



Top News Stories from 1959

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World Events

- [Cuban](#) President Batista resigns and flees (Jan. 1). [Fidel Castro](#) assumes power (Feb. 16).
- [Tibet's](#) Dalai Lama escapes to [India](#) (Mar. 31).
- Soviet Premier [Nikita Khrushchev](#) tours the United States, meeting with [Eisenhower](#) at Camp David.
- [Britain](#) recognizes the independence of [Cyprus](#).

World Statistics

Population: 4.378 billion

[population by decade](#)Nobel Peace Prize: [Philip John Noel-Baker \(UK\)](#)[More World Statistics...](#)

U.S. Events

- [Alaska](#) (Jan. 3) and [Hawaii](#) (Aug. 21) become the 49th and 50th states.
- [St. Lawrence Seaway](#) opens, allowing ocean ships to reach Midwest (April 25).

U.S. Statistics

President: [Dwight D. Eisenhower](#)Vice President: [Richard M. Nixon](#)

Population: 177,829,628

Life expectancy: 69.9 years

Homicide Rate (per 100,000): 4.6

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

Economics

US GDP (1998 dollars): \$507.2 billion

Federal spending: \$92.10 billion

Federal debt \$287.5 billion

Consumer Price Index: \$29.1

Unemployment: 6.8%

Cost of a first-class stamp: \$0.04

[More Economics...](#)

Sports

World Series

LA Dodgers d. Chicago White Sox (4-2)

NBA Championship

Boston d. Minneapolis Lakers

Stanley Cup

Montreal d. Toronto

Wimbledon

Women: Maria Bueno d. D. Hard (6-4 6-3)

Men: Alex Olmedo d. R. Laver (6-4 6-3 6-4)

Kentucky Derby Champion

Tomy Lee

NCAA Basketball Championship

California d. West Virginia

NCAA Football Champions

Syracuse (11-0-0)

Entertainment

Events

- The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences sponsors the first [Grammy Award](#) ceremony for music recorded in 1958.
- [Frank Sinatra](#) wins his first [Grammy Award](#) -- Best Album for *Come Dance with Me*.
- Rumors of cheating on quiz shows erupt into a national scandal.

Movies

- *Some Like It Hot*, *North by Northwest*, *Ben-Hur*, *Anatomy of a Murder*, *Room at the Top*

Books

- [William Burroughs](#), *Naked Lunch*
- [D. H. Lawrence](#), *Lady Chatterley's Lover*
- [Robert Lowell](#), *Life Studies*
- [Norman Mailer](#), *Advertisements for Myself*

Sports Links

[Pro Football Summary](#)

[Pro Basketball Summary](#)

[Pro Baseball Summary](#)

Entertainment Awards

Pulitzer Prizes

Music: *Concerto for Piano and Orchestra*, John La Montaine

Drama: *J. B. Archibald MacLeish*

Academy Award, Best Picture: *Gigi*, Arthur Freed, producer (MGM)

Nobel Prize for Literature: Salvatore Quasimodo (Italy)

Record of the Year: "Nel Blu Dipinto di Blu" (Volare), Domenico Modugno

Album of the Year: *The Music From Peter Gunn*, Henry Mancini (RCA)

Song of the Year: "Nel Blu Dipinto di Blu," Domenico Modugno, songwriter

- [James A. Michener](#), *Hawaii*
- Grace Paley, *The Little Disturbances of Man*
- [Boris Pasternak](#), *Doctor Zhivago*
- [Philip Roth](#), *Goodbye Columbus and Five Short Stories*

Miss America: Mary Ann Mobley (MS)

[More Entertainment Awards...](#)

Science

- Jack S. Kilby of Texas Instruments (US) supervises the development of the first [integrated circuit](#). Background: [Computers and Internet](#)
- The US Navy launches the *Vanguard* [satellite](#).
- The *Lunik II* [probe](#) (USSR) reaches the [moon](#); Lunik III photographs the dark side of the moon for the first time. Background: [Space Exploration](#)

Death

- [Lou Costello](#)
- [Cecil B. De Mille](#)
- [Mel Ott](#)
- [Frank Lloyd Wright](#)

Nobel Prizes in Science

Chemistry: Jaroslav Heyrovsky (Czechoslovakia), for development of polarography, an electrochemical method of analysis

Physics: Emilio Segre and Owen Chamberlain (both US), for demonstrating the existence of the anti-proton

Physiology or Medicine: Severo Ochoa and Arthur Kornberg (both US), for discoveries related to compounds within chromosomes that play a vital role in heredity

Physiology or Medicine: *The Travels of Jaimie McPheeters*, Robert Lewis Taylor

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

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

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