1968 Fun Facts and Trivia

1968 Cost of Living

- Yearly Inflation Rate in the USA: **4.27%**
- Year End Dow Jones Industrial Average: **943**
- Average Cost of new house: **$14,950.00**
- Average Income per year: **$7,850.00**
- Average Monthly Rent: **$130.00**
- Gas per Gallon: **34 cents**
- Average Cost of a new car: **$2,822.00**
- Movie Ticket: **$1.50**
- The Federal Hourly Minimum Wage is: **$1.60** an hour

News

- Martin Luther King, Jr. is shot and killed on April 4, 1968 by James Earl Ray. The assassination led to a nationwide wave of race riots in Washington D.C., Chicago, Baltimore, Louisville, Kentucky, Kansas City, and dozens of other cities.
- Following the Assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1968.
- Senator Robert Kennedy is assassinated by Sirhan Sirhan at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles.
- President Johnson announces on nationwide television he would not run for another term of office
- The nuclear-powered U.S. submarine Scorpion sank in the Atlantic Ocean with the loss of 99 crew members.
- Truth In Lending Act is passed to protect consumers during credit transactions.
- United States Presidential Election 1968 Richard Nixon (Republican) defeats Hubert Humphrey (Democratic) and George Wallace (American Independent).

Technology

- Boeing 747 made its maiden flight.
- NASA launches Apollo 7, the first manned Apollo mission.
- Air Bags, Allen K Breed invents an air bag that deploys and inflates automatically on violent impact using nitrogen gas.
- Apollo 8 orbits the Moon, becoming the first manned space mission to achieve the feat.
- Dr. Christian Barnard performs the first successful heart transplant.
- US Explodes experimental hydrogen Bomb.
- The Emergency 911 Telephone service is started in the USA which provides a single number for reporting emergencies and is manned 24 hrs per day 365 days per year.
- ATM First Philadelphia Bank installs the first automated teller machine in the U.S.

Popular Culture

- The first Big Mac goes on sale in McDonalds costing 49 cents.
- The Beatles create Apple Records and record "Hey Jude" as the first single on the label.
- The CBS television news magazine program "60 Minutes" shown for the first time Musical Hair opens at Shaftesbury Theatre in London featuring nudity and drug-taking.

Popular Films

- The Graduate
- Guess Who's Coming to Dinner
- Bonnie and Clyde
- Valley of the Dolls
- The Odd Couple
- Planet of the Apes
- Rosemary's Baby

Popular Television

- The Monkees
- Route 66
- Ironside
- Hogan's Heroes
- Flipper
- The Brady Bunch
- The Fugitive
- The Man From Uncle
- Gilligan's Island
- Columbo
- The Virginian
- Mr. Ed
- I Dream of Jeannie
- Bewitched
- Get Smart
- Green Acres
- The Addams Family
- My Three Sons

Popular Musicians and songs

- The Rolling Stones
- The Supremes
- The Beatles with " Hey Jude "
- Fleetwood Mac
- Aretha Franklin
- Gary Puckett and The Union Gap
- The Grateful Dead
- The Monkees
- Simon and Garfunkel " Mrs Robinson "

- The Beach Boys
- The Bee Gees
- The Jimi Hendrix Experience
- Cream
- The Doors " Hello I Love You "
- Pink Floyd
- Moody Blues
- Bobby Goldsboro " Honey "
- Marvin Gaye " I heard it through the Grapevine "
- David Bowie

Born in 1968

- Will Smith
- Naomi Watts
- Jerry Yang
- Celine Dion

Source of information: http://www.thepeoplehistory.com/1968.html