



**Ben Franklin left \$2,000 to the cities of Boston and Philadelphia in his will to help young tradesmen, but they could not draw the balance for 200 years. In 1990, it was worth \$6.5 million. The money has been used to fund scholarships, women's health, and help firefighters and disabled children.**

PICTURE COURTESY: PUBLIC DOMAIN

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**Before she became a famous actress in classic sitcoms like Maude and The Golden Girls, Bea Arthur served as a truck driver in the United States Marine Corps Women's Reserve during World War II. She respectively earned Honorable Discharge, and was regarded as "One Hell of a Marine."**

PICTURE COURTESY: PUBLIC DOMAIN

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**A knocker-upper was someone whose purpose was to wake people up during a time when alarm clocks were expensive and not very reliable. They earned about six pence a week using a pea shooter to shoot dried peas at the windows of sleeping workers in East London, 1930s. She would not leave a window until she was sure that the workers had woken up.**

PICTURE COURTESY: THE RAGGED SCHOOL MUSEUM TRUST

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**This is such a powerful photo. It was taken in April, 1945, by Major Clarence Benjamin and shows a train of Jewish prisoners that had been intercepted by Allied Forces. This is the moment they learned that the train would not be heading to a Concentration Camp and they had been liberated.**

PICTURE COURTESY: U.S. Army, Major Clarence Benjamin, 743rd Tank Battalion.

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**This is Jonas Salk (1914 - 1995) who decided not to patent his 1955 Polio Vaccine so that it would be affordable for millions of people who couldn't afford it. As a result, he lost out on an estimated 7 billion dollars.**

PICTURE COURTESY: PUBLIC DOMAIN

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**In 1922, at the University of Toronto, scientists went to a hospital ward with children who were comatose and dying from diabetic keto-acidosis. The scientists went from bed to bed and injected the children with the new purified extract - insulin. As they began to inject the last comatose child, the first child injected began to awaken. One by one, all of the children awoke from their diabetic comas. A room of death and gloom, became a place of joy and hope. Thank You Dr. Banting and Dr. Best!**

PICTURE COURTESY:Library and Archives Canada

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**United States Soldiers  
pay tribute to the 8 million  
Horses, Donkeys, and Mules  
that lost their lives  
during World War I, 1918**

PICTURE COURTESY: Library of Congress

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**Despite being dead for over a year, famous author Agatha Christie saved a baby's life in 1977. Her novel *The Pale Horse* described thallium poisoning so well that a nurse who had been reading it was able to diagnose a sick 1-year-old who had doctors stumped. The baby was immediately tested, they found traces of thallium, doctors changed treatments and her life had been saved by an old murder mystery novel.**

PICTURE COURTESY: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

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**Photographer Daniel S. Sorine  
took pictures of two mimes  
in 1974, and 35 years later  
discovered it was  
Robin Williams  
before he was famous.**

PICTURE COURTESY: DANIEL S. SORINE

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**In 1959, a coffee maker was  
an optional extra in  
Volkswagen cars.**

PICTURE COURTESY: OPENCULTURE

@VINTAGEFACTS



**When Franklin Roosevelt started a foundation to fight polio, Comedian Eddie Cantor came up with the "March of Dimes", asking people to mail a dime to the White House. They were soon overwhelmed with 2,680,000 dimes mailed to them, literally truckloads, mostly from children. These dimes went directly to research that resulted in the Polio vaccine. This is why Roosevelt is on the U.S. dime.**