

A sepia-toned photograph of a woman with short, curly hair sitting in the driver's seat of a car. She is leaning forward, blowing into a device called a Drunkometer. The device is a rectangular box with a circular dial and various mechanical components. A person's hands are visible, one holding the device and the other near the woman's mouth. The background is slightly blurred, showing the interior of the car and some external structures.

Today in History

December 31, 1938

▲ The “Drunkometer”, the first successful machine to test blood alcohol content in car drivers by analysing their breath, was introduced in the United States

1687: The first Huguenots set sail from France for the Cape of Good Hope, to escape religious persecution

1948: U.S. professor Alfred Kinsey published his report on the “Sexual Behaviour of the Human Male”

1953: A British-led expedition to search for the yeti arrived in India but found no evidence of the “Abominable Snowman”

1992: At midnight Czechoslovakia ceased to exist, to be replaced by the Czech and Slovak republics