



Top News Stories from 1951

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World Events

- Seoul falls first to Communist forces (Jan. 4), then to US-led UN troops (Mar. 14). Despite peace talks in July and October, the [Korean War](#) continues.
- Six nations agree to Schuman Plan to pool European coal and steel (March 19; in effect Feb. 10, 1953).
- [Japanese](#) peace treaty signed in San Francisco by 49 nations (Sept. 8).
- [Libya](#) gains independence from [Italy](#) (Dec. 24).

World Statistics

Population: 4.378 billion

[population by decade](#)Nobel Peace Prize: [Léon Jouhaux \(France\)](#)[More World Statistics...](#)

U.S. Events

- [22nd Amendment](#) to the [US Constitution](#), limiting the number of terms a president may serve, is ratified (Feb. 27).
- [Julius and Ethel Rosenberg](#) sentenced to death for [treason](#) (April 5; executed June 19, 1953).

U.S. Statistics

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

Population: 154,877,889

Life expectancy: 68.4 years

Homicide Rate (per 100,000): 4.9

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

Economics

US GDP (1998 dollars): \$339.7 billion

Federal spending: \$45.51 billion

Federal debt \$255.3 billion

Consumer Price Index: \$26

Unemployment: 5.3%

Cost of a first-class stamp: \$0.03

[More Economics...](#)

Sports

World Series

NY Yankees d. NY Giants (4-2)

NBA Championship

Rochester d. New York

Stanley Cup

Toronto d. Montreal

Wimbledon

Women: Doris Hart d. S. Fry (6-1 6-0)

Men: Dick Savitt d. K. McGregor (6-4 6-4 6-4)

Kentucky Derby Champion

Count Turf

NCAA Basketball Championship

Kentucky d. Kansas St. (68-58)

NCAA Football Champions

Tennessee (10-0-0)

Entertainment

Events

- [Yul Brynner](#) makes his first appearance as the king of Siam in [Rodgers and Hammerstein's *The King and I*](#). [Gertrude Lawrence](#) costars (March 29).
- [Color television](#) introduced in the U.S.
- In an effort to introduce rhythm and blues to a broader white audience, which was hesitant to embrace "black music," disc jockey Alan Freed uses the term [rock 'n' roll](#) to describe R&B.
- In the first broadcast of [Edward R. Murrow's *See It Now*](#) series, Murrow shows the split-screen image of the Golden Gate and Brooklyn bridges and tells viewers it is the

Sports Links

[Pro Football Summary](#)

[Pro Basketball Summary](#)

[Pro Baseball Summary](#)

Entertainment Awards

Pulitzer Prizes

Fiction:

The Town, Conrad Richter

Music: Music for opera *Giants in the Earth*, Douglas Stuart Moore

Academy Award, Best Picture: *All About Eve* (Twentieth Century-Fox)

Nobel Prize for Literature: Pär Lagerkvist (Sweden)

Miss America: Yolande Betbeze (AL)

first time to see the Atlantic and Pacific oceans simultaneously.

[More Entertainment Awards...](#)

Movies

- *The African Queen, A Streetcar Named Desire, An American in Paris, A Place in the Sun*

Music

- Elliott Carter, *String Quartet No. 1*

Books

- [Hannah Arendt](#), *The Origins of Totalitarianism*
- [Hortense Calisher](#), *In the Absence of Angels*
- [Truman Capote](#), *The Grass Harp*
- [Carson McCullers](#), *The Ballad of the Sad Café*
- [Marianne Moore](#), *Collected Poems*
- [Adrienne Rich](#), *A Change of World*
- [J. D. Salinger](#), *The Catcher in the Rye*
- [Herman Wouk](#), *The Caine Mutiny*

Science

- Charles F. Blair, Jr. makes the first solo flight across [North Pole](#) (May 29). Background: [Famous Firsts in Aviation](#)
- UNIVAC (Universal Automatic Computer), the first business [computer](#) to handle both numeric and alphabetic data, is introduced. Background: [Computers and Internet](#)
- Gregory Pincus, Min Chuch Chang, John Rock, and Carl Djerassi (US) develop the first oral [contraceptive](#). Background: [Contraceptive Use, World](#); [Contraceptive Use, U.S.](#)
- The first nuclear power plant is built by the US Atomic Energy Commission. Background: [Nuclear Energy](#)

Nobel Prizes in Science

Chemistry: Glenn T. Seaborg and Edwin H. McMillan (both US), for discovery of plutonium

Physics: Sir John Douglas Cockcroft (UK) and Ernest T. S. Walton (Ireland), for work in 1932 on transmutation of atomic nuclei

Physiology or Medicine: Max Theiler (South Africa), for development of anti-yellow-fever vaccine

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

Death

- [John Alden Carpenter](#)

- Dorothy Dix
- [André Gide](#)

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

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