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|  | **Inventions That Changed the World (Part 4 of 4)**  **12 November 2014** | **189-2014-18** |

**Well, we have finally reached a point in time (the 1950s) where most of us old people can remember some of these inventions and historical events happening. The 1950s were the last socially conservative period. Think about it. People who grew up during the 1940s and 50s were not influenced as much by television, computers, email, the Internet, the World Wide Web, Facebook, and Twitter. When we were kids, we didn’t have any of these things except for TV which was just starting to show up in people’s homes. We went outside to play! The 50s were my school years - I did manage to learn a few things.**

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| **John F. Kennedy** | **The 1960s are described by historians as the ten years having the most significant changes in history. We had a popular president (John F. Kennedy) who supported the space program. By the end of the 60s, humanity had entered the space age by putting a man on the moon. The 60s were influenced by the youth of the post-war baby boom - a generation with a fondness for change and far-out gadgets.**  **I began the 60s attending the University of Utah, then 4 years and 4 months in the Navy, and ended the 60s living in Tooele, Utah working for the Government at Tooele Army Depot. I was single, old enough to drink beer, and traveled around the world – yes, this was probably the most fun period in my life.** |

**The 1970s were a tumultuous time. Women, African Americans, Native Americans, gays and lesbians and other marginalized people continued their fight for equality, and many Americans joined the protest against the ongoing war in Vietnam. Many Americans, particularly the working class and middle class whites, responded to this turbulence by embracing a new kind of conservative populism. Sick of what they interpreted as spoiled hippies and whining protestors, tired of an interfering government that, in their view, coddled poor people and black people at taxpayer expense, these individuals formed what political strategists called a “silent majority.” By the end of the decade, President Richard Nixon had resigned and the Vietnam War was over.**

**I moved to Hawaii in June 1970 and got married in December 1972. It was time to settle down and raise a family.**

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| **Ronald Reagan** | **By the end of Jimmy Carter’s presidency, the idealistic dreams of the 1960s were worn down by inflation, foreign policy turmoil and rising crime. In response, many Americans embraced a new conservatism in social, economic and political life during the 1980s, characterized by the policies of President Ronald Reagan. Once he took office, he set about making good on his promises to get the federal government out of Americans’ lives and pocketbooks. He advocated for industrial deregulation, reductions in government spending and tax cuts for both individuals and corporations, as part of an economic plan he and his advisors referred to as “supply-side economics.” Rewarding** |

**success and allowing people with money to keep more of it, the thinking went, would encourage them to buy more goods and invest in businesses. The resulting economic growth would “trickle down” to everyone. Reagan made the military strong again and brought pride back to all Americans. President Reagan was responsible for the collapse of the Soviet Union, tearing down the Berlin Wall, and putting an end to the Cold War. Yes, I think Ronald Reagan was the most popular president ever in U.S. history.**

**During the 1980s, information technology was changing rapidly. I had a great job supporting the IBM mainframe operating system for the Army in the Pacific including the sites in Korea, Japan, and Hawaii. I got to travel to Korea and Japan twice a year and also to IBM training on the mainland U.S. at least twice a year. These were good but busy years for me since I also had a part-time job working for a computer company in Honolulu.**

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| **Bill Clinton** | **The 1990s was a great decade – America was at peace for most it. This is the longest period in U.S. history that we went without fighting in a war or some kind of conflict. The Soviet Union collapsed and the Cold War ended bringing a halt to years of costly military competition.**  **During the nineties, the American economy recovered from a recession and grew strong. Inflation and unemployment were low. There were new developments in medicine and technology. The Internet began to evolve from a defense project mainly linking researchers into a new way for the world to communicate.** |

**America grew by almost thirty-three million people during the nineteen nineties -- the largest increase of any decade in its history. By the end of the nineties more than two hundred eighty-million people were living in the United States.**

**During the decade of the 90s, there was a large increase in immigration from Latin America, the Caribbean and Asia. For the first time in seventy years, one in ten Americans was born in another country. At the same time, the population was getting older. Divorce rates in the United States had begun to grow sharply in the nineteen seventies. By the nineties those rates were starting to drop. But there were millions of children living with only one parent, or with their grandparents. Single-parent families are more likely to be poor. In nineteen eighty, single-parent households represented about twenty percent of all households in the United States with children. By nineteen ninety that number had reached twenty-four percent, and was continuing to rise.**

**The 1990s were good for me but by 1995, new technology had made it possible to replace the mainframe computers with servers. Our last mainframe computer was removed at Taegu, Korea in 1999 – it was a sad day. My regular trips to Korea and Japan were over and I had to start doing a new job.**

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| **George W. Bush** | **September 11, 2001 - Islamic terrorists hijack four U.S. airliners and crashed them into the Pentagon and the World Trade Center in New York City. The attack of two planes levels the World Trade Center and the crash of one plane inflicts serious damage to the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, causing nearly 3,000 deaths. The fourth plane is heroically crashed by passengers into a Shanksville, Pennsylvania cornfield when they learn of the plot, preventing destruction of another structure in Washington, D.C., supposed to be the White House or the Capitol building. The plot is attributed to the Al-Qaeda organization led by Osama Bin Laden.** |

**Since that day, the world has become a more dangerous place. On October 7, 2001 the U.S. and Britain commence the first attack in the War on Terrorism on the Taliban and Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan. On March 19, 2003 the War in Iraq begins with the bombing of Baghdad. Saddam Hussein, former leader of Iraq, was captured on December 13, 2003. I was going to list some of the terrorist attacks but that’s when I learned that in the year 2013 alone, there were 9,707 terrorist attacks world-wide that killed 17,891 and wounded 32,577 people. Never forget 911!! We cannot lose the war on terrorism or else we will all be dead.**

**After 25 years of supporting the mainframe computer, I had to change jobs. I was the Project Manager for the Army’s Y2K efforts in the Pacific. I then become a website designer and programmer for a few years and then spent my last few years with the government as a Project Coordinator for a special Task Force called ACENET that was formed to greatly accelerate the installation and implementation of the latest Information Technology systems. I retired in December 2010 with 49 years of government service and went to work for a private computer company.**

**Go to the next page for inventions, historic events, wars, disasters, movies, TV shows, and some other stuff that happened during the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, and the 2000s.**

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| **1950s** | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Inventions** | **1951 - Power steering, Video tape recorder**  **1952 - Hydrogen bomb, Bar Code, Diet Soda**  **1953 – Airplane flight recorder, Transistor radio**  **1954 – The Pill, Nonstick Teflon**  **1955 – Fiber Optics**  **1956 – Computer hard disk**  **1957 - Fortran (computer language)**  **1958 – Computer modem, Hula hoop**  **1959 – Pacemaker, Microchip** | | **Cars, Airplanes, and Spacecraft** | **1953 – First Chevy Corvette Dream Car**  **1955 - Boeing B-52 long-range jet bomber**  **1956 - Interstate Highway System Act**  **1957 - Boeing 707 first commercial jet airplane**  **1957 - The Soviet Union launches Sputnik 1**  **1957 – First Chevy bel air convertible**  **1958 - Douglas DC-8 jet airliner** | | **Wars and Conflicts** | **Cold War (United States and Soviet Union)**  **Korean War (1950-1953)**  **Cuban Revolution (1953–1959)**  **Vietnam War Starts (1959)** | | **Disasters** | **Hurricane Diane (1955) hits Northeast US**  **Hurricane Audrey (1957) hits Louisiana**  **Typhoon Vera (1959) hits Japan** | | **TV and Films** | **Films – North by Northwest, Ben-Hur, Vertigo, On the Waterfront, Some Like it Hot, Rebel without a Cause, Bridge on the River Kwai**  **TV Shows – I Love Lucy, The Ed Sullivan Show, Gunsmoke, Dragnet, The Honeymooners, The Twilight Zone, Ozzie and Harriet, and the Tom and Jerry cartoon** | | **Music,**  **Singers and Songs** | **Frank Sinatra – Come Fly with Me**  **Pat Boone – Love Letters in the Sand**  **Johnny Cash – I Walk the Line**  **Tennessee Ernie Ford – You Load 16 Tons**  **Everly Brothers – All I have to do is Dream**  **Fats Domino – Blueberry Hill**  **Elvis Presley – Hound Dog** | | **Sports** | **Rocky Marciano wins the boxing championship by knocking out Jersey Joe Walcott**  **Famous Baseball Players: Hank Aaron, Willie Mays, Mickey Mantle, and Duke Snider** | | **Business and Government** | **Anheuser-Busch, Inc. becomes the largest brewer**  **Dwight D. Eisenhower wins Presidency in 1952**  **McDonalds opens (1954)–The fast food era begins** | | **Hula Hoop**  **Sputnik 1 Satellite**  **(Space Era begins)**  **Mickey Mantle**  **McDonalds** |

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| **1960s** | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Inventions** | **1960 – The laser, Halogen lamp,** **Etch A Sketch**  **1961 – Valium, Non-dairy creamer**  **1962 - Audio cassette, light-emitting-diode (LED)**  **1963 – Zip code, Touch tone telephone**  **1964 - Permanent press clothes, 8-track cartridge**  **1965 – Astroturf, Contact lenses, Compact disk**  **1966 - Bullet proof vest, Fiber optics**  **1967 - Handheld calculator, Heart transplant**  **1968 - Computer mouse, Random access memory**  **1969 – Artificial heart, Barcode Scanner, ATM** | | **Cars, Airplanes, and Spacecraft** | **1960 – Weather Satellite**  **1961 - Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin orbited earth**  **1964 - Ford Mustang - Douglas DC9-30**  **1966 - First front-wheel drive cars**  **1966 - First electric car**  **1967 - Boeing 727 is introduced**  **1968 - Boeing 737 is introduced**  **1968 - Lunar Module built for Apollo program**  **1969 - Neil Armstrong walks on the moon**  **1969 - Jumbo jet Boeing 747 goes into service** | | **Wars and Conflicts** | **The Cold War and Vietnam War continue**  **The Cuban Missile Crisis (1962)**  **More than 500,000 troops in Vietnam in 1966**  **Six Days War (1967) – Israel against the Arabs**  **China has a hydrogen bomb by 1967** | | **Disasters** | **Hurricane Donna (1960) hits US East seaboard**  **Floods in Bangladesh (1960) kills about 10,000**  **Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas (1963)**  **Hong Kong Flu kills 34,000 Americans (1968)** | | **TV and Films** | **Films – The Good, the Bad and the Ugly, Dr. No, Easy Rider, Psycho, Bonnie and Clyde, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, The Graduate**  **TV Shows – Bonanza, Star Trek, Hogan’s heroes, Gilligan’s Island, The Flintstones, Batman** | | **Music,**  **Singers and Songs** | **The Beatles – She Loves You**  **Engelbert Humperdinck – Release Me**  **Elvis Presley – It’s Now or Never**  **Frank Sinatra – My Way**  **Jim Reeves – I Love You Because**  **Tom Jones – It’s Not Unusual** | | **Sports** | **Best Basketball Players: Wilt Chamberlain, Bill Russell, Oscar Robertson, Jerry West, Bob Pettit,** **Elgin Baylor, and Jerry Lucas** | | **8-Track Tape Player**  **Ford Mustang**  **Boeing 747**  **Computer Mouse**  **The Beatles** |

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| **1970s** | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Inventions** | **1970 – Computer floppy disks, Memory chip**  **1971 – Microprocessor, VCR, Dot-matrix printer**  **1972 - Pocket calculators, First video game (Pong)**  **1973 – Ethernet, Disposable lighter**  **1974 – Post-it Notes, Liposuction, Rubik’s cube**  **1975 – First supercomputer, Laser Printer**  **1976 - First Apple computer, Ink Jet printer**  **1977 – Commodore PC, Apple II computer**  **1978 - Artificial heart, Space Invaders game**  **1979 – Cell Phones, Walkman, Atari microcomputer** | | **Cars, Airplanes, and Spacecraft** | **Between 1969 and 1972, six Apollo missions landed men on the Moon. The Soviet Union conducted two successful unmanned missions that deployed rovers and returned rock/dirt samples to Earth.**  **1970 – Japan starts selling Datsun & Toyota in U.S.**  **1971 – McDonnell Douglas DC-10**  **1972 – Lockheed L-1011 TriStar**  **1976/1978 – F-15 Eagle and F-16 Fighting Falcon** | | **World Events** | **1970 - Palestinian Terrorists Hijacks Five Planes**  **1970 – Kent State Shootings**  **1972 - Terrorists Attack at Munich Olympic Games**  **1972 - Watergate Scandal Begins**  **1973 - U.S. Pulls Out of Vietnam**  **1974 - President Nixon Resigns**  **1976 - Ebola Virus outbreaks strike Sudan and Zaire**  **1977 - Trans-Alaska Pipeline System Finished**  **1979 - Iran Takes American Hostages in Tehran** | | **Disasters** | **1970 - Bangladesh cyclone kills 300,000**  **1972 - China earthquake (8.2) kills 240,000**  **1979 - Three Mile Island nuclear accident** | | **TV Shows and Movies** | **Movies – The Godfather, One Flew Over the Cuckoo Nest, Jaws, The Exorcist, Rocky, Airport, Patton**  **TV Shows – M\*A\*S\*H, Hawaii Five-O, All in the Family, Carol Burnett Show, Mary Tyler Moore** | | **Music**  **Singers and Songs** | **Debby Boone - “You Light Up My Life”**  **Simon & Garfunkel -“Bridge Over Troubled Water”**  **Bee Gees - “Night Fever”**  **Paul McCartney and Wings - “My Love”**  **Captain & Tennille - “Love Will Keep Us Together”**  **Three Dog Night - “Joy to the World”** | | **Sports** | **Best Pro Football Players: Roger Staubach (QB), OJ Simpson (RB), Walter Payton (RB), Lynn Swan (WR), Drew Pearson (WR), Dave Casper (TE)** | | **Rubik’s Cube**  **Pong Video Game**  **Cell Phone**  **F-16 Fighter Jet**  **Alaska Pipeline**  **(Yes, that’s me!)** |

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| **1980s** | |
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| **1990s** | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Inventions** | **1990 – World Wide Web, Internet protocol, HTML**  **1991 – Digital answering machine**  **1992 – The Smart Pill**  **1993 – The Pentium processor**  **1995 – Java computer language, DVD**  **1996 - Web TV**  **1997 – Gas-powered fuel cell**  **1998 - Viagra comes on the market**  **1999 – Tekno Bubbles is patented** | | **Cars, Airplanes, and Spacecraft** | **1990 – Hubble Telescope Launched Into Space**  **1992 – Space Shuttle Endeavour lifts off**  **1994 – Channel Tunnel Opens - Britain and France**  **1995 – Boeing 777 starts flying**  **1995 - Cosmonaut Valeriy Polyakov returns to Earth after a 438-day mission aboard space station Mir**  **1995 - Space Shuttle Atlantis docks with Mir**  **1997 - Mars Pathfinder Lands on Mars** | | **World Events** | **1990 - East and West Germany reunited**  **1991 - Collapse of the Soviet Union**  **1991 - Operation Desert Storm begins**  **1992 - Official End of the Cold War**  **1993 - World Trade Center Bombed**  **1995 - Sarin Gas attack in Tokyo subway**  **1995 - Oklahoma City Bombing**  **1996 - Mad Cow Disease hits Britain and U.S.**  **1997 - Hong Kong returned to China**  **1998 - India and Pakistan Test Nuclear Weapons**  **1999 - Killing spree at Columbine High School**  **1999 - Fear of the Y2K Bug** | | **Natural**  **Disasters** | **1992 - Hurricane Andrew strikes South Florida**  **1993 - “Storm of the Century” kills over 250 in U.S.**  **1994 - Northridge earthquake in Los Angeles**  **1995 - The Great Hanshin earthquake in Kobe Japan**  **1996 - The Blizzard of 1996 in the eastern U.S.**  **1999 – F5 tornado hits Oklahoma City** | | **TV Shows and Movies** | **Movies – Pulp Fiction, Forrest Gump, Jurassic Park, Goodfellas, Silence of the Lambs, Titanic**  **TV Shows – Seinfeld, Friends, Roseanne, The X-files, Murder She Wrote, Frasier, ER** | | **Music**  **Singers and Songs** | **Alan Jackson, “Gone Country” - Tim McGraw, “I Like It I Love It” - Faith Hill, “This Kiss” - George Strait, “Check Yes Or No” - Shania Twain, “You’re Still The One” - Brooks & Dunn, “My Maria”** | | **Sports** | **Michael Jordan dominates Pro Basketball** | | **Space Station Mir**  **OKC Bombing** |

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| **Year 2000 Facts and Figures** |
| **There are now 50 states (Alaska and Hawaii joined in 1959)**  **U.S. Population is about 282 million**  **States with the most population are:**  **1 California 34 Million**  **2 Texas 21 Million**  **3 New York 19 Million**  **4 Florida 16 Million**  **5 Illinois 12.4 Million**  **6 Pennsylvania 12.3 Million**  **7 Ohio 11.4 Million**  **8 Michigan 10 Million**    **The ten largest cities are:**  **1 New York New York 8.0 Million**  **2 Los Angeles California 3.7 Million**  **3 Chicago Illinois 2.9 Million**  **4 Houston Texas 2.0 Million**  **5 Philadelphia Pennsylvania 1.5 Million**  **6 Phoenix Arizona 1.3 Million**  **7 San Diego California 1.2 Million**  **8 Dallas Texas 1.2 Million**  **9 San Antonio Texas 1.1 Million**  **10 Detroit Michigan 950,000**  **Life expectancy is about 77 years**  **74.3 years for men and 79.7 for women**  **Cost of Living:**  **Average Cost of new house $134,150.00**  **Average Income per year $40,343.00**  **Average Monthly Rent $675.00**  **Cost of a gallon of Gas $1.26**  **Average cost of new car $24,750.00**  **US Postage Stamp .33**  **1 LB of Bacon $2.97**  **Ground Coffee per pound $3.44**  **Loaf of Bread $1.72**  **Dozen Eggs .89**  **Barrel Of Oil $30.00** |

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| **2000 to 2014** | |
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| **Year 2014 Facts and Figures** |
| **U.S. Population is about 319 million**  **States with the most population (over 10 million) are:**  **1 California 38.4 Million**  **2 Texas 26.5 Million**  **3 New York 19.7 Million**  **4 Florida 19.6 Million**  **5 Illinois 12.9 Million**  **6 Pennsylvania 12.8 Million**  **7 Ohio 11.5 Million**    **The ten largest cities are:**  **1 New York New York 8.4 Million**  **2 Los Angeles California 3.9 Million**  **3 Chicago Illinois 2.8 Million**  **4 Houston Texas 2.2 Million**  **5 Philadelphia Pennsylvania 1.5 Million**  **6 Phoenix Arizona 1.5 Million**  **7 San Antonio Texas 1.4 Million**  **8 San Diego California 1.4 Million**  **9 Dallas Texas 1.3 Million**  **10 San Jose California 1.0 Million**  **Life expectancy is about 78.8 years**  **76.4 years for men and 81.2 for women**  **Cost of Living: U.S. Hawaii**  **Average Cost of new house $260,000.00 $724,000.00**  **Average Household Income per year $52,000.00 $68,000.00**  **Average Monthly Rent $720.00 $2,200.00**  **Cost of a gallon of Gas $3.48 $4.22**  **Average cost of new car $32,000.00 $33,000.00** |

**Okay, I admit that I got a little carried away in these four articles. I originally planned to write about my picks for the ten world’s greatest inventions. It was supposed to be only one article. But, as I researched this topic, I became more and more interested in the history of man (and woman) and the progress made over the years. This led me to adding more stuff to the article which led to more articles. So, anyway, I hope that everybody that reads these learns a thing or two.**

**It is now time for my top 20 inventions of all-time or at least since us humans roamed the earth.**

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| **20. Plow**  **19. Gun Powder and the Gun**  **18. Cotton Gin**  **17. Camera**  **16. Compass**  **15. Refrigeration**  **14. Clock and Calendar**  **13. Paper and the Printing Press**  **12. Immunization and Antibiotics (Penicillin)**  **11. Steam Engine and the Train**  **10. Telephone**  **9. Computer and the Internet**  **8. Radio and Television**  **7. Boat and Ship**  **6. Indoor Plumbing (Toilet) with Running Water**  **5. Airplane**  **4. Gas Engine and the Automobile**  **3. Fire (controlling it for heat and cooking)**  **2. Wheel**  **The greatest invention in the history of the World is:**  **1. Electricity**  **Honorable Mention: BEER** |

**Okay, I know that most of you thought I would have beer as the #1 invention of all time. It is pretty high on my list. What does your list of the 20 greatest inventions look like?**

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