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Headlines in History

May 9, 1960

FDA approves "the pill," the world's first commercially produced birth control

1974

House votes to initiate impeachment proceedings against President Nixon

May 10, 1969

Transcontinental railroad completed, unifying United States

2002

Robert Hanssen, FBI agent turned Russian spy, is sentenced to life in prison

1877

Rutherford B. Hayes has first phone installed in the White House

May 11, 1981

Reggae star Bob Marley dies at age 36

1947

B.F. Goodrich Co. announces development of tubeless tire

1987

"Butcher of Lyon," former Nazi

Gestapo chief, charged with war crimes

May 12, 1932

Kidnapped Lindbergh baby found dead

1903

Teddy Roosevelt's trip to San Francisco captured on film

May 13, 1958

Vice President Nixon attacked by angry crowd in Caracas, Venezuela

1981

Pope John Paul II shot in Rome's St. Peter's Square

May 14, 1973

America's first space station, Skylab, is launched

1998

Frank Sinatra dies of a heart attack in Los Angeles at age 82

May 15, 1937

Madeleine Albright, America's first female secretary of state, is born in Prague, Czechoslovakia

1972

Alabama governor George Wallace shot at outdoor rally in Maryland

Woodrow Wilson proclaims the first Mother's Day holiday

May 9, 1914

On May 9, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson issued a presidential proclamation that officially established the first national Mother's Day holiday to celebrate American mothers.

The idea for a "Mother's Day is credited by some to Julia Ward Howe (1892) and by others to Anna Jarvis (1907), who both suggested a holiday dedicated to a day of peace. Many individual states celebrated Mother's Day by 1911, but it was not until Wilson lobbied Congress in 1914 that Mother's Day was officially set on the second Sunday of every May. In his first Mother's Day proclamation, Wilson stated that the holiday offered a chance to "publicly express our love and reverence for the mother's of our country."

Anna Jarvis, who had no children of her own, conceived of Mother's Day as an occasion for honoring the sacrifices individual mothers made for their children.

In May 1908, she organized the first official Mother's Day events at a church in her hometown of Grafton, West Virginia, as well as at a Wanamaker's department store in Philadelphia, where she lived at the time. Jarvis then began writing letters to newspapers and politicians pushing for the adoption of Mother's Day as an official holiday.

By 1912, many other churches, towns and states were holding Mother's Day celebrations, and Jarvis had established the Mother's Day International Association. Her hard-fought campaign paid off in 1914 when President Wilson signed a bill to officially establish the holiday.

Jarvis' conceived Mother's Day as an intimate occasion - a son or daughter honoring the mother they knew and loved - and not a celebration of all mothers. For this reason she always stressed the singular "Mother's" rather than the plural. She soon grew disillusioned, as Mother's Day almost immediately became centered on the buying and giving of printed cards, flowers, candies and other gifts.

Seeking to regain control of the holiday she founded, Jarvis began openly campaigning against those who profited from Mother's Day, including confectioners, florists and other retailers. She launched numerous lawsuits against groups using the name Mother's Day, and eventually spent much of her sizable inheritance on legal fees.

In 1925, when an organization called the American War Mothers used Mother's Day as an occasion for fundraising and selling carnations, Jarvis crashed their convention in Philadelphia and was arrested for disturbing the peace. Later she even attacked First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt for using Mother's Day as an occasion to raise money for charity. By the 1940s, Jarvis had disowned the holiday altogether, and even actively lobbied the government to see it removed from the calendar.

Her efforts were to no avail, however, as Mother's Day had taken on a life of its own as a commercial gold mine. Largely destitute, and unable to profit from the massively successful holiday she founded, Jarvis died in 1948 in Philadelphia's Marshall Square Sanitarium.

The sad history of Mother's Day founder Anna Jarvis had done nothing to slow down the popularity - and commercialism - of the holiday. According to an annual spending survey conducted by the National Retail Federation, Americans spent an average of \$168.94 on Mother's Day in 2013, a whopping 11 percent increase from 2012.

In total, Mother's Day spending exceeds \$20 billion each year, according to the National Retail Federation. In addition to the more traditional gifts (ranging from cards, flowers and candy to clothing and jewelry), one survey showed that an unprecedented 14.1 percent of gift-givers plan to buy their moms high-tech gadgets like smart phones and tablets.

2009

Clinton County News Headlines

May 7, 2009... Volume 59... #29

Park Board to hire part-time employee

The Clinton County Park Board met in regular session last week with eight members present and a brief agenda to consider.

Busy activity at the park and help needed to man the concession stand during game nights and other events, prompted the board to consider hiring a part-time employee. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by board member Vince Ostertag to hire a person to work four hours per night on game nights at minimum wage for the remainder of the busiest part of the season. The motion passed by unanimous vote. Park Director Bobby Reneau will find a person to fill the position.

Tennis teams pick up wins against Monticello and Cumberland County

The Clinton County Racket Dawgs faced two opponents last week as both the girls and boys' teams faced Monticello and Cumberland County.

On Tuesday, April 28, Clinton County faced Monticello in what ended up with the girls' team winning five matches and picking up only one loss.

Melanie Jones, Seycelle Grider, Jade Bowlin and Danielle Brown all picked up wins in singles competition, while Bowlin and Courtney Talbott teamed up to take a win in doubles play. The only loss in the match was Amber Harper and Brittany Talbott as they were defeated 6-1.

On the boys' side against Monticello, Clinton County swept the Trojans with nine wins and zero losses. The only close match in singles competition was with William Cox who defeated Monticello's Blake Edwards in a tie breaker, 7-6.

In doubles play, the team of Matt Smith and Jared Hunter won 6-1, Glen England and Kolby Smith picked up the 6-4 win and Blake Smith and Nathan Collins won 3-2 by forfeit.

On Thursday, April 30, Clinton County faced Cumberland County, picking up 11 wins on the boys' side and 10 wins on the girls' side. Clinton County's Cox took the team's only defeat, 7-5, for the boys' team.

Against Cumberland County, the girls' team swept the Lady Panthers 10-0 in both singles and doubles play.

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