1913

One hundred years ago, Woodrow Wilson was the newly elected president, of a country with a population of approximately 97,225,000.

The unemployment rate was 4.3 percent in 1913 compared to today’s current rate which is 7.7 percent. The cost of a first-class stamp was $0.02, whereas today one cost $0.46. A gallon of milk in 1913 was $0.32, a gallon of gas was $0.12 and a car was $490.

The 16th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified in 1913 giving the federal government the power to collect taxes based on state population. Once the 16th Amendment was passed, the U.S. government passed its first, permanent income tax law in October 1913.

In the sports world, the Philadelphia Athletics beat the New York Giants in the World Series four to one. Francis Ouimet won the 1913 U.S. Open, and was the first American elected Captain of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews. The 1913 Wimbledon Championships for the first time included a Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles competition.

One hundred years ago, the types of transport available included walking, horse-riding, trains and trams in cities. Railroads played a large role in the development of the United States from the [Industrial Revolution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Industrial_revolution) in the [N](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northeastern_United_States)ortheast to the colonization of the west. Railroads before 1913 were mainly used for shipments of supplies and not people.

Slowly trains began to make a change in their role, instead of catering solely to supplies, they started transporting people on the trains. This came as a surprise to most individuals as most new things do, however over time it became more and more established and new train stations seemed to be opening. One very distinguished station which is currently known as Grand Central Station however in 1913 it was called Grand Central Terminal.

Grand Central Terminal in New York City opened at 12:01 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 2, 1913. On that opening day there were more than 150,000 people who visited the new terminal. Grand Central housed an art gallery, art school, a newsreel movie theater, a rail history museum and countless temporary exhibitions at various times.

Grand Central Terminal was designed by the architectural firms of [Reed and Stem](http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reed_and_Stem) and [Warren and Wetmore](http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warren_and_Wetmore). They were responsible for the overall design of the station, Warren and Wetmore added architectural details and the [Beaux-Arts style](http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beaux-Arts_architecture). Charles Reed was appointed the chief executive for the collaboration between the two firms, and promptly appointed [Alfred T. Fellheimer](http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfred_T._Fellheimer) as head of the combined design team.

This work was accompanied by the *electrification* of the three railroads using the station and the burial of the approach in the [Park Avenue tunnel](http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Park_Avenue_Tunnel_(railroad)). The result of this was the creation of several blocks worth of prime real estate in Manhattan, which were then sold for a large sum of money.

It is now the largest railroad station in the world, with 44 platforms and 67 tracks on two levels. Throughout the concourses there are multiple restaurants, cocktail lounges and specialty shops in addition to the transportation.

Grand Central is celebrating its 100th birthday and they would like you to be a part of it. There is going to be an exhibition featuring the work of more than a dozen contemporary artist who will capture and reimage moments in Grand Central Terminal. This exhibition will be put on by MTA Arts for Transit and Urban Design, embracing the history on the terminal for its beginning to present day.

The celebration is called On Time/ Grand Central at 100. The exhibition started March 6th and will go through July 7th. For additional information you may visit their website at [www.grandcentralterminal.com](http://www.grandcentralterminal.com).