

endnotes

HISTORICAL MAY

“ We’re all eccentrics.
We’re nine prima donnas.”

—Harry A. Blackmun, Supreme Court Justice

May 5, 1862

Origins of the Cinco de Mayo Holiday

During the French-Mexican War, a poorly supplied and outnumbered Mexican army defeats a French army attempting to capture Puebla de Los Angeles, a small town in east-central Mexico. Today, Mexicans celebrate the Battle of Puebla as *Cinco de Mayo*, a national holiday.



May 12, 1970

Harry Blackmun Confirmed to Supreme Court

The Senate confirms President Richard M. Nixon's nomination of Federal Circuit Judge Harry A. Blackmun to the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1973, Blackmun authored *Roe v. Wade*, which held that a woman's right to an abortion fell within the right to privacy protected by the Fourteenth Amendment.



HINDENBURG BLAST KILLS 35



May 6, 1937

The Hindenburg Disaster

The airship *Hindenburg*, the largest dirigible ever built and the pride of Nazi Germany, bursts into flames upon mooring in Lakehurst, NJ, killing 36 passengers and crew members. After the disaster, no rigid airships survived World War II.

May 8, 1984

Soviets to Boycott LA Olympics

The Soviet government announces a boycott of the 1984 Summer Olympic Games to be held in Los Angeles. The boycott is the result of strained Cold War relations and retribution for the U.S. boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games.



May 1, 1997

Labour Party Returns to Power

After 18 years of Conservative rule, British voters give the Labour Party, led by Tony Blair, a landslide victory in British parliamentary elections. Conservative Prime Minister John Major was rejected in favor of Scottish-born Blair, who at age 43 became the youngest British prime minister in more than a century.

