

Born in 1955

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FAMOUS BIRTHS



Bruce Willis – Kevin Costner
Bill Gates – Billy Bob Thornton
Kelsey Grammer – Steve Jobs

KEY STATS

World Population: 2.74 billion
UK Population: 51.18 M
Prime Minister:
Winston Churchill/Anthony Eden
USA Population: 166.2 M
President:
Dwight D. Eisenhower
Pint of Beer: £0.22
Manual Men's Weekly Wage: £10.8
Average House Price: £1,937
Ford Anglia car: £511

DEATHS

Albert Einstein – James Dean
Sir Alexander Fleming
Charlie Parker

MARRIAGE

Princess Margaret calls off her plans to marry divorced Group Captain Peter Townsend.

PUBLISHED

The first edition of the *Guinness Book of Records* is published, in London.

Vladimir Nabokov's controversial novel *Lolita* is published in Paris.

J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Return of the King* (the last volume of *The Lord of the Rings*) is published in October.

FILMS

The film *Rebel Without a Cause*, starring James Dean, is released in the United States.

SPORT

Duncan Edwards, the 18-year-old Manchester United left-half, becomes the youngest full England international.

Rocky Marciano knocks out the light-heavyweight champion Archie Moore.

IN THE NEWS

Winston Churchill resigns as Prime Minister due to ill-health at the age of 80.

April 15: The first McDonald's franchise is opened by Ray Kroc in Des Plaines, Illinois.

Ruth Ellis becomes the last woman ever to be executed in the United Kingdom.

The Disneyland theme park opens in Anaheim, California.

Cardiff is declared by the British Government as the capital of Wales.

December 1: Rosa Parks is arrested for refusing to give up her seat, sparking the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

TOP 10 UK SINGLES



- 01 Give Me Your Word - Tennessee Ernie Ford
- 02 Rose Marie - Slim Whitman
- 03 Softly Softly - Ruby Murray
- 04 Cherry Pink And Apple Blossom White - Eddie Calvert
- 05 Cool Water - Frankie Laine With The Mellomen
- 06 Cherry Pink And Apple Blossom White - Perez 'Prez' Prado & His Orchestra
- 07 Unchained Melody - Jimmy Young
- 08 Mambo Italiano - Rosemary Clooney & The Mellomen
- 09 Stranger In Paradise - Tony Bennett
- 10 Dreamboat - Alma Cogan

AMERICAN CULTURE

Teen culture boomed. Blue jeans, leather jackets, and jukeboxes defined youth identity, while drive-in theatre's flourished. Rock 'n' roll gave the generation its rebellious voice.

TELEVISION

Alfred Hitchcock Presents debuts on the CBS TV network in the United States.

The Mickey Mouse Club premieres on US TV, making child stars.

Gunslinger debuts on CBS.

In the UK, ITV is launched, breaking the BBC monopoly.

Following Annette Mills' death, *Muffin the Mule* is dropped by the BBC.

Dixon of Dock Green premieres on the BBC, featuring Jack Warner.

Newsreaders appear "in vision" for the first time on BBC TV.

Crackerjack! is broadcast for the first time, hosted by Eamonn Andrews.

Fanny Cradock records a pilot for a BBC television series on cookery.

WINNERS

British Golf Open: Peter Thomson
Division One Title: Chelsea
FA Cup final: Newcastle United
Formula One: Juan Fangio



BBC Sports Personality: Gordon Pirie

MUSIC

Little Richard records "Tutti Frutti".

Bill Haley & His Comets' "Rock Around the Clock" hits No.1.

Elvis Presley signs with RCA Records — setting him up for stardom in 1956.

Chuck Berry released Maybellene, one of the first big rock 'n' roll singles.

TOP NAMES

Boys: David, John, Stephen, Michael, Peter, Robert, Paul, Alan, Christopher, Richard

Girls: Linda, Christine, Margaret, Janet, Patricia, Carol, Elizabeth, Mary, Anne

NEW PRODUCTS

Shreddies – Special K – Panasonic (brand) – Crest (toothpaste)