

Life in 1937

1937 Cost of Living

New House.....	\$4,100
Average Income.....	\$1,788 per year
New Car.....	\$760
Average Rent.....	\$26 a month
Tuition to Harvard University.....	\$420 per year
Movie Ticket.....	25¢
Gasoline.....	10¢ a gallon
United States Postage Stamp.....	3¢ each
Granulated Sugar.....	59¢ for 10 lbs
Vitamin D Milk.....	50¢ a gallon
Ground Coffee.....	38¢ a pound
Bacon	32¢ a pound
Eggs.....	18¢ a dozen
Fresh Ground Hamburger.....	12¢ a pound
Fresh Baked Bread.....	9¢ a loaf
Toothpaste.....	35¢
Life Expectancy.....	59.7 years

What Happened in 1937?

Scroll to the next page and find out.

What Happened in 1937?

JANUARY

- **3** - The first science fiction convention is held in Leeds, England.
- **11** - The first issue of *Look* Magazine goes on sale in the United States.
- **19** - Howard Hughes sets a new record by flying from Los Angeles to New York City in 7 hours, 28 minutes, and 25 seconds.
- **20** - Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes swears in Franklin D. Roosevelt for a second term. This is the first time Inauguration Day in the United States occurs on that date, on which it has occurred ever since; the change is due to the ratification in 1933 of the 20th amendment to the U.S. Constitution.
- **26** - The U.S. state of Michigan celebrates its Centennial Anniversary of statehood.
- **31** - The Ohio River floods.
- Pittsburgh wins the NCAA Football Championship.

February

- **5** - U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt proposes a plan to enlarge the Supreme Court of the United States.
- **11** - A sit-down strike ends when General Motors recognizes the United Automobile Workers Union.
- **16** - Wallace H. Carothers receives a patent for nylon.

March

- The first issue of the comic book *Detective Comics* is published in the United States. Twenty-seven issues later, *Detective Comics* introduces Batman. The comic goes on to become the longest continually published comic magazine in American history.
- **2** – Mexico nationalizes oil.
- **9** – The first social security claims are paid.
- **15** – First state contraceptive clinic opens in Raleigh, NC.
- **17** – The Atherton Report (private investigator Edwin Atherton's report detailing vice and police corruption in San Francisco) is released.

What Happened in 1937?

March (con't)

- **18** – In the worst school disaster in American history in terms of lives lost, the New London School in New London, Texas, suffers a catastrophic natural gas explosion, killing an excess of 295 students and teachers.
- **19** – Mother Frances Hospital opens in Tyler, Texas, in response to the New London School explosion.
- **21** – The first successful flying car, Waldo Waterman's Aerobile, makes its initial flight.
- **26** – In Crystal City, Texas, spinach growers erect a statue of the cartoon character Popeye.
- **26** – William Henry Hastie becomes the first African-American appointed to a federal judgeship.
- **30** – Actor Warren Beatty was born.

April

- **5** – Former U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell was born.
- **6** – Actor Billy Dee Williams was born.
- **9** – The Kamikaze arrives at Croydon Airport in London; it is the first Japanese-built aircraft to fly to Europe.
- **12** – The Supreme Court of the United States rules that the National Labor Relations Act is constitutional. (NLRB v. Jones & Laughlin Steel)
- **17** – The animated short Porky's Duck Hunt, directed by Tex Avery for the Looney Tunes series, is released featuring the debut of Daffy Duck and Elmer J. Fudd.
- **20** – Actor George Takei (Star Trek) was born.
- **22** – Actor Jack Nicholson was born.
- **28** – Saddam Hussein was born.

May

- Seventeen million Americans are unemployed in the USA.
- **1** – FDR signs act of neutrality.
- **6** – The German airship *Hindenburg* bursts into flame when mooring to a mast in Lakehurst, New Jersey. Of the 36 passengers and 61 crew on board, 13 passengers and 22 crew die, as well as one member of the ground crew.

What Happened in 1937?

May (con't)

- 12 – Comedian George Carlin was born.
- 25 – First airmail letter circles globe and returns to New York.
- 27 – In California, the Golden Gate Bridge opens to pedestrian traffic, creating a vital link between San Francisco and Marin County. The next day President Franklin D. Roosevelt pushes a button in Washington, D.C., signaling the start of vehicle traffic over the Golden Gate Bridge.
- 28 – Neville Chamberlain becomes Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.
- War Admiral wins the Kentucky Derby. The son of Man O'War will go on to win the Triple Crown.
- 30 – The Chicago Police Department shoots and kills 10 unarmed demonstrators in Chicago in what is known as the Memorial Day massacre.

June

- 1 – Actor Morgan Freeman was born.
- 3 – Duke of Windsor (Edward 8th) weds Mrs. Wallis Warfield Simpson in France and abdicates the British crown.
- 8 – The first total solar eclipse to exceed seven minutes of totality in over 800 years is visible in the Pacific and Peru.
- 14 – Pennsylvania becomes the first (and only) of the United States to celebrate Flag Day officially as a state holiday.
- 28 – Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) is established in the United States, superseding the Emergency Conservation Work Program.

July

- 1 – The first alleged sighting of the White River Monster.
- 2 – Amelia Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan disappear after taking off from New Guinea during Earhart's attempt to become the first woman to fly around the world.
- 2 – A guard takes his place at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Washington, DC; continuous guard has been maintained there ever since.

What Happened in 1937?

July (con't)

- 5 – The highest recorded temperature in Canada, at Yellow Grass, Saskatchewan, is 45 degrees Celsius/ 113 degrees Fahrenheit.
- 5 – Joe DiMaggio's first grand slammer.
- 5 – Spam luncheon meat was introduced into the market by Hormel Foods.
- 11 – American composer George Gershwin dies in Los Angeles of a brain tumor at age 38.
- 12 – Actor Bill Cosby was born.
- 22 – The United States Senate votes down President Franklin D. Roosevelt's proposal to add more justices to the Supreme Court of the United States.
- 24 – Alabama drops rape charges against the so-called Scottsboro Boys.

August

- 2 – The Marihuana Tax Act (Pub. 238, 75th Congress, 50 Stat. 551) is a significant bill on the path that will lead to the criminalization of cannabis. It was introduced to the U.S. Congress by Harry Anslinger, Commissioner of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics.
- 6 – U.S. and USRR sign trade treaty.
- 8 – Actor Dustin Hoffman was born.
- 14 – China declares war on Japan.
- 28 – Toyota Motors becomes an independent company.

September

- 2 – U.S. Housing Authority is created.
- 2 – The Great Hong Kong Typhoon kills an estimated 11,000 persons.
- 17 – Abraham Lincoln's head is dedicated at Mount Rushmore.
- 17 – First NFL game is held in Washington, DC; Redskins beat NY Giants 13-3.
- 27 – The last Bali tiger dies.

What Happened in 1937?

October

- 1 – The Marihuana Tax Act becomes law in the United States.
- 5 – President Roosevelt gives his famous Quarantine Speech in Chicago.
- 10 – New York Yankees defeat New York Giants (4-1) to win the World Series.
- 15 – Ernest Hemingway's novel "to Have & Have Not" is published.

November

- 5 – Hitler informs his military leader of his intentions of going to war.
- 9 – Japan's army conquers Shanghai.
- 15 – First congressional session is held in air-conditioned chambers.
- 25 – World's Fair of Paris closes (31.2 million visitors).

December

- 12 – NBC & RCA send the first mobile-TV vans onto the streets of New York.
- 21 – Walt Disney's Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, the first feature-length animated cartoon with color and sound, opens in Los Angeles. By the end of its original run, it would earn over \$8 million in international box office receipts.
- 21 – Actress Jane Fonda was born.
- 22 – The Lincoln Tunnel in New York City opens to traffic.
- 29 – Ireland adopts a constitution establishing the Irish Free State.
- 31 – Actor Anthony Hopkins was born.

More Happenings in 1937...

- The University of Texas Tower was completed in 1937. The 307-foot tower has 27 floors and is one of the most recognizable symbols of the university and Austin. At the top of the tower is a carillon of 56 bells, the largest in Texas.
- Alice Lucille Emerick representing Fort Worth won Miss Texas 1937. Her talent was tap dance. She became the national 1st runner-up.
- Kraft Macaroni & Cheese Dinner, Smarties, Spam, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, and Kix cereals were introduced.

More Happenings in 1937... (con't)

- Detroit Red Wings win the NHL Stanley Cup.
- The first animated cartoon electric sign is displayed in New York City.
- Billy Burke wins golf's U.S. Open title by defeating George Von Elm by one stroke after two 36-hole playoffs.
- Professors at Yale University announce the isolation of the pituitary hormone.
- GM introduced the first U.S. automatic transmission for an automobile in its Oldsmobile.
- Levi Straus replaced hip pocket rivets with thread after complaints from U.S. school teachers of damage being inflicted on desks.