



# Top News Stories from 1952

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## World Events

- George VI of [England](#) dies; his daughter becomes Elizabeth II (Feb. 6).
- [NATO](#) conference approves European army (Feb.).
- King [Farouk](#) of [Egypt](#) is ousted by a military coup (July 23). General Mohammed Naguib assumes power.
- [Britain](#) announces its development of atomic weapons (Oct.). Background: [nuclear weapons](#)
- [Greece](#) and [Turkey](#) join [NATO](#).

## World Statistics

Population: 4.378 billion

[population by decade](#)[Nobel Peace Prize: Albert Schweitzer \(French Equatorial Africa\)](#)[More World Statistics...](#)

## U.S. Events

- US explodes [first thermonuclear bomb](#) at [Eniwetok Island](#) (Nov. 1).
- President-elect [Dwight Eisenhower](#) follows through with his campaign promise to visit [Korea](#) (Dec. 2).
- 56 million watch [Richard Nixon's](#) "Checker's speech" on TV.

## U.S. Statistics

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

Population: 157,552,740

Life expectancy: 68.6 years

Homicide Rate (per 100,000): 5.2

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

## Economics

US GDP (1998 dollars): \$358.6 billion

Federal spending: \$67.69 billion

Federal debt \$259.1 billion

Consumer Price Index: \$26.5

Unemployment: 3.3%

Cost of a first-class stamp: \$0.03

[More Economics...](#)

## Sports

### World Series

NY Yankees d. Brooklyn Dodgers

### NBA Championship

Minneapolis Lakers d. New York

### Stanley Cup

Detroit d. Montreal

### Wimbledon

**Women:** Maureen Connolly d. L. Brough (7-5 6-3)

**Men:** Frank Sedgman d. J. Drobny (4-6 6-2 6-3 6-2)

### Kentucky Derby Champion

Hill Gail

### NCAA Basketball Championship

Kansas d. St. John's

### NCAA Football Champions

Michigan St. (AP, UP) (9-0-0) & Georgia Tech (INS) (12-0-0) [1952 Summer Olympics](#)

## Entertainment

### Events

- [Jose Quintero](#)'s revival of [Tennessee Williams](#)'s *Summer and Smoke* premieres at Broadway's Circle in the Square Theatre and is the first major Off-Broadway success.
- Television's first magazine-format program, the *Today Show*, debuts on NBC with [Dave Garroway](#) hosting.
- *The Jackie Gleason Show* ([The Honeymooners](#)) debuts on CBS, beginning a two-decade run.

### Sports Links

[Pro Football Summary](#)

[Pro Basketball Summary](#)

[Pro Baseball Summary](#)

### Entertainment Awards

#### Pulitzer Prizes

**Music:** *Symphony Concertante*, Gail Kubik

**Drama:** *The Shrike*, Joseph Kramm

**Academy Award, Best Picture:** *An American in Paris*, Arthur Freed, producer (MGM)

**Nobel Prize for Literature:** François Mauriac (France)

**Miss America:** Coleen Kay Hutchins (UT)

- [Merce Cunningham](#) forms his own dance company.

[More Entertainment Awards...](#)

## Movies

- *Singin' in the Rain*, *High Noon*, *The Greatest Show on Earth*, *Moulin Rouge*

## Books

- [Ralph Ellison](#), *Invisible Man*
- [Ernest Hemingway](#), *The Old Man and the Sea*
- [Bernard Malamud](#), *The Natural*
- [Flannery O'Connor](#), *Wise Blood*

## Science

- G.W.A. Dummer (England) proposes the theoretical basis for the [integrated circuit](#).  
Background: [Computers and Internet](#)
- Jonas E. Salk (US) develops the first experimentally safe dead-virus [polio vaccine](#).  
Background: [Major U.S. Epidemics](#)
- The first plastic artificial heart valve is developed at Georgetown Medical Center.  
Background: [Health & Nutrition](#)
- First jetliner service inaugurated by BOAC between London and Johannesburg, South Africa (May 2).
- Capt. Vincent H. McGovern and 1st Lt. Harold W. Moore make first transatlantic helicopter flight (July 15–31). Background: [Famous Firsts in Aviation](#)

### Nobel Prizes in Science

**Chemistry:** Archer John Porter Martin and Richard Laurence Millington Synge (both UK), for development of partition chromatography

**Physics:** Edward Mills Purcell and Felix Bloch (US), for work in measurement of magnetic fields in atomic nuclei

**Physiology or Medicine:** Selman A. Waksman (US), for co-discovery of streptomycin

**Physiology or Medicine:** *The Caine Mutiny*, Herman Wouk

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

## Death

- [John Dewey](#)
- [Hattie McDaniel](#)
- [Maria Montessori](#)

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Year by Year: 1900-2014

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