SPECIAL EDITION

1985

1986

1987

News

Reagan back again

Ronald Reagan took his second oath of office January 20, 1985. After a landslide victory over Democrat Walter Mondale, Reagan appeared to have the confidence of the American voters.

Gorbachev gets power

On March 10, Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko died. The next day Mikhail Gorbachev became general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party.

Cola president dies

On March 7, Robert W. Woodruff, 95, died. He was the president of Coca-Cola who had built the business into an international financial empire. On April 23, the Coca-Cola Company announced that it would change the formula for coke to "give it a new taste." Old Coke lovers demonstrated against the new product. July 10, Coca-Cola brought back the old-classic--formula in addition to the new version.

Sports

Football

The San Francisco 49ers won Super Bowl XIX by defeating the Miami Dolphins 38-16.

Basketball

The Los Angeles Lakers became champions of the NBA winning four games to two over the Boston Celtics. Villanova, under the direction of Rollie Massimino, won the national championship with a victory over Georgetown.

Baseball

Baseball season halted in early August as the players went on strike for the second time in the 1980's. The strike lasted only three days. Cincinnati Reds player, Pete Rose, got his 4192nd career hit breaking the major-league record set by Ty Cobb in 1928. The National League was victorious in the All-Star Game.

Entertainment

Music and the world

Rock-and-roll stars joined together in the biggest rock concert in history, Live Aid, to raise money for African famine relief. The concert which was broadcast worldwide from London and Philadelphia raised more than \$50 million.

In September, Farm Aid, a concert organized by Willie Nelson, was held in Champaign, Illinois. The concert raised \$7 million to aid American farmers.

Deaths

Henry Cabot Lodge, U.S. delegate to the UN, died at age 82. May 16, actress Margaret Hamilton, 82, died. She was best known for her performance as the wicked witch of the west in "The Wizard of Oz."

August 28, stage and screen actress, writer, and playwright, Ruth Gordon, 88, died.

On October 2, actor Rock Hudson, 59, died in Beverly Hills. His death took place ten weeks after he announced that he suffered from AIDS.



News

Shuttle blast kills 7

The space shuttle "Challenger" exploded shortly after take-off at Cape Canaveral, Florida. All seven crew members are killed instantly including New Hampshire high school teacher Christa McAuliffe. The shuttle program takes a major step backwards.

King gets holiday

January 20 is designated and observed nationally as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in honor of the slain civil rights leader.

GWC gets president

M. Christopher White becomes president of Gardner-Webb College. White replaced Craven Williams who resigned after ten years at the helm.

Sports

Baseball

Bo Jackson, Heisman Trophy winner for Auburn, signs with the Kansas City Royals organization, shunning a \$7 million dollar offer to play pro football. The New York Mets came from the cellar to defeat the Boston Red Sox in the World Series.

Football

The Chicago Bears, armed with the Shufflin' Crew and the Refrigerator, dominate the world of pro football. They culminated the season by easily dismantling the New England Patriots 46-10 in Super Bowl XX. The Sooners of Oklahoma defeated Penn State in the Orange Bowl to win the national championship.

Basketball

The basketball world is shocked by the death of Maryland superstar Len Bias the day after he is drafted in the first round by the Boston Celtics. Later in the year, Maryland coach Lefty Drisell resigns amidst lingering controversy in the Bias death.

Entertainment

Hollywood filmmakers continued to live prosperous lives in 1986. Major attractions included "Rocky III", "Down and Out in Beverly Hills", "The Color Purple", "Gung Ho", and "Pretty in Pink."

"The Cosby Show" tightened its grip on T.V. while "Family Ties" and "Cheers" added to NBC's growing list of top shows.

Whitney Houston burst into the music scene with #1 hits "How Will I Know" and "The Greatest Love (of Ail)". James Brown scored his first #1 with "Living in America" and John Cougar Mellencamp spelled out "R.O.C.K. in the U.S.A." to millions. Rap music became a force to be reckoned with, Run D.M.C. leading the way.

Deaths

Donna Reed, star of early television, died in 1986.

L. Ron Hubbard, author of the bestseller Dianetics, died in 1986.

Flo Hyman, 6'5" Olympic volleyball star, died in 1986.

James Cagney, star of several major films, died in 1986.

News

Jim and Tammy

PTL leader Jim Bakker is forced to resign after news of a 1980 sexual tryst with one time secretary Jessica Hahn becomes public. Not long after, he is defrocked by the Assemblies of God.

Gary and Donna

Presidential hopeful Gary Hart is forced to resign from his campaign when the Miami Herald prints allegations of wrong doing with Irmo, S.C. model Donna Rice. At the time he dropped out, he was clearly ahead of his opponents.

Iran-Contras and Ollie

Lt. Col. Oliver North is forced to testify before Congress on his part in the illegal sale of arms to Iran and the diversion of those funds to the Contras of Nicaragua. His testimony so moved the public that he became quite a folk hero and even garnered the support of Moral Majority leader Jerry Falwell.

Sports

Baseball

The Minnesota Twins defeated the St. Louis Cardinals 4 games to 3 to become the worst team (85-77) to win the title.

Football

Quarterback Doug Williams led the Washington Redskins to victory over the Denver Broncos 42-10 in Super Bowl XXI. Shortly after the game, Williams said, "I'm going to Disney World."

Basketball

"The Doctor", Julius Erving, retires after 16 seasons and over 30,000 points. The Los Angeles Lakers continued their NBA dynasty by added another title to the stockpile. Magic's Lakers defeat Larry's Celtics to win the championship. In college hoops, the Hoosiers won another title. Led by Steve Alford, Indiana defeated Syracuse 74-73 in the final.

Entertainment

It was another major year at the turnstiles for the motion picture industry. "RoboCop", "Lethal Weapon", "Fatal Attraction", "The Witches of Eastwick", "Good Morning, Vietnam", and "Platoon" were just a few of 1987's releases.

In music, the hits kept rolling for Prince, Madonna, and Michael Jackson. "Slippery when Wet" earned Bon Jovi girls and thrills. Meanwhile, U2 finally got much-deserved major recognition with "The Joshua Tree." The Beastie Boys became the wild boys of rap and George Michael went solo with "Faith"

While pop music continued to grow, an alternative arose. Progressive music led by pioneer bands such as The Cure, The Cult, and Depeche Mode started making its presence known.

Deaths

Andy Warhol, pop artist, died at age 58.

Władziu Valentino Liberace, glitzy pianist, died of AIDS-related disease at age 67.

Jackie Gleason, star of "The Honeymooners", died in 1987