# Society

1040

Minnesota Historical Society/Corbis

In the 1000s, engagements are arranged at age seven and marriage follows at age 12 for girls and 14 for boys. Today, the average age at marriage for women is 24.5 and 26.9 for men.

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1298

H. Armstrong Roberts

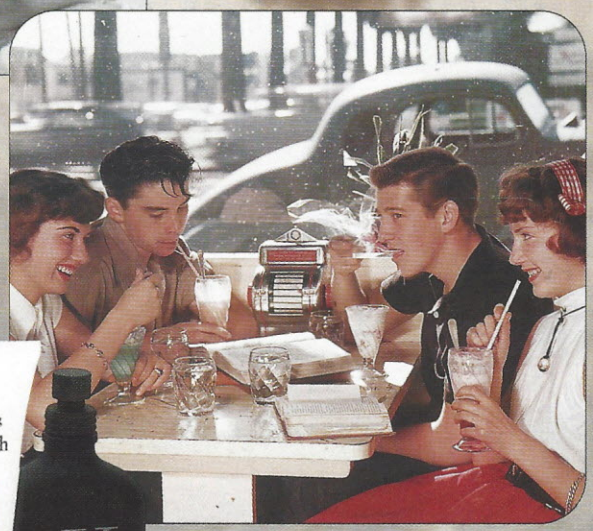
Parrots, canaries, monkeys and fluffy dogs are the preferred pets of the 1500s. Exotic pets of today include iguanas and tarantulas.

In the 1800s, chaperones accompany girls on their dates. In later years, ice cream parlors become popular date hangouts. Today's hot spots are shopping malls.

In 1374, the entire population of a European city goes into a pathological frenzy, dancing in the streets until too exhausted or injured to continue. Slam dancing and mosh pits are common manias at today's concerts.

Average life expectancy in the 1000s is 30. In 1997, it rises to 79 for females and 73 for males.

1460



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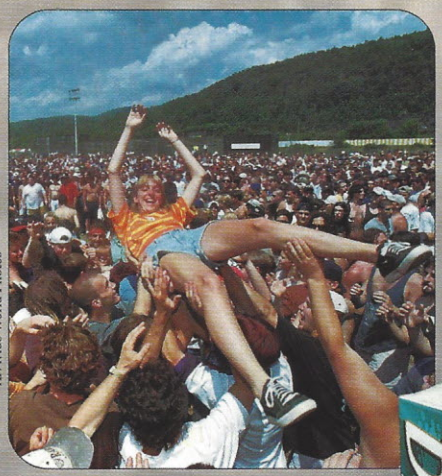

AP/Wide World Photos

1567


1685

In 1910, fewer than 50 percent of people complete grade school. In 1996, 81.7 percent of people complete high school.

Photoworld/FPG

1923

In the 1700s, both sexes wear powdered wigs, rouge and red lipstick. They also etch their whitened faces in blue to bring out the veins. Worldwide annual sales of cosmetics today exceed $80 billion.


Joe Munroe/Archive Photos

The world population in 1600 totals 545 million compared to over 5.9 billion in 1998. The U.S. population in 1790 totals 3.9 million compared to over 270 million in 1998.

2000