

## A blast from the past

We'll party like the 50s at Rockin' at the Grove, but the decade was a lot more than sock hops, drive-ins, and poodle skirts. World War II had ended, but the Korean conflict loomed, and the foundation for the Vietnam War was laid. Virulent anti-communism led by Senator Joseph McCarthy blacklisted hundreds of creative individuals. The 1950s also saw the birth of the Space Age and the Civil Rights movement.



1950 - 1954: McCarthyism reigns

1950 - 1953: The Korean War

1950 - The comic strip Peanuts is first published

1951 - General Douglas MacArthur fired by President Truman for comments about using nuclear weapons on China

1951 - The first live transcontinental television broadcast takes place from San Francisco. "I Love Lucy" premieres one month later.

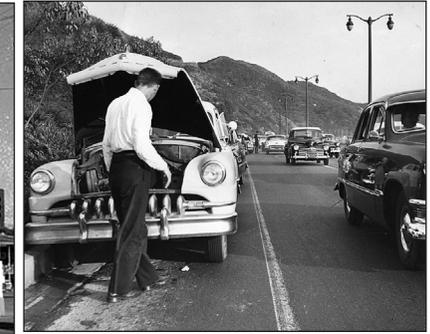
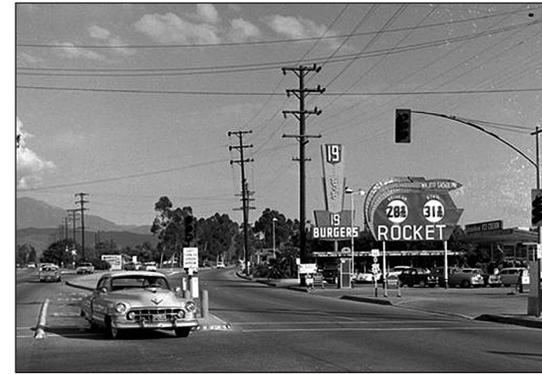


1952 - The Today Show debuts.

1952 - Dwight D. Eisenhower is elected United States president

1954 - With Brown v. Board of Education, the Supreme Court declares state laws establishing separate public schools for black and white students and denying black children equal educational opportunities unconstitutional

1954 - The Dow Jones Industrial Average closes at an all-time high of 382.74



1955 - Rosa Parks refuses to give up her bus seat and is arrested for civil disobedience.

1955 - Disneyland opens in Anaheim

1955 - Jonas Salk develops polio vaccine

1955 - "Rock Around the Clock" by Bill Haley and His Comets is the first rock and roll record to top the Billboard magazine pop charts.



1955 - Actor James Dean is killed in a highway accident

1956 - (President Eisenhower is re-elected)

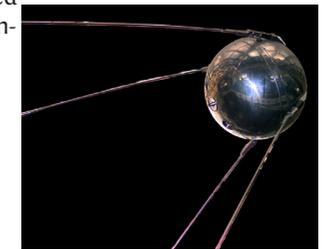
1956 - The Interstate Highway system begins with the passage of the Federal Highway Act

1957 - Civil Rights Act of 1957 becomes the first civil rights legislation enacted by Congress since Reconstruction

1957 - Soviets launch Sputnik; "space race" begins

1957 - The first commercial nuclear power plant in the U.S. goes into service

1958 - NASA is formed as the U.S. starts to explore space



1959 - The Cuban Revolution ends as Fidel Castro ousts dictator Fulgencio Batista.

1959 - The fad of Volkswagen stuffies begins.

1959 - Alaska and Hawaii become the 49th and 50th U.S. states; to date, they are the final two states admitted to the union.