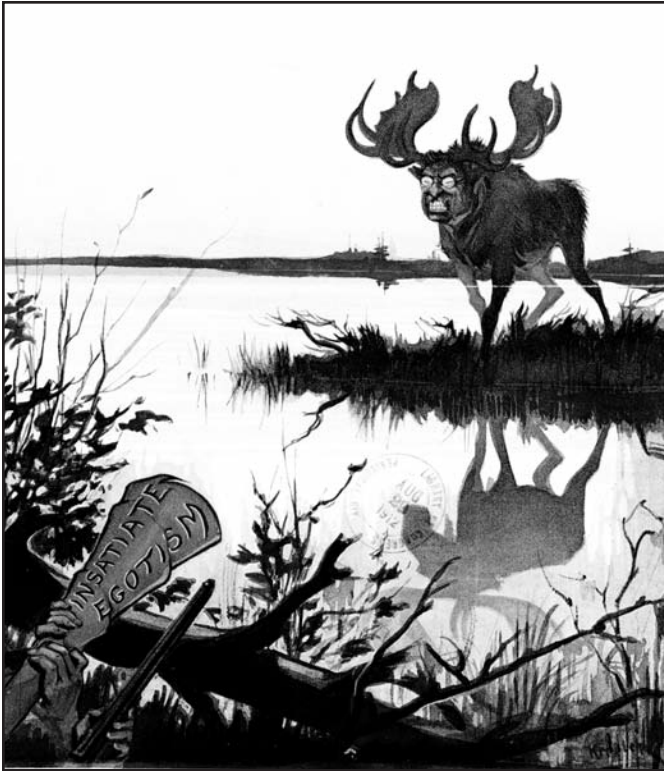


# 100 Years Ago

The years 1912 and 2012 share some similarities. Both were leap years and election years. There was political discord within the Republican Party, giving rise to the Bull Moose Party and its Presidential contender, two-term ex-President Teddy Roosevelt (1900-1908), after the Republican Convention in Chicago denied its imprimatur for his candidacy. Cartoon (right) from *Puck Magazine*, Library of Congress.

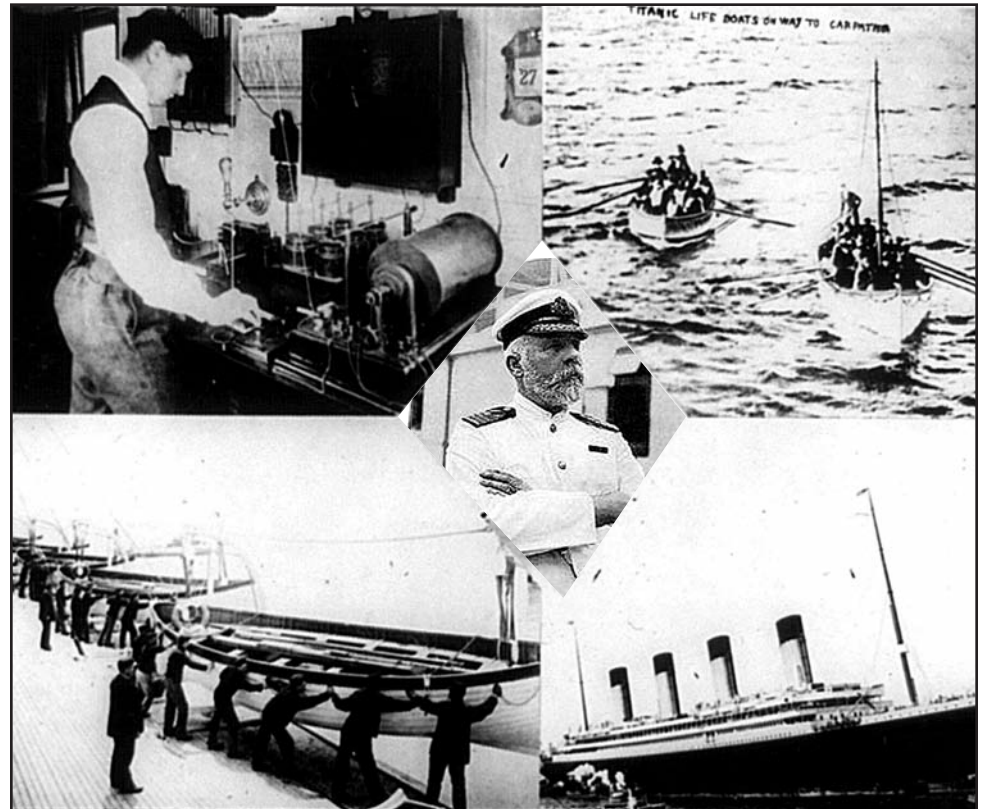


The top song of 1912 was "That



Haunting Melody" by Al Jolson with a close second of "Moonlight Bay" by the

American Quartet. Jolson and Enrico Caruso were the top single male vocalists of the year. Jolson had another hit in the top five with "Ragging the Baby to Sleep" at number three. Caruso placed fourth with "Love is Mine." At left is a monocled Jolson on a cruise ship in the Roarin' Twenties. Image courtesy of the Library of Congress.



*Titanic* collage, clockwise from lower left: lifeboat drill; telegraph operator aboard *Titanic* sending distress call; lifeboats heading to the rescue ship *Carpathia*; *RMS Titanic*; (center) Captain Edward J. Smith. Library of Congress.

Certainly the signature disaster of 1912 was the April sinking of the *Titanic* in the North Atlantic with 2,223 people on board and lifeboats with a capacity of only 1,178. The icy waters claimed the lives of 1,517 persons. The fatalities were disproportionately men, as the maxim "women and children first" to

the lifeboats was strictly followed. The cruise ship *Costa Concordia* foundered off the coast of Italy in January of 2012. Citizens worldwide were angry when the captain hastily left the sinking ship, unlike Captain Smith of the *Titanic*, who went down with his.

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It was announced in March that Roald Amundsen, a Norwegian polar region explorer, had reached the South Pole. Amundsen originally planned to plant the flag of Norway on the North Pole but was beaten to it by Frederick Cook and Robert Peary in 1909. He set out for the South Pole in June of 1910, reaching the Ross Ice Shelf in Antarctica in January of 1911 and the South Pole on December 14, 1911. His achievement was announced when he returned to Hobart, Australia on March 7, 1912.



Roald Amundsen, 1872-1928. Courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Amundsen died in 1928 while on a rescue mission looking for aviators who were missing after flying over the South Pole.

Baseball was certainly the national pastime by the summer of 1912. Most communities fielded a team and the newspapers reported the local contests. The Boston Red Sox bested the New York Giants in the World Series in Game 8, with Game 2 declared a tie. Ty Cobb of Detroit and Heinie Zimmerman of the Chicago Cubs had the high-



Edd Ingram, early 20th century Edgar Springs photographer, took this picture of a baseball team, most likely in Phelps or Pulaski County, ca. 1912. Early baseball mitts are in evidence and all players did not use a glove. For additional Edd Ingram images, see "Vintage Image Gallery" at [www.OldStagecoachStop.org](http://www.OldStagecoachStop.org). Courtesy of the Kohenskey family.

est batting averages, with .402 and .372 respectively.

New Mexico became the 47th state of the Union in January. The following month Arizona became the 48th state.

Federal employees were granted an eight hour work day. Most workers in

private industry worked a 10-12 hour day and six day weeks.

The manufacturing of Lysol, a German disinfectant, was begun in the U. S.

**Notable Deaths**

**Clara Barton**, founder of the American Red Cross, April 12.

**Bram Stoker**, author of Dracula, April 20.

**Wilbur Wright**, along with brother Orville, aviation pioneer, May 30.

**Notable Births**

**Charles Addams**, cartoonist, January 7.

**Pat Nixon**, First Lady, March 16.

**Karl Malden**, actor, March 22.

**Wernher Von Braun**, rocket scientist, March 23.

**Ben Hogan**, golfer, May 14.

**Studs Terkel**, writer and broadcaster, May 18.

**Perry Como**, singer, May 18.

**Jay Silverheels**, actor (Tonto in *The Lone Ranger*), June 26.

**Woody Guthrie**, musician, July 14.

**Art Linkletter**, television host, July 17.


**Julia Child**, TV chef, August 15.

**Gene Kelly**, actor, August 23.

**Pope John Paul I**, October 17.

**Minnie Pearl**, humorist, October 25.


**Lady Bird Johnson**, First Lady, December 22.



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a  
good ride.**

**1974 - 2012**

**Judge Tracy L.  
and  
Linda Storie**



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