

A sepia-toned photograph showing a woman with curly hair sitting in the driver's seat of a car. She is leaning forward, blowing into a device called a Drunkometer. A man in a suit is standing outside the car, holding the machine. The machine is a boxy, mechanical device with a circular dial and various knobs and tubes. The woman is wearing a light-colored jacket and a watch. The man is wearing a dark suit and a tie. The background is slightly blurred, showing the interior of the car and some outdoor elements.

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

1971: Burma's U Thant retired as UN Secretary-General, to be succeeded by Austria's Kurt Waldheim

1994: The World Trade Organisation came into being at midnight

1999: Russian president Boris Yeltsin announced his immediate resignation and appointed premier Vladimir Putin as acting president