



# Top News Stories from 1950

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## World Events

- [Korean War](#) begins when [North Korean](#) Communist forces invade [South Korea](#).
- Sino-Soviet friendship treaty signed.
- Communist [Chinese](#) forces invade [Tibet](#).
- British atomic physicist Klaus Fuchs is convicted of spying for the [Soviet Union](#).  
Background: [The Cold War](#)

### World Statistics

Population: 4.378 billion

[population by decade](#)Nobel Peace Prize: [Ralph J. Bunche \(US\)](#)[More World Statistics...](#)

## U.S. Events

- [Truman](#) orders development of [hydrogen bomb](#) (Jan. 31).
- [Assassination attempt](#) on President [Truman](#) by Puerto Rican nationalists (Nov. 1).
- Era of [McCarthyism](#) begins.

### U.S. Statistics

President: [Harry S Truman](#)Vice President: [Alben W. Barkley](#)

Population: 152,271,417

Life expectancy: 68.2 years

Homicide Rate (per 100,000): 5.3

[More U.S. Statistics...](#)

## Economics

US GDP (1998 dollars): \$294.6 billion

Federal spending: \$42.56 billion

Federal debt \$256.9 billion

Consumer Price Index: \$24.1

Unemployment: 5.9%

Cost of a first-class stamp: \$0.03

[More Economics...](#)

## Sports

### World Series

NY Yankees d. Philadelphia Phillies (4-0)

### **NBA Championship**

Minneapolis Lakers d. Syracuse

### **Stanley Cup**

Detroit d. NY Rangers

### **Wimbledon**

**Women:** Louise Brough d. M. duPont (6-1 3-6 6-1)

**Men:** Budge Patty d. F. Sedgman (6-1 8-10 6-2 6-3)

### **Kentucky Derby Champion**

Middleground

### **NCAA Basketball Championship**

CCNY d. Bradley

### **NCAA Football Champions**

Oklahoma (10-1-0)

### **World Cup**

Uruguay d. Brazil

## **Entertainment**

### **Events**

- Saturday morning children's programming begins.
- [Phonevision](#), the first pay-per-view service, becomes available.
- Broadway classic *Guys and Dolls* debuts at the 46th Street Theatre and becomes an instant hit. The show ran for three years and became one of [the Great White Way's](#) longest-running shows, with 1,200 performances.
- [Charles Schulz](#) introduces the *Peanuts* comic strip.

### **Movies**

## **Sports Links**

[Pro Football Summary](#)

[Pro Basketball Summary](#)

[Pro Baseball Summary](#)

## **Entertainment Awards**

### **Pulitzer Prizes**

#### **Fiction:**

***The Way West*, A. B. Guthrie, Jr.**

**Music:** *The Consul*, Gian Carlo Menotti

**Drama:** *South Pacific*, Richard Rodgers, Oscar Hammerstein II, and Joshua Logan

**Academy Award, Best Picture:** *All the King's Men* (Robert Rossen Productions; Columbia)

**Nobel Prize for Literature:** Bertrand Russell (UK)

[More Entertainment Awards...](#)

- *Sunset Boulevard, All About Eve, Born Yesterday, The Third Man*

## Books

- [Paul Bowles](#), *The Delicate Prey*
- [Ray Bradbury](#), *The Martian Chronicles*
- [Ernest Hemingway](#), *Across the River and Into the Trees*
- [Mary McCarthy](#), *Cast a Cold Eye*
- [Isaac Bashevis Singer](#), *The Family Moskat*
- [Wallace Stevens](#), *The Auroras of Autumn*
- [Lionel Trilling](#), *The Liberal Imagination*

## Science

- Col. David C. Schilling (USAF) makes the first nonstop transatlantic jet flight in 10 hours and 1 minute (Sept. 22). Background: [Famous Firsts in Aviation](#)
- The first Xerox machine is produced.
- The first self-service elevator is installed by Otis Elevator in Dallas.
- Richard Lawler (US) performs the first successful kidney [transplant](#) at Loyola University. Background: [Health & Nutrition](#)

## Death

- [Al Jolson](#)
- [George Orwell](#)
- [George Bernard Shaw](#)

### Nobel Prizes in Science

**Chemistry:** Otto Diels and Kurt Alder (both Germany), for discovery of diene synthesis enabling scientists to study structure of organic matter

**Physics:** Cecil Frank Powell (UK), for method of photographic study of atom nucleus, and for discoveries about mesons

**Physiology or Medicine:** Philip S. Hench, Edward C. Kendall (both US), and Tadeus Reichstein (Switzerland), for discoveries about hormones of adrenal cortex

[More Nobel Prizes in 1998...](#)

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[Year by Year: 1900-2014](#)

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