

100 Years Ago

NOTABLE NATIONAL EVENTS

Jeannette Rankin (1880-1973) was the first woman to hold national office. She was elected to the House of Representatives by the state of Montana as a Republican, taking office in 1917. In 1940, she was reelected to a second term. She was a lifelong pacifist, proving that by being one of 50 members in the House to vote against the war declaration in 1917 and the only member of Congress to vote against declaring war on Japan in 1941.



The **Lions Clubs International** was founded by Melvin Jones, successful Chicago insurance agency owner, in 1917. "Lions" is an acronym for Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nations' Safety. The Club is a secular service organization. The focus of the more than 46,000 local clubs in over 200 countries includes sight, hearing, and speech conservation, as well as diabetes awareness.

The **National Hockey League** was organized on November 26, 1917, in Montreal with four Canadian teams, thus the "national" in the name. League expansion brought in the Boston Bruins in 1924. The



league now has 30 teams, with 23 in the United States and the remaining 7 in Canada. The winner of the league playoff series is awarded the Stanley Cup, the oldest professional North American sports trophy.

After two and a half years of steering the United States on a course of neutrality, **President Woodrow Wilson** addressed a joint session of Congress on April 2, 1917, and asked for a declaration of war against the German Empire, arguing it would make



General Pershing

"the world safe for democracy." On April 4, Congress passed such a declaration and President Wilson signed the declaration on April 6. The American Expeditionary Force on the Western Front was put under the command of Missouriian **General John J. Pershing**.

The first Pulitzer Prizes were awarded. **Joseph Pulitzer** was a Hungarian immigrant who started his journalistic career in St. Louis with the *Westliche Post*, then bought the *St. Louis Dispatch* and *St. Louis Post*, merging them into the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* in 1879. In 1883 he bought the *New York World*. The prizes were established by Joseph Pulitzer in his will and administered by Columbia University; they recognize achievements in literature, poetry, drama, history, and music.

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NOTABLE DEATHS

William Frederick "Buffalo Bill" Cody died on January 10, 1917, at the age of 71 years. At the age of 14, he became a rider for the



short-lived Pony Express. During the Civil War, he was a scout for the Union Army's Seventh Kansas Cavalry. He hunted buffalo for the Kansas Pacific work crews in 1867 where he acquired his nickname. He again scouted for the U.

S. Army in 1876 during the Plains Indians encounters. Cody created his Wild West show in 1883 and for thirty years mounted the extravagant production in the United States and Europe.

Margaretha Geertruida "Margreet" Zelle McCleod was born in 1876. She was a Dutch exotic dancer and was better known by her stage name, **Mata Hari**. She was executed by a firing squad in France for spying for the Germans during World War I.



Rankin, Pershing, and Kennedy images courtesy Library of Congress. Others courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.

NOTABLE BIRTHS

John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the 35th President of the United States, was born on May 29, 1917, in Brookline, Massachusetts. His short tenure as president, less than three years, was marked by several historic events, including the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Bay of Pigs, and strides for the Civil Rights Movement. He was assassinated on November 22, 1963, at the age of 46.

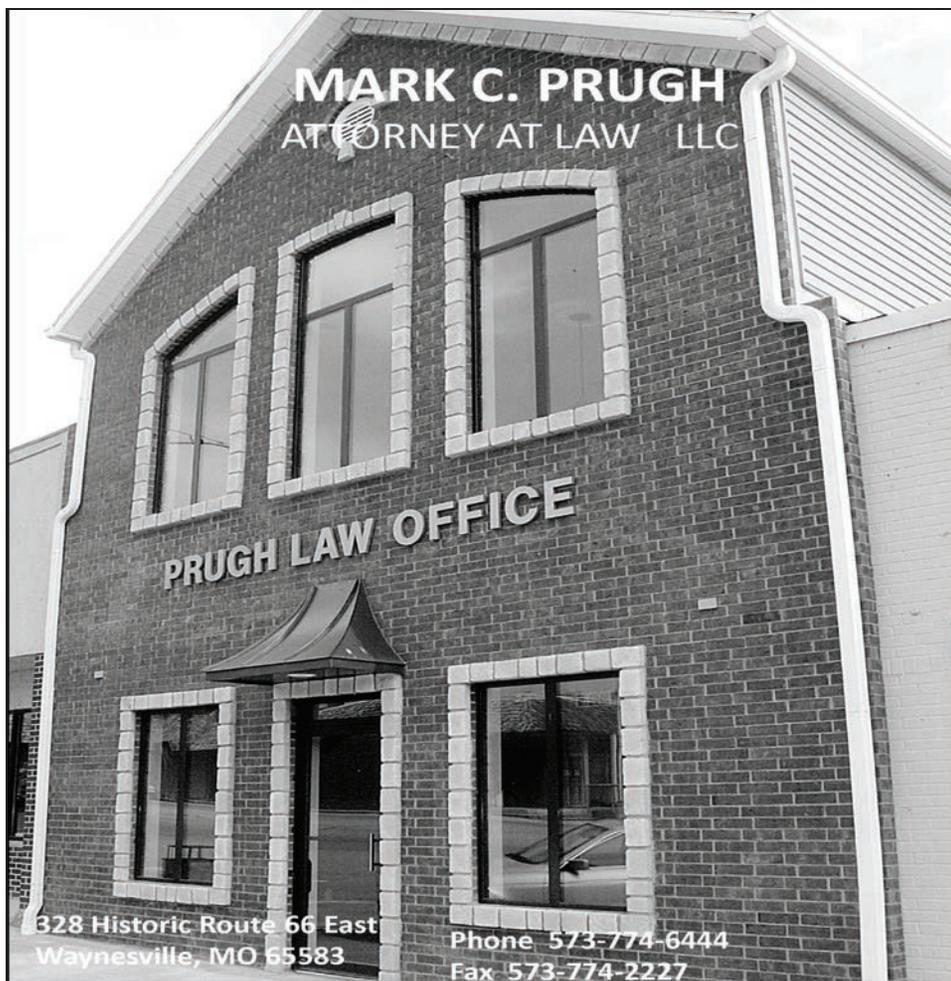


Dean Martin, whose given name was Dino Paul Crocetti, was born June 7, 1917, in Steubenville, Ohio. He was a crooner and nicknamed the "King of Cool." He was the

straight man of the Martin and Lewis comedy team, hosted two television programs that ran from 1965 until 1985, and starred in several motion pictures.



Don Herbert, known as Mr. Wizard, was born on July 10, 1917. He grew up in Minnesota. His college education was disrupted by WWII. Herbert became a decorated B-24 bomber pilot. He was an early innovator of science and technology television and hosted science demonstration shows beginning with *Watch Mr. Wizard* from 1951-1965.



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