**Starting Small**

**The smallest one shall become thousands,
and the least one a strong nation.
(Isaiah 60:21)**

**The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed,
which a man took and sowed in his field.
It is the smallest of all seeds; but when it is grown,
it is larger than all of the herbs; and it becomes a tree,
so that the birds of the air come and rest in its branches. *(St, Matthew 13:30-31)***

**The American Automobile Association has become a ubiquitous presence in modern America; motorists across the country take advantage of its discounts, roadside service and maps. The company has been been around nearly as long as cars – AAA published its first road map as early as 1905. For those who are curious, the map was of Staten Island, and it was hand-drawn on linen. *(Samantha Weaver, in Tidbits)***

**Less than 250 people attended the first-ever Academy Awards ceremony, which lasted fifteen minutes, with tickets costing just five dollars. *(Noel Botham, in The World’s Greatest Book of Useless Information, p. 7)***

**The first report of a new disease, later called AIDS, was published June 5, 1981. Five young men in Los Angeles were infected with a lethal pneumonia; their case histories suggested a “cellular-immune dysfunction” and a “disease acquired through sexual contact.” In 2005, over 40 million people were infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. *(Chai Woodham, in Smithsonian magazine)***

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**Many a great enterprise starts small. Take the Air Force. Established as part of the Army in 1907, it had three men -- an officer, a non-com and one enlisted. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**At the outbreak of World War I, the American Air Force consisted of only 50 men. *(Uncle John’s Unstoppable Bathroom Reader, p. 388)***

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**What was the first passenger airline? The Saint Petersburg-Tampa Airboat Line of Saint Petersburg, Florida, began flight operations on January 1, 1914. The twice-a-day service took passengers one at a time across 20-mile-wide Tampa Bay. The complete trip in a Benoit flying boat covered 36 miles and cost $5. The service ran for four months. *(Barbara Berliner, in The Book of Answers, p. 75)***

**The Alaskan brown bear is the largest meat-eating mammal that lives on land. However, the offspring of bears are smaller in proportion to the size of the parent than the offspring of any other mammal, except for pouched animals such as the opossum. Although a 120-pound woman is likely to give birth to a 6-8 pound baby, a 600-pound bear might have a cub that weighs a mere 8-10 ounces. *(Paul Stirling Hagerman, in It’s a Weird World, p. 91)***

**Mathematician Charles Dodgson, 33 -- a.k.a. Lewis Carroll -- published Alice’s Adventures Under Ground in November, 1865. His story, first told to 10-year-old Alice Liddell in 1862, of a girl’s capers with such quirky fellows as a hookah-smoking caterpillar and a mock turtle -- “deliciously absurd conceptions,” said a critic -- was an unexpected success. Today, Alice is the world’s most quoted book after the Bible and Shakespeare’s works. *(Alison McLean, in Smithsonian magazine)*Sizes of animals at birth:
Kangaroo -- size of a lima bean;
Koala - size of a grape;
Tasmanian devil - size of a raisin;
Platypus -- size of a jelly bean;
Opossum -- size of a bee. *(World Features Syndicate)***

**What was the winner’s average speed in the first auto race? 7.5 mph. Over snowy roads from Chicago to Waukegan, on November 28, 1895. At the wheel was James Franklin Duryea in a car invented by his brother, Charles Edgar Duryea. Eighty cars entered. Six started. Two finished. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Aviation: It was just after 10:30 in the morning of December 17, 1903, when Orville Wright, an Ohio inventor and bicycle shop owner, took off into a near-freezing head wind for a 12-second propeller-driven trip – a 120-foot voyage that may well have launched the modern age. *(Andrew Curry, in Smithsonian magazine)***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

**“Have any big men ever been born in this town?” “No, just little babies.” *(Delia Sellers, in Abundant Living magazine)***

**Babies are such a nice way to start people. (*Don Herold, humorist)***

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**Why is a “bachelor’s degree” called that? Goes back to when apprentice knights were called “bachelors,” to mean beginners. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**In 1873, Charles M. Barnes opened a bookshop in his Wheaton, Illinois home, then joined with Clifford Noble in 1917 to open the first Barnes & Noble bookstore in New York. *(American Profile)***

**Pat Summitt, the coach of the University of Tennessee’s women’s basketball team, has become the winningest coach in NCAA history. This week, she racked up her 880th victory when Lady Vols beat Purdue 75-54, in the second round of the NCAA tournament. That broke the record held by legendary North Carolina coach Dean Smith. Summitt took over the Tennessee team in 1974, when she was just 22. The basketball program back then was so small, she had to wash the uniforms and drive the team van herself. Summitt, now 52, said she did not want her personal milestone to interfere with her team’s run for for its seventh national title. “To think about all the people that were a part of these wins,” she said. “I never thought I’d live this long. *(The Week, magazine, April 1, 2005)*
In 1971, they opened a college bookstore in Ann Arbor, Michigan. To manage the huge inventory, they developed one of the book industry’s first computer systems. It helped them develop a reputation as the store where people could find almost any book imaginable, and made expension possible. By 1996, the Borders Books chain had expanded to more than 115 stores around the country, with annual book (and music, added in the early 1990s) sales of more than $700 million. *(Uncle John’s All-Purpose Bathroom Reader, p. 124)***

**Founded in 1916 by 40 women, the Women’s International Bowling Congress, headquartered in Greendale, Wisconsin, is among the world’s oldest women’s sports membership organization and currently has 1.2 million members. *(American Profile)***

**All broomcorn grown in the United States is said to descend from three seeds found by Benjamin Franklin in a whisk broom. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Cable TV was born in 1948, when Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania, appliance store owner John Walson ran a cable from an antenna on top of a mountain down to his store in the valley, so he could demonstrate his televisions to potential customers. He then ran lines to the homes of his customers that lived along the path of the cable. Walson charged one hundred dollars for the hookup and two dollars a month service fee. The company he founded – Service Electric Cable TV Inc. – is still in business today. *(Don Voorhees, in The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 98)***

 **The French fry is my canvas. *(Ray Kroc, Founder, McDonald’s)* BP619971**

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The founder of Chicago was Jean Baptiste Pointe Dusable, a free Black who built the first house and opened the first business on the banks of the Chicago River in the 1770s. The Potawatomi Indians used to smile and say, “The first White man to settle in Checago was a Black man.” (Ebony magazine)

**Engineer James Thompson laid out the first plat for the town of Chicago (population 100) in August, 1830, more than 150 years after the first Europeans set foot there in 1673. Developers hoped to sell the lots to settlers to finance a canal from Lake Michigan to the Illinois River. Sell they did, and by 2005, though much of the now outdated canal is buried under freeway, some 2,800,000 people call the nation’s third-largest city home. *(Smithsonian)***

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During their first year of business, the Coca-Cola company sold only 400 Cokes. *(Glenn Van Ekeren, in Speaker’s Sourcebook II, p. 279)***

**America’s first public community college, Joliet Junior College, opened in 1901 in Joliet, Illinois, with six students. *(American Profile magazine)***

**A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. *(Confucius)***

**Miami Beach pharmacist Benjamin Green invented the first suntan lotion by cooking cocoa butter in a granite coffeepot on his wife’s stove, and then testing the batch on his own head. His invention was introduced as Coppertone Suntan Cream in 1944. *(Joe Edelman & David Samson, in Useless Knowledge, p. 104)***

**Ollie Qualls started making his peg game in a 10’ x 10’ room in Lebanon, Tennessee. Each game was drilled and ink-stamped by hand, then delivered to Cracker Barrel Old Country Store in the family pick-up truck. As Cracker Barrel grew, so did Ollie’s business. Today, more than 400,000 Qualls and Sons Peg Games are sold every year. *(Cracker Barrel Old Country Store Breakfast Menu)***

**If you are going to try cross-country skiing, start with a small country. *(Kevin Nealon, in Reader’s Digest)***

**In 1844, Dallas consisted of “two small log cabins, and two families of ten to twelve souls.” The next year, the United States annexed Texas, and by 1850, Dallas had nearly 1,000 people. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 262)***

**Early years of John Deere: First year (1837) -- made one steel plow; second year -- made two steel plows; third year -- made 10 plows; by 1852 -- made 4,000 steel plows a year. *(World Features Syndicate & Ben Ikenson, in Ingenious Inventions)***

**A 30-foot dinosaur was only 13 inches long when it first stepped out of its eggshell. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**My only hope is that we never lose sight of one thing -- that it all started with a mouse. *(Walt Disney, 1954)***

**If you feel rooted in your home and family, if you’re active in your community, there’s nothing more empowering. The best way to make a difference in the world is to start by making a difference in your own life. *(Julia Louis-Dreyfus, American actress)***

**After the Civil War, Washington Duke came home to Durham with only fifty cents and two blind mules. He went to work growing tobacco and became a millionaire, then left $40 million to start Duke University. *(Bob Fenster, in They Did What!?, p. 21)***

**In 1954 Elvis Presley recorded a 10-minute demo at Sun Records in Memphis, TN. He paid $4 to record 2 songs for his mother: “My Happiness” and “That’s When Your Heartaches Begin.” *(Bob Barry, in Daily Celebrity Almanac, p. 14)***

**In 1901, Jesse Field Shambaugh, “The Mother of 4-H,” started after-school activities at the Goldenrod School near Clarinda, Iowa, which led to the formation of one of the nation’s largest youth organizations. *(American Profile magazine)***

**People who have wild ideas about how to run the earth ought to start with a small garden. *(Lou Erickson, in Atlanta Journal)***

**Only 51 disposable Gillette razors (at five dollars apiece) were sold in the company’s first year, 1903. By 1906, however, 300,000 razor sets and close to 500,000 blades were purchased. *(Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Book, p. 67)***

**The earliest recorded Girl Scout cookie sale occurred in 1917 in Muskogee, Oklahoma, when a troop sold the sweet treats in the high school cafeteria to raise money for care packages for American soldiers during World War I. Word spread and the service project evolved into a national movement. In the 1920s, Girl Scouts around the nation started baking sugar cookies, packaging them in wax paper bags, and selling them door-to-door for 25 cents to 35 cents a dozen. Today, the organization offers eight cookie varieties, including Trim Mints and Samoas, which are produced by two licensed bakeries. Proceeds fund local Girl Scout activities. *(Nancy Henderson, in American Profile magazine)***

**In 1903, glass blower Michael Joseph Owens invented the first automatic machine to make glass bottles and founded the Owens Bottle Company in Toledo, Ohio. Owens’ machine nine uniform bottles a minute and revolutionized the glass industry. Today machines can produce 720 bottles a minute. *(American Profile magazine)***

**In 1914 Carl Eric Wickman opened a Hopmobile car dealership in Minnesota. When business was slow, he used one of the Hopmobiles to drive miners the 4 miles between the towns of Alice and Hibbing, charging 15 cents per trip (25 cents round trip). This enterprise turned out to be a very profitable (he made $2.25 the first day), and by 1916 Wickman had expanded it to include long distance routes. He painted the Hopmobiles gray to hide the dust during long journeys, which prompted a hotel owner along one route to comment that they looked like greyhound dogs. Wickman liked the idea. He adopted the slogan “Ride the Greyhounds.” *(Uncle John’s 4-Ply Bathroom Reader, p. 802)***

**Every single pet hamster is a descendent from one female wild golden hamster with a littler of 12 young in Syria in 1930. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 93)***

**Business beginnings: Harley-Davidson -- made four motorcycles the first year. *(World Features Syndicate)***

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**Once you get past Google, it’s hard to think of a major American institution that is as successful as Harvard. Like the other elite private universities, only more so, Harvard, having started as a tiny colonial school for ministers, has become enormous and rich. It is renowned all over the world. It isn’t exactly a business, but if it were, its ability to raise its prices and see demand consistently increase would be remarkable. General Motors would love to have Harvard’s magic brand identity and inexhaustible customer loyalty. *(Nicholas Lemann, in Time)***

**Harvard University started out as New College in 1636 with nine students and one instructor. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 239)***

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**Every human being once spent about half an hour as a single cell. *(Barbara Seuling)***

**The eggs of some hummingbirds weigh only about half a gram (0.02 oz.) *(Jeff Harris, in Shortcuts)***

**IRS: What do “the good old days” mean to you? To some historians, no doubt, it was when the first U.S. internal revenue commissioner with the help of one clerk answered all complaints personally. There really was such a time. *(L. M. Boyd)*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**A new-born kangaroo is about one inch in length. *(E. C. McKenzie, in Tantalizing Facts, p. 44)***

**At birth, baby kangaroos are only about an inch long -- no bigger than a large water bug or a queen bee. *(David Louis, in Fascinating Facts, p. 196)*
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**In Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1853, a man named Godfry Keebler opened a bakery. His family and maybe a few elves, expanded that business, and today, Keebler is a division of the Kellogg Company. *(Isabell Mattingly, in Tidbits)***

**The answer is “one”: Copy machines in Kinko’s first store. *(World Features Syndicate)***

**J. F. Kraft, the cheese man, started his business from a wagon pulled by a horse named Paddy. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**In 1883, Barney Kroger invested his life savings of $372 to open a grocery store in downtown Cincinnati. He was the first grocer to offer a bakery and to combine a meat market and grocery store under one roof. Today, Kroger Co. is one of the nation’s largest grocery retailers. *(American Profile magazine)***

**I send out mail. I can write at an angle across each letter and post card, saying a prayer as I write it, “Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.” I can tell others. Beginning with only one person if I tell three others who will do the same it can go to everyone on earth in only 21 days -- 1 x 3 x 3 x 3 x 3 x 3 x 3 etc. *(Jill Jackson, who wrote the words to the song)***

**Opened in 1818, the Madison-Jefferson County Library in Madison, Indiana, was the first public library in the Northwest Territory. Twenty-five subscribers paid $5 yearly to borrow books. *(Marti Attoun, in American Profile magazine)***

**Young Burt believes those who are worried about bigness of government, business and labor ought to find out what it’s like to be a little guy trying to make the school’s football team. *(Burton Hillis, in Better Homes & Gardens)***

**The original Macy’s made a total of $11.06 on its first day of business in 1858. *(Uncle John’s Unstoppable Bathroom Reader, p. 326)***

**Born in Lodz, Poland, in 1877, Max Factor opened a rouge and hair goods concession at the 1904 World’s Fair in St. Louis, Missouri, then moved to Los Angeles and perfected greasepaint for movie stars. Later, he created Pan-Cake makeup, which produced more natural effects. *(American Profile magazine)***

**Had it not been for cantaloupe seeds shipped from Massachusetts to Rocky Ford in the late 1800s, this southeastern Colorado town never would be known as the Melon Capital of the World. One shipment of seeds from New England planted in the fertile, sun-drenched soil of Rocky Ford, and the result is cantaloupes to die for. *(Lillian Ross, in Rocky Mountain News)***

**It wasn’t the first personal computer, but after the IBM PC was unveiled in August 1981, it quickly attained benchmark status. IBM outsourced the operating system – to a small outfit called Microsoft – but Big Blue’s name sold 240,000 PCs the first year, at $1,565 and up. PC “clones” appeared in 1982; today PC descendents grab 90 percent of the home computer market. (*Alison McLean, in Smithsonian magazine)***

**The Mint, built in Philadelphia, was the first federal structure erected in the United States under the Constitution. In March 1793, 11,178 copper U.S. cents rolled out of the Mint with a value of $111.78. Gold and silver coins soon would follow. Today, the United States Mint, which makes more coins and medals than any other mint in the world, operates six facilities: its headquarters in Washington, D.C., and mints in Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco, West Point, New York, and the U.S. Bullion Depository in Fort Knox, Kentucky. The U.S. Mint produces billions of regular and commemorative coins, including coins for other countries, and medals of great honor and distinction. On a typical day, the U.S. Mint produces 30 million coins worth about $1 million. *(Tracy Leinberger-Leonardi, in American Profile magazine)***

**The reason promises have conditions is that when God does a miracle, the Scriptures indicate that He usually chooses to start with something. He created man from the dust of the ground, a woman from a rib, wine from water, a meal for 5,000 from five loaves and two fish, and demolished Jericho’s walls by an army simply marching around them. *(Russ Johnston, in God Can Make It Happen)***

**Montgomery Ward’s first catalogue was printed in 1872 -- on one sheet of paper. *(Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Book, p. 23)***

**Joseph Smith founded the Mormon church in 1830. His original church had just six members, mostly his family, and only 5,000 copies of the Book of Mormon were published at first. He sent out a handful of missionaries to preach and draw new members to the faith. Today Mormonism is one of the fastest-growing religions, with more than 12 million members -- half of them outside the United States. More than 130 million copies of the Book of Mormon are circulating in 77 different languages. *(Jennifer Dobner, in Daily Camera)***

**In 1959, Berry Gordy purchased a two-story house on Detroit’s West Grand Boulevard and christened it “Hitsville USA.” The tiny recording studio would eventually produce worldwide hits by Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson, and The Supremes. Gordy’s label became famous as Motown. *(Tidbits)***

**The man who removes a mountain begins by carrying away small stones. *(Chinese proverb)***

**Something incredible happened with our little movie, says Nia Vardalos, star and writer of “My Big Fat Greek Wedding,” in DVD commentary with co-star John Corbett and director Joel Zwick. The low-budget romance about an ugly-duckling Greek-American and a non-Greek man opened nearly a year ago in a few theaters, with little money to advertise. “People who went told their friends about the movie, who went, and then they told their friends, who told their friends,” Vardalos notes. “And suddenly, our little movie became a big movie.” A quarter of a billion dollars later, the Cinderella blockbuster remains in the box-office top 20 even as it hits video. Vardalos’ winsome commentary details how she adapted her own Greek upbringing and marriage to a non-Greek: “I took every crazy incident and reduced it to 90 minutes of film.” *(David Germain, in The Denver Post, February 14, 2003)***

**Number of items in famous museums: New York Museum of Modern Art -- 250,000 items. Started with eight prints and one drawing in 1929. *(World Features Syndicate)***

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**On January 13, 1888, thirty-three uncommon men sharing an uncommon fascination for this amazing world met at the Cosmos Club in Washington, D.C., to consider the “advisability of organizing a society for the increase and diffusion of geographic knowledge.” It was so moved and so done, “that we may all know more of the world.” The members soon decided the best way to do this was to publish a journal. In October 1888 the first slim issue of the National Geographic Magazine trickled off the press. The Society’s membership was scarcely 200 - this month, ten and a half million members. *(Wilbur E. Garrett, in National Geographic, January, 1988)***

**On October 17, 1888, the first issue of National Geographic was published. The magazine contained no photos. *(The Daily Chronicles)***

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**The 25th National Western Stock Show in 1932 presented the first rodeo in conjunction with the silver anniversary of the livestock and horse show. Total rodeo prize money was $7,300. This year’s total rodeo prize money? $500,000. *(www.nationalwestern.com, as it appeared in Rocky Mountain News, January 17, 2006)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**When a suspension bridge was being built over the gorge near Niagara Falls, New York, there was no way a boat could carry the necessary suspension wires across the violent waters. The builders of the bridge were inspired to offer $5 to the first boy to fly a kite from the American to the Canadian side. It worked. Once the kite string made the crossing, a succession of heavier cords and ropes tied to the kite string was pulled over until the first length of cable finally spanned the river. (Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 423)**

**Speaking of bridges -- and nearly everyone does these days – the first suspension bridge across the Niagara Gorge employed a very scientific system for getting the metal cables from one side to the other. They began by paying a small boy $10 to fly his kite across the gorge at the appropriate spot. The kite string was tied to a tree on the far side. Then these clever engineers used the kite string to carry across a stronger line, then the line carried a rope and finally the heavy metal cable was carried across by the rope. The boy’s name was Homer Walsh; can’t recall who the engineer was. *(Donner & Eve Paige Spencer, in A Treasury of Trivia, p. 93)***

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**Everybody wants to save the earth. Nobody wants to help Mom do the dishes. *(P. J. O’Rourke)***

**The ancient Greeks started the Olympics in 776 B.C. For the first 13 Olympics, a single foot race of about 200 yards was the only competition. *(Betty Debnam, in Rocky Mountain News)***

**About 24 brand-new baby opossums can fit in a teaspoon, with each critter weighing about .07 of an ounce. *(Kathy Wolfe, in Tidbits)***

**Small opportunities are often the beginning of great enterprises. *(Domosthenes)***

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**Orchids are grown from seeds so small it would take thirty thousand to weigh as much as one grain of wheat. *(Noel Botham, in The Book of Useless Information, p. 198)***

**The beautiful apple orchards of Tasmania got their start from three trees planted before the famous mutiny by none other than Captain Bligh. *(Boyd’s Curiosity Shop, p. 14)***

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**4 billion years ago: Single-celled organisms, first life on Earth, appear in the sea. More than three billion years will pass before large multi-cellular life will evolve. *(National Geographic magazine)***

**Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world all at once, but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach. *(Clarissa Pinkola Estes)*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**A newborn panda is smaller than a mouse. *(Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Book, p. 97)***

**A giant panda weighs four ounces at birth, 1/900th of the mother’s weight. *(Don Voorhees, in The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 171)*
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**Norman Vincent Peale, born in 1898 in Bowersville, Ohio (population 290), encouraged millions of readers with his 1952 bestseller The Power of Positive Thinking. *(American Profile magazine)***

**On October 2, 1950, the comic strip Peanuts, created by Charles M. Schulz, was first published in nine newspapers. *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**Allan Williams, an Ionia county Michigan engineer, built the first picnic table on a highway right-of-way along U.S. 16 in 1929. Other states soon copied his refreshing idea. *(American Profile magazine)***

**Billy: “Daddy! I found this piece of wood! Can we build a treehouse?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**In 1958 Frank and Dan Carney, two students at Wichita State University, put up $600 to open a pizzeria in Wichita, Kansas. After they made a sign saying “Pizza,” there was room for only one three-letter word. One brother’s wife suggested “Hut.” The name stuck, and last year eight million people ate at some 5,000 Pizza Huts in the United States and all over the world. *(William Ecenbarger, in Reader’s Digest, May, 1986)***

**Edgar Allan Poe sold his first book for 12 cents. It recently was resold at auction for $11,000. *(Ripley’s Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 32)***

**In 1932, Weaver’s potato chips were cooked in kettles on the stove of Ed and Phyllis Weaver’s kitchen in Lincoln, Nebraska. They first named their snack “Weaver Brownie Vitamin Chips” and then “Weaver Potato Wafers.” *(American Profile magazine)*
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**John Ringling, born on May 31, 1866, in McGregor, Iowa, started the Ringling Brothers Circus with four of his brothers in 1884. In 1907, the company purchased the Barnum and Bailey Circus, quickly becoming “The Greatest Show on Earth.” *(American Profile magazine)***

**When they started, the Ringling Brothers Circus had no money for anything fancy. Their first wild animal was a blind hyena. When they made more money, they imported a giraffe to America, claiming it was the last one on Earth. *(Betty Debnam, in Denver Rocky Mountain News)*
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**Of musical note: The Rolling Stones -- 800 at first U.S. concert (1964); Detroit stadium held 13,000. *(World Feature’s Syndicate)***

**Salomon Rothschild was walking down a street in Vienna. A pickpocket tried to lift a silk handkerchief from the banker’s pocket. A friend tried to warn Rothschild: “That man is trying to steal your handkerchief.” Rothschild said, “So what? We all started small.” *(Joe Griffith, in Speaker’s Library of Business, p. 109)***

**Locals savor Runza sandwiches made of ground beef, onions, cabbage and spices stuffed in a homemade bread pocket. Sally Everett and her brother, Alex Brening, opened their Runza Drive Inn in 1945 in Lincoln, Nebraska, and began franchising Runza restaurants in 1979. *(American Profile magazine)***

**First-year sales of famous products:**

**VW Beetle: 330**

**White-Out: 1,200 bottles**

**Cuisinart food processor: 200**

**Remington typewriter: 8**

**Scrabble: 532**

**Coca Cola: 25 bottles. *(Noel Botham, in The Best Book of Useless Information Ever, p. 97)***

**Colonel Sanders came up with the famous recipe for chicken in the late 1930s for Sanders Court and Cafe, his roadside eatery in Corbin, Kentucky. Back then, the motel and restaurant business seated 142 people. In 1998, more than 10,300 KFC stores generated about $20.6 billion. *(Associated Press)***

**A giant sequoia will bear millions of seeds, but each seed is so small that it takes 3,000 of them to weigh an ounce. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts)***

**George Bernard Shaw, whose plays rank among the world’s greatest, earned a total of $20 during his first nine years as a writer. *(Bob Fenster, in They Did What!?, p. 16)***

**Silent Unity: Back in the 1920s, one telephone and a staff of three dedicated workers were more than adequate to answer the calls for prayer. By the 1970s, we received about 350,000 calls each year. In 1985, workers answered well over 650,000 calls. Last year, these workers answered over 840,000 calls. *(Connie Fillmore letter, March 18, 1993)***

**Never can tell what might start a fortune: The publishing firm Simon & Schuster got off the ground in 1924 with a little book of crossword puzzles. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Let him that would move the world, first move himself. *(Socrates)***

**Southwest Airlines specializes in short, back-and-forth flights between 32 Western and Midwestern cities. Planes are loaded and unloaded promptly, and get back in the air. The company has the best on-time record in the industry. Herb Kelleher, one of the founders of the airline, has been CEO since 1981. Since starting in 1971 with four planes and $148 in the bank, the company has grown to become the nation’s eighth largest airline. *(Bits & Pieces)*

The Museum of Independent Telephony in Abilene, Kansas, rings with history and the story of C. L. Brown’s 1898 local telephone company, now Sprint. *(American Profile magazine)***

**Since Starbucks’ humble start at the Pike Place Market in Seattle in 1971, the green-and-white Starbucks sign has become nearly as recognizable as McDonald’s golden arches. There are more than 3,000 Starbucks worldwide, 144 in the greater Seattle area and 78 in Seattle alone. *(Mia Penta, in Rocky Mountain News, July 4, 2000)***

**The Sturgis Rally got its start back in 1938 when motorcycle shop owner John Clarence “Pappy” Hoel and a club called the Jackpine Gypsies hosted the first Black Hills Motor Classic. Only a handful of racers attended the event, but several spectators showed up to enjoy the action. The racers camped out in Pappy’s backyard, where his wife fed everyone a free meal of hot dogs and sloppy joes. Except for a break due to WWII gas rationing, the Rally became an annual event. *(Felicity Fahey, in Tidbits)***

**Where originally published: Superman – a strip in creator’s high school paper. *(World Features Syndicate)***

**In 1855, G. F. Swift bought a single steer with $25 he borrowed from his father. He sold the meat for a $10 profit and reinvested. Within a few years he controlled a million-dollar meat-packing business in Chicago.
*(Bob Fenster, in They Did What!?, p. 23)***

**After he got out of the Marines in 1946, Glen W. Bell sold his refrigerator for $500 and used the money to start Bell’s Drive-In in San Bernardino, California. San Bernardino is also the birthplace of McDonald’s, and when Bell realized how well the McDonald brothers were doing, he decided it would be easier to switch to Mexican food than it would be to compete against them directly. His first restaurants were called Taco Tia. But after a while he renamed them Taco Bell, after himself. *(Uncle John’s All-Purpose Bathroom Reader, p. 125)*

The first commercial telephone switchboard appeared in 1878 in New Haven, Connecticut, linking just 21 phones. The first telephone directory was in the hands of New Haven phone users in 1878 -- listing only 50 names. *(Denver P. Tarle, in A Treasury of Trivia, p. 55)***

**The day Tiffany’s opened -- September 21, 1837 -- it grossed $4.98.
*(L. M. Boyd)***

**In the 1980s, teen brothers Brig and Jon Sorber of Lansing, Michigan, ran a moving business with an old pickup truck. When they went to college, their mother, Mary Ellen Sheets, continued the business and franchised Two Men and a Truck, now with operations in 27 states. *(American Profile magazine, 2006)***

**The United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was created December 11, 1946, to aid children left at risk by World War II. A grade school in Carson, Washington, made the first donation: $2.16. In 2005 UNICEF spent more than $2 million on programs to help kids in 157 countries. *(Alison McLean, in Smithsonian magazine)***

**Jim Casey was 19 years old in 1907, when he started the American Messenger company to Seattle. His business consisted of only six messengers, two bicycles, and a telephone, but within a year he added 16 motorcycles and a Model T Ford. By 1918 he was handling the deliveries of 3 of Seattle’s major department stores. By the end of World War I, Casey had changed the name of the business to the United Parcel Service, and focused exclusively on delivering for department stores. In 1953 UPS expanded service to 16 metropolitan areas and started expanding its service. Today UPS owns more than 300 aircraft and delivers 600,000 packages every day. *(Uncle John’s Bathroom 4-Ply Bathroom Reader)***

**One of the Board members jokingly started the building fund by giving a one-cent piece. But the one-cent piece was not a joke to Charles Fillmore., He took it, gave thanks to God for it, and blessed it. To him, the building was on its way. The fund grew very slowly. By the end of 1903, there was only twenty-five cents in it. Nevertheless, in February, 1903, in Unity magazine, Mr. Fillmore gave his subscribers “the privilege and opportunity of contributing any sum from ten cents to one thousand dollars, or more,” towards the purchase of a site and the erection of a building. By 1905, only $601 had been raised. *(James Dillet Freeman, in The Story of Unity, p. 109)*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**Most small things started small -- and that (so they tell me) includes the universe. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**Imagine all the stars and galaxies compressed into a single point the size of a thimble. More than 10 billion years ago, everything you see around you--the Earth, all the distant galaxies--was contained in that single point. As your family walks outdoors on a cool fall evening, look up. You will be transported across vast reaches of space and time--even so far back as to imagine the beginning of the Universe. *(David H. Levy, in Parade magazine)***

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**In 1849, German immigrant Charles Hager bought the St. Louis, Missouri, blacksmith shop where he had been forging wagon hinges. Five generations later, Hager Companies is a family-owned swinging success and among the world’s largest manufacturers of hinges and hardware. *(American Profile magazine)***

**Charles R. Walgreen, born near Galesburg, Illinois, in 1873, bought the Chicago drugstore where he worked as a pharmacist in 1901 and launched the Walgreen’s chain. As a young man, he started his career at Horton’s Drugstore in Dixon, Illinois, where he worked for $4 a week. *(American Profile magazine)***

**Baby wallabies are about the size of a lima bean when they are born. *(Betty Debnam, in Rocky Mountain News)*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**Sam Walton founded his Wal-Mart Stores merchandising empire in Bentonville, Arkansas, and became one of the nation’s richest men.
*(The World Almanac of the USA, p. 39)***

**Sam Walton opened his first Wal-Mart in 1962 in Rogers, Arkansas, putting big-city retailing concepts into small towns: volume movement of goods, lowest prices, consumer satisfaction. “This is where we began -- in small towns -- and it’s appropriate that we stay in small towns,” says Sharon Weber, a Wal-Mart spokeswoman. “Our roots are here." *(Marti Attoun, in American Profile magazine)*
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**The first number of Weekly Unity, with Lowell Fillmore as editor, appeared May 15, 1909.  Unity School had taken another step forward. The popularity of the new magazine increased rapidly, and in the July 10, 1909 issue, the editor told his readers: “We have one subscriber as far east as New York and one as far west as California, with a sprinkling over the intervening States.” Today there are more than two hundred thousand subscribers, living in many countries. *(James Dillet Freeman, in The Story of Unity, p. 125)***

**West Point, the U.S. Military Academy, was established in 1802, when the academy graduated but two of its 10 students. *(Denver P. Tarle, in A Treasury of Trivia, p. 186)*
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**A hummingbird’s egg is a thousand times bigger than the egg of a great blue whale. No, Jennifer, whales don’t lay eggs, but eggs are where they, too, start out. *(L. M. Boyd)*
Although the whale weighs over a hundred tons and the mouse tips the scales at only a few ounces, they develop from eggs of approximately the same size. *(Denver P. Tarle, in A Treasury of Trivia, p. 202)***

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**When he was considered only an eccentric and not one of America’s greatest poets, Walt Whitman would walk the streets of Camden, New Jersey, selling copies of his book “Leaves of Grass” from a pack on his back. *(Bob Fenster, in They Did What!?, p. 20)***

**In 1879, Frank Winfield Woolworth opened a five-cent store in Utica, N. Y. *(Associated Press)***

**Five years ago this week, YouTube uploaded its first video – 19 seconds of co-founder Jawed Karim at the San Diego Zoo. Today, more than 1 billion videos are streamed on the site daily. *(Techradar.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 7, 2010)***

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