

NASHVILLE FUN FACTS

Did you know...that the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum is an architectural wonder in itself. One side of the building is a RKO-style radio tower while the main building, with windows resembling a piano keyboard, ends in a Cadillac tailfin-style flourish.

Did you know...the President Theodore Roosevelt coined the phrase "good to the last drop," words that became a national slogan, after sipping coffee at Maxwell House Hotel. The coffee was a local product of the Cheek family. Their family home is now Cheekwood Botanical Garden & Museum of Art.

Did you know...Nashville's Athena Parthenos is the tallest indoor sculpture in the Western world? She stands an impressive 42 feet high in the temple of the Parthenon.

Did you know...Belle Meade Plantation was famous for breeding thoroughbred horses. Iroquois, bred at the Belle Meade Farm, was the first American horse to win the English Derby. In addition to Iroquois, though, there were two other famous horses that can trace their lineage back to Belle Meade: Seabiscuit and War Admiral, both made popular again by the 2001 best-selling novel. Four generations removed, the 1930s horses were descendants of the sires of Bonnie Scotland, Belle Meade's prize horse, making the family rivalry at the Plantation run deep.

Did you know...In 1941, Nashville was granted the first FM license in the United States. Music City then became the first to enjoy static-free radio.

Did you know...The Frist Center for the Visual Arts is located in what was formerly Nashville's main post office, a city landmark placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. The Center went to great lengths to preserve the historical integrity of the building, as the building itself is a work of art.

Did you know...African-American artist and native Nashvillian Will Edmonson was the first black to be honored with a one-man exhibit at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Edmonson, the son of former slaves, created primitive limestone carvings of animals, angels, Biblical characters and even celebrities. A photo spread of his work in Harper's Bazaar led to the historic 1937 exhibit in New York City. Today, his works are on display at Cheekwood Botanical Garden and Museum of Art.

Did you know...Elvis recorded more than 200 of his songs at RCA's Historic Studio B on Music Row. The red, blue and green lights found in the studio are a remnant from one of Elvis's Christmas albums. Unable to get in the holiday spirit while recording in July, he was having trouble finishing the album. The crew solved the problem by installing holiday-colored lights, putting up an artificial Christmas tree in the corner and cranking the air conditioner up as high as it would go to create the festive atmosphere.

Did you know...Nashville was founded on Christmas Eve 1779 along the banks of the Cumberland River. Two teams of pioneers set forth from the Carolinas to found the new city. Upon arrival, they immediately began building Fort Nashborough. Among the pioneers was Rachel Donelson, daughter of Captain John Donelson, who would later become the wife of President Andrew Jackson.

Did you know...The Hermitage: Home of Andrew Jackson, the 7th President of the United States, boasts a driveway in the shape of a guitar. Legend says that the driveway was so shaped to please his daughter-in-law Emily. Nashvillians like to think it was a good sign of things to come.

Did you know...Standard Candy Company, founded in 1901, created the GooGoo, a true Nashville delight marrying peanuts, caramel, marshmallow and milk chocolate together for a tasty cluster of candy. Today Standard Candy Company uses more than 3 million pounds of chocolate a year. Legend has it that GOO stands for Grand Ole Opry.