

T W E N T Y - f O U R



"Twenty-four is a prudent age for women to marry at."

—SAMUEL RICHARDSON,
Sir Charles Grandison (1753–54)

Newlyweds SYLVIA PLATH and Ted Hughes purchase a Ouija board, autumn 1956.

On September 30, 1955, JAMES DEAN dies in a head-on collision while driving his Porsche Spyder to a race in Salinas, California. He has starred in three films, all made within the past year, *East of Eden*, *Rebel Without a Cause*, and *Giant*, for which he's received two Oscar nominations.

AHMET ERTEGUN founds Atlantic Records with one partner and \$10,000 borrowed from the family dentist, 1947. Their first office is in a condemned hotel on West 56th street between Sixth and Broadway.

MARTHA STEWART quits her modeling career after the birth of her daughter Alexis, September 1965.

BETSY ROSS sews the flag, 1776. She persuades her client, George Washington, to change the stars in his design from six points to five.

JASPER JOHNS paints the flag, 1954.

JOHNNY CASH meets June Carter for the first time backstage at the *Grand Ole Opry* in Nashville, 1956. As is so often true in country music, she is already married.

While finishing *Pet Sounds* in early 1966, BRIAN WILSON, the shy, depressive Beach Boy, writes a song describing the intangible some-

thing that animals can sense about people. "A dog would pick up vibrations from these people that you can't see but you can feel," Wilson would later say. The song is "Good Vibrations."

DOLORES HART, who played the "good girl" pursued by George Hamilton in *Where the Boys Are*, quits the movie business, jilts her fiancé, and enters a Benedictine convent, 1963.

ALEXANDER POPE writes *The Rape of the Lock*, 1712.

POL POT wins a scholarship to study radio electronics in Paris, 1949. He joins the French Communist Party.

TY COBB bats .420 and leads the league in hits, doubles, triples, runs scored, runs batted in, and stolen bases, 1911.

BOB DYLAN goes electric on the first side of his 1965 album *Bringing It All Back Home*. He is booed at the Newport Folk Festival.

Unhappily married and living in Hollywood, LILLIAN HELLMAN meets Dashiell Hammett at a restaurant, 1930. They hit it off.

JEANNE-ANTOINETTE POISSON D'ETIOLES meets King Louis XV at a masked ball celebrating the dauphin's wedding, February 1745. She goes to bed with him. Later in the year she and her cuckolded husband purchase the Marquisate of Pompadour.

The general store that ABRAHAM LINCOLN has been operating in New Salem, Illinois, fails after one year, 1833.

While teaching at Arnold House School in Wales, EVELYN WAUGH attempts suicide by swimming out to sea but turns back after being stung by a jellyfish, 1925.

MIGUEL DE CERVANTES suffers three harquebus wounds at the Battle of Lepanto, 1571.

GROUCHO MARX plays the Palace Theater for the first time, 1915.

JAMES STEWART is rooming with Henry Fonda in New York, where the two are trying to break into acting, 1932.