

The Year in Review: 1918

By D.H. Coop

During the Great War, day-to day life continued in America. In baseball, the Chicago Cubs beat the Philadelphia Phillies 2 to 1 in a 21-inning game. The Cubs then went on to win the pennant faster than any team in baseball—only to later lose the World Series to the Boston Red Sox. In that same season, the Georgia Peach, Ty Cobb, pitched two innings against the Browns, and Babe Ruth scored homeruns in three consecutive games, tying the major-league record. Walter Johnson pitched 18 innings in one game, and the White Sox hired Kid Gleason as their new manager.

The fourth Rose Bowl featured the U.S. Marines defeating Army 19 to 7 (though Army fared much better in 2017!). Many of the players were later shipped overseas to fight the Germans. The boxing ring saw Jack Dempsey “KO” Carl Morris in 14 seconds. And, not to be outdone by the men, Margaret Owen set a world record by typing 170 words in just one minute.

Robert Ripley began his series “Believe it or Not,” and the Great Houdini made an elephant disappear. Charlie Chaplin, then 29, married film star Mildred Harris, who was just 16. In that same year, John J. Hoover changed his name to J. Edgar Hoover. It was also the year that the Great War ended and a pandemic flu spread around the world.

Advertisements in local newspapers featured an array of car companies: Stanley, Comet, Tulsa, Revere, Douglas, Ford, Hanson, Yale and Dodge Brothers, to name a few. This burgeoning American industry sent 110,911 vehicles to Europe for the war effort. The wristwatch began to replace the pocket watch, and men wore garters to hold up their socks. And Royal Vinolia vanishing cream disappeared off of market shelves thanks to its advertisement featuring a female factory worker and the slogan “Beauty on Duty Has a Duty to Beauty.”

Though 100 years have passed since these historic events shaped our country, our lives have not changed that much. Though we enjoy the benefits of many more comforts and much more technology, we still love our sports and our cars, we still enjoy a good advertising campaign, and we are still grateful to those who protect and defend our country so sacrificially by serving in the military. This year, let’s celebrate our country’s rich heritage and its promise for the future.