

Changing America

- Approximately 8,500 women received college degrees, up from 2,500 in 1890.
- Introduced and developed by Thomas Edison, 35mm film became the accepted film size for movie-making.
- Jell-O, the wildly popular packaged gelatin food, advertised itself as “the American dessert.”
- The average price of a beef steer was \$6.80, up from \$5.15 at the turn of the century.
- The Niagara Movement joined with white liberals to form the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; leaders included W. E. B. Du Bois, John Dewey, Lincoln Steffens, Clarence Darrow and Rabbi Stephen Wise.
- During the previous five years, 4.9 million immigrants came to America.
- Former President Teddy Roosevelt recommended that the Pearl Harbor Naval Station in Hawaii be used to defend the United States against the Japanese.
- The incandescent light was beginning to replace the carbide flame jets used for automobile headlights.
- A Broadway play titled *The Melting Pot* examined the disappearance of Jewish tradition when Jews became assimilated into the New World.
- A bison refuge was created near Boise, Idaho.
- Wilbur Wright designed an airplane for the United States Army that carried two passengers and reached a top speed of 40 miles per hour.
- U.S. President Howard Taft’s salary was increased from \$50,000 a year to \$75,000.

“Because You’re a Jew,” by Sydney Reid, *The Independent*, November 26, 1909:

Some little time ago, a very bright Southern lady, writing in the columns of *The Independent*, twitted us of the North because, while we held up our hands in horror at evidences of what we called race prejudice displayed by Southern folks against the Negroes, we ourselves were entertaining what, she insisted, was quite as virulent and much more absurd race prejudice against highly intellectual, highly polished and entirely harmless people called Jews. . . .

Listen to the voice of a leading Rabbi of Brooklyn, who has made a study of anti-Jewish feeling among Gentiles:

“In spite of the fact that many of the great department stores are owned by Hebrews and patronized chiefly by Gentiles, I hear that there is a little commercial prejudice against Jews—that many Gentiles say, ‘We won’t go to a Jew store.’ But the leading manifestations of anti-Judaism are social—the fraternal societies particularly—societies whose very foundation is the promotion of universal brotherhood make use of all sorts of excuses to keep out Jews. Most Masonic lodges keep out Jews, though there are some lodges that are almost entirely composed of our people, thus segregating them from the general brotherhood

of Masons. So it is throughout the other fraternities, and though we have fraternities of our own, we find it mortifying and humiliating that we are excluded from the general social body.

“Jews are admitted into the great colleges and universities of the country. In fact, so far as the authorities are concerned—the faculties and university officials—I never heard of a case of discrimination. They set a good example of liberality. But among the students it is different. They draw aloof from their Jewish comrade, and to a greater or lesser extent, send him to Coventry. He finds he can’t get into the fraternities. He finds he can’t get on the athletic teams, no matter how competent an athlete. He doesn’t like that at all, for he has the same social instincts as others. But if he inquires why, and manages to secure from any quarter an honest answer, it is ‘Because you’re a Jew.’

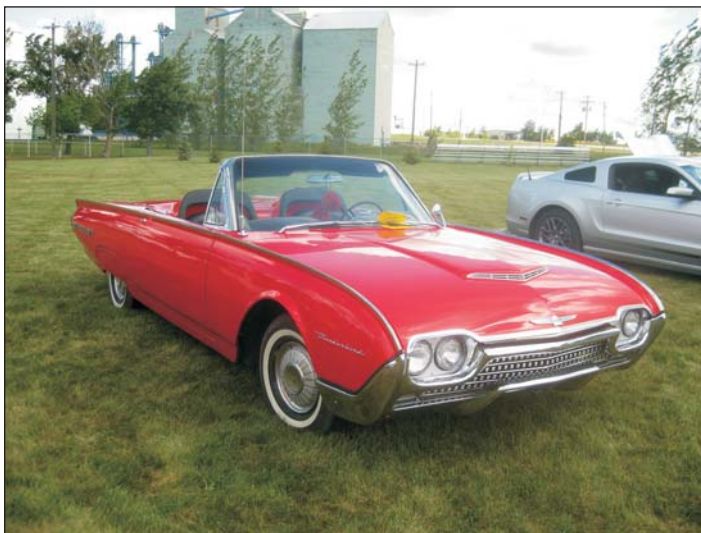
“Many of the leading private schools refuse outright to receive young Jews as pupils, and others again will take them if their names are not ‘too Jewy. . . .’ The school would admit any young Jews whose names might be Gentile Germana, or Russian, or English, but not a Levi, a Cohen, a Moses or a Solomon.”

- One of the more memorable films they saw was *My Fair Lady* with Audrey Hepburn that Margaret loved and Ricky would've liked more if Jane Fonda starred in it.
- During his high school years, Ricky attended Wichita Collegiate School, that opened in 1963 and tolerated his time there.
- He earned decent enough grades to not stand out for doing too well or too poorly.
- His average grades were often a cause for argument between Ricky and his father who believed Ricky was capable of doing just as well as Joseph if he applied himself more.



As a young boy, Ricky didn't like school much. Photo via iStock.com/George Marks. [Used under license.]

- Ricky's mother often came to his defense which helped dissipate the tension.
- Ricky's lack of responsibility became a frequent argument between him and his father.
- With Joseph pursuing a future in law, Ricky was left to learn the ropes of the family business at Voss Oil.
- Two of Ricky's favorite bands were The Beach Boys and The Rolling Stones.
- Much to the dismay of Ricky, his father pushed him to join the school's debate team.
- His stubborn and argumentative nature served him well in the debate team and he won more debates than lost.
- Though Ricky had no interest in flying planes or becoming a pilot, he was fascinated by airplanes and how Wichita was a hub for air travel.
- He would often take Margaret to sit in the parking lot of a strategically placed restaurant that would allow them to watch the plane departures from the Wichita Mid-Continent Airport.
- While Ricky didn't know what he wanted to do with his future, what he did know was that he strongly disliked the constant comparisons his father made of him to Joseph.



Ricky's dreams of going to the drive-in movie theater were smashed when he totalled his father's 1962 Ford Thunderbird. Photo by dave_7, via Wikimedia Commons.

- When Ricky got his driver's license a few weeks following his sixteenth birthday, he couldn't wait to drive himself and friends to the drive-in theater.
- His father gave Ricky his 1962 Ford Thunderbird which quickly became Ricky's favorite possession.
- Pride doesn't always equate to safety because by the end of the school year, Ricky was involved in a car accident which totalled the car.
- His mother's defense didn't do much to aid Ricky from his father's anger for his irresponsibility.

1989: Amusement park worker

Ben Walker was 16-years-old when he started working at Six Flags Great Adventure Park near his house in New Jersey. He wished he worked the roller coaster instead of the ring toss, but at least he was making money for a Sega Genesis gaming system.

Life at Home

- Benjamin Walker was born November 30, 1972 to Tracy and Reginald, a nurse and a science teacher.
- His twin brothers, Michael and Matthew, were born when he was 6.
- The family lived in South Carolina, 15 minutes from the beach, for most of Ben's life. When his grandfather passed away in 1988, they moved closer to Tracy's family in New Jersey.
- Ben has fond memories of his family home in South Carolina.
- On Saturday mornings he was woken up bright and early to the smell of his father cooking breakfast for the family and the sound of Earth, Wind & Fire or Aretha Franklin on the boom box.
- He was a gifted student and excelled in science and math, often watching science documentaries or *Star Wars* on their small living room TV.
- On Saturdays, Ben often took his brothers to the local arcade, with an important goal in mind.
- At the arcade, Ben walked straight to the Space Invaders machine, and placed a stack of quarters atop the game to notify the other players that this machine was his.
- Occasionally, he peeked out from his spot to make sure his brothers were still within sight.
- Ben was trying to win back his top spot on the leader board, an honor that was his for only two weeks before some out of town kid knocked him out of the spot.
- On the day he won the top spot back, the other gamers gathered around to watch him play.
- Ben was charming and funny and could hold a stimulating conversation with nearly anyone, except, of course, girls he had crushes on.
- Ben wasn't thrilled about moving to New Jersey halfway through high school.
- His friends were in South Carolina, his favorite beach was in South Carolina, and



Ben Walker. Photo via iStock.com/Stígur Már Karlsson /Heimsmýndir. [Used under license.]

- Klara loved Lola, but it was Elias who was always spending time with her, taking her out on walks and runs.
- The four kids attended Washburn High School, going to and from school with Elias.
- At school, Klara played soccer and badminton.
- Zahra and Natalie, who were the same age, played softball together, while Esan, who was a year older than Klara, played on the football team.
- Klara spent many weekends with her grandparents, who lived a 20-minute drive away, in St. Paul.



When his daughters were young, Elias would read them Swedish nursery rhymes and bed-time stories. Photo via iStock.com/Lorado

- She got along well with her sister and step-siblings.
- Despite the fact that she and Natalie had grown up together, and were very close, when Zahra and Esan moved in, the sisters did their best to make them feel welcome.
- The four siblings played video games and watched movies together.
- Their favorites to see every year at the theater were the Harry Potter movies.
- Klara also loved to cook; her grandmother taught her how to make traditional Swedish dishes, while Ayesha showed her some Ojibwe recipes.
- During holidays, both Ayesha's and Elias' families came over to the Olssons' house for meals.
- When the families gathered together, Klara was always there to help in the kitchen.
- In her free time, Klara read books, listened to music on her iPod, and rode her scooter around her neighborhood with Esan.



The girls got along well with step-siblings Esan and Zahra and had lots of fun together. Photo via iStock.com/FG Trade. [Used under license.]

- While the idea of having her own money appealed to Stevie, what interested her most was learning the complexities of coffee brewing and working alongside Ruby, who had become a close friend, texting frequently.
- When Stevie was playing video games with Nixon, she mentioned applying to Deja Brew and how that might impact their study group meetings.
- Unperturbed, he paused their game and had a smug expression on his face. “You sure you’re interested in how to make a cappuccino and not just Ruby?”
- Stevie hadn’t considered her feelings toward Ruby as anything other than platonic up until then.
- Red in the face, she smacked her brother with a pillow and called it a night.
- Stevie applied to Deja Brew and during her interview, the hiring manager told Stevie that a handful of baristas had put in a good word for her, especially Ruby.
- The hiring manager called a few days later who offered her a position and starting date.
- Before her conversation with Nixon, Stevie never over-analyzed her conversations with Ruby but now she couldn’t help not to.
- She reflected back on how she would look forward to when she would see her friend next and go out of her way to stop by Deja Brew when she knew Ruby was working.

Life at Work

- Since Stevie was 17, under Massachusetts law she was not allowed to work more than 18 hours a week when school was in session, so she worked Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 4pm to 7pm, and a varying 8 hour shift on Saturdays.
- Between balancing the study group, keeping up her grades, and her new work shifts, Stevie initially struggled to find her footing but found a schedule that worked for her.
- Her training manager, Mason, gave Stevie a booklet on all the different type of drinks they made and the instructions to make them, telling her to study up on the recipes as it would help her in the future when it came time to her learning how to craft the drinks.



Stevie at work. Photo via iStock.com/standret. [Used under license.]

1. Teens and their experiences on social media

Social media has given teens the ability to instantly connect with others and share their lives through photos, videos and status updates. Teens themselves describe these platforms as a key tool for connecting and maintaining relationships, being creative, and learning more about the world. But they also must contend with more negative aspects of social media use, such as drama and bullying or feeling pressure to present themselves in a certain way.

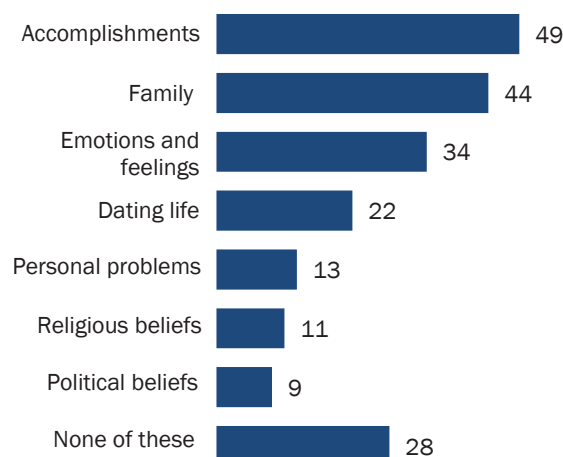
Teens post about a range of topics on social media, with posts about their accomplishments or family playing an especially prominent role

When asked what topics they post about on social media, roughly half of teens say they post about their accomplishments on social media, while 44% say they post about their family. Around one-third (34%) say they share things related to their emotions and feelings on these sites, while 22% report posting about their dating life. Relatively few teens – around one-in-ten – say they share things related to their personal problems or their religious or political beliefs on social media.

There are some age and gender differences in the topics teens share on social media. Older teens are more likely than their younger counterparts to post about their romantic relationships: 26% of teens ages 15 to 17 say they post about their dating life on social media, compared with 16% of 13- to 14-year-olds.

While about half of teens post their accomplishments on social media, few discuss their religious or political beliefs

% of U.S. teens who say they ever post about their ___ on social media



Note: Respondents were allowed to select multiple options. Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

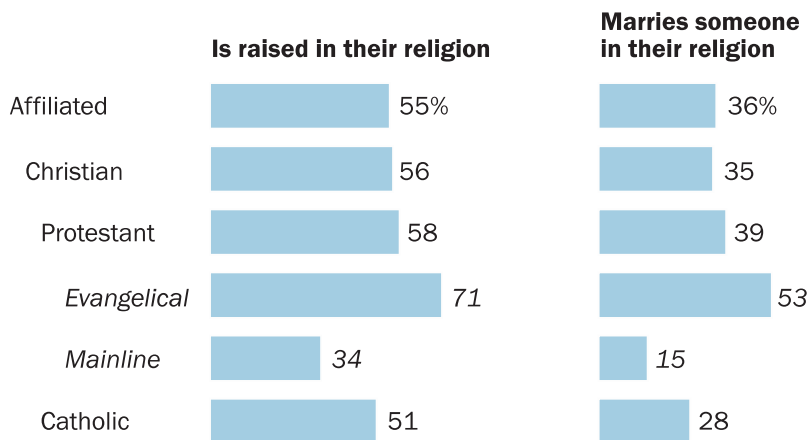
Source: Survey conducted March 7–April 10, 2018. “Teens’ Social Media Habits and Experiences”

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- Evangelical parents are more likely than other parents of teens to say it is very important that their teen is raised in their religion (71%) and that their teen marries someone in their religion (53%). Overall, 55% of parents with a religious affiliation say it is very important to raise their teen in their religion, while about a third (36%) say it is important that their child eventually marries within their faith. Parents are more likely to prize several other qualities or outcomes – such as financial success – for their children (see Chapter 6).

Evangelical parents more likely than others to say it is very important to raise their child in their religion

% of religiously affiliated parents of teens who say it is very important that teen ...



Source: Survey conducted March 29-April 14, 2019, among U.S. teens ages 13 to 17 and one parent of each teen. Teens and parents were instructed to complete the survey separately.

“U.S. Teens Take After Their Parents Religiously, Attend Services Together and Enjoy Family Rituals”

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- On most standard measures of religious commitment, there is no clear pattern of teens becoming less religious as they advance through school. But it does appear that teens in higher grades are somewhat less likely to say they regularly attend religious services. Among teens in 11th or 12th grade, 38% attend services at least once or twice a month; by comparison, fully half of teens in 8th grade or lower attend with the same frequency.
- Teens whose parents identify with or lean toward the Republican Party seem to be more religiously engaged by some measures than those whose parent is a Democrat or Democratic-leaner. Teens with Republican parents are more likely to say they attend religious services weekly or more often, participate in religious education programs often or sometimes, and go to religious youth group at least sometimes. They also are more likely to pray daily, say religion is very important in their lives, and to talk to their family about religion, say grace and read scripture with their family at least sometimes. And these patterns hold even when the analysis is limited to teens who are religiously affiliated.