Did You Know 2.0

As one of the authors of the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson's words helped found a nation. But did you know that he also invented the modern day swivel chair? Jefferson had come to the conclusion that the Windsor Chair he had been using for work while drafting the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia didn't offer him enough movement, so he resolved to create something that did, and with that the swivel came to be.

Charlottesville was actually named after the British Queen Charlotte of Mecklenberg-Strelitz, she married King George III and did you know, she was a patroness of arts and an amateur botanist. Not exactly sure what makes one an amateur botanist, but we like flowers too.

Three Notch’d Road is famous for multiple reasons. It was a major colonial-era Virginia road our Charlottesville resident presidents traveled to Richmond and back, and the road Jack Jouett (jew-it) used to on his 40-mile ride to warn of the approaching British Army. But, why three notches? It is believed to have taken its name from a distinctive marking of three notches cut into trees to blaze the trail. Today, a large portion of Route 250 follows the historic path of Three Notch’d Road, as does Interstate 64

In 1987, the University of Virginia alongside Monticello was recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site. UVA is the only university world heritage site and is one of the three man-made sites in the United States to be recognized.

Legend has it that good ole Dr. Suess applied three times to UVA and was rejected each and every time. After being insanely successful, he apparently sought out revenge by purchasing a large home in the area. Specifically selecting a home that was strategically placed in the mountains, looking down on the university that refused to accept him.

Ting Pavilion wasn't always the gigantic music venue you see today. Prior to July of 2005, the then Charlottesville Amphitheater featured all grass seating, porta potties by the dumpsters, and constant rain cancelations due to a severe lack of tent.

Lake Monticello was originally going to be called Lake Boston after the creek that fed it? Conceived in 1958 by 4 businessmen who purchased the land as the Nahor Milling Company even though the company was not in Nahor nor had anything to do with Milling

Just 5 miles south of Scottsville is the last poled ferry in the United States. Hatton Ferry dates back to the 1870s and is currently owned by Albemarle Charlottesville historical society.

The Charlottesville Albemarle Airport first took flight in 1955 but it wasn't until 1967 that the first jets came and went after an over 1,000-foot extension of the runway.

Did you know it took almost 50 years for the idea of John W Warner Parkway to become a reality? Planning for the road as the Meadowcreek Parkway began in the late 1960s but wasn't officially open until 2015 with a new name to honor the US Senator who helped secure federal funding for the project.

UVA Men's Basketball has had 3 home courts before coming to the John Paul Jones Arena in 2006? Fayerweather Gymnasium was built 13 years before the program was born in 1893 and included the university's first bathtubs. Memorial Gym Opened in 1924 before being replaced by University Hall in 1965 which was demolished in 2019. Fayerweather Hall and Mem Gym still stand to this day.

Did you know the Lake Anna Nuclear Power Plant was almost twice the size it is today? 2 additional units were planned to join the original two that were commissioned in 1978 and 1980 but were cancelled. Permission for another unit was granted in 2017 but that project was placed on hold that very same year.