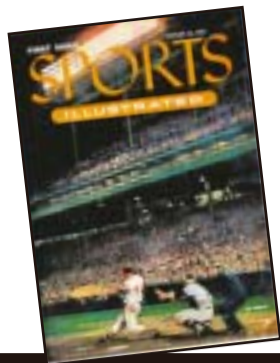


## What's new in 1954



The first issue of Sports Illustrated magazine was published on Aug. 16, 1954.



Still popular today, "Lord of the Flies," "Horton Hears a Who!" and "The Fellowship of the Ring" were all published in 1954.

The sleek Fender Stratocaster electric guitar was designed in 1954 by Leo Fender, Bill Carson, George Fullerton and Freddie Tavares. It soon became the most iconic instrument in the world of rock and roll.



Swanson & Sons introduced TV dinners in 1954. The first prepackaged meal included turkey, cornbread dressing, frozen peas and sweet potatoes.



Ernie Zottola, senior class president, is pictured working at the family dairy in the 1954 Grants Pass High yearbook. At right, the GPHS baseball team was coached by Mel Ingram (lower right), who played for the Pittsburgh Pirates.



## Archives From Page 4B

the bust as "one of the largest takes since the marijuana tax took effect in 1937." The value of the take was estimated at \$75,000. The Marijuana Tax Act, by the way, restricted possession to individuals who paid an excise tax for certain uses, but did not outright criminalize the possession or use of hemp, marijuana or cannabis. Stricter laws would soon be on their way.

In April, the U.S. government released a film with details about its detonation of the world's first thermonuclear weapon on a small island in the Pacific. The blast had occurred a year and a half earlier.

"The government disclosed today details of the world's first hydrogen explosion — a searing and crushing fury that wiped out an island in the twinkling of an eye and spawned a gigantic fireball big enough to engulf the heart of New York City," the Associated Press reported.

The Federal Civil Defense Administration released an "original motion picture film" of the test — shown on local TV stations as well as at the Rivoli Theatre — because the agency "firmly believes it is necessary for the American public to know the facts about the destructiveness of nuclear weapons," according to the article.

Meanwhile, the Oregon Cavenmen named candidates for Cave Queen and announced the group's itinerary of promotional appearances, which included treks to Brookings and several locations in northern California. The club reported it had received 35 invitations to visit destinations as far away as Mexico City.

Also on the tourism front, the Redwood Empire Association was lobbying the California Highway Commission to better develop Highway 199 from Crescent City to the Oregon border. In the summertime, the newspaper noted, the Redwood Highway received as much traffic as Highway 99, then the main north-south route through Oregon.

Oregonians were apparently in the mood for travel, as the State Highway Commission announced it had received, on March 15, received a record number of tourist inquiries — 3,485. The commission anticipated at least 120,000 inquiries for the year.

City Editor Streeter editorialized: "Tourist business is one of the major sources of income in this area. Every citizen can help increase it by acting as a committee of one to impress upon his relatives and friends in other sections of the many outstanding features of this vacation spot."

A state committee in 1954 was considering whether to place speed limits on Oregon highways. Some people, including Streeter, supported sticking with Oregon's "basic rule" provision, in place since the 1920s, which gave drivers the freedom to travel at a "safe speed considering existing conditions." A vehicle speed that might be prudent on a sunny afternoon is considerably different than that which is cautious during a snowstorm at



A photo published in the Feb. 11, 1954, Daily Courier reads, "Two high school girls yesterday rushed the season by wanting to buy swim tickets for the new municipal swimming pool at Ninth and Wharton drive." Caveman Pool was dedicated on July 17 of that year.

midnight, the theory goes.

Although the Basic Rule is still part of Oregon's traffic codes, today our freeways have what Streeter called an "arbitrary maximum speed limit," typically 65 mph for passenger vehicles. The maximum speed limit on state highways in this region is 55 mph.

In mid-June, millworkers throughout the Pacific Northwest struck over a pay disagreement that lasted through August in many places. Workers in Grants Pass, Kerby, Rogue River and Murphy joined the strike, demanding a 12½ cent hourly raise.

Portola Lumber avoided the strike when the company accepted workers' demands. At Southern Oregon Plywoods, however, 150 workers returned to their shifts in September without a pay increase after a state investigation convinced the union prevailing wages were fair.

A July 28 brush fire burned 450 acres on Dollar Mountain. The fire, which spread up the hill above Granite Hill Cemetery on Upper River Road, damaged pastureland and singed orchard trees, but no buildings were damaged, the Courier reported.

However, four firefighters were "trapped for an hour in the dark by a horde of rattlesnakes atop one of the peaks" before another firefighter, summoned by radio, was able to bring lights.

Back in February, the newspaper published a photo of two eager teens in bathing suits who visited the construction site at Ninth and Wharton, where Ausland and Dodson was building the new municipal swimming pool. At the pool's dedication ceremony on July 17, another photograph captured Chief Bighorn Art Pullen of the Oregon Cavenmen tossing Mayor Robert C. Martin into the yet-unnamed pool — all in good fun, we assume.

The City Council that summer considered a petition to name the pool after former mayor Joe Wharton, as well as another suggestion, Veterans Memorial Pool. However, the moniker Caveman Pool prevailed "following a surprise

move by a group of youngsters from the Hi-Teen club," the Courier reported in September. The students presented a petition with 70 signatures in support of the name, as well as a letter from Chief Bighorn.

Another recreation option, the county fair and Gladiolus Festival kicked off Aug. 11 with a parade down Sixth Street from the courthouse to Caveman Bridge. The floral floats remained on display for two days at the fairgrounds, where an estimated 3,000 people gathered for the coronation of Queen Gladys XIV, 17-year-old Treva Lee Allen. Other highlights of the four-day event included horse racing, livestock auctions, square dancing, a timber carnival and Barnstormers' staging of "He Ain't Done Right by Our Nell."

• **BIRTHDAYS AND OBITUARIES.** The Jan. 18 edition announced the birth of Debra Sue Benson, who arrived during a snowstorm about midnight the previous day. The girl was born in a home near Merlin "when her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carl A. Benson of Wolf Creek, lost a race with the Stork."

A full-page feature marked the 85th birthday of Daily Courier publisher Amos Voorhies on June 6. The article noted that a decade earlier, on D-Day, the Courier published a 4 a.m. extra edition; later that afternoon, the staff presented "Boss" with a cake for his 75th birthday. Amos Voorhies published the paper from 1897 to 1960. Today, the newspaper is owned by his grandson, John Voorhies.

The Oct. 4 edition reported Benjamin Franklin Raley, the county's oldest resident, passed away at age 102. Raley came to Oregon in a covered wagon in 1864, at age 12, but had lived in Grants Pass for only a year.

The following month, on Nov. 3, the newspaper reported that Josephine Holton Nickerson, the first white child born in Josephine County, had died. She was 97. (Nickerson, we should note, was named for the county, not the other way around.)



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