

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

CHRONOLOGY OF 1947

DISASTERS

January

- 1—Five killed when DC-3 transport crashes near Charleston, S. C.
- 1—Transport plane falls near Carmel, N. J., killing 3, injuring 20.
- 12—Airliner crashes near Galax, Va., killing 18 of 19 aboard.
- 13—Fifteen miners die in gas explosion in coal mine in Nottingham, Pa.
- 30—Tornado sweeping through Alabama, Tennessee, Arkansas and Missouri kills 20.

February

- 18—Twenty-one killed, 128 injured when train plunges over 150-foot embankment in Allegheny mountains near Altoona, Pa.
- 20—Explosion of tank in electroplating factory in central Los Angeles kills 15, injures 158, demolishes area half mile square.

March

- 23—Worst mine disaster since 1923 takes toll of 111 lives in Centralia, Ill., explosion.

April

- 2—Explosion in fireworks plant in Clinton, Mo., kills 10.
- 9—Tornadoes rip through Texas Panhandle and Oklahoma, killing 138, injuring 1,000. Woodward, Okla., hardest hit, with 84 dead.
- 16—Most of Texas City, Tex., destroyed by enormous explosion when freighter, loaded with nitrate fertilizer, explodes in harbor and sets fire to docks, oil tanks and factories. Fire rages three days. Toll: 400 killed, 3,500 injured.
- 29—Tornado destroys Worth, Mo., killing 14. Another twister kills 9 in rural northwest Arkansas.

May

- 6—Outbreak of infant diarrhea in Philadelphia area causes deaths of 27 babies.
- 29—Forty-two killed when DC-4 airliner crashes after take-off at La Guardia field, New York. Seven survive.
- 30—DC-4 airliner crashes near Ft. Deposit, Md., killing all 53 on board. Two crashes rank as worst air disasters in U. S. history.
- 31—Tornado strikes Leedy, Okla., wrecking town, killing 6.

June

- 1—Tornado kills 35 in farming section near Pine Bluff, Ark.
- 9—Mississippi river floods lowlands in northern Missouri, southern Iowa and Illinois, forcing 22,000 to abandon homes. Seven drowned at Ottumwa, Iowa.
- 13—All 50 on board DC-4 airliner killed when it strikes mountain near Leesburg, Va.
- 22—Flood flood drowns 11 in Cambridge, Neb.

July

- 3—Tornado kills 11 near Grand Forks, N. D.
- 13—Chartered DC-3 transport plane crashes in swamp near Melbourne, Fla., killing 21, injuring 15.
- 29—Explosion wrecks beauty shop in Harrisonburg, Va. Ten women killed, 30 persons injured.

August

- 8—Four die when chartered plane dives into chimney of gas plant in Everett, Mass.

September

- 3—Labor day weekend takes death toll of 456, compared with 457 in 1946.
- 11—Twenty killed when excursion boat drowns up at Pittsburgh dock.
- 20—Hurricane sweeps in over southern Florida, crosses Gulf of Mexico, strikes Louisiana, Mississippi and Arkansas. Toll: 100 killed, many injured, property loss of 25 to 30 million dollars.
- 21—Flood following hurricane drowns 27 in New Orleans area.
- 29—Fire on New York City pier results in injuries to 144 firemen, five million dollar loss.

October

- 24—Fifty-two killed when transport plane crashes in Bryce Canyon, Utah.
- 25—Forest fires in Maine kill 17, destroy many homes. Fires rage throughout northeastern states.
- 26—Transport hits mountain in Alaska, killing 18.

November

- 13—Army plane hits Mt. Spokane, Wash., killing five men.
- 21—Nine naval personnel killed, two saved in crash of bomber in Pacific, 100 miles southwest of San Diego, Calif.

December

- 9—Army plane crashes near Goose Bay, Labrador; 23 die, six rescued.
- 11—Two passenger trains collide head-on near New Braunfels, Tex., killing 20, injuring nine.
- 12—Army plane burns and crashes near Memphis, Tenn., killing 20.
- 15—CAB tabulation shows 1947 toll of 274 fatalities in mishaps involving scheduled airlines.

DEATHS

January

- 5—Ovington E. Weller, 84, former U. S. senator from Maryland.
- 7—Charles S. Woolworth, 90, one of founders store chain.
- 11—Eva Tanguay, 68, famous vaudeville actress.
- 20—Andrew J. Voistead, 87, former Minnesota congressman who introduced 1919 prohibition act.
- 23—Grace Moore, 45, opera, radio and screen star, in air crash.
- 27—Paul P. Harris, 78, founder of Rotary International.

February

- 3—Adm. Marc A. Mitscher, 60, hero of both World Wars.
- 6—O. Max Gardner, 64, U. S. ambassador to England.
- 12—Sidney Toler (Charlie Chan), 80, film star.
- 15—Harry K. Thaw, 76, wealthy playboy who shot Stanford White.

March

- 7—Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, 88, woman suffrage leader.
- William C. Durant, 85, founder of General Motors corporation.

April

- 7—Henry Ford, 83, auto manufacturer.
- 18—Benny Leonard, 51, former world lightweight boxing champion.
- 20—King Christian X of Denmark, 78.
- 24—Willis Cather, 70, famous novelist.

May

- 4—Martin J. Insull, 78, brother of Samuel and himself a utilities magnate.
- 16—Sir Frederick G. Hopkins, 86, biochemist who discovered vitamins.
- 27—Brig. Gen. Evans F. Carlson, 51, marine hero, leader of "Carlson's Raiders."
- 31—Adrienne Ames, 39, actress and radio commentator.

June

- 11—David I. Walsh, 74, former U. S. senator and governor of Massachusetts.
- 22—Jim Tully, 56, novelist and screen writer.

July

- 12—Rep. Joseph J. Mansfield, 86, Texas congressman since 1916 and oldest member of house.
- 26—Mrs. Martha E. Truman, 94, President Truman's mother.

August

- 4—Gipsy R. Smith, 87, noted evangelist.
- 21—Sen. Theodore G. Bilbo, 69, U. S. senator from Mississippi, 1935-47.

September

- 20—Fiorello H. La Guardia, 64, former congressman from New York state, mayor of New York City and director general of UNRRA.

October

- 17—Arthur Hyde, 70, former secretary of agriculture, former governor of Missouri.
- 30—Gov. Earl Snell of Oregon, 52.

November

- 4—John G. Winant, 58, former ambassador to England.
- 22—James J. Davis, 74, secretary of labor, 1921-30.

December

- 7—Dr. Nicholas M. Butler, 85, president emeritus of Columbia U.
- Joseph T. Ryerson, 67, steel magnate.

SPORTS

January

- 1—Bowl football scores: Rose Bowl, Illinois 42, U. C. 10; Sugar Bowl, Georgia 20, North Carolina 10; Cotton Bowl, Arkansas 0, Louisiana State 0; Orange Bowl, Rice 8, Tennessee Shrine game, West All Stars, 13, East 9.
- 21—Bob Feller, Cleveland Indians pitcher, signs contract calling for \$80,000 plus bonus for 1947 season.
- 25—Gil Dodds runs Knights of Columbus mile in Boston in record 4:09.1.

February

- 2—National Collegiate Athletic association bans running shirt from football rule changes.
- 12—Charlie Trippi, pro football star, signs to play baseball with Atlanta club.
- 21—Hank Greenberg signs with Pittsburgh Pirates for \$50,000.
- 28—Gus Lesnevich, light heavyweight champion, knocks out Billy Fox in title bout in New York.

March

- 12—Martin Ortiz takes bantamweight title from Harold Dade in Los Angeles.
- 15—Willie Hoppe retains world three-cushion billiards championship.
- Ted Edwards and William Lingelbach win U. S. court tennis doubles.
- 22—Joseph Verdeur sets new record for 220-yard breaststroke, 2:16.4 in Eastern Intercollegiate Swimming league.
- 25—Utah defeats Kentucky, 49 to 45, to win National Collegiate basketball title.
- 29—Gil Dodds runs fastest indoor mile, 4:06.8 in Chicago.

April

- 9—Commissioner Happy Chandler suspends Leo Durocher, Brooklyn baseball club manager, for 1947 season.
- 15—Joe Baski, American heavyweight fighter, defeats Bruce Woodcock, British champion, in London.
- Baseball season opens, Brooklyn is managed by Euron Shotton.
- 26—Texas U. take top honors in Drake relays in Des Moines, Iowa. Illinois leads in Penn relays in Philadelphia.
- 27—"Babe Ruth Day" observed at all ball parks in U. S. and Japan.

May

- 3—Jet Pilot wins Kentucky Derby in 2:06 4/5; Phalanx second, Faultless, third.
- 4—National women's senior A. A. U. championship swimming meet in Seattle won by Crystal Plunge club of San Francisco. Ann Curtis takes individual honors.
- 17—U. S. golf team regains Walker cup at St. Andrews, Scotland.
- 30—Mauri Rose wins annual 500 mile auto race at Indianapolis with average speed of 116.3 miles.

June

- 3—Honeymoon sets new world record for seven furlong race of 1:21 4/5 minutes at Hollywood Park, Calif.
- Lloyd Marshall of Cleveland knocks out British light heavyweight champion in London.
- 15—Lew Worsham wins national open golf title by one stroke at St. Louis.
- 16—Harvard rowing crew defeats Yale in historic race at New London, Conn.
- Ewell Blackwell of Cincinnati Reds pitches first no-hit season against Boston Braves in Cincinnati.
- 21—U. of Illinois retains National Collegiate Athletic association championship in meet at Salt Lake City.
- 29—Betty Jameson wins U. S. women's open golf title in Greensboro, N. C.

July

- 8—American League wins All-Star baseball game in Chicago, 2-1.
- 16—Rocky Graziano defeats Tony Zale to win world's middleweight boxing title.
- 21—Schooner Dolphin II wins California-Hawaii yacht race in 11 days, 1:04 minutes. Skipper Cara Mia captures Chicago-to-Mackinac race in 39 hours, 5:46 minutes.
- 29—Gus Lesnevich, light heavyweight boxing champion, outpoints Tani Mauriello, heavyweight, in non-title bout in New York.

August

- 4—Ike Williams knocks out Bob Montgomery in Philadelphia to become lightweight champion of world.
- 13—Victory Song sets new world record for trotters by running mile in 1:57 3/8 minutes, in Springfield, Ill.
- 21—D. Lee Erban of Dallas, Tex., wins professional North American clay target championship in Vandalia, Ohio.
- 22—Willie Pep retains featherweight title by defeating Jock Leslie in Flint, Mich.
- College All-Stars beat Chicago Bears pro football squad in Chicago, 16-0.

Top Ten Spot News Stories of 1947

(As selected by nation's weekly editors in Publishers' Auxiliary poll.)

Taft-Hartley act keynotes turbulent labor picture.

Marshall plan, including 22 1/2 billion dollar outlay, marks U. S. effort to rehabilitate stricken Europe.

Tanker explosion and fire wreak havoc in Texas City, Tex., with death toll of 400.

U. S.-Russian disputes hold spotlight in United Nations quest for world peace.

Britain grants India long-sought freedom; rioting and bloodshed prevail.

Governorship dispute flares in Georgia, with M. E. Thompson as ultimate victor.

Telephone strike ties up communications over widespread area.

Price inflation staggers domestic economy.

Marriage of Britain's Princess Elizabeth brings royalty into limelight.

Truman Doctrine and Greco-Turkish aid mark revised concept in foreign relations.

September

- 1—American Davis cup team defeats Australia to retain cup.
- 3—N. Y. Giants pro football team beats Eastern College all-stars, 21-0, in New York City.
- 7—Minor league baseball season ends. Jersey City leads International league, Kansas City, the American association.
- 22—Brooklyn Dodgers clinch National league pennant, New York Yankees win American league flag.
- 27—Armed beats Assau as nation's top race horse. Compete in \$100,000 two-horse race at Belmont Park, N. Y.
- 28—Ben Hogan wins International golf tourney in Chicago.

October

- 16—New York Yankees win World series. Army's record of 32 football games without defeat broken by Columbia.

November

- 6—Notre Dame defeats Army, 27 to 7.
- 14—Billy Fox defeats Jake LaMotta by technical knockout in New York.
- 20—Brooklyn Dodgers buy St. Paul club of American Association.

December

- 5—Joe Louis retains heavyweight title in split decision over Joe Walcott.
- 6—Notre Dame beats Southern California, 38 to 7.
- 13—College of Pacific defeats Utah State 35 to 21 in Grape Bowl grid game.

DOMESTIC

January

- 6—President Truman emphasizes five major problems—strikes, business monopolies, housing, taxes and agricultural prosperity—in annual "state of the union" message.
- 10—President submits budget totaling \$16.5 billion.
- 21—Gen. George Marshall succeeds James Byrnes as secretary of state.

February

- 10—U. S. signs peace treaties ending war with Italy, Bulgaria, Hungary, Finland and Romania.
- 12—U. S. and Canada agree to continue wartime collaboration for "peace-time joint security purposes."
- 28—U. S. copiers of Mexico in campaign to control hoof-and-mouth disease outbreak.

March

- 6—U. S. Supreme court finds John L. Lewis and United Mine Workers guilty of civil asset contempt in coal strike of November, 1946.
- 12—President outlines "Truman Doctrine" on Europe and black Russian aggression.
- 18—Cash wheat hits 30-year high of \$3.05 a bushel in Chicago.
- 19—Georgia supreme court rules Melvin E. Thompson is legal governor of state.
- 31—Many war power acts expire automatically, including selective service, CPA controls on steel, resins, textiles, solid fuels administration, transportation restrictions of ODT, and others.

April

- 7—Telephone workers launch nationwide strike as 300,000 employees of Bell system leave jobs.
- 9—David Lilienthal confirmed as head of Atomic Energy commission after heated senate wrangle.
- 21—President warns of inflation dangers and pleads for voluntary price cuts.

May

- 1—Round of threatened strikes in steel and heavy manufacturing industries settled by raises of 10 to 15 cents per hour.
- 14—President signs bill to eliminate most postal-to-portial pay suits.
- 20—Last major telephone workers' strike ends.
- Newburyport, Mass., merchants abandon voluntary price cut campaign.
- 24—Navy accepts new jet-propelled fighter plane, carrier-based XF2D-1, with speed of 600 mph.

June

- 1—Commission on universal military training issues stern warning on dangers of swift annihilation in atomic war without a huge army, extensive defensive organization.
- 11—President reasserts doctrine of maintaining world peace by helping weak nations.
- 17—House fails by two votes to override presidential veto of income tax reduction bill.
- 23—Taft-Hartley bill becomes law as congress overrides presidential veto.
- 30—President signs rent control bill continuing modified controls until March 1, 1948.

July

- 18—Senate sustains presidential veto of income tax reduction bill. President signs presidential success bill placing speaker of the house first in line.
- 25—Sixty wartime emergency power-ended and termination dates set for 124 others.
- 27—Bill approved to unify armed forces.
- 27—James Forrestal appointed to newly created post, secretary of national defense.
- Eightieth congress ends first session.

August

- 17—William Odum of Roslyn, N. Y., flies around world in record 73 hours, covering 19,945 miles.
- 11—Seasonal Hughes investigation by senate committee probing army airplane contracts suddenly adjourned.

September

- 1—President and Mrs. Truman visit Brazil on 20-day goodwill mission.
- 14—Army imposes complete ban on news of biological warfare developments.
- 28—Farm income soars 11 per cent in past year while operating costs jump 16 per cent, department of agriculture report discloses.

October

- 2—Food conservation drive launched by President.
- 10—First war dead arrive at San Francisco.
- 23—President calls congress for emergency session on November 17.
- 24—Distillers begin 60-day shutdown to save grain.
- 30—U. S. justice department files anti-trust suit against 17 investment banking companies.

November

- 4—Democrats regain state control in Kentucky by electing Earle C. Clements general; succeeded by James A. Donaldson, former first assistant.
- 8—President's advisory committee says U. S. must give Europe five and three quarter billion dollars in aid by 1949.
- 13—Gov. Earl Warren of California enters Republican presidential race.
- 17—Congress convenes on President's call to deal with European aid, inflation.
- 20—Charles Luckman resigns as chairman of citizen's food committee.
- 25—Robert E. Hannegan's resigns as postmaster general; succeeded by James A. Donalson, former first assistant.

December

- 5—Ten movie writers, producers and directors indicted for contempt of congress in Red probe.
- 11—Secretary Marshall denounces Russian slurs on U. S. in London.
- 12—Open congressional investigation of grain speculator Edwin Pauley, army department official.

PANORAMA

January

- 15—Ford Motor company reduces prices on passenger cars \$15 to \$50 in effort "to halt insane spiral of mounting costs and rising prices."
- 23—Potato growers authorized to dump 20 million bushels of low-grade potatoes stored under government price-support plan.

February

- 4—Largest narcotic seizure in nine years made in New York when federal agents find \$250,000 worth of heroin in possession of U. S. seaman returning from France.
- 7—Coldest temperature ever recorded on North American continent, 81 degrees below zero, registered at Snag airport in Canadian Yukon.
- 16—Survey shows average teacher's salary in U. S. is \$37 weekly, and 350,000 teachers have left schools since 1940.

March

- 16—Margaret Truman, the President's daughter, sings on radio in debut with Detroit symphony.

April

- 6—Tuberculosis death rate in U. S. hits lowest level in history at 40.1 per 100,000.
- 12—Two die of smallpox in New York City. Mayor O'Dwyer asks all New Yorkers to be vaccinated.
- 15—Reynolds Bombshell, converted army bomber, sets unofficial around the world flight record by covering 20,000 miles in 78 hours, 55 minutes.

May

- 7—Oklahoma State Sen. Thomas Anglin shot in hip by State Rep. James Scott in senate chamber. Scott is adjudged insane.
- 17—Market prices slump to lowest point since January, 1945, on reports of buyer resistance and slowing business activity.

June

- 11—New "secret weapon," called as effective as atom bomb but cheaper to make, announced by Prof. T. D. J. Leech of New Zealand. It reputedly is some kind of electrical "death ray."
- 24—Freak snowstorm in Montana-Wyoming border region piles up 15-foot drifts. Three workmen smothered in snow-buried truck.
- 28—General Eisenhower declares U. S. army is now "a poor second" to Russia's.

July

- 5—"Flying discs" reported by airlines crew crew Emmett, Ida., leads to frenzy of similar stories of discs over other states.
- 11—Employment in U. S. passes 60 million, figure set as ideal by Henry Ford.
- 27—Gallup poll reports 51 per cent of voters would vote for Truman for President, 49 per cent for Dewey.

August

- 19—More than a third (35 per cent) of veterans who entered college under G. I. bill of rights have dropped out of school, VA reports.
- 23—New minor planet discovered by University of California. It is 10 miles in diameter, 156 million miles from sun.
- 30—Radio tube "almost as small as a grain of rice" developed.

September

- 9—Cyclotron at University of California produces non-explosive fission of tantalum, thallium, platinum, lead and bismuth. Scientists also discover diamonds are radio-sensitive and make excellent counters of radio-activity.
- 18—Department of agriculture reports that 70 cents of every consumer dollar spent on meat now goes to farmer, compared with 81 cents in 1939.
- 27—"Radac" (rapid digital automatic computation) may be basis of defense for rocket weapons, reports Presidential Scientific Research board.

October

- 5—Beulah Overell and George "Bud" Gollum acquitted on charge of murdering N. J. for kidnapping, after week of ludicrous "battling" with fib-boat and writs.
- 30—Plot to obtain atomic bomb secrets revealed in senate inquiry into Hollywood communism.

November

- 3—Dealers blame rumors of nylon stocking shortage on radio commentators and newspaper columnists.
- 11—Russia reported to have exploded atomic bomb in tests; U. S. scientists doubt possibility.
- 12—Decommissioned battleship New Mexico reaches Julyvard in New York. N. J. for scrapping, after week of ludicrous "battling" with fib-boat and writs.

FOREIGN

January

- 10—U. N. security council guarantees independence of Free Territory of Trieste, ceded to Italy after World War I.
- 11—Chinese civil warfare continues to rage.
- 15—Truce becomes effective between French troops and Chinese rebel forces in French Indo-China.
- 19—Poland holds first election for parliamentary offices since 1935.
- 21—Paul Ramadier chosen new premier of France. His cabinet leans to left, but not Communism.

February

- 2—Premier Alcide de Gasperi forms new Italian cabinet composed of coalition of Christian Democrats and Leftists.
- 4—Anglo-Arab conference of Palestine adjourns in failure, as Arabs reject partition plan.
- 7—British military government of Germany announces plan to free 1,000,000 of the 1,500,000 Nazi suspects in zone. First legal Polish cabinet since war formed by Josef Cyrankiewicz. Ten key positions held by Communists or Socialists.
- 20—British announce withdrawal from India before 1948.
- 25—Foreign ministers end London conference, with little headway on peace treaties for Austria and Germany.

March

- 1—Chinese Communist troops open large scale offensive against Changchun.
- 4—Greek government appeals to U. S. for immediate aid.
- 8—Jewish underground forces battle British soldiers in Palestine.
- 14—U. S. and Philippines sign treaty granting U. S. 99-year lease for naval bases.
- 24—Dutch and Indonesian sign treaty recognizing Indonesian Republic, with sovereignty by January 1, 1949.

April

- 2—U. N. grants U. S. strategic trusteeship over former Japanese-mandated islands, the Caroline, Marshall and Mariana groups.
- 5—Chinese Communist troops kill 8 U. S. marines, wound 16 in raid on marine munition dump.
- 24—Moscow conference ends after 44 days, after reaching agreement of only a few points for Austrian and German treaties.
- 26—Peace negotiations begin between Indo-Chinese rebels and French forces.

May

- 9—Communists ousted from French Indochina.
- 16—Congress passes foreign relief bill providing 350 million dollars for Austria, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Trieste and China.
- 20—First Japanese premier constitution is Tetsu Tamaya, lawyer and a Communist.
- 31—Russia seizes government of Communist party. Premier de Gasperi forms new cabinet, of Socialists.