers have set times of 12, 17, and 21 days, easily surpassing the original record set by Kelly. Never one to back down from a challenge, between the years 1926 - 1929, Kelly set records for 7, 12, and 23 days atop a pole. This activity was started in Philadelphia and soon spread like wildfire across the country. These feats were not all for naught though as quite a few times these risk-takers were hired to do this, and were paid by local business owners to draw in crowds. Pole sitting consistently has brought in large crowds that gather around the challenger. ♠



Photo courtesy of History Daily, 2018



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

“The day science begins to study non-physical phenomena, it will make more progress in one decade than in all the previous centuries of its existence.”

- Nikola Tesla

Nikola Tesla

By: Shannon Pederson

Tesla's Bizarre Biplane

An unconventional feat of engineering or the deluded dream of a penniless man?



Photo courtesy of
Electrical Review, 1896

Less than 30 years after the Wright brothers first took to the skies, a wide variety of aeroplane designs have begun to take shape as the fascination for flying grabs hold of the general population. Spurred on by the start of the Great War, inventors have been working together to expand our knowledge in this new area of engineering that has remained untapped for so long. Many successful designs have resulted from this technical renaissance, but none are as curious as the 1928 patent for a bipolar plane design by none other than Nikola Tesla.

Tesla, known for his notable contributions to the telephony and electrical power industries in the late 1800s, has released a wide variety of patents throughout his career, with varying success. At this point, Tesla has spent most of his resources on creating less

that notable inventions, and is left without a lab, money, and support. However, these setbacks do not seem to deter him from exploring new areas of engineering that are taking the country by storm.

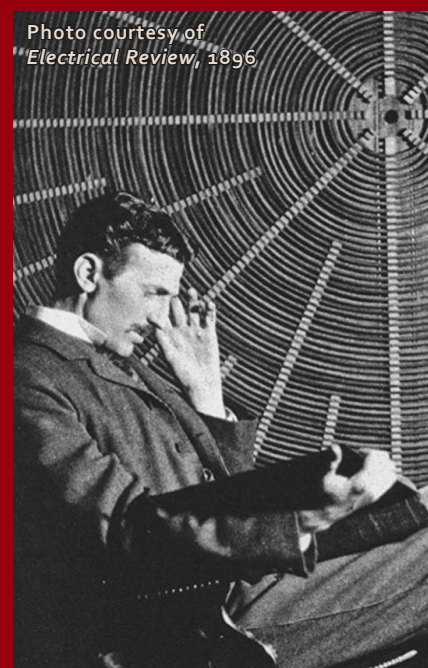


Photo courtesy of
Electrical Review, 1896

But what does his design look like? Let's hear it from Tesla himself, recorded 15 years before his publishing of the biplane patent:

"You should not be at all surprised if someday you see me fly from New York to Colorado Springs in a contrivance which will resemble a gas stove and weigh almost as much." (Tesla, 1913)

You read that right—a gas stove! Despite all of the progress made since the initial introduction of his idea and evidence that there are plane shapes that have proven to work MUCH better than others, Tesla was not deterred.

His aeroplane, as seen in the patent illustration on the right, involves a large cubic frame made from lightweight metals, a wooden propeller, canvas wings, and utilization of a turbine to create thrust. To take off, the propeller sits at the top of the craft, which lifts the driver into the air vertically. This method allows the machine to carry heavy weights without concerns of balance or center of mass during takeoff. Now, here's the kicker—Tesla's design is centered around the idea that while in flight, the propeller on the craft can be shifted to the front of the craft using a system of pulleys and ropes, which will allow it to fly horizontally in any direction the pilot.

Now, I'm no engineer, but even I can spot grievances in this eccentric design. This hybrid tilt-rotor/tilt-wing design, while interesting enough to garner significant interest from those in the aeroplane community, is completely novel, with no other patents on record showing sharing any similarities with

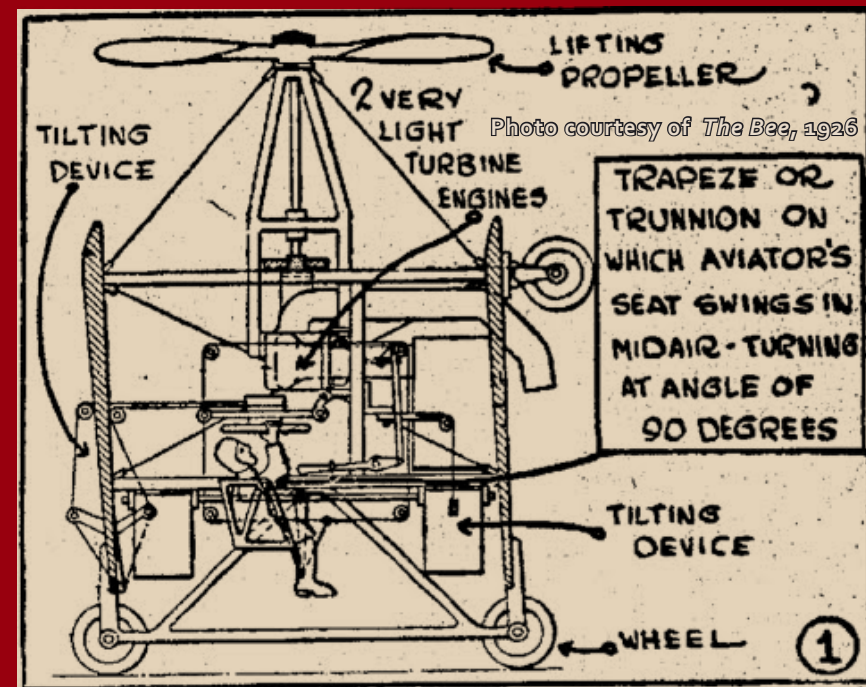


Photo courtesy of The Bee, 1926

this craft. No models have been constructed, and no tests have been conducted. And because of its lack of resemblance to other aeroplane designs that have proven to be effective, we must pause and wonder if a design like this is really feasible. Many engineers, while fascinated by the unconventional design, can't help but assume that it will simply spin in a maddening circle (if it can even get in the air!).

With this patent, Tesla promises increased stability, novel landing gear and an ability to carry weights never thought possible with other current aeroplane designs. However, Tesla's lack of a laboratory and depleting funds brings up the question: is he really hoping to make history in the rapidly developing aeroplane community, or is this simply a last-ditch effort to pull a few pennies from his sponsors? ♠



Photo courtesy of HMV Radiogram, 1924

Sliced Bread?

It seems your days of stale and uneven slices are over!

By: Addisyn Winker

There have been many attempts to create sliced bread, which would make bread more convenient to eat and enjoy. Many of the people who tried to create sliced bread failed, either the bread went stale or the cuts were unproportional. One of the inventors of this creation that got the furthest and succeeded was Otto Rohwedder, although he was faced with many troubles such as a fire earlier in the stages of blueprints and starting the first prototype and he lost all of his work. This didn't make him change his mind about creating sliced bread but he continued on and went right back into the process of creating a new prototype and blueprint. The creation of this would take many years, but it was finally completed in 1928. Rohwedder got one of his good friends who happened to own a bakery to try it out and see what he thinks. When his invention proved to work many of the people who either worked in the bakery or had heard of the new bread slicer were excited about it and wanted to learn more about it and know how it works. This new invention will create less stress for a woman to have to cut the bread and they will be able to enjoy



Photo courtesy of Popular Magazine, 1928

themselves more because they will have less work to do. This would prove to be one of the most useful inventions that will ever be made and many people will now have the luxury of not having to slice their bread and these inventions will surely be everywhere in the near future. ♠



Fleming's Penicillin

What magic does this mystery mold hold?

By: Kara Sousa

Penicillin is a new and exciting revelation that was discovered by Alexander Fleming. He is a biologist that lives in the United Kingdom. Alexander Fleming was of Scottish descent. He was mainly a biologist but he was also considered a physician, microbiologist, and a pharmacologist. His most recent discovery will change the medical field as we know it. According to Fleming, he was researching ways to kill infectious bacteria

when he stumbled upon penicillin accidentally during his research. Fleming recalled his experiment clear as day. He said that he was studying Staphylococcus in Petri dishes. Staphylococcus is a type of infectious bacteria. Fleming left for a holiday and came home to find mold contaminating his Petri dishes that contained bacteria. When he took a closer look, he discovered that the mold which touched bacteria has started dissolving. Fleming then transferred the mold into an uncontaminated Petri dish to further study.

After he finished his experiments, Fleming figured out that he could make a substance that could kill many disease-causing bacteria.



Photo courtesy of RTA Labs, 2019

Fleming decided to name this new medicinal substance Penicillin. Before finding Penicillin, Fleming had first discovered lysozyme, an enzyme present in many secretions, including tears, saliva, skin, hair, and nails. Although he was able to obtain larger amounts of lysozyme from egg whites, the enzyme was only effective against small counts of harmless bacteria, and therefore had little therapeutic potential. He found lysozyme in 1923.

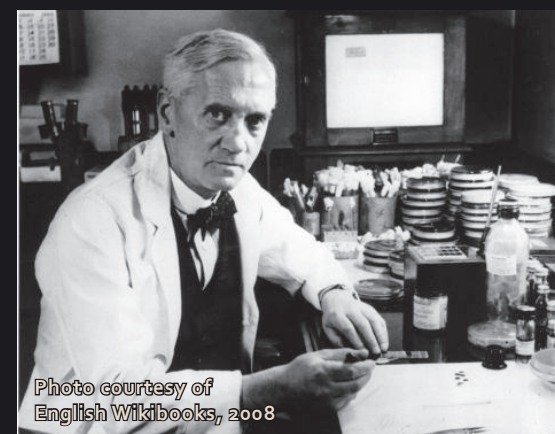


Photo courtesy of English Wikibooks, 2008



POLITICS AND

ECONOMICS

“You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world.”

- Woodrow Wilson

Woodrow Wilson

History of one of America's most impactful presidents

By: Addisyn Winker

We all know our current president, Woodrow Wilson, has been President since 1913. This article will focus on the amazing things he has done both in and out of his Presidency! Before becoming President of the Nation, Wilson became President of the College of New Jersey and set out to transform the old institution into a modern liberal education platform. He also changed how students and teachers work, he made sure students had the opportunity to study in small clusters of people to gain more understanding of the content they are learning. After being President of the College of New Jersey, Wilson ran for New Jersey Governor. In 1910 he asserted his independence of the conservative and endorsed a progressive platform. During

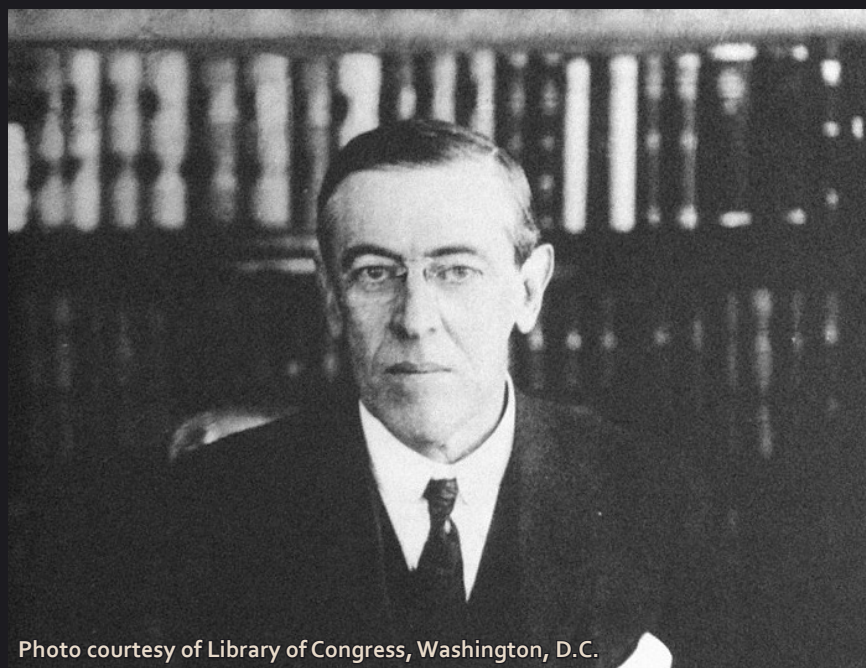


Photo courtesy of Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

his campaign he promised to be an "unconstitutional governor"—an allusion to break with legalistic views of an average state executive would do. During his years of Governor, he pushed through legislation and made an impact on most state

Governors around the Nation. By 1911, Woodrow Wilson took the Nation by storm and created a huge platform for himself. Finally, Woodrow took the overwhelming Electoral vote and was elected President of the United States in 1913. ♠

This article was previously published in The American Élan, Vol. 14, on November January 15th, 1914. To celebrate the diversity and progress that has been observed in politics over the past 10 years, we included this article as a perspective point for the beginning of America's greatest decade.

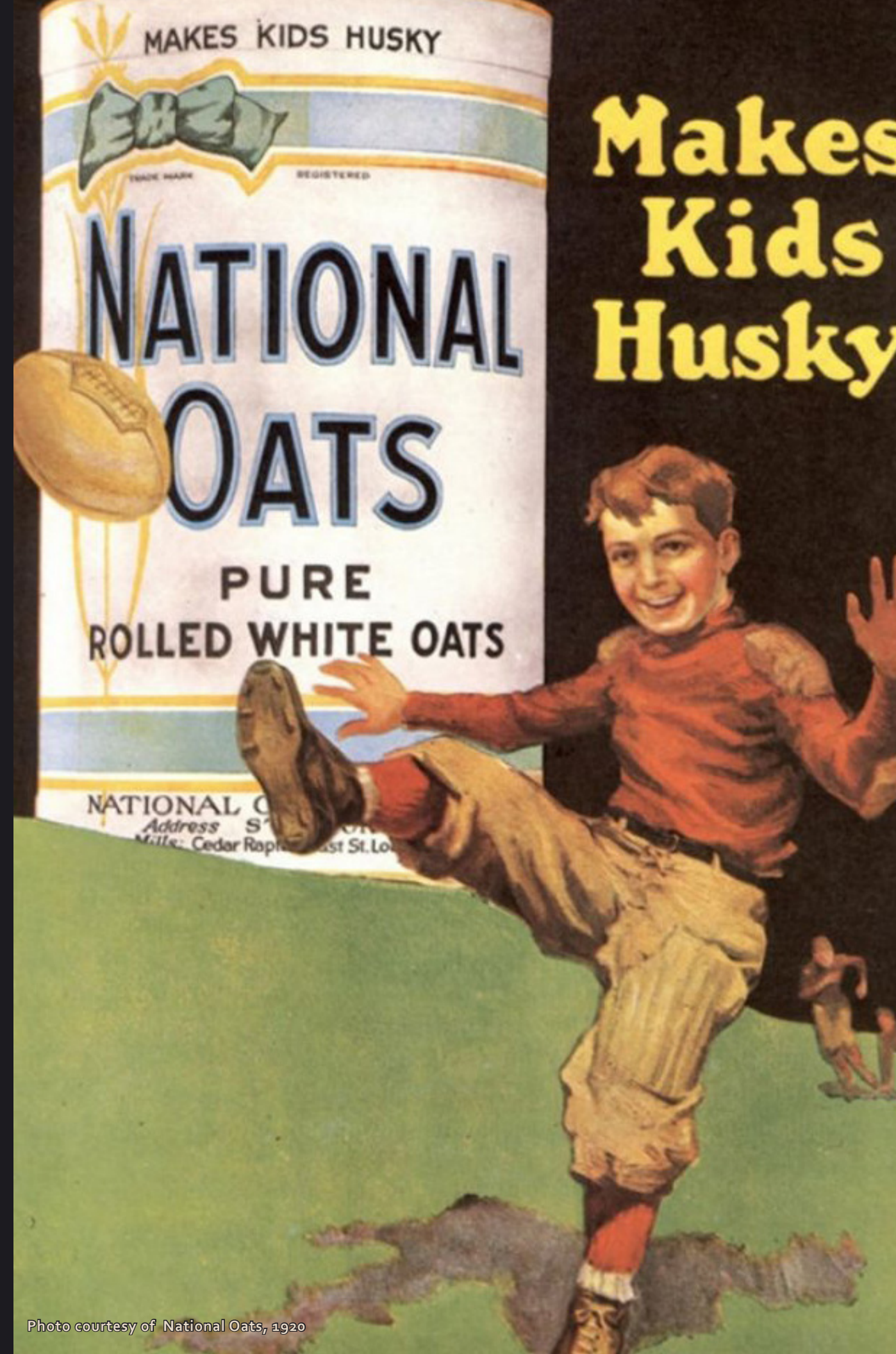


Photo courtesy of National Oats, 1920

Mount Rushmore

Borglum's boldest endeavor yet

By: Shannon Pederson

What do you do with a big rock in the middle of nowhere that's acting as an eyesore and nothing more? Why, you carve a giant patriotic statue into it, of course!

At least, that's what Doane Robinson, the official historian of South Dakota, thought. For years, tourists have been flocking to this unique state for a chance to view the stunningly dramatic Black Hills and Badlands. However, scenery alone can't hold the public's attention for long; "Tourists soon get fed up on scenery unless it has something of special interest connected with it to make it impressive," Robinson said. So to boost visits to the state, he proposed that magnificent statues of America's greatest heroes, ranging from our first president to the renowned Lewis and Clark crew, be carved into the various granite needles and

mountains that pepper the South Dakotan west.

This initial idea, proposed in 1923, quickly caught the interests of many sculptors across the country, but most were reluctant to take upon this monumental task for themselves. But in 1924, Robinson took this problem into his own hands and sent a

letter out to Gutzon Borglum, an ambitious sculptor with previous experience in carving large scale granite pieces. Borglum readily agreed to the task, and spent over a year selecting the perfect mountain for the task. In September of 1925, Borglum visited the fated Mount Rushmore and was immediately inspired by the perfection of the granite,



Photo courtesy of Smithsonian Institution, 1926

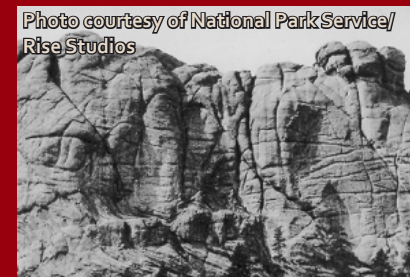


Photo courtesy of National Park Service/ Rise Studios

later telling the Rapid City Journal that there was "no piece of granite comparable to it in the United States." Others discouraged him from choosing the location due to its isolation, but Borglum was adamant.

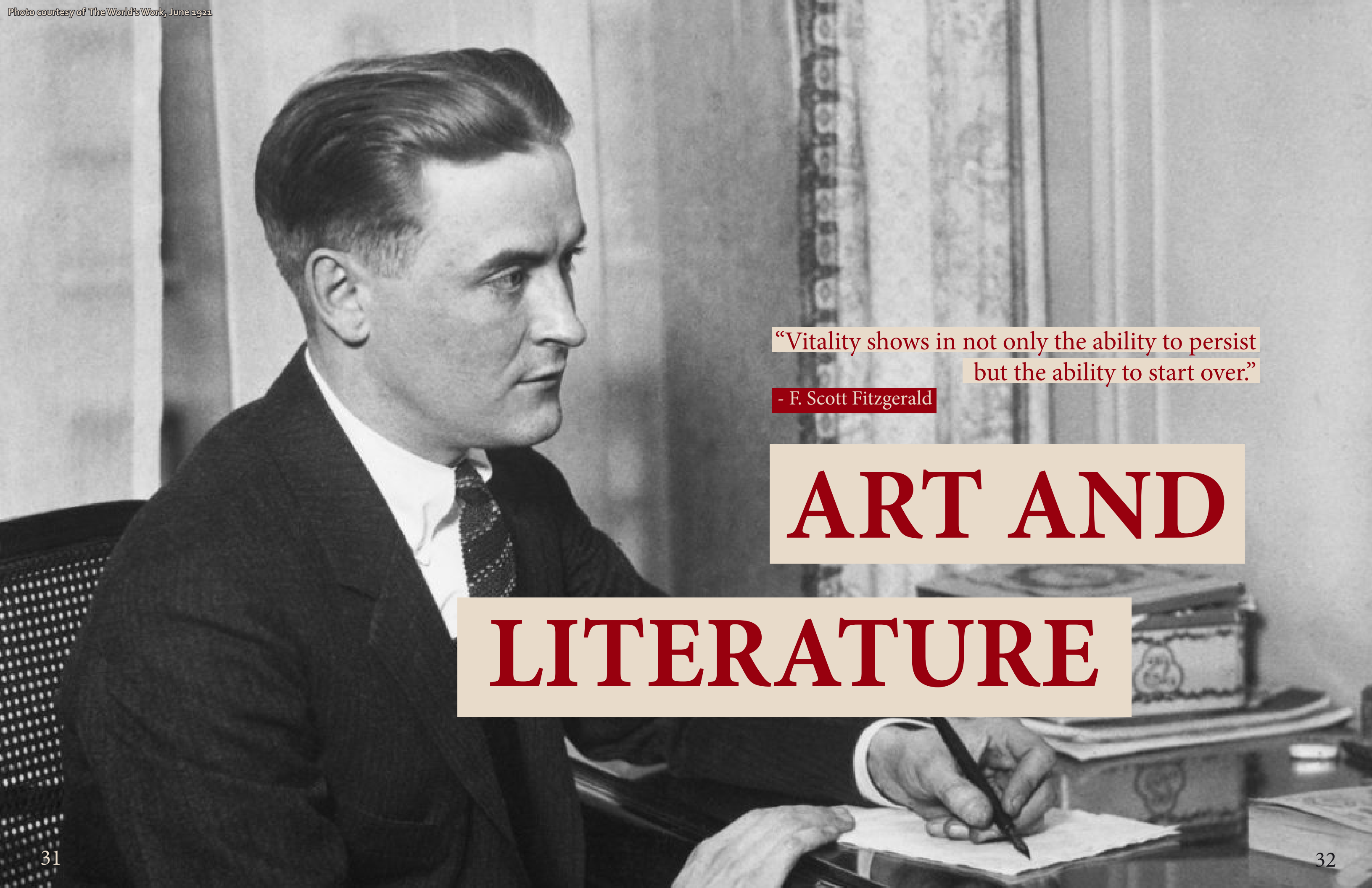
Now that they had a sculptor and a mountain, Robinson and Borglum needed to come up with a design. They had previously discussed going with some fairly well known regional figures, but Borglum wanted more. Eventually, they decided on the four most well known American presidents: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln, representing the first 130 years of American history. Plans for the four carvings include detailed faces and torsos. After a few more years of planning, construction of the monument officially began on October 4th, 1927.

And now we must play the waiting game. Some are thrilled with the idea and are excited to see the outcome, while others scoff at the sheer scale of the idea. Which group do you fall in? ♠



Photo courtesy of The Delineator, 1924





“Vitality shows in not only the ability to persist
but the ability to start over.”

- F. Scott Fitzgerald

ART AND

LITERATURE

The Great Gatsby

Murder, mayhem, and the invention of the Great Gatsby

By: Kara Sousa

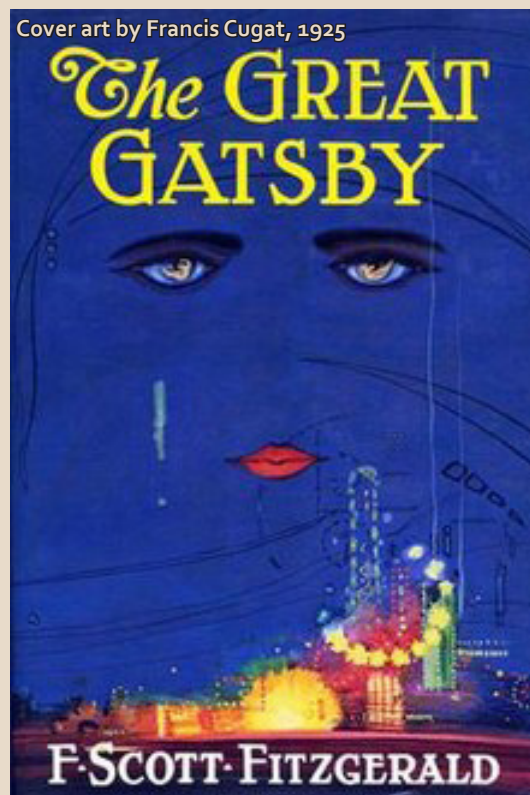
The Great Gatsby is a novel published 3 years ago and written by F. Scott Fitzgerald. The novel is about a man that wishes to be with a woman who cannot love him back. The story summarizes obstacles the main character must avoid to try and live a peaceful life in New York. The main character's name is Nick, You read his thoughts and his actions as if you were in his place, and you see the story through his eyes. Other important characters to name are Gatsby, Daisy Buchanan, Tom Buchanan, Jordan Baker, and Myrtle Wilson. Nick knew Tom in College, and Daisy is his cousin.

As you progress through the story, you watch a man named Gatsby grow. Gatsby is a self-made man who rose to success through working hard to rise in popularity. Gatsby had been a soldier in World War 1 who served for 5 years. Gatsby had met Daisy before he was

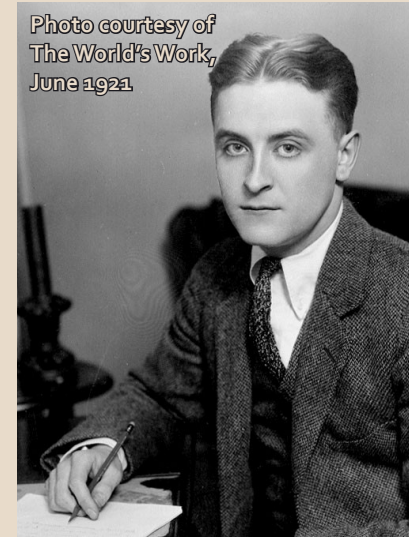
deployed. Gatsby and Daisy went to parties and spent much time together before Gatsby had to leave. Daisy had tried to wait for Gatsby to return from the war, but she married Tom because she couldn't wait anymore.

Tom is having an affair with Myrtle Wilson, who is the wife of George Wilson. George owns a garage in a place called the Valley of Ashes, which is a place in between New York City and the West/East Egg, where

most of the main characters live. Nick, as stated above, is the narrator of this story. Nick lives next to Gatsby in West Egg. Nick lives in a much smaller and cheaper house next to Gatsby's. Gatsby befriended Nick after inviting him to one of the parties he hosted. Gatsby



holds parties on the weekends, and people just show up to them, none of them ever get invited. While at the party, Nick runs into Jordan Baker, who he had previously met at Daisy and Tom's house in East Egg. Jordan and Nick chatted a while and wandered among



the people at the party. Nick didn't even recognize Gatsby the first time he had seen him face to face, as Nick had never seen Gatsby's face. Gatsby and Nick went to lunch with one of Gatsby's friends named Meyer Wolfsheim, who had been a friend of Gatsby since right after the war. During this lunch meeting, Wolfsheim had told Nick a little bit of Gatsby's backstory.

One of the main conflicts throughout the story was Gatsby's love for Daisy, even though she was married to Tom. One of the main reasons he bought his house on West Egg was because the back of it faced Daisy's house. Gatsby had never stopped loving Daisy, even as he was fighting in the war. Gatsby had Nick invite Daisy over to Nick's house for tea so that he could come over and talk to her. After the meeting, the pair reconnected, and Gatsby had Daisy and Nick come over to see his house. Gatsby wanted

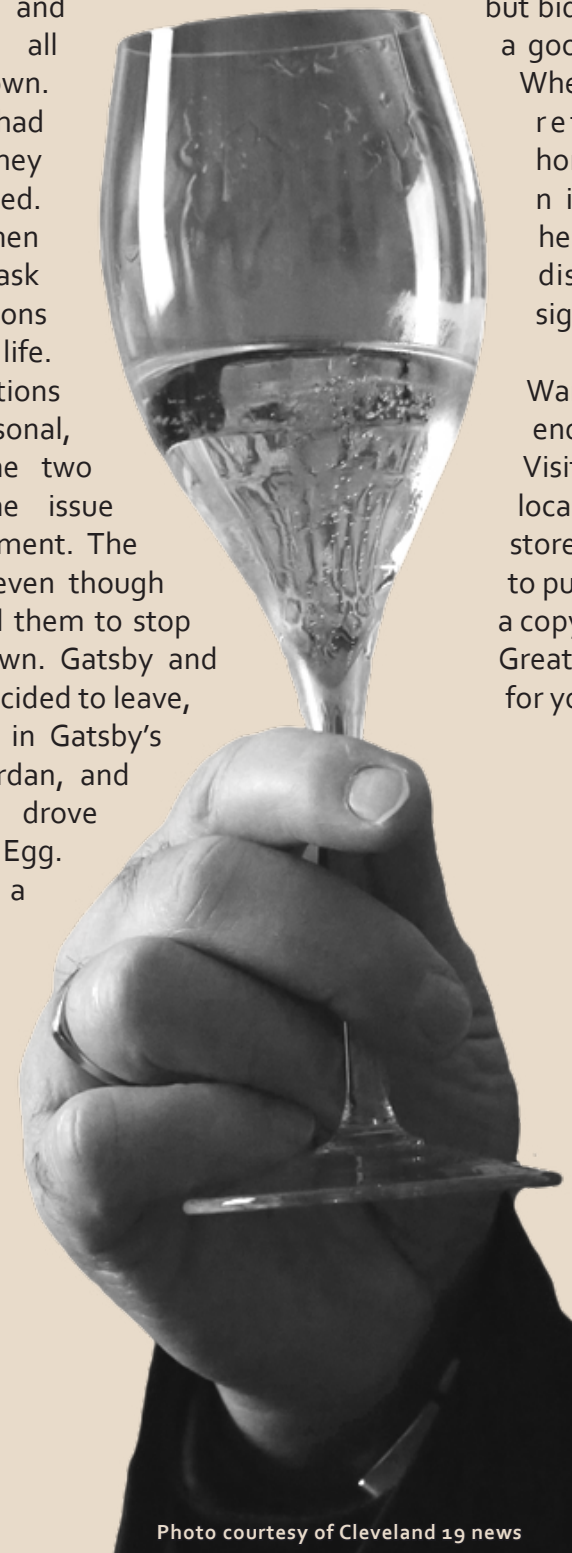
to try and impress Daisy with his wealth and estate. Gatsby had invited Daisy to many of his parties after they reconnected, to which Daisy accepted. Daisy had gone over quite a few times before Tom got curious as to where she was going.

On a hot day, Daisy, Tom, Nick, Gatsby, and Jordan had all gone into town. Everyone had drinks, and they all conversated. Tom then began to ask Gatsby questions about his life. These questions turned personal, and then the two escalated the issue into an argument. The two argued even though Daisy begged them to stop and calm down. Gatsby and Daisy then decided to leave, driving away in Gatsby's car. Nick, Jordan, and Tom then drove back to East Egg. They noticed a commotion from Wilson's

garage, as they passed through the Valley of Ashes. They all got out of the car and realized that someone had died. Nick was driven home and found Gatsby outside. Nick talked to Gatsby, who offered for Nick to join him at his pool the next day. Nick declined due to the fact

he had to work but bid Gatsby a good night. When Nick returned home that night, he saw a disturbing sight.

Want the ending? Visit your local book store today to purchase a copy of The Great Gatsby for yourself!



remember:
this macaroni can be used
every day, like potatoes

Here is a delicious macaroni that blends with even more flavors than do potatoes. Mushrooms, oysters, lamb, bacon, sausages—Beech-Nut Macaroni could justly be called "the macaroni of a hundred flavors".

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Nadja André Breton

By: Shannon Pederson

Andre Breton doesn't care about you; he doesn't care about me;
he doesn't care about his readers. He only cares about Nadja.

But who is Nadja?

And who am I?

This is the question this book opens with. Nadja, a novel published just last year by French author André Breton, does not hesitate to grab you by the lapels of your coat and plunge you headfirst into a surreal, mind-bending story filled with magical descriptions and concepts worthy of making you question your own existence. Nadja was well received by French audiences after its initial release and is only becoming more popular as readers fall for its surrealist aesthetic that many authors are unwilling to explore.

Let's go back to our first question—who is Nadja? To us, Nadja is a mysterious Parisian woman meant to represent the spirit of chance encounters, fleeting, complex, and rewarding relationships most people can only hope to

experience in their lifetime; but to Breton, Nadja is much more. In Breton's eyes, Nadja is the embodiment of his surrealist ideas, a woman who comes to "approach the extreme limit of surrealist aspiration, its furthest determinant" (Breton, pg. 74). What begins as a young woman he met by chance on the streets of Paris becomes

an enigma powerful enough to capture the mind of Breton and encourage him, and I mean literally press him directly, to write a book in an attempt to capture the magic that they had experienced:

"Andre? Andre? ... You will write a novel about me. I'm sure you will. Don't say you won't. Be careful: everything fades, everything vanishes. Something must remain of us..." (Breton, pg. 100)

Curious yet? This book, which is currently only available in French, will be available at the Argosy Bookstore (116 East 59th Street New York, NY) for a limited time. And remember—keep your eyes up today as you make your way to work; you may meet a Nadja of your own without even realizing it. ♠

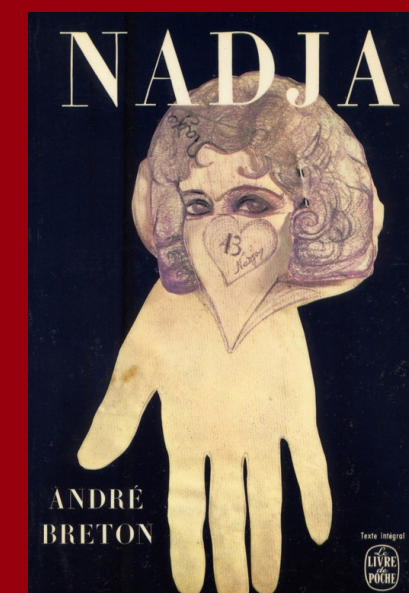


Photo courtesy of Le Livre de Poche, 1928

Thomas Hart Benton

“Painting the Time Away”

By: Addisyn Winker

Thomas Hart Benton was born in Neosho, Missouri on April 15, 1889. He was the firstborn child and would be the oldest of three. Thomas inherited his name from his great, great uncle who happened to be one of the most famous Missouri senators. Thomas’s father was a lawyer and was in the U.S. Attorney of Missouri, he was also elected into U.S. Congress in 1869.

When Thomas was a young child he had a growing interest in drawing, his mother who happened to be an artist herself adored that he was so interested in drawing and his love for art. His father, however, did not approve of this newly found interest. While Thomas was still a child his family moved to Washington D.C. while here Thomas took a liking to all of the artwork that he saw in the streets of

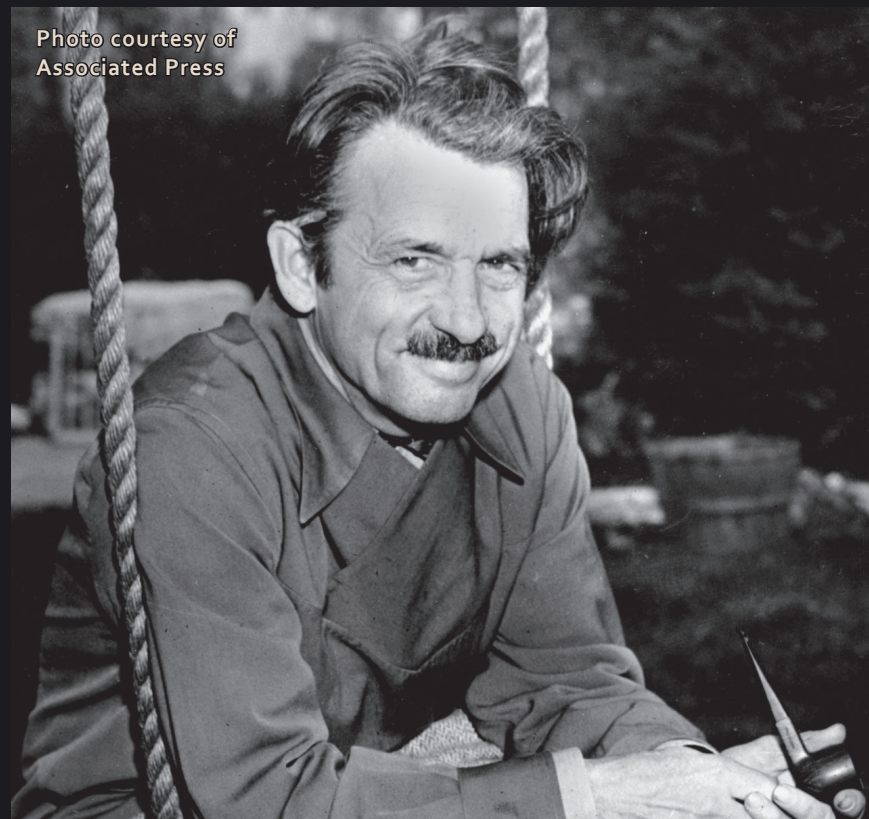


Photo courtesy of Associated Press

the capital city. Although his favorite piece of artwork at that time happened to be the Library of Congress Murals, when he saw all of these he was inspired and wanted to become a mural painter or a muralist.

When Thomas matured he found an interest in reading the Washington Post and he took an interest in the cartoons that he found in the pages of the newspaper. This inspired him to create cartoon-like

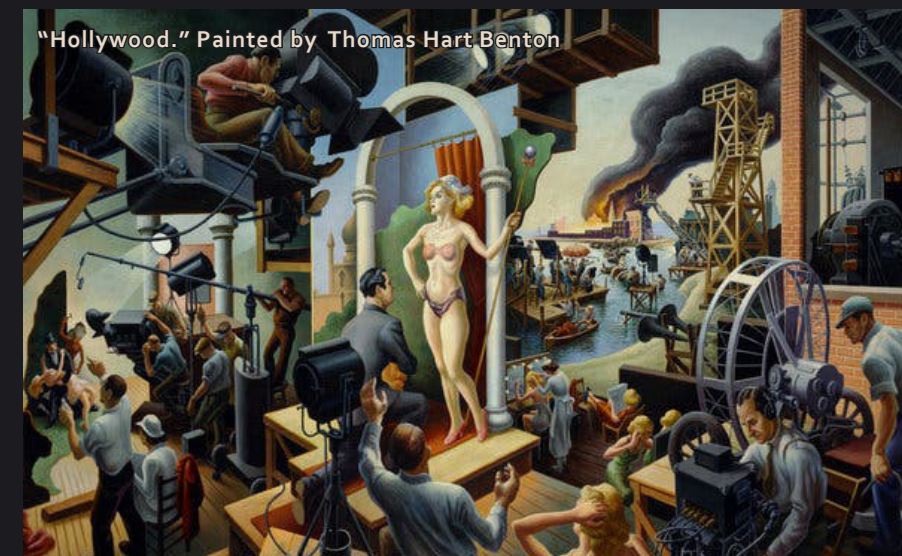
drawings also known as caricatures. In 1904 Thomas and his family returned to Missouri where he became restless and ended up leaving in 1906 to become an artist for a local newspaper in Joplin, Missouri. When he wanted to change things up again and moved to Chicago, Illinois and began to study painting at the Art Institute of Chicago, but Thomas had always wanted to study art in Paris.

When the time came and Thomas had the perfect opportunity he moved to Europe in 1908. Paris, France to be more specific. In Paris Thomas studied art and eventually started to study on his own, while he was studying alone he would go to museums and he would draw the painting that he felt were important to him and the paintings that interested him. While experimenting Thomas found

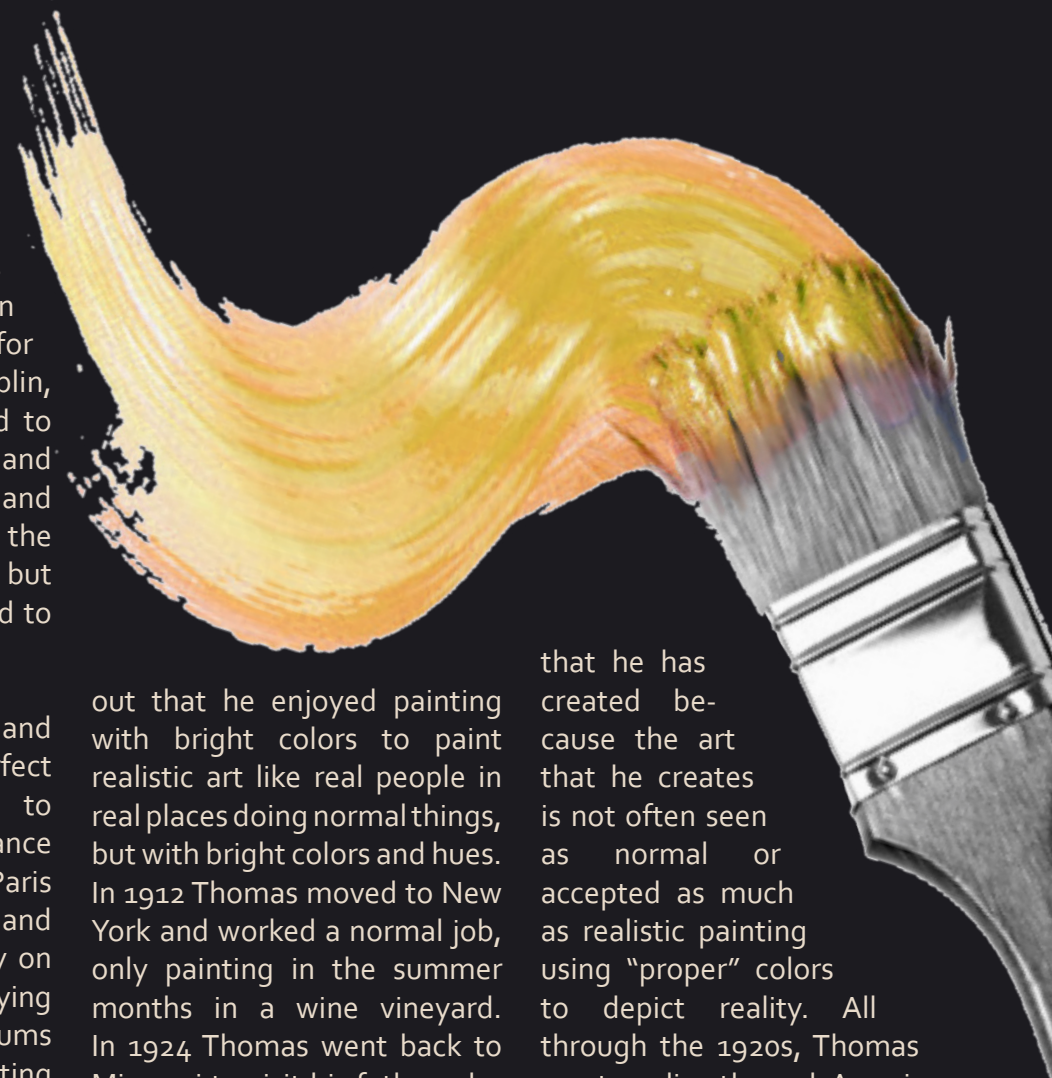
out that he enjoyed painting with bright colors to paint realistic art like real people in real places doing normal things, but with bright colors and hues. In 1912 Thomas moved to New York and worked a normal job, only painting in the summer months in a wine vineyard. In 1924 Thomas went back to Missouri to visit his father who was very sick and dying, after this visit Thomas felt that his life had changed and that he should be proud of the work

that he has created because the art that he creates is not often seen as normal or accepted as much as realistic painting using “proper” colors to depict reality. All through the 1920s, Thomas was traveling through America, painting real-life paintings that used his style of bright colors and different ideas of how a painting could be viewed.

While Thomas was aware that he had people who didn’t like his art this did not stop him from creating what he believed to be as masterpieces. There are also many people who truly enjoy Thomas’s art and this is what motivated him to continue his works. Thomas is still creating many artworks with his intricate style and views of how a real painting can be created. ♠



“Hollywood.” Painted by Thomas Hart Benton



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