

The world's first electric elevators are installed by the Otis Company in New York's Demarest building on Fifth Avenue at 33rd Street.

Electric lights are installed at the White House in Washington, D.C., but neither President Harrison nor his wife will touch the switches. An employee turns on the lights each evening, and they remain burning until the employee returns in the morning to turn them off.

I.M. Singer Company introduces the first electric sewing machine and sells a million machines, up from 539,000 in 1880.

A coin operated telephone patented by Hartford, Conn., inventor William Gray is installed in the Hartford Bank. (Local calls cost 5 cents everywhere until 1951.)

Mark Twain wrote *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthurs Court*.

*The Starry Night*, and *Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear* is painted by Vincent van Gogh who is suffering from a mental disorder, and has cut off his ear and presented it to a young prostitute at Arles.

Popular songs are *Oh, Promise Me* and *Down Went McGinty*.

Richard Sears sells his 3-year-old mail order watch business for \$70,000 but soon starts another such business with a catalog of watches, watch chains, and other jewelry offered with the slogan "Satisfaction or Your Money Back."

London's Savoy Hotel opens August 6, the first British hotel to have private baths. The new Hotel Victoria has four baths to serve its 500 guests.

New York's first real skyscraper opens at 50 Broadway. Architect Bradford Lee Gilbert climbs to the top of the 13-story structure during construction and lets down a plumb line during a hurricane to show crowds gathered to watch the building collapse that it is as steady as a rock.

A pure food law is proposed to Congress but meets with ridicule.

A U.S. ice shortage caused by an extraordinarily mild winter gives impetus to the development of ice-making plants. By year's end the country has more than 200 ice plants, up from 35 in 1879.

Aunt Jemima pancake flour, invented at St. Joseph, Mo., is the first self-rising flour for pancakes and the first ready-mix food ever to be introduced commercially.

McCormick spices employs two girls and a boy in a one-room factory with cellar and backyard and is in business selling flavoring extracts, fruit syrups, juices, Iron Glue ("Stick to Everything but the Buyer") and Uncle Sams Nerve and Bone Liniment ("For Man or Beast").

Lenox China is introduced by Trenton, N.J., ceramist Walter Scott Lenox, 30, who has established the Ceramic Art Company and whose porcelain will be ranked with that of England's Wedgewood and Spode.

The "safety" bicycle is introduced in the United States. Within 4 years, more than a million Americans will be riding the new bike.

Edward M. Bok takes over the *Ladies Home Journal* and employs writers to produce material to appeal to female readers. Circulation of the magazine goes up to 700,000.



President B. Harrison



Train Station, Lexington