

1950s TIME LINE

■ 1950

- North Korea invaded South Korea, United Nations (U.N.) responded as President Truman sent U.S. troops; Douglas MacArthur appointed Commander of U.N. forces in Korea.

■ 1951

- Winston Churchill returned as Britain's Prime Minister.
- U.N. troops recaptured Seoul from North Korean and Chinese forces.
- Missouri River and tributaries flood more than one million acres.

■ 1952

- King George VI of England died; succeeded by his daughter, Queen Elizabeth II.
- Dwight D. Eisenhower resigned as Supreme Commander in Europe; elected U.S. President over Adlai Stevenson; Richard Nixon became Vice President.
- Puerto Rico became the first U.S. Commonwealth.
- Polio epidemic struck more than 50,000; Salk vaccine tested.

■ 1953

- Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tensing Norgay of Nepal were the first men to climb Mt. Everest, the world's highest peak.
- Korean armistice signed at Panmunjom ending the Korean War. (July)

■ 1954

- U.S. and Canada agreed to share the St. Lawrence Seaway and to build DEW (Distant Early Warning) Line in northern Canada to give warning of approaching aircraft or missiles over the Arctic.
- Racial segregation in public schools declared unconstitutional.

■ 1955

- Winston Churchill resigned as Britain's Prime Minister. He was succeeded by Anthony Eden.
- President Eisenhower suffered a heart attack.
- Blacks in Montgomery, AL boycotted segregated city bus lines.

■ 1956

- Uproar in South followed Supreme Court school desegregation ruling.
- Eisenhower reelected President.
- Martin Luther King, Jr. emerged as leader of campaign for desegregation.
- U.S. government authorized construction of 42,500-mile highway network linking major urban centers.

■ 1957

- Anthony Eden resigned as Prime Minister of Great Britain and was succeeded by Harold Macmillan.
- Queen Elizabeth visited Canada and U.S. and addressed U.N. General Assembly.

■ 1958

- First U.S. satellite was launched.
- U.S. Postal Office raised letter postage from three to four¢.

■ 1959

- Alaska became the 49th state (Jan.), and Hawaii became the 50th state (Aug.).
- Cuban President Batista fled to the Dominican Republic; Fidel Castro became Premier of Cuba.
- U.S. space program accelerated.
- U.S., U.S.S.R., and 10 other nations signed pact reserving Antarctica for scientific, peaceful purposes.

BOOKS: *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe: Story for Children* (Lewis), *Live Younger, Live Longer* (Hauser), *The Caine Mutiny* (Wouk), *The Catcher in the Rye* (Salinger), *Pogo* (Kelly), *East of Eden* (Steinbeck), *The Old Man and the Sea* (Hemingway), *Charlotte's Web* (White), *The Invisible Man* (Ellison), *Casino Royale* (Fleming), *Battle Cry* (Uris), *The Blackboard Jungle* (Hunter), *Lord of the Flies* (Golding), *Andersonville* (Kantor), *Why Johnny Can't Read* (Flesch), *Profiles in Courage* (Kennedy), *The Cat in the Hat* and *The Grinch That Stole Christmas* (Theodor "Dr. Seuss" Geisel), *Atlas Shrugged* (Rand), *Dr. Zhivago* (Pasternak), *Breakfast at Tiffany's* (Capote), *Exodus* (Uris), *Goodbye, Columbus* (Roth), *Hawaii* (Michener)

STAGE: *Guys and Dolls*, *The King and I*, *Paint Your Wagon*, *The Seven Year Itch*, *Dial "M" for Murder*, *The Crucible*, *Witness for the Prosecution*, *Kismet*, *Peter Pan*, *Damn Yankees*, *The Matchmaker*, *Auntie Mame*, *My Fair Lady*, *Li'l Abner*, *Look Homeward Angel*, *West Side Story*, *The Music Man*, *Flower Drum Song*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *The Sound of Music*, *Gypsy*

MOVIES: *Father of the Bride*, *Treasure Island*, *The Sands of Iwo Jima*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *A Place in the Sun*, *The Red Badge of Courage*, *Tom Sawyer*, *The Thing*, *Bedtime for Bonzo*, *Show Boat*, *An American in Paris*, *The African Queen*, *High Noon*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *From Here to Eternity*, *Roman Holiday*, *April in Paris*, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, *Stars and Stripes Forever*, *Sabrina*, *A Star Is Born*, *Rear Window*, *Three Coins in the Fountain*, *White Christmas*, *The Glenn Miller Story*, *Rebel Without a Cause*, *Mister Roberts*, *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, *Lady and the Tramp*, *Oklahoma!*, *The Ten Commandments*, *Anastasia*, *The Man With the Golden Arm*, *Godzilla*, *The King and I*, *The Bridge Over the River Kwai*, *The Spirit of St. Louis*, *12 Angry Men*, *Funny Face*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Vertigo*, *The Long Hot Summer*, *South Pacific*, *Auntie Mame*, *Gigi*, *Damn Yankees*, *North By Northwest*, *Ben-Hur*, *Some Like It Hot*, *Sleeping Beauty*

SONGS: *If I Knew You Were Comin' I'd've Baked a Cake*, *Frosty the Snowman*, *Silver Bells*, *Luck Be a Lady*, *Mona Lisa*, *Kisses Sweeter Than Wine*, *Unforgettable*, *Come On-a My House*, *On Top of Old Smokey*, *That Doggie in the Window*, *I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus*, *Pretend*, *Wheel of Fortune*, *When I Fall in Love*, *Till I Waltz Again With You*, *Come What May*, *Vaya Con Dios*, *Don't Let the Stars Get in Your Eyes*, *Crying in the Chapel*, *Fly Me to the Moon*, *I Left My Heart in San Francisco*, *Mister Sandman*, *Papa Loves Mambo*, *Shake, Rattle, and Roll*, *Sh-Boom*, *That's Amore*, *Earth Angel*, *Ain't That a Shame*, *Arrivederci, C'est la Vie*, *Cherry Pink and Apple Blossom White*, *The Great Pretender*, *Que Será Será*, *The Yellow Rose of Texas*, *Love Is a Many-Splendored Thing*, *The Rock and Roll Walt*, *Blue Suede Shoes*, *Heartbreak Hotel*, *Hound Dog*, *Love Me Tender*, *Don't Be Cruel*, *Blueberry Hill*, *I Could Have Danced All Night*, *Mack the Knife*, *Chances Are*, *All Shook Up*, *The Banana Boat Song*, *Seventy-Six Trombones*, *Jailhouse Rock*, *At the Ho*, *The Chipmunk Song*, *Volare*, *Lollipop*, *The Purple People Eater*, *Thank Heaven for Little Girls*, *Tom Dooley*, *The Sound of Music*, *Do-Re-Mi*, *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*, *High Hopes*, *There Goes My Baby*

TV SHOWS: *Milton Berle*, *Philco Playhouse*, *Show of Shows*, *Arthur Godfrey*, *I Love Lucy*, *Red Skelton*, *Jack Benny*, *You Bet Your Life*, *Dragnet*, *Bob Hope*, *Jackie Gleason*, *Ed Sullivan*, *The \$64,000 Question*, *I've Got a Secret*, *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*, *Gunsmoke*, *The Rifleman*, *Real McCoys*, *Father Knows Best*, *77 Sunset Strip*, *Price Is Right*, *Perry Mason*, *Kraft Theatre*, *Life of Riley*, *What's My Line?*, *Bonanza*, *The Honeyymooners*, *Mr. Peepers*, *Playhouse 90*

FIRSTS: **1950** - kidney transplant, credit cards (Diners Club), international passenger flights by jet **1951** - coast-to-coast color TV, U.S. space flight carrying live creatures (four monkeys), Pan-American Games (in Argentina) **1952** - pocket-size transistor radios, plastic lenses for cataracts **1953** - filter-tip cigarettes, transistorized hearing aids, lung cancer reported result of cigarette smoking **1954** - atomic-powered sub (*U.S.S. Nautilus*), solar batteries, frozen TV dinners **1955** - oral contraceptives, driplless paint, Play-Doh **1956** - transatlantic cable telephone service, oral polio vaccine, atomic power-generating plant (England) **1957** - rotary engines, electric can openers, atomic-powered carrier (*U.S.S. Enterprise*), electric portable typewriters, plastic pink flamingo lawn ornaments **1958** - stereo LP records, **1959** - synthetic

diamonds manufactured, atomic-powered merchant ship (*N.S. Savannah*), commercial transcontinental jet passenger service (American Airlines)

FADS: humanoid dolls, circle skirts, plaid menswear, bomb shelters, drive-in movies, straw hats, narrow bow ties, Scrabble games, panty raids, beanies, pizzas, leopard-print clothing, Roy Rogers toy guns, lunch boxes, and clothing, toy railroads, shaggy hairdos, fur dresses and sweaters, Li'l Abner dolls, Cuban mambo, cha-cha-cha, fancy underpants, Davy Crockett coonskin hat and other clothes, Happi coats, Mamie Eisenhower shirtwaist dresses, Captain Midnight decoder rings, teenage girls wearing their boyfriends' high school rings on gold chains around their necks, hypnosis, Pluto Platters (to be called Frisbees in 1958), Elvis Presley merchandise, Elvis hairdos for teens, sword pins to signify dating, Hula-Hoops, false eyelashes, folk medicine, sack dresses, Zorro, colored stockings, fitness gym, telephone-booth stuffing, loose-fitting sweaters, Barbie dolls

SPORTS HEADLINES

- Dominant teams of the 1950s decade were New York Yankees (captured six World Series in baseball), Cleveland Browns (won seven division titles and three National Football League championships), Montreal Canadiens (won five Stanley Cups in hockey), Minneapolis Lakers (captured four National Basketball Assoc. titles). Two powerful college teams, football's Oklahoma Sooners and basketball's San Francisco Dons, compiled record winning streaks of 47 and 60 games, respectively.
- Bobby Thomson won the 1951 National League pennant for the New York Giants with "The Shot Heard 'Round the World" (a three-run homer in the 9th inning). The Giants beat the Brooklyn Dodgers and went on to lose to the Yankees in the World Series.
- The Summer Olympic Games in Helsinki drew almost 5,000 athletes from 69 nations, including the U.S.S.R. following a 40-year absence. The U.S. won the medal count, and outstanding gold medal performances were made by American Bob Mathias (decathlon) and Floyd Patterson (middleweight boxer). (1952)
- Twenty-one-year-old New York Yankee slugger Mickey Mantle blasted a home run that cleared the 50-foot outer wall of Washington's Griffith Stadium and came to rest in the backyard of a house, 565 feet away from home plate. It was considered the longest ball ever hit. *Mark McGuire fans may want to argue about this.* (1953)
- Babe Didrikson-Zaharias won the U.S. Women's Open golf championship after recovering from a cancer operation. (1954)
- In the event called "The Mile of the Century", Roger Bannister became the first man to break the 4-minute mile when he posted a time of 3:59.4. (1954)
- The National Basketball Association added two rules (24-second shot clock and bonus free-throw for each foul over six committed in a quarter) that meant a faster, cleaner game. (1955)
- President Eisenhower drew some criticism for the amount of time spent on golf courses. One bumper sticker sold during his term read, "Ben Hogan for President. If We're Going to Have a Golfer, Let's Have a Good One." (1957)
- New York Giants and Brooklyn Dodgers, two beloved baseball franchises, moved to the West Coast (San Francisco and Los Angeles respectively). (1957)
- In the first major rule change since 1912, U.S. intercollegiate football allowed an optional two-point conversion after a touchdown. The team had to run the ball into the end zone. (1958)

FOOD

- Some food products that were introduced in the 1950s were Sugar Pops, Minute Rice, first concentrated milk, Sugar Smacks, Sugar Frosted Flakes, No-Cal Ginger Ale (first sugar-free soft drink), Pream (powdered instant cream for coffee), White Rose Redi-Tea (first instant iced tea), all-brown peanut M&M's, Special K cereal, 10-oz. bottle Coca-Cola (from a 6-oz. size), Metrecal (diet drink), Frosty O's, and Fanta (soft drink)
- In 1950, Abbott Labs in Britain introduced the sweetener sucaryl sodium for diabetics.
- In 1951, Earl Tupper began to sell his temperature-resistant food storage containers directly to housewives. Within three years, 19,000 salespeople were holding in-home Tupperware parties.

- The following fast food restaurants and resulting franchises opened: Shakey's Pizza Parlor (1954, Sacramento, CA), McDonald's (1955, Des Plaines, IL), Kentucky Fried Chicken (1956), Burger King (1956), and Pizza Hut (1958, Wichita, KS).
- In 1957, margarine outsold butter for the first time.
- In 1957, the electric can opener was introduced. A statistic for this year stated that the average American family ate 850 cans of food.
- In 1958, polyethylene bread wrappers were used instead of cellophane, which extended bread shelf life by two days.