

start here

1915



The first editor of the Review was James E. McGregor or "Mac," a fiery editorialist and the association's first employee and executive secretary.



In November, The National Tent and Awning Manufacturers Association launches The National Tent and Awning Manufacturers Review, the "new official organ" of the association.

THE FIRST ISSUE

1920

The BAND-AID brand adhesive bandage is invented by Johnson & Johnson employee Earle Dickson. BAND-AIDS go on the market the following year as the first commercial dressing consumers could apply themselves on small wounds.

John Logie Baird, a Scottish engineer, successfully transmits the first television picture in his laboratory.

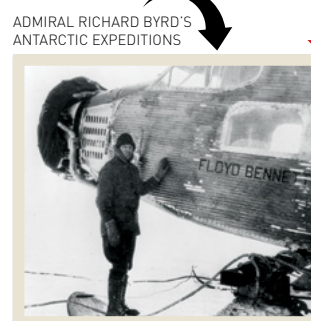
1925

The movement of New England fabric manufacturers to the Southern United States is accelerating. North Carolina becomes the center of the U.S. textile business in the 1920s, success that will continue through much of the 20th century.

The national Collective Advertising Committee creates a series of booklets and pamphlets about the benefits of tents and awnings, offered to all subscribers to the Co-operative Advertising Campaign.

1928

In October, "Tessie the Elephant," on loan from the Broadmore Hotel Zoo, helps the association celebrate its 17th annual convention in Colorado Springs, Colo. The yearly meeting of tent and awning business owners—now known as IFAI Expo—was described as the "homecoming of the industry."



ADMIRAL RICHARD BYRD'S ANTARCTIC EXPEDITIONS

The fireproof-waterproof treatment of canvas was destined for history through its use in Admiral Richard Byrd's Antarctic expeditions. The engines of the airplanes could not be started until they were warmed to liquify the oil. Plain canvas covers had been used over planes but they caught fire. In November, the famous flight to the South Pole is launched. Fireproof and waterproof covers are used that have been treated by Price Fire & Waterproofing Co. and furnished by Baker Carver & Morrell Inc.



The Review magazine predicts "that a big and profitable field for commercial development is the 'fireproofing of canvases.'"

1929

1936 National Tent and Awning Manufacturers Association changes its name to National Canvas Goods Manufacturers Association.



President Roosevelt opens the second phase of the New Deal in the United States, calling for social security, better housing, equitable taxation and farm assistance.

An article in The National Canvas Goods Manufacturers Review compares energy savings between Venetian blinds and awnings, and notes that "The General Electric Company recommends awnings as an aid to their air-conditioning plants."

Introduced at a DuPont research facility, Wallace Hume Carothers creates the first completely synthetic fabric—nylon; its first commercial use is a 1938 nylon-bristle toothbrush. Nylon was subsequently used as a replacement for silk in women's stockings in 1940.

1935



1937 Amelia Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan disappear after taking off from New Guinea during Earhart's attempt to become the first woman to fly around the world.

1939 Manufactured by DuPont, nylon was fabricated entirely of petrochemicals—the first truly manufactured fiber. During WWII, nylon was used to replace silk in parachutes, and was also used in tires, tents, ropes and other military items.

1939 The National Canvas Goods Manufacturers Association holds a conference of war. More than 500 manufacturers crammed into the Grand Ballroom of Chicago's Drake Hotel in the greatest assembly of canvas good manufacturers since the association was formed in 1912. Due in large part to World War II, cotton production was up almost 7 percent, and by the end of 1942, more than 11.25 billion yards of cotton fabric was produced. The amount of workers employed by the industry swelled from 40 million to 52 million as manufacturers tried to compete for highly competitive contracts.

1942 Col. John F. Ohmer, a pioneer in camouflage and commander of the March Field Camouflage Training Center, was assigned the task of implementing "passive defense measures" for all vital installations along the Pacific coast. "Camouflage California" was a cooperative effort—of set designers from MGM, 20th Century Fox, Disney, Paramount and Universal—to hide more than 34 air bases using fake foliage and structural cover constructed of wire, burlap, canvas and camouflage netting.

1945 World War II ends; Franklin D. Roosevelt is sworn in for an unprecedented fourth term, but dies on April 12 at the age of 63.

1948 The Office of the Quartermaster General announces that the Army will be 100 percent out of the duck and webbing market as of Oct. 1.

1949 Swiss electrical engineer George de Mestral invents Velcro™ after closely examining the burrs he found stuck on his clothes after a hunting trip in the Alps.

1951 Dacron suits go on sale in New York City. The new material, produced by DuPont, is the first polyester fiber sold commercially and will later be used in medical devices and artificial hearts.

1954 Capt. James Gallagher and 14 U.S. Air Force flyers complete the first nonstop flight around the world. The flight takes 94 hours and the B-50 Superfortress, Lucky Lady II, refuels four times while in the air.

1955 Rosa Parks is arrested in Montgomery, Ala., for refusing to give up her seat on the bus, setting the American Civil Rights Movement in motion.

1957 The Soviet Union launches Sputnik 1, the world's first satellite, into space. The launch jumpstarts the U.S. space program and leads to the creation of NASA.

1959 Ethel Gant stitches a pair of nylon stockings to a pair of underwear, inventing a practical replacement for garter belts. They are produced by Glen Raven as Panti-Legs and are the first commercially marketed pantyhose.

1960 The Textile Fiber Products Identification Act makes it necessary to label the fiber content of fabrics. The act is the result of rapid changes in the textile industry and the creation of synthetic fibers like polyester.

1962 Astronaut Scott Carpenter leaves his Mercury capsule after splashdown of the second earth-orbiting mission in 1962. He floated for 3 hours in a raft made by the Alden Rubber Company of Philadelphia, a member of the Canvas Products Association International.

1964 Featuring 160 temporary buildings and pavilions, the 1964 New York World's Fair strongly represents the American textile industry. Cooley Inc., a long-time IFAI member, provides the canvas for many of the fair's pavilions and umbrellas, joining Glen Raven and Graniteville in coloring the scene with brightly colored textile structures and awnings.

1966 The federal government approves Pennsylvania's plan to construct an inflatable rubber-coated nylon dam across the Susquehanna River.

1965 The American Textile Manufacturers Institute announces that synthetic fabrics have passed cotton in dollar value for the first time, comprising 64 percent of the dollar value of U.S. textile production.

1966 The Canvas Products Association International forms a legislative committee to promote the interests of the textile industry.

1969 The industrial fabric industry provided the establishment of the U.S. space program with dramatic new sets of uses for manufactured fibers. When Neil Armstrong took "One small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind" on the moon July 20, 1969, his lunar space suit included multi-layers of nylon and aramid fabrics. The flag he planted was made of nylon.

1971 Walter W. Bird, president of Birdair Structures Inc., claimed he was helping to build "a new and better America." An aeronautical engineer, Bird was one of the first to organize the research, design and manufacture of air structures in the United States. Futuristic and dome-shaped, air-supported structures were dynamic with free-flowing lines and open spaces. While Bird eventually shifted his focus to more permanent membrane structures, Birdair continued to build air-supported stadiums throughout the 1970s and 80s. Founded in 1956, the company has completed more than 1,200 installations, utilizing more than 30 million square feet of fabric membrane.

1975 The Vietnam War ends, as Communist forces take Saigon and South Vietnam surrenders.

1977 Star Wars is released by Fox on May 25. It was the most successful film in history, earning more than \$260 million.

1981 The minimum wage is \$2.10; a Ford Mustang costs \$4,105; a gallon of gas costs 44 cents.

1982 Tuff Buks, or the plastic buckle, is developed by Fastex. Unlike steel buckles, they do not freeze, rust or corrode. Strong and lightweight, they are first used in the soft-sided luggage industry.

1985 The "Tent of Meeting," a 25-by-40-foot canvas tent with an interior covered with images reproduced by a large Xerox machine, tours the United States.

1989 The Berlin Wall, built in 1961, is opened on November 9 and hundreds of people swarm to pull it down.

1990 Outdoor Venture Corp. manufactured 9,000 tents under new and existing contracts for Operation Desert Storm, a 1990 deployment of United States troops for the defense of Saudi Arabia.

1992 The North American Free Trade Agreement, commonly referred to as NAFTA, is signed by the United States, Canada and Mexico. Intended to eliminate trade barriers between the three countries and reduce tariffs, it goes into effect on Jan. 1, 1994.

1994 Mann Industries, one of the two sole U.S. suppliers of solution-dyed acrylic fiber, fails. Doran, Twitchell, Dickson Elberton Mills and Wallington Sears must scramble to find new supply chains, while Glen Raven, supplied by Monsanto Co., remains fully stocked.

1995 IFAI's annual market research shows that mainstays (awnings, banners, tents, marine) are doing well, but the highest growth rates are in the relatively new areas of air bags, geosynthetics, medical products and protective clothing.

1998 The U.S. Congress approves the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), to cut tariffs around the world; Asia shows growth in technical textiles, and markets slowly open up for imports; use of membrane covers for temporary and permanent buildings becomes more popular, especially in Europe.

2001 Almost 2,000 people are killed in the terrorist attacks that take place on September 11 in the weeks following. U.S. citizens rally to show sympathy for the victims and their families using flags to symbolize unity and support. Annin & Co., which had produced only 20,000 flags per week before the attacks, quickly upped production to 100,000 per week. Eder Flag Mfg. sold three million cloth flags and flag-shaped lapel pins within five days of the attacks. In the weeks following, flag companies all over the United States have a significant role in bolstering the nation's morale.

2003 The Human Genome Project is completed. The 13-year international scientific research project, coordinated by the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Institutes of Health, set out to identify all of the 20,000-25,000 genes in human DNA. Analysis of the data will continue for many years.

2004 The army releases a new Army Combat Uniform or ACU for use in Iraq. Major changes haven't been made to Army uniforms since the early 1980s.

2005 Bio-based fabrics are being developed as sustainability concerns take a firm hold, nanotechnology enters the fabrics marketplace, and e-textiles become a burgeoning field.

2008 The U.S. Congress approves the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), to cut tariffs around the world; Asia shows growth in technical textiles, and markets slowly open up for imports; use of membrane covers for temporary and permanent buildings becomes more popular, especially in Europe.

2011 New advances in e-textiles are revolutionizing the way scientists and researchers think about the future of fabric. Engineers at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign introduce an ultrathin skin-mounted electronic patch that can use solar cells or wireless coils to power itself. In addition to gathering biomedical data and measuring heart performance, researchers hope that the electric tattoo may be able to help patients who suffer from muscular and neurological disorders.

2015 Specialty Fabrics Review celebrates 100 years. A new nameplate is designed and implemented on the cover. Magazine staff reflects on the past 100 years of industry coverage and begins the planning process of providing credible, trusted information to help keep the magazine, the association and the industry successful for the next 100 years... We hope you'll take the journey with us.

1931 The 3M Co. invents Scotch Cellulose Tape. The tape helps people "make do" during the Great Depression, by making simple repairs to household items.

1942 The National Canvas Goods Manufacturers Association changes name to Canvas Products Association International to reflect growing Canadian membership.

1951 Dacron suits go on sale in New York City. The new material, produced by DuPont, is the first polyester fiber sold commercially and will later be used in medical devices and artificial hearts.

1954 Capt. James Gallagher and 14 U.S. Air Force flyers complete the first nonstop flight around the world. The flight takes 94 hours and the B-50 Superfortress, Lucky Lady II, refuels four times while in the air.

1955 Rosa Parks is arrested in Montgomery, Ala., for refusing to give up her seat on the bus, setting the American Civil Rights Movement in motion.

1957 The Soviet Union launches Sputnik 1, the world's first satellite, into space. The launch jumpstarts the U.S. space program and leads to the creation of NASA.

1959 Ethel Gant stitches a pair of nylon stockings to a pair of underwear, inventing a practical replacement for garter belts. They are produced by Glen Raven as Panti-Legs and are the first commercially marketed pantyhose.

1960 The Textile Fiber Products Identification Act makes it necessary to label the fiber content of fabrics. The act is the result of rapid changes in the textile industry and the creation of synthetic fibers like polyester.

1962 Astronaut Scott Carpenter leaves his Mercury capsule after splashdown of the second earth-orbiting mission in 1962. He floated for 3 hours in a raft made by the Alden Rubber Company of Philadelphia, a member of the Canvas Products Association International.

1964 Featuring 160 temporary buildings and pavilions, the 1964 New York World's Fair strongly represents the American textile industry. Cooley Inc., a long-time IFAI member, provides the canvas for many of the fair's pavilions and umbrellas, joining Glen Raven and Graniteville in coloring the scene with brightly colored textile structures and awnings.

1966 The federal government approves Pennsylvania's plan to construct an inflatable rubber-coated nylon dam across the Susquehanna River.

1965 The American Textile Manufacturers Institute announces that synthetic fabrics have passed cotton in dollar value for the first time, comprising 64 percent of the dollar value of U.S. textile production.

1966 The Canvas Products Association International forms a legislative committee to promote the interests of the textile industry.

1969 The industrial fabric industry provided the establishment of the U.S. space program with dramatic new sets of uses for manufactured fibers. When Neil Armstrong took "One small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind" on the moon July 20, 1969, his lunar space suit included multi-layers of nylon and aramid fabrics. The flag he planted was made of nylon.

1971 Walter W. Bird, president of Birdair Structures Inc., claimed he was helping to build "a new and better America." An aeronautical engineer, Bird was one of the first to organize the research, design and manufacture of air structures in the United States. Futuristic and dome-shaped, air-supported structures were dynamic with free-flowing lines and open spaces. While Bird eventually shifted his focus to more permanent membrane structures, Birdair continued to build air-supported stadiums throughout the 1970s and 80s. Founded in 1956, the company has completed more than 1,200 installations, utilizing more than 30 million square feet of fabric membrane.

1975 The Vietnam War ends, as Communist forces take Saigon and South Vietnam surrenders.

1977 Star Wars is released by Fox on May 25. It was the most successful film in history, earning more than \$260 million.

1981 The minimum wage is \$2.10; a Ford Mustang costs \$4,105; a gallon of gas costs 44 cents.

1982 Tuff Buks, or the plastic buckle, is developed by Fastex. Unlike steel buckles, they do not freeze, rust or corrode. Strong and lightweight, they are first used in the soft-sided luggage industry.

1985 The "Tent of Meeting," a 25-by-40-foot canvas tent with an interior covered with images reproduced by a large Xerox machine, tours the United States.

1989 The Berlin Wall, built in 1961, is opened on November 9 and hundreds of people swarm to pull it down.

1990 Outdoor Venture Corp. manufactured 9,000 tents under new and existing contracts for Operation Desert Storm, a 1990 deployment of United States troops for the defense of Saudi Arabia.

1992 The North American Free Trade Agreement, commonly referred to as NAFTA, is signed by the United States, Canada and Mexico. Intended to eliminate trade barriers between the three countries and reduce tariffs, it goes into effect on Jan. 1, 1994.

1994 Mann Industries, one of the two sole U.S. suppliers of solution-dyed acrylic fiber, fails. Doran, Twitchell, Dickson Elberton Mills and Wallington Sears must scramble to find new supply chains, while Glen Raven, supplied by Monsanto Co., remains fully stocked.

1995 IFAI's annual market research shows that mainstays (awnings, banners, tents, marine) are doing well, but the highest growth rates are in the relatively new areas of air bags, geosynthetics, medical products and protective clothing.

1998 The U.S. Congress approves the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), to cut tariffs around the world; Asia shows growth in technical textiles, and markets slowly open up for imports; use of membrane covers for temporary and permanent buildings becomes more popular, especially in Europe.

2001 Almost 2,000 people are killed in the terrorist attacks that take place on September 11 in the weeks following. U.S. citizens rally to show sympathy for the victims and their families using flags to symbolize unity and support. Annin & Co., which had produced only 20,000 flags per week before the attacks, quickly upped production to 100,000 per week. Eder Flag Mfg. sold three million cloth flags and flag-shaped lapel pins within five days of the attacks. In the weeks following, flag companies all over the United States have a significant role in bolstering the nation's morale.

2003 The Human Genome Project is completed. The 13-year international scientific research project, coordinated by the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Institutes of Health, set out to identify all of the 20,000-25,000 genes in human DNA. Analysis of the data will continue for many years.

2004 The army releases a new Army Combat Uniform or ACU for use in Iraq. Major changes haven't been made to Army uniforms since the early 1980s.

2005 Bio-based fabrics are being developed as sustainability concerns take a firm hold, nanotechnology enters the fabrics marketplace, and e-textiles become a burgeoning field.

2008 The U.S. Congress approves the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), to cut tariffs around the world; Asia shows growth in technical textiles, and markets slowly open up for imports; use of membrane covers for temporary and permanent buildings becomes more popular, especially in Europe.

2011 New advances in e-textiles are revolutionizing the way scientists and researchers think about the future of fabric. Engineers at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign introduce an ultrathin skin-mounted electronic patch that can use solar cells or wireless coils to power itself. In addition to gathering biomedical data and measuring heart performance, researchers hope that the electric tattoo may be able to help patients who suffer from muscular and neurological disorders.

2015 Specialty Fabrics Review celebrates 100 years. A new nameplate is designed and implemented on the cover. Magazine staff reflects on the past 100 years of industry coverage and begins the planning process of providing credible, trusted information to help keep the magazine, the association and the industry successful for the next 100 years... We hope you'll take the journey with us.

1931 The 3M Co. invents Scotch Cellulose Tape. The tape helps people "make do" during the Great Depression, by making simple repairs to household items.

1942 The National Canvas Goods Manufacturers Association changes name to Canvas Products Association International to reflect growing Canadian membership.

1951 Dacron suits go on sale in New York City. The new material, produced by DuPont, is the first polyester fiber sold commercially and will later be used in medical devices and artificial hearts.

1954 Capt. James Gallagher and 14 U.S. Air Force flyers complete the first nonstop flight around the world. The flight takes 94 hours and the B-50 Superfortress, Lucky Lady II, refuels four times while in the air.

1955 Rosa Parks is arrested in Montgomery, Ala., for refusing to give up her seat on the bus, setting the American Civil Rights Movement in motion.

1957 The Soviet Union launches Sputnik 1, the world's first satellite, into space. The launch jumpstarts the U.S. space program and leads to the creation of NASA.

1959 Ethel Gant stitches a pair of nylon stockings to a pair of underwear, inventing a practical replacement for garter belts. They are produced by Glen Raven as Panti-Legs and are the first commercially marketed pantyhose.

1960 The Textile Fiber Products Identification Act makes it necessary to label the fiber content of fabrics. The act is the result of rapid changes in the textile industry and the creation of synthetic fibers like polyester.

1962 Astronaut Scott Carpenter leaves his Mercury capsule after splashdown of the second earth-orbiting mission in 1962. He floated for 3 hours in a raft made by the Alden Rubber Company of Philadelphia, a member of the Canvas Products Association International.

1964 Featuring 160 temporary buildings and pavilions, the 1964 New York World's Fair strongly represents the American textile industry. Cooley Inc., a long-time IFAI member, provides the canvas for many of the fair's pavilions and umbrellas, joining Glen Raven and Graniteville in coloring the scene with brightly colored textile structures and awnings.

1966 The federal government approves Pennsylvania's plan to construct an inflatable rubber-coated nylon dam across the Susquehanna River.

1965 The American Textile Manufacturers Institute announces that synthetic fabrics have passed cotton in dollar value for the first time, comprising 64 percent of the dollar value of U.S. textile production.

1966 The Canvas Products Association International forms a legislative committee to promote the interests of the textile industry.

1969 The industrial fabric industry provided the establishment of the U.S. space program with dramatic new sets of uses for manufactured fibers. When Neil Armstrong took "One small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind" on the moon July 20, 1969, his lunar space suit included multi-layers of nylon and aramid fabrics. The flag he planted was made of nylon.

1971 Walter W. Bird, president of Birdair Structures Inc., claimed he was helping to build "a new and better America." An aeronautical engineer, Bird was one of the first to organize the research, design and manufacture of air structures in the United States. Futuristic and dome-shaped, air-supported structures were dynamic with free-flowing lines and open spaces. While Bird eventually shifted his focus to more permanent membrane structures, Birdair continued to build air-supported stadiums throughout the 1970s and 80s. Founded in 1956, the company has completed more than 1,200 installations, utilizing more than 30 million square feet of fabric membrane.

1975 The Vietnam War ends, as Communist forces take Saigon and South Vietnam surrenders.

1977 Star Wars is released by Fox on May 25. It was the most successful film in history, earning more than \$260 million.

1981 The minimum wage is \$2.10; a Ford Mustang costs \$4,105; a gallon of gas costs 44 cents.

1982 Tuff Buks, or the plastic buckle, is developed by Fastex. Unlike steel buckles, they do not freeze, rust or corrode. Strong and lightweight, they are first used in the soft-sided luggage industry.

1985 The "Tent of Meeting," a 25-by-40-foot canvas tent with an interior covered with images reproduced by a large Xerox machine, tours the United States.

1989 The Berlin Wall, built in 1961, is opened on November 9 and hundreds of people swarm to pull it down.

1990 Outdoor Venture Corp. manufactured 9,000 tents under new and existing contracts for Operation Desert Storm, a 1990 deployment of United States troops for the defense of Saudi Arabia.

1992 The North American Free Trade Agreement, commonly referred to as NAFTA, is signed by the United States, Canada and Mexico. Intended to eliminate trade barriers between the three countries and reduce tariffs, it goes into effect on Jan. 1, 1994.

1994 Mann Industries, one of the two sole U.S. suppliers of solution-dyed acrylic fiber, fails. Doran, Twitchell, Dickson Elberton Mills and Wallington Sears must scramble to find new supply chains, while Glen Raven, supplied by Monsanto Co., remains fully stocked.

1995 IFAI's annual market research shows that mainstays (awnings, banners, tents, marine) are doing well, but the highest growth rates are in the relatively new areas of air bags, geosynthetics, medical products and protective clothing.

1998 The U.S. Congress approves the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), to cut tariffs around the world; Asia shows growth in technical textiles, and markets slowly open up for imports; use of membrane covers for temporary and permanent buildings becomes more popular, especially in Europe.

2001 Almost 2,000 people are killed in the terrorist attacks that take place on September 11 in the weeks following. U.S. citizens rally to show sympathy for the victims and their families using flags to symbolize unity and support. Annin & Co., which had produced only 20,000 flags per week before the attacks, quickly upped production to 100,000 per week. Eder Flag Mfg. sold three million cloth flags and flag-shaped lapel pins within five days of the attacks. In the weeks following, flag companies all over the United States have a significant role in bolstering the nation's morale.

2003 The Human Genome Project is completed. The 13-year international scientific research project, coordinated by the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Institutes of Health, set out to identify all of the 20,000-25,000 genes in human DNA. Analysis of the data will continue for many years.

2004 The army releases a new Army Combat Uniform or ACU for use in Iraq. Major changes haven't been made to Army uniforms since the early 1980s.

2005 Bio-based fabrics are being developed as sustainability concerns take a firm hold, nanotechnology enters the fabrics marketplace, and e-textiles become a burgeoning field.

2008 The U.S. Congress approves the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), to cut tariffs around the world; Asia shows growth in technical textiles, and markets slowly open up for imports; use of membrane covers for temporary and permanent buildings becomes more popular, especially in Europe.

2011 New advances in e-textiles are revolutionizing the way scientists and researchers think about the future of fabric. Engineers at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign introduce an ultrathin skin-mounted electronic patch that can use solar cells or wireless coils to power itself. In addition to gathering biomedical data and measuring heart performance, researchers hope that the electric tattoo may be able to help patients who suffer from muscular and neurological disorders.

2015 Specialty Fabrics Review celebrates 100 years. A new nameplate is designed and implemented on the cover. Magazine staff reflects on the past 100 years of industry coverage and begins the planning process of providing credible, trusted information to help keep the magazine, the association and the industry successful for the next 100 years... We hope you'll take the journey with us.

1936 National Tent and Awning Manufacturers Association changes its name to National Canvas Goods Manufacturers Association.

1937 Amelia Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan disappear after taking off from New Guinea during Earhart's attempt to become the first woman to fly around the world.

1939 Manufactured by DuPont, nylon was fabricated entirely of petrochemicals—the first truly manufactured fiber. During WWII, nylon was used to replace silk in parachutes, and was also used in tires, tents, ropes and other military items.

1939 The National Canvas Goods Manufacturers Association holds a conference of war. More than 500 manufacturers crammed into the Grand Ballroom of Chicago's Drake Hotel in the greatest assembly of canvas good manufacturers since the association was formed in 1912. Due in large part to World War II, cotton production was up almost 7 percent, and by the end of 1942, more than 11.25 billion yards of cotton fabric was produced. The amount of workers employed by the industry swelled from 40 million to 52 million as manufacturers tried to compete for highly competitive contracts.

1942 Col. John F. Ohmer, a pioneer in camouflage and commander of the March Field Camouflage Training Center, was assigned the task of implementing "passive defense measures" for all vital installations along the Pacific coast. "Camouflage California" was a cooperative effort—of set designers from MGM, 20th Century Fox, Disney, Paramount and Universal—to hide more than 34 air bases using fake foliage and structural cover constructed of wire, burlap, canvas and camouflage netting.

1945 World War II ends; Franklin D. Roosevelt is sworn in for an unprecedented fourth term, but dies on April 12 at the age of 63.

1948 The Office of the Quartermaster General announces that the Army will be 100 percent out of the duck and webbing market as of Oct. 1.

1949 Swiss electrical engineer George de Mestral invents Velcro™ after closely examining the burrs he found stuck on his clothes after a hunting trip in the Alps.

1951 Dacron suits go on sale in New York City. The new material, produced by DuPont, is the first polyester fiber sold commercially and will later be used in medical devices and artificial hearts.

1954 Capt. James Gallagher and 14 U.S. Air Force flyers complete the first nonstop flight around the world. The flight takes 94 hours and the B-50 Superfortress, Lucky Lady II, refuels four times while in the air.

1955 Rosa Parks is arrested in Montgomery, Ala., for refusing to give up her seat on the bus, setting the American Civil Rights Movement in motion.

1957 The Soviet Union launches Sputnik 1, the world's first satellite, into space. The launch jumpstarts the U.S. space program and leads to the creation of NASA.

1959 Ethel Gant stitches a pair of nylon stockings to a pair of underwear, inventing a practical replacement for garter belts. They are produced by Glen Raven as Panti-Legs and are the first commercially marketed pantyhose.

1960 The Textile Fiber Products Identification Act makes it necessary to label the fiber content of fabrics. The act is the result of rapid changes in the textile industry and the creation of synthetic fibers like polyester.

1962 Astronaut Scott Carpenter leaves his Mercury capsule after splashdown of the second earth-orbiting mission in 1962. He floated for 3 hours in a raft made by the Alden Rubber Company of Philadelphia, a member of the Canvas Products Association International.

1964 Featuring 160 temporary buildings and pavilions, the 1964 New York World's Fair strongly represents the American textile industry. Cooley Inc., a long-time IFAI member, provides the canvas for many of the fair's pavilions and umbrellas, joining Glen Raven and Graniteville in coloring the scene with brightly colored textile structures and awnings.

1966 The federal government approves Pennsylvania's plan to construct an inflatable rubber-coated nylon dam across the Susquehanna River.

1965 The American Textile Manufacturers Institute announces that synthetic fabrics have passed cotton in dollar value for the first time, comprising 64 percent of the dollar value of U.S. textile production