OSINT4Fun Advent of OSINT 2024: Day 5

*Among celebrities born on December 5th, this person created many worldwide-renowned artworks.*

*What was the original first name, which was eventually abandoned, given to their most famous creation?*

So, I know that Wikipedia has lists of famous people born on particular dates. Let’s find such a page with the Google search query: Wikipedia “December 5” birth famous list. The first hit is what we are looking for. In this list, we are looking for famous artists. Scrolling through this list, I realize that multiple hits are possible and the term art can be interpreted in multiple ways (painting, music, poetry, etc.). Still, this list should include the person we are looking for. So, I decided to look through the list and start with the artists I know (and hence are most famous). This brings me to Walt Disney, whose most famous creation is Mickey Mouse. This could be a good fit for our challenge. Looking through the Wikipedia page of Walt Disney, there is a section about the creation of Mickey Mouse. And indeed, it is mentioned that Walt Disney wanted to name Mickey Mouse ‘Mortimer Mouse’ originally. Apparently, this name was changed because of Walt’s wife’s advice. The name ‘**Mortimer**’ indeed is the correct answer.

Another question pops up: *There is much speculation about the date when Mickey Mouse was first conceived. One of the hypotheses mentions the return trip from a disappointing visit to Charles Mintz.  So, according to this theory, on what date (format YYYYMMDD) was Mickey imagined?* First, let’s read through the Wikipedia page for Mickey Mouse again. In the Creation section, it is indeed explained that multiple myths exist about how Mickey’s character was conceived. Specifically, one theory is mentioned about a train ride home from a disappointing meeting with Mintz. The two references linked to this statement are books and therefore inaccessible unfortunately. Let’s Google for: “Charles Mintz” train “Mickey Mouse”. Reading through some articles, I see mentions of the train ride for the spring of 1928. Eventually, a page on mouseplanet.com gives the full date: March 13, 1928. Therefore, the answer to the second question is: **19280313**.

And another question pops up: *Mickey was created to replace a former character due to contract and copyright issues. What is the title of the first film featuring this character that was shown in theaters?* In earlier search results I had already found that Mickey Mouse was a replacement for Oswald the Lucky Rabbit. Going to the Wikipedia page for this character reveals that Oswald first appeared in a cartoon called **Trolley Troubles**.