

100 Years Ago

Notable Happenings in 1911

Deaths

William S. Gilbert (May 29) - the wordsmith of the famous Gilbert and Sullivan team who produced such famous comic operas as *The Pirates of Penzance* and *The Mikado*.

Carrie Nation (June 9) - a Kentuckian who became a leader in the temperance movement and was famous for entering saloons and smashing up bars with a hatchet.

Joseph Pulitzer (October 29) - Hungarian-born journalist and publisher of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and New York World, he was known as a crusading editor and originator of "yellow" or sensational journalism. The Pulitzer Prize was established according to his wishes posthumously.

Births

Thelma "Butterfly" McQueen (January 7) - played Prissy, Scarlett O'Hara's maid in the film *Gone with the Wind*. Died 1995.

Ronald Reagan (February 6) - actor and the 40th President of the United States. Died 2004.

Tennessee Williams (March 26) - American author born in Columbus, Mississippi. The family moved to St. Louis when Williams was seven and he attended the University of Missouri and Washington University. As a playwright, he won Pulitzer Prizes for Drama for *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. These, along with *The Glass Menagerie*, are considered classics of the American stage. Died 1983.

Hubert H. Humphrey (May 27) - Senator from Minnesota and Vice President of the United States under Lyndon B. Johnson (1965-1969). Died 1978.

Lucille Ball (August 6) - comedienne in film, television, stage, and radio. Her sitcom, *I Love Lucy* (1951-1957), is still shown on cable television. Died 1989.

Roy Rogers (November 5) - cowboy singer and actor. With his wife, Dale Evans, he had a radio cowboy adventure show for nine years and moved the show to television from 1951-1957.

Roy, his horse Trigger, and dog Bullet made more than 100 movies. Died 1998.

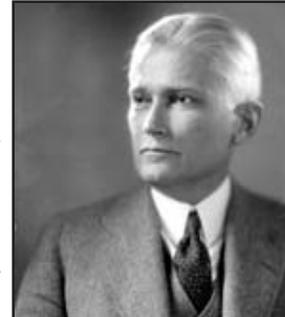
Events

January 18 - Aviator **Eugene B. Ely** lands the first airplane on the deck of a ship.

July 24 - **Hiram Bingham** rediscovers the pre-Columbian Peruvian mountain estate of Machu Picchu. Born in Hawaii (1875-1956) where his father was a missionary, he received degrees from Yale University, University of California at Berkeley, and a Ph. D. in history from Harvard.

While a lecturer in South American history at Yale, he was led by locals to the largely forgotten Inca city of Machu Picchu.

Although not a trained archaeologist, Bingham sent thousands of artifacts back to Yale, including mummies. Yale agreed in 2007 to return the artifacts. Machu Picchu has become one of Peru's biggest tourist attractions and Bingham gets most of the credit. Bingham has been mentioned as one of ten or so people who might be inspiration for the fictional Indiana Jones character.



Hiram Bingham. Courtesy of Library of Congress.

Norwegian **Roald Amundsen** (1872-1928) and five team members were the first to reach the South Pole on the continent of Antarctica, doing so December 14, 1911. In his book *The South Pole*, he attributes



Roald Amundsen. Courtesy of Library of Congress.

success to meticulous planning, which some people call good luck. Poor planning is called bad luck. Part of his planning for provisions called for eating some of the sledge dogs for fresh meat. The discovery team left Framheim, their base camp, with four sledges and 52 dogs on October 19, 1911. They returned to Framheim on January 25 with 11 dogs.

Advances

The **U. S. Postal Savings** was inaugurated on January 3 and by November 3 \$11 million dollars had been deposited.

Charles R. Flint consolidated four companies that made time clocks for businesses into one holding company



This is the county court house of Texas County in Houston, MO as it looked one hundred years ago. The county court had architect Henry H. Hohenschild (1863-1928) extensively renovate the existing 1882 courthouse into the beautiful structure above (see "Ozark Courthouses" in the 2007 *Old Settlers Gazette*). This courthouse burned in December of 1930. Hohenschild designed eleven Missouri court houses, including the 1903 Pulaski County courthouse that is still standing and is a museum today. He also designed several buildings in Rolla, including Jackling Gymnasium at the Missouri School of Mines. He designed an addition to the state penitentiary in 1911 (see "News" in this issue, page 14). Hohenschild was elected State Senator for the 27th District, which included Pulaski and Phelps counties in 1896.

The post card above was mailed from Houston to Kewaskum, Wisconsin, with the message, "Been here about an hour and a half. This is quite a nice country town. Was in to see the school supt on account of exams. B Jost." Sounds like a person looking for a teaching job. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.

Mark C. Prugh
Attorney

called the Computing-Tabulating Recording Co. in Elmira, New York. It became International Business Machines Co. or IBM.

C. F. Kettering's Dayton Engineering Laboratories (Delco) developed the electric self-starter for automobiles and received a contract from Cadillac for 4,000 starters. Untold wrists and arms were saved from being broken by handcranking engines to start.

Frank Winfield Woolworth contracted to build the world's tallest building in New York City which served as world headquarters for his F. W. Woolworth Company for 85 years. The building was completed in 1913 and the \$13.5 million cost was paid for in cash. It is 57 stories or 792 feet in height. The Woolworth Co., now Foot Locker, Inc., sold the building in 1998 for \$155 million.



The Woolworth building, world's tallest from 1913-1930. Courtesy of Library of Congress.

Evalyn Walsh McLean, who at 22 years of age in 1908 eloped with Edward "Ned" McLean, heir of the *Washington Post*, and bought the 94.8-carat Star of the East diamond for \$120,000. Now 25 years old, she bought the 44.5-carat Hope diamond for \$180,000. Her ownership of these "best friends" lasted until her death in 1947.

Missouri was the first state to provide public assistance to mothers of dependent children.

W. C. Durant, former head of General Motors, and **Louis Chevrolet**, racing car driver, join forces and produce the first Chevrolet automobile in New York.

The first **Indianapolis 500** automobile race was held May 30.

Popular songs of the year included: "Alexander's Ragtime Band" by Irving Berlin; "Everybody's Doin' It" by Irving Berlin; "I Want a Girl Just Like the Girl that Married Dear Old Dad" by Harry Von Tilzer; and "Memphis Blues" by W. C. Handy.

The **Philadelphia Athletics** defeated the **New York Giants** in the World Series, four games to two.

Thomas Jennings murdered Clarence B. Hiller and was convicted by a Chicago jury on the basis of fingerprint evidence, a first.

The **U. S. population** reached 94 mil-



Postcard received by Amanda Black at the Black Hotel in 1911. This may be the best extant view of the Lone Star Mill on the Big Piney River, near Houston, MO. At about this time, the mill began generating electricity a few hours a day for nearby Houston. Owned by a local doctor, it was operated and maintained by Fred Dablemont, who, with his family, lived on the premises. The dam was made of vertical logs and rocks. The Amanda Black Postcard Collection is on display at the Old Stagecoach Stop and online at www.oldstagecoachstop.org.

lion.

Stainless steel was patented in America. In a decade, its primary use as cookware began.

At least three familiar food products were introduced during the year: **Mazola Oil**, **Crisco**, and **Domino Sugar**.

The year saw considerable anti-trust activity by the federal government.

John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil Co. was broken into five smaller companies: Esso then Exxon; Chevron; Amoco; Mobil; and Arco. **James B. Duke's** tobacco monopoly American Tobacco Co. became American Tobacco, P. Lorillard, Liggett & Myers, R. J. Reynolds, and British-American Tobacco Co.

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