



“When I was 32...”

1960s News and World Events

An 85 year old resident today was 32 in 1960 so they probably remember some of the big events of that decade. Following are highlights from the '60s for you to use in a game or quiz.

At the beginning of the 1960s, many Americans believed they were standing at the dawn of a golden age. On January 20, 1961, the charismatic John F. Kennedy became president. His confidence that, as one historian put it, “the government possessed big answers to big problems” seemed to set the tone for the rest of the decade. However, that golden age never materialized. On the contrary, by the end of the 1960s it seemed that the nation was falling apart.

1960

1. The cold war is in full swing with Nikita Khrushchev banging his shoe on the table at the UN telling us he would bury us.
2. The Kennedy - Nixon debate is the story of the year which was to portend the new power of television in the electoral process
3. The Berlin Wall is under construction and the Soviet Union was ahead in the space race.
4. Fidel Castro first year.
5. 900 U.S. military advisers are sent to Vietnam.
6. Nightly news aired for 15 minutes at 7:30pm EST. The anchors are Chet Huntley and David Brinkley on NBC; John Daly on ABC and Douglas Edwards on CBS.
7. We were doing the twist with Chubby Checker; laughing at Don Knotts on black & white TV.
8. Capt. Gary Powers U-2 Spy Plane Shot Down Over Russia.

1961

1. Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin becomes the first human in space. American Alan Shepard follows a few months later.
2. Soviet and American tanks standoff at Checkpoint Charlie as tensions build in Cold War in Berlin, Germany.



3. The Bay of Pigs Invasion of Cuba begins. It ends two days later in failure.
4. The Soviet Union detonates a hydrogen bomb.
5. President Kennedy advises families to have a Bomb Shelter.
6. Eisenhower's Farewell Address to the Nation January 17, 1961 ("In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the **military-industrial complex**. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist.")
7. John F. Kennedy is inaugurated President of the United States.
8. President John F. Kennedy delivers the first live news conference, establishes the Peace Corps, announces his goal to put a man on the Moon before 1970 with the Apollo Program and sends 18,000 military advisors to South Vietnam.
9. In Israel, Adolf Eichmann is pronounced guilty of crimes against humanity and sentenced to death.

1962

1. Two of The Flying Wallendas are killed and one paralyzed during their high wire act in Detroit.
2. The First Wal-Mart store is opened by Sam Walton in Bentonville, Arkansas.
3. Marilyn Monroe -- Happy Birthday JFK.
4. Cuban Missile Crisis:
 - a. Kennedy receives satellite pictures of Russian nuclear weapon silos in Cuba.
 - b. Kennedy orders Blockade of Cuba and for six days in October, the President, Attorney General Robert Kennedy and the cabinet huddle in the White House to avert nuclear war.
 - c. The Cuban Missile Crisis ends when the United States agrees not to invade Cuba, and the Soviets withdraw their missiles from Cuba. Soviets lose face.
5. The United Nations condemns apartheid in South Africa.
6. Diet Rite and Tab make their first appearance as sugarless colas.



7. Silicone breast implants are used for the first time.

1963

1. November 22, 1963 became the event day of the year, so much so, that most everything else happening in 1963 is mostly forgotten.
2. On August 28th 1963 Martin Luther King Jr. addressed over 250,000 people from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in what has become known as the I Have A Dream speech.
3. Russian Cosmonaut first woman in space.
4. USS Thresher Sinks - American nuclear submarine sinks in Atlantic with 129 sailors aboard. Leakage from seawater cooling pipes stopped the reactor on a deep dive test.
5. The Zip Code - Zoning Improvement Plan -- the 5 digit Zip Code was introduced.
6. Touch tone phone - AT&T introduces touch tone phones. First used in 1941, and presented at the Seattle World Fair in 1962, it first came into our homes in 1963.
7. The Easy-Bake Oven - America's first working toy oven -- sold for a hefty price of \$15.95.
8. Governor George Wallace bars the door at the University of Alabama.
9. The Great Train Robbery takes place in England with the theft of \$5 million in 15 minutes.

1964

1. The U.S. sends 5,000 more military advisers to South Vietnam, bringing the total number of forces in Vietnam to 21,000.
2. The United States Congress passes the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, giving President Johnson war powers to pursue the war in Vietnam.
3. Nelson Mandela is sentenced to life in prison.
4. Nikita Khrushchev is deposed as leader of the Soviet Union as Leonid Brezhnev assumes power.



5. The Warren Commission finds Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone.
6. Allan Ladd, most famous for his portrayal of the ultimate good cowboy in *Shane*, dies.
7. Walt Disney's *Mary Poppins* becomes Disney's biggest moneymaker, and winner of five Academy Awards.
8. Elizabeth Taylor has her 5th wedding and marries Richard Burton.
9. Italy asks for help to keep the Leaning Tower of Pisa from toppling over.
10. At the Republican National Convention in San Francisco, Republican presidential nominee Barry Goldwater states that "extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice", and "moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue".

1965

1. Bloody Sunday -- 800 African Americans marched in Montgomery, Alabama to protest not being allowed to register to vote
2. The first of the decade's urban race riots began in the Watts district of Los Angeles. It lasted 6 days with 34 people dead, 1,072 injured, and 4,000 arrested.
3. The first rumblings against the war in Vietnam began with Teach Ins around the nations college campuses.
4. Lyndon Johnson's makes the "Great Society" State of the Union speech and signs the Medicare bill making national health care available to the elderly.
5. 3,500 Marines arrive in Vietnam followed by large scale U.S. Army ground units. The U.S. begins regular B-52 bombings of North Vietnam.
6. The original See 'n Say required no batteries and was driven by pulling a string or lever. The most popular version of See 'n Say is probably the one entitled "The Farmer Says."
7. Cosmonaut Aleksei Leonov is the first human to leave a spacecraft and walk in space.



8. Academy Award Best Actor Nominees: LEE MARVIN, "Cat Ballou;" Richard Burton, "The Spy Who Came In From the Cold;" Laurence Olivier, "Othello;" Rod Steiger, "The Pawnbroker;" Oskar Werner in "Ship of Fools"

1966

1. President Lyndon Johnson adds 8,000 soldiers in February and another 60, 000 by April to make the total U.S. troops in Vietnam total 250,000.
2. While fueling over Spain, a B-52 collides with a KC-135 tanker dropping four 1.5 megaton hydrogen bombs near the town of Palomares.
3. Indira Gandhi is elected Prime Minister of India.
4. Betty Friedan founded The National Organization for Women (NOW).
5. Richard Speck was arrested after the bodies of 8 student nurses are found in a dormitory.
6. Miranda - The U.S. Supreme Court rules that the police must inform suspects of their rights before questioning them.
7. How the Grinch Stole Christmas, narrated by Boris Karloff, is shown for the first time on TV.
8. Popular TV: Mission Impossible, I Spy
9. The Twister game is introduced.

1967

1. **Thurgood Marshall is sworn in as the first black Supreme Court justice.**
2. **Senator Eugene McCarthy begins his run as a Democratic candidate for president under the banner or withdrawal from Vietnam.**
3. **Apollo 1 fire kills astronauts Virgil "Gus" Grissom, Senior Pilot Ed White and Pilot Roger B. Chaffee on a launching pad test at Cape Kennedy, Florida.**
4. **Surgeon Dr. Christiaan Barnard does the first human heart transplant.**



5. **Popular Movies: The Graduate, Bonnie and Clyde, Cool Hand Luke and The Dirty Dozen, Guess Who's Coming to Dinner.**
6. **Popular TV: The Flying Nun, The Carol Burnett Show, Mannix, and Ironside.**
7. **Motor Trend's Car of the Year: The Mercury Cougar.**
8. **Boxer Muhammad Ali (Cassius Clay) is stripped of his World Heavyweight Champion titles and banned from boxing for his refusal to be inducted into the United States Army as a conscientious objector.**

1968

1. **Popular TV: Rowan and Martin Laugh In, Hawaii Five-O, Mod Squad and Dick Cavett.**
2. **Popular Movies: 2001 A Space Odyssey, Rosemary's Baby, Planet of the Apes.**
3. **Mister Rogers' Neighborhood premiered.**
4. **Motor Trend's Car of the Year: Pontiac GTO.**
5. **McDonald's introduced the "Big Mac."**
6. **60 Minutes premiers on CBS.**
7. **Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated.**
8. **Bobby Kennedy was assassinated.**
9. **The spy ship USS Pueblo and its 83 man crew was seized by North Korea in Sea of Japan.**
10. **Peggy Fleming wins Olympic figure skating gold medal**



1969

- 1. On July 21 Apollo 11 Astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Edwin Aldrin became the first human beings to set foot on the moon with the words "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."**
- 2. Richard M. Nixon inaugurated as President.**
- 3. Golda Meir becomes Israel's 4th Prime Minister and first woman Prime Minister.**
- 4. Popular TV: Monty Python, Marcus Welby, Hee Haw, Courtship of Eddies Father and the Brady Bunch.**
- 5. Yankee Slugger Mickey Mantle retires at 35.**
- 6. Popular Movies: Easy Rider, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, Midnight Cowboy, They Shoot Horses Don't They, and True Grit.**
- 7. Motor Trend's Car of the Year: Plymouth RoadRunner.**
- 8. Senator Edward Kennedy's drove off a small bridge in Chappaquiddick, MA ending the life of Mary Jo Kopechne.**

END