

1950's

**Speakers on for the Song Many People Think
Signifies the Birth of Rock and Roll
Bill Haley and the Comets' 1955 #1 Hit
"Rock Around the Clock"**

Click to Advance

The Price of Gas Goes From 18.9 Cents a Gallon in 1950 to a Whopping 25.9 Cents in 1959 And, They Pumped the Gas, Wiped Your Windshield, Checked Your Oil, Checked Your Battery And Checked the Tire Pressure



On November 1, 1950 Oscar Collazo and Grisello Torresola attempted to assassinate President Truman to call attention to Puerto Rico and advance the cause of Puerto Rican independence. The attack took place at the Blair House where the Truman family stayed while the White House was being renovated. Collazo and Torresola approached Blair House from opposite directions intending to shoot their way inside. The ensuing gun battle with White House policemen and secret service agents left Torresola and one policeman dead and Collazo and two policemen wounded. The picture below is of the wounded Collazo at the front steps of the Blair House. Neither of the Assassins were able to gain entry into the Blair House where Truman was taking a nap upstairs.



1951 Buick Super Series 50 Model 51 4-door Sedan



Soldiers on a nuclear training exercise during a November 1, 1951, 21 kiloton, B-50 airdrop, nuclear test at the Nevada Proving Grounds. For twelve years, an average of one bomb every three weeks was detonated, for a total of 235 bombs. A Limited Test Ban went into effect in 1963 banning above ground tests.



Opening of the Thruway Plaza Shopping Center in Buffalo, N.Y in 1952 Heralding the Shift of Shopping From Downtown to the Suburbs



November 1, 1952 - First Hydrogen Bomb Was Tested at Eniwetok Atoll in the South Pacific



1953 Pontiac Convertible

1953 was the first year Pontiac had a one piece windshield and still sported the double chrome strip in the center with a Plastic Indian head that lit up when the lights were turned on. Both were dropped in 1957. The Pontiac was named after the town in Michigan where it was first built, which in turn was named after an Indian Chief.



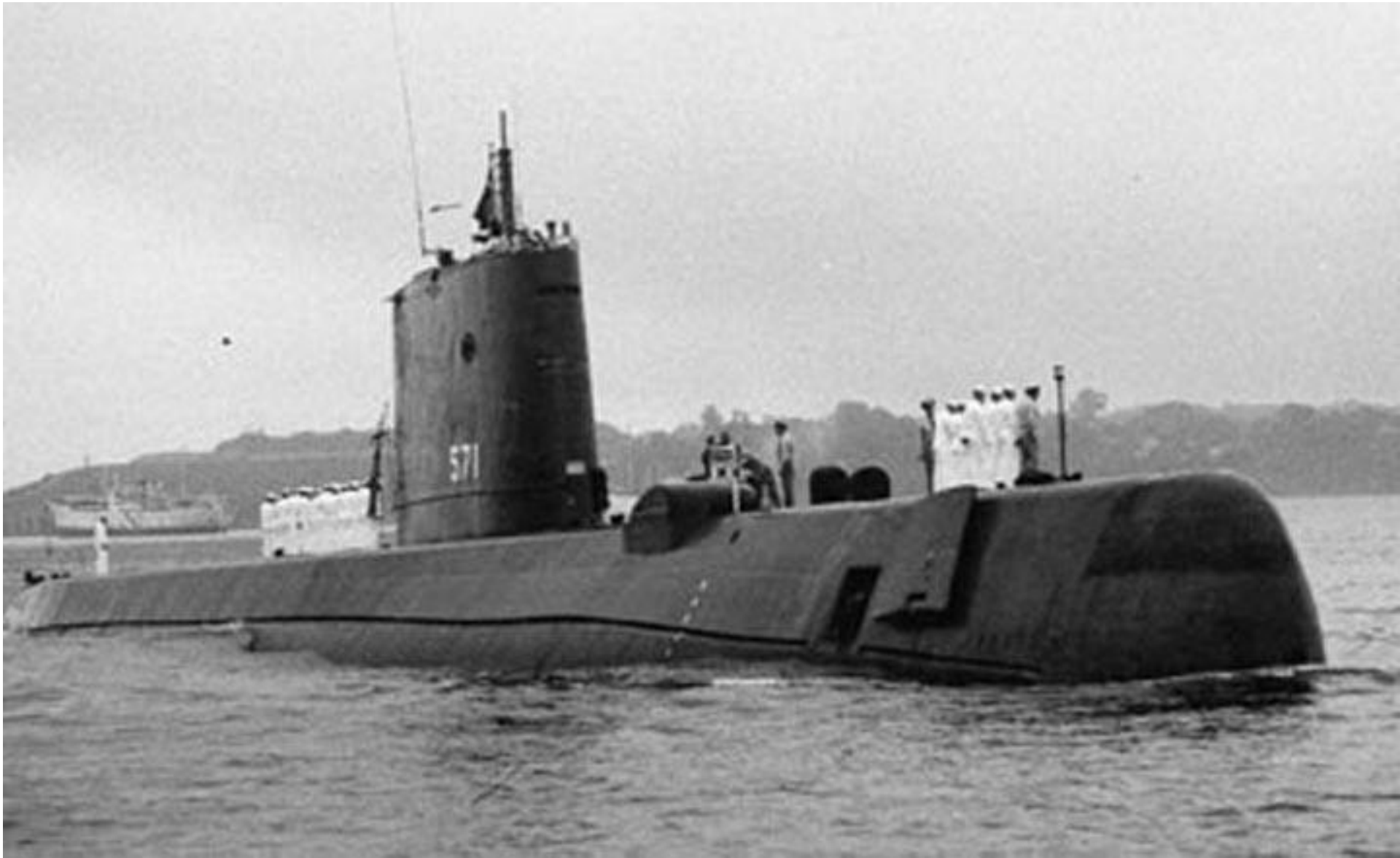
On June 30, 1953 Chevrolet introduces the Corvette. Billed as a 1954, there were only 300 built in 1953. Fifty-six years later, approximately 225 of them are still known to exist. All of the cars were Polo White with a red interior and a black canvas top. There were two options offered: a signal seeking AM radio (\$145.15) and a heater (\$91.40). Although listed as options, all 1953 Corvettes were equipped with both items. The radio had an interesting feature: since fiberglass is electrically inert, the antenna was simply incorporated in the trunk lid. This would not be possible with a conventional steel body.



**Sir Edmond
Hillary
Conquering
Mt. Everest on
May 29, 1953**



Nautilus, the First Nuclear Sub, is Launched on January 21, 1954



**Kansas Avenue in
Topeka, Kansas
Looking North
From 8th Street,
February 22, 1954**



1955 Chrysler Imperial



Jonas Salk Announces the Success of His Polio Vaccine to the World on April 12, 1955

All Local Teams Are Rained Out

Mother Objects
To Son's Girl
Read Story Tomorrow
Editorial on Page 2

Journal **The American**

7TH SPORTS
WALL ST.
SPECIAL

SALK'S VACCINE WORKS!



Official Count

Official count of polio cases in the United States for the year ending in 1954 shows a 90% drop from the 1953 record. The number of cases in 1954 was 5,688, compared with 64,889 in 1953. This is the lowest number of cases since 1916, when there were 35,000 cases.

Polio Vaccine Reported 80 to 90% Effective

The vaccine reported to be 80 to 90% effective in preventing polio. It is the first vaccine to be shown to be effective in preventing a disease. The vaccine was developed by Dr. Jonas Salk and his team at the University of Pittsburgh.

All Local Teams Are Rained Out

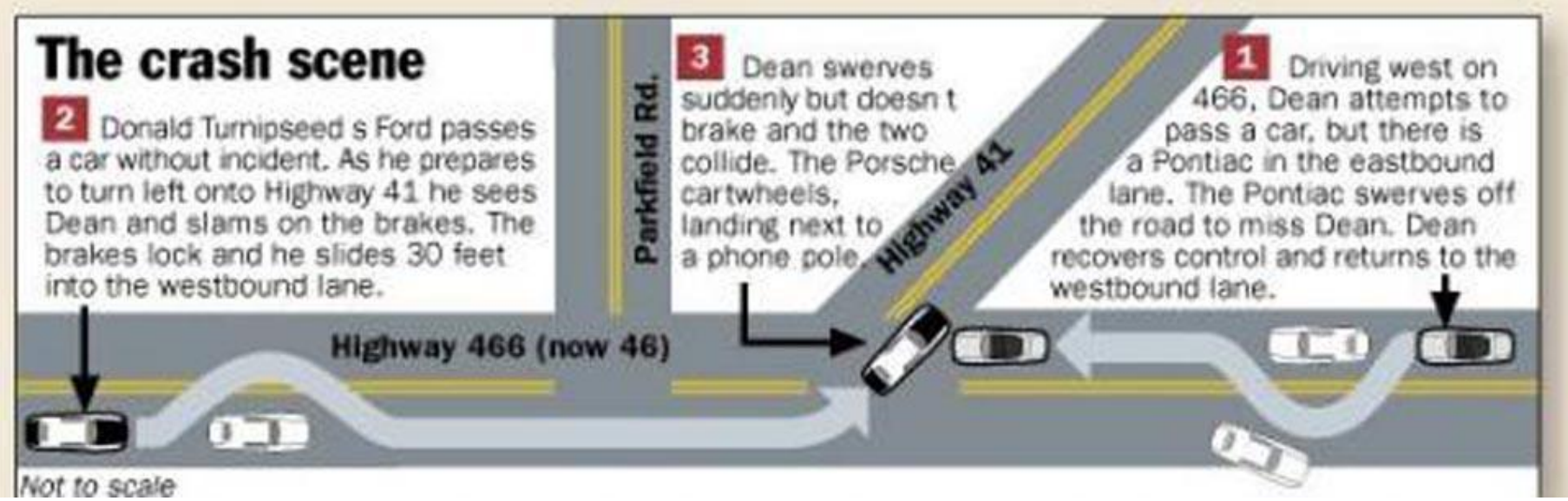
1 & 5 Cents by 1955 54

Bill Haley and the Comets

- The featured song is "Rock Around the Clock" made by Bill Haley and the Comets in 1955, the first rock 'n' roll record to achieve national popularity. Haley succeeded in creating a music that appealed to youth because of its exciting back beat, its urgent call to dance, and the action of its lyrics. The melody was clearly laid down by electric guitar; the lyrics were earthy and simple. Haley abruptly ended the ascendancy of the bland and sentimental ballads popular in the 1940s and early 50s. He also succeeded in translating black rhythm and blues into a form that adolescent white audiences could understand.



James Dean Loses His Life on 9/30/1955



The Crash Scene Where James Dean Lost His Life 9/30/55

Mrs. Rosa Parks being fingerprinted by Deputy Sheriff D.H.Lackey in Montgomery, Alabama on December 1, 1955 after refusing to give up her bus seat so that a white man could sit, kicking off the bus boycott and the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s.



1956 Ford Fairlane Sunliner Convertible



**On April 19, 1956
Prince Rainier III
of Monaco
Marries Film Star
Grace Kelly**



**November 4, 1956
Soviet Tanks
Overrunning
Budapest to Quash
the Freedom
Fighters**



1957 Chevrolet Bel Air Convertible

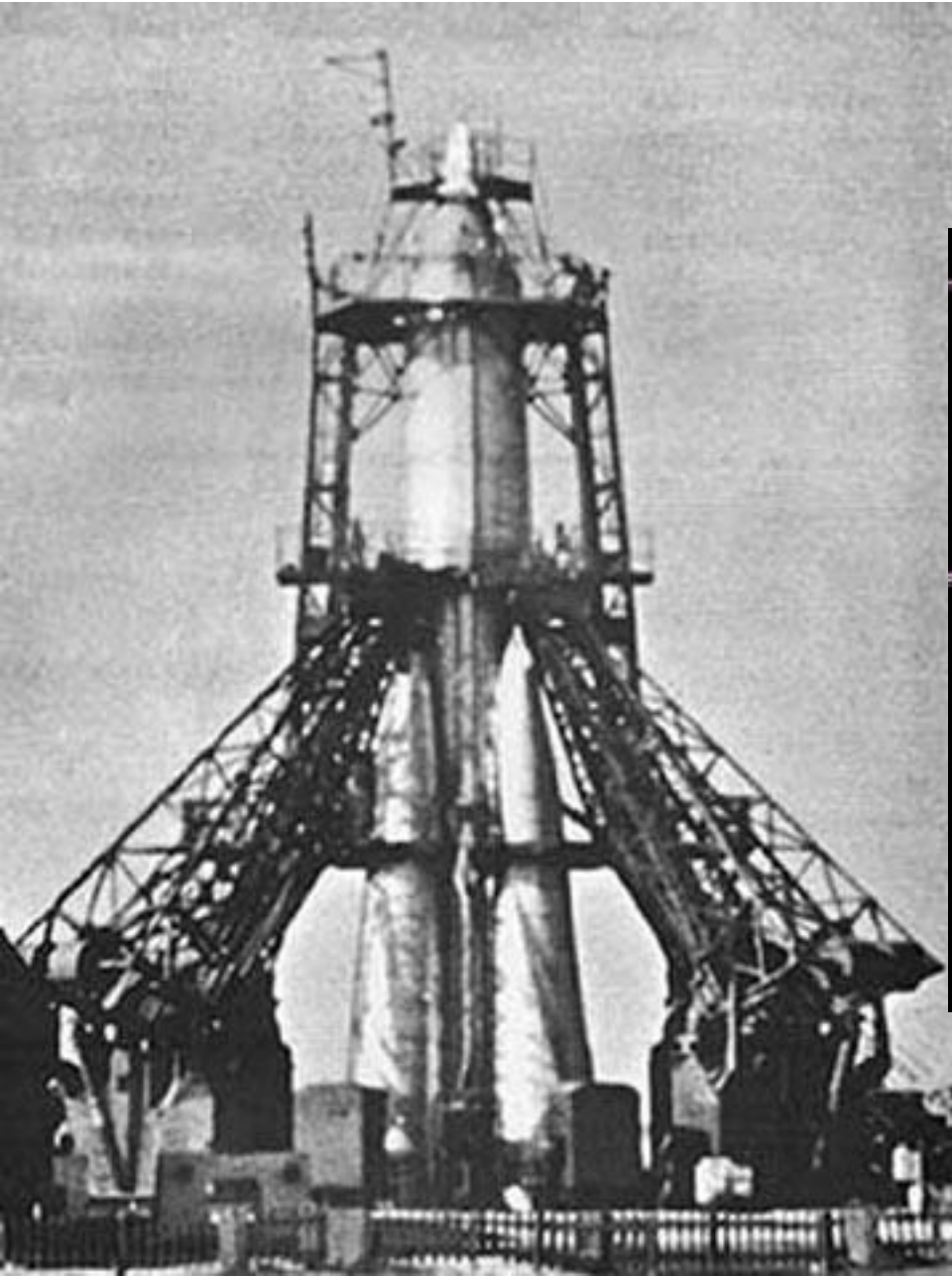


This is another iconic image of the 50's segregation period. Elizabeth Eckford is one of the African American students known as the Little Rock Nine. On September 4, 1957, she and eight other African American students attempted to enter Little Rock Central High School, which had previously only accepted white students

- They were stopped at the door by Arkansas National Guard troops called up by Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus. They tried again without success to attend Central High on September 23, 1957. The next day, September 24, President Dwight D. Eisenhower sent U.S. Army troops to accompany the Little Rock Nine to school for protection.
- The thing is... she is not the subject of the photograph. Will Counts, the photographer shot Hazel Massery, the white girl shouting in front of the man. 40 years later she apologized to Elisabeth.



History changed on October 4, 1957, when the Soviet Union successfully launched Sputnik 1 and kicked off the competition that led to the race to the moon.



Ford Introduces the Edsel in 1958



President Dwight Eisenhower, Alaska Territorial Governor Mike Stepovich and Secretary of Interior Fred A. Seaton at the signing of the Alaska Statehood Bill on July 7, 1958 adding our 49th state.



Cuba's revolutionary leader Fidel Castro speaks to supporters after the Cuban revolution triumphed on January 1, 1959 after dictator Fulgencio Batista fled the country. Fidel Castro and his band of rebels descended from the Island's eastern mountains, where they had waged a guerrilla war against government troops. Cuba celebrated the 50th anniversary of the triumph of the revolution on January 1, 2009.



Ruth Handler watched her daughter Barbara at play with paper dolls, and noticed that she often enjoyed giving them adult roles. At the time, most children's toy dolls were representations of infants. Realizing that there could be a gap in the market, Handler suggested the idea of an adult-bodied doll to her husband Elliot, a co-founder of the Mattel toy company. He was unenthusiastic about the idea, as were Mattel's directors.

During a trip to Europe in 1956, Ruth Handler came across a German toy doll called Bild Lilli. The adult-figured doll was exactly what Handler had in mind, so she purchased three of them. She gave one to her daughter and took the others back to Mattel.

Handler reworked the design of the doll and the doll was given a new name, *Barbie*, after Handler's daughter Barbara. The doll made its debut on March 9, 1959.



Hawaii was admitted to the United States as its 50th state on August 21, 1959. Celebrations swept through the islands on news of them joining the union of States of the U.S.A. Communities lit bon fires, neighborhoods held impromptu dances, cars blared their horns and people walked the streets with broad grins and greetings, seeing themselves as full-fledged Americans. Hawaii's Democrats and Republicans were together in the quest for Hawaiian Statehood. Hawaii's media were in full support as well.

