

Time Line 1900 - 1909

1900

- William McKinley Re-elected as President

President McKinley defeats Jennings Bryan

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/williammckinley>

- Foraker Act

The U.S. Congress passes the Foraker Act, establishing a civilian government in Puerto Rico under U.S. control. The Foraker Act provided for an elected House of Representatives on the island, but not for a vote in Washington. In 1898, Spain had ceded Puerto Rico to the U.S. with the Treaty of Paris, ending the Spanish-American War.

1901

- McKinley Assassinated

After his second inauguration in March of 1901, McKinley embarked on a tour of western states, where he was greeted by cheering crowds. The tour ended in Buffalo, New York, where he gave a speech on September fifth in front of 50,000 people at the Pan-American Exposition.

The following day, McKinley was standing in a receiving line at the exposition when an unemployed Detroit mill worker named Leon Czolgosz shot him twice in the chest at point-blank range. (Czolgosz, an anarchist, later admitted to the shooting and claimed to have killed the President because he was the “enemy of the people.” He was executed in October 1901.) McKinley was rushed to a Buffalo hospital and initially received a hopeful prognosis, but gangrene set in around his wounds and he died eight days later, Vice President Theodore Roosevelt succeeds him.

- Theodore Roosevelt Becomes the 26th President

His foreign policy was “Speak softly and carry a big stick.”

- Tallulah Bankhead is Born

The famous star of stage, screen, and radio in the 1930s, '40s, and 50's is born in Huntsville, Alabama

- Lionel Electric Train Invented

Joshua Lionel Cowen, an inventive guy, had always been interested in trains. He fitted a small motor under a model of a railroad flatcar, powered by a battery on 30 inches of track and the Lionel electric train was born. The first Lionel train was designed to attract window-shopping New Yorkers using the power of animated display. Since its humble beginning Lionel has sold more than 50 million train sets and today produces more

- than 300 miles of track yearly.
- Alabama's Archival Agency Created
Trustees of Alabama Department of Archives and History organize the nation's first state archival agency.
 - New Alabama Constitution Ratified
Substantial numbers of black and white voters are disenfranchised.
<http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/face/Article.jsp?id=h-2925>

1902

- First Rose Bowl Game
On January 1st the University of Michigan and Stanford University play in the first Rose Bowl
- First Open Heart Surgery Report
The New York Medical Record publishes an account of Dr. Luther Leonidas Hill, a physician in Montgomery, Alabama performing the first open heart surgery in the western hemisphere when he sutured a knife wound in a young boy's heart. Dr. Hill was the father of Alabama politician and U.S. Senator Lister Hill.
<https://ieonline.microsoft.com/#ieslice>
- The Teddy Bear for Children is Born
In November of 1902 President Theodore Roosevelt, often called Teddy Roosevelt, was on a hunting trip in Mississippi while trying to settle a boundary dispute between Mississippi and Louisiana. Being an accomplished outdoorsman, he liked to bag big game. However, his hunt was going poorly that day, and he couldn't find anything worthy of discharging his rifle. His staff, trying to accommodate him, captured a Louisiana black bear cub for the President to shoot, but he could not shoot him. The thought of shooting a bear tied to a tree did not seem sporting, so he spared the life of the bear and set it free. The link below gives a slightly different story and also tells how Morris Michtom made a stuffed bear which led to his forming the Ideal Toy Company and selling thousands of "Teddy Bears."
<http://www.theodoreroosevelt.org/site/c.eIKSIdOWIiJ8H/b.8684621/k.6632/>

[Real Teddy Bear Story.htm](#)

1903

- The Ford Motor Company is formed
- The First World Series is played
The Boston Americans and the Pittsburgh Pirates played the first World Series.
- Canal Treaty Signed

The Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty (Canal Treaty) is signed, giving the U.S. rights to build a canal on the Panamanian isthmus for \$10 million dollars and annual payment of \$250,000.

http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Panama_Canal.aspx

- First Powered Flight

The Wright brothers made their first powered flight in the Wright Flyer.

<http://www.wright->

[brothers.org/Information_Desk/Just_the_Facts/Airplanes/Flyer_I.htm](http://www.wright-brothers.org/Information_Desk/Just_the_Facts/Airplanes/Flyer_I.htm)

1904

- Teddy Roosevelt Re-elected as President

- Panama Canal Zone Surveyed

A small United States work-force arrives in Panama to survey, plan and continue the excavation of the area to build the Panama Canal begun by the French. Colonel William Crawford Gorgas of Alabama begins elimination of scourges of yellow fever and malaria in Panama Canal Zone.

<http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/contagion/panamacanal.html>

http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Panama_Canal.aspx

- Birmingham's Vulcan Statue Created

Sculptor Guiseppe Moretti creates an iron statue of Vulcan to represent Alabama industry and Birmingham at the St. Louis World's Fair.

<http://www.roadsideamerica.com/story/2011>

- King C. Gillette Invents Disposable Razor

<http://www.celebrateboston.com/first/safety-razor.htm>

- Russo-Japanese War Begins

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/514017/Russo-Japanese-War>

1905

- World's Largest Diamond is found in South Africa

<http://famousdiamonds.tripod.com/cullinandiamonds.html>

- Albert Einstein Introduces Relativity Theory

<http://www.allaboutscience.org/theory-of-relativity.htm>

1906

- American Troops Intervene in Cuba

<http://vi.uh.edu/pages/buzzmat/htdtisplatt.html>

- William Kellogg Begins Selling Cornflakes

- San Francisco Experiences Major Earthquake

<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/regional/nca/1906/18april/index.php>

1907

- Tennessee Coal and Iron Company in Birmingham purchased by U.S. Steel.

- Oklahoma Admitted to the Union as 46th State

- First Piloted Helicopter Invented

<http://inventors.about.com/od/hstartinventions/a/helicopter.htm>

1908

- William Howard Taft elected 27th President (1909-1913)
- Tea Bags are Produced and Sold
- First Model T is Sold by Ford for \$825.00

<http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/ford.htm>

- Earthquake kills 150,000 in southern Italy and Sicily

1909

- American Troops Intervene in Nicaragua
- Wright Brothers, Orville and Wilbur, Establish “Flying School”
The school was put on land outside of Montgomery, Alabama (present site of Maxwell Air Force Base) six years after their first flights.
- William Taft is elected as 27th US President

<http://www.biography.com/people/william-howard-taft-9501184>