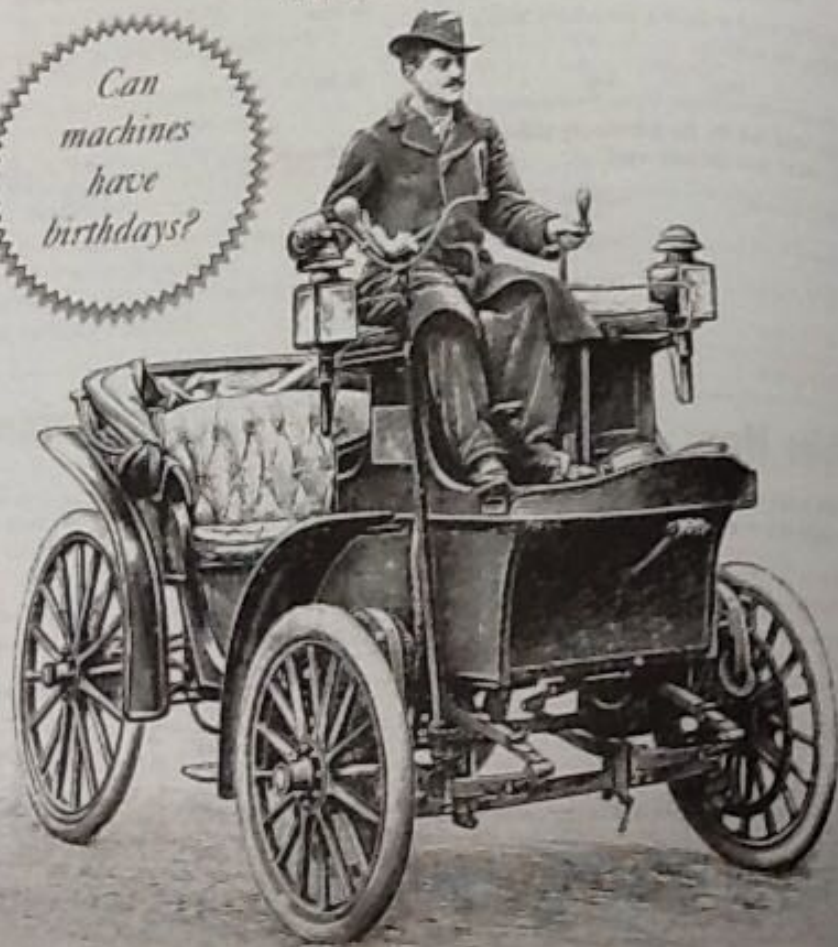


Driving Through TIME

adapted by Jocelyn Piro

Can
machines
have
birthdays?



If machines can have birthdays, the car had one in 1996. That was when the car turned 100 years old.

It was 1896 when the brothers Frank and Charles Duryea started the first car company, the Duryea Motor Wagon Company. That year it built 13 cars.

Let's take an imaginary ride through time in the Duryea Motor Wagon and see what's happened to the car since then. Toot, toot! Off we go!

It's 1899. A New York taxi driver gets the first speeding ticket. He was going far too fast—12 miles an hour!

Now it's 1919. The First World War is just ending. This year, Detroit, Michigan, puts up the first traffic light.

It's 1922. Hold on, we're going faster. In this year, the Ford Motor Company introduces the "assembly line." That means each worker puts one or two parts on a car body as it moves past. This allows Ford to build more than a million cars a year.

It's 1935. The number of cars made in the United States has risen to more than 1 million.

It's 1942. We're in the Second World War. U.S. car companies stop building cars and turn out tanks, jeeps, and other war vehicles.

Set Your Purpose

Cruise through time as you read this article to learn about the history of the car.

It's 1968. The U.S. government requires front-seat shoulder belts in all new American cars. Thousands of lives are saved. By now, the car is an **essential** part of American life.

Now it's 1971. American astronauts on the moon go off road with a car called the *Lunar Rover*. They drive it across the **surface** of the moon. They leave the *Rover* behind on the moon. That makes the moon the largest known parking lot!

But that's nothing. Guess what might be in your **driveway** someday? Cars of the future may obey your voice commands. Magnets may make your car hover over local **country** roads, replacing rubber tires. Who-ee! Let's go!

Think About It

What do you think were the most important events in car history? Why?