

Jan 1, Fidel Castro proclaimed the triumph of his revolution from the balcony of Santiago's city hall.

Jan 5, The "Bozo the Clown" live children's show premiered on TV.

Jan 3, President Eisenhower signed a proclamation admitting Alaska to the Union as the 49th state.

Jan 22, The Adolph Coors Co. of Golden, Colombia, introduced the aluminum beer can.

Jan 25, American Airlines opened the jet age in the United States with the first scheduled transcontinental flight of a Boeing 707 from LA to NY for \$301.

Jan 29, Walt Disney's "Sleeping Beauty" was released.

Feb 1, Texas Instruments requested a patent for the IC (Integrated Circuit), otherwise known as the microchip.

Feb 3, A plane crash near Clear Lake, Iowa, claimed the lives of rock- and-roll stars Buddy Holly (22), Ritchie Valens (17) and J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson (28). They had just finished performing at the Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake.

Feb 20, Jimi Hendrix (16), rock and roll guitarist, plays his first gig in the Temple De Hirsch synagogue basement, Seattle. He is fired from the band after the 1st set due to "wild" playing.

Mar 2, Miles Davis began recording "Kind of Blue" with John Coltrane, Cannonball Adderly, Philley Joe Jones, Paul Chambers and Bill Evans.

Mar 3, The new home of the San Francisco Giants baseball team was officially named, Candlestick Park.

Mar 8, Groucho, Chico and Harpo made their final TV appearance together.

Mar 9, The Barbie doll was unveiled at the American Toy Fair in New York City. The Barbie Doll No. 1 was introduced by Mattel Toy Company for \$3.

Mar 10, Tennessee Williams' "Sweet Bird of Youth," premiered in NYC.

Mar 11, The Lorraine Hansberry drama "A Raisin in the Sun" opened at New York City's Ethel Barrymore Theater.

Mar 16, John Sailling (111), last documented Civil War vet, died.

Mar 17, The Dalai Lama fled Tibet and went to India.

Mar 28, China announced the dissolution of the Tibetan government.

Mar 29, *Some Like it Hot* with Marilyn Monroe and Jack Lemmon premiered.

Apr 1, *Sound of Music*, Rodgers and Hammerstein's final play together, opened

Apr 7, Oklahoma ended prohibition after 51 years.

Apr 9, Frank Lloyd Wright (b.1869), American architect (Guggenheim Museum, NYC), died in Arizona.

Apr 15, Cuban leader Fidel Castro arrived in Washington, D.C., to begin a goodwill tour of the United States.

Apr 17, A nationwide US air raid drill suspended most television and radio programs for a half hour.

May 4, First annual Grammy Awards, with winners including Ella Fitzgerald, Ross Bagdasarian, Count Basie, Domenico Modugno, Henry Mancini, as well as Ted Koppel for engineering "The Chipmunk Song" performed by David Seville.

May 19, The Peoples' Army of Vietnam's Military Transportation Group 559 formed on the 69th birthday of Vietnamese revolutionary leader Ho Chi Minh. It ultimately resulted in the creation of the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

May 20, Japanese-Americans regain their citizenship with the return of their U.S. Passports.

June, Jay Manley, our intrepid director, graduated Berkeley High School.

June 2, Allen Ginsberg wrote his poem "Lysergic Acid," in San Francisco.

June 28, The first human died of HIV in the Congo.

July 8, Charles Ovnand and Dale R. Buis become the first Americans killed in action in Vietnam.

July 17, Jazz singer Billie Holiday dies at age 44.

July 24, During a visit to the Soviet Union, VP Richard M. Nixon got into a "kitchen debate" with Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev at a US exhibition.

Aug 21, Hawaii joins the Union as the 50th state.

Sept 11, The US Congress passed a bill authorizing food stamps for poor Americans.

Sept 12, NBC launched "Bonanza," the first color western on TV.

Sept 14, The Soviet space probe Luna 2 became the first man-made object to reach the moon as it crashed onto the lunar surface.

Oct 2, Rod Serling's classic anthology series The Twilight Zone premieres on CBS.

Oct 21, The Guggenheim Museum, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright (1869-1959), opened in NYC.

Oct 31, A former U.S. Marine from Fort Worth, Texas, announced in Moscow that he would never return to the United States. His name: Lee Harvey Oswald.

Nov 18, "Ben-Hur," the Biblical-era movie spectacle starring Charlton Heston, had its world premiere in New York. On the same date, "A Summer Place" was released, launching the career of Sandra Dee.

Dec 1, Cold War – Antarctic Treaty: 12 countries, including the United States and the Soviet Union, sign a landmark treaty, which sets aside Antarctica as a scientific preserve and bans military activity on that continent (the first arms control agreement established during the Cold War).

From the end of 1959, women had to wait only 6 more months and 23 days before the first contraceptive pill is made available by the FDA for public use.

Taking a deeper look at what happened during the year 1959 gives a clearer context for the show. What might these teens be experiencing that is a lot like us today, or what was drastically different.