



NEW JERSEY FAMOUS FIRSTS

Beginning with its role as one of the first states to formally be admitted into the United States of America, New Jersey has been home to many famous firsts. Whether it be in the world of sports, science, hospitality, or beer, many exciting innovations have happened for the first time on New Jersey soil. Some of the state's most noteworthy firsts include:

- The first organized baseball game was played in Hoboken in 1846 with the New York Baseball Club defeating the Knickerbockers 23-1. This isn't the only baseball first to happen in New Jersey—the first radio broadcast of the World Series was transmitted live on radio station WIZ in Newark in 1921.
- The first intercollegiate college football games were played in 1869 between Rutgers and Princeton. The first was played November 6 at Rutgers campus (a win for Rutgers) and the second was played on November 14 at Princeton's campus (won by Princeton).
- The first boardwalk in the world was built in 1870 at Atlantic City. The iconic boardwalk is still very popular among visitors and is home to a variety of shops and restaurants.
- The first airplane passenger flight flew from New York to Atlantic City on May 3, 1919. Today, New Jersey has a total of 475 licensed aviation facilities and heliports. Of those 42 are public use, 75 private use and 314 heliports. Two airports are international: Newark Liberty International, and Atlantic City International and the state welcomes millions of air travelers each year.
- The first drive-in movie theater was built on a 10-acre plot in Camden County in 1933, by young entrepreneur and movie buff Richard Hollingshead.
- The first ferry service in the U.S. operated between Hoboken and Manhattan in 1811. Today the ferry still provides quick and easy service to New York.
- The first seaside resorts opened in Cape May and Long Branch in the early 1800s, proving that the Jersey Shore has been a desired vacation spot for over 200 hundred years.
- The first brewery in America opened in Hoboken in 1642. Fast forward a few hundred years and New Jersey is still home to a thriving craft beer scene, with more than 100 breweries throughout the state today.

- The first phonograph was made by Thomas A. Edison in Menlo Park in 1877. The first words Edison successfully recorded on the phonograph were “Mary Had a Little Lamb.” He soon earned the title of “The Wizard of Menlo Park” and put Menlo Park on the map as visitors flocked to see demonstrations of the phonograph.
- The first movie was developed by Thomas A. Edison in West Orange in 1889, which is why he is sometimes called the "Father of Motion Pictures."
- The invention Thomas A. Edison is most famously known for also took place in New Jersey. It was in Menlo Park that he created the first incandescent lamp (light bulb) in 1879. The first town to be lighted by electricity using Edison’s bulbs was Roselle in 1883.
- The first submarine was built in 1878 by John Holland of Passaic County. The submarine is now on display in a public museum in Paterson.
- Everyone’s favorite seaside treat can trace its roots back to the Jersey Shore as the first saltwater taffy was produced there in the 1870s.
- The first solid body electric guitar was invented by Les Paul of Mahwah in 1940. These guitars would go on to be the instrument of choice for rock legends such as Keith Richards, Eric Clapton, Jimmy Page and more.

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Media Contacts:

Lou Hammond Group

newjerseygroup@louhammond.com

Emel Crawford, N.J. Department of State

emel.crawford@sos.nj.gov / 609.292.7138