

1928 in the United States

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Events from the year **1928 in the United States**

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Incumbents

Government

- President: Calvin Coolidge (R-Massachusetts)
- Vice President: Charles G. Dawes (R-Illinois)
- Chief Justice: William Howard Taft (Ohio)
- Speaker of the House of Representatives: Nicholas Longworth (R-Ohio)
- Senate Majority Leader: Charles Curtis (R-Kansas)
- Congress: 70th

Governors and Lieutenant Governors

Governors

- Governor of Alabama: Bibb Graves (Democratic)
- Governor of Arizona: George W. P. Hunt (Democratic)
- Governor of Arkansas: John Ellis Martineau (Democratic) (until March 4), Harvey Parnell (Democratic) (starting March 4)
- Governor of California: Clement C. Young (Republican)
- Governor of Colorado: Billy Adams (Democratic)
- Governor of Connecticut: John H. Trumbull (Republican)
- Governor of Delaware: Robert P. Robinson (Republican)
- Governor of Florida: John W. Martin (Democratic)
- Governor of Georgia: Lamartine G. Hardman (Democratic)
- Governor of Idaho: H. C. Baldrige (Republican)
- Governor of Illinois: Len Small (Republican)
- Governor of Indiana: Edward L. Jackson (Republican)
- Governor of Iowa: John Hammill (Republican)
- Governor of Kansas: Ben S. Paulen (Republican)
- Governor of Kentucky: Flem D. Sampson (Republican)
- Governor of Louisiana: Oramel H. Simpson (Democratic) (until May 21), Huey P. Long (Democratic) (starting May 21)
- Governor of Maine: Owen Brewster (Republican)
- Governor of Maryland: Albert C. Ritchie (Democratic)
- Governor of Massachusetts: Alvan T. Fuller (Republican)
- Governor of Michigan: Fred W. Green (Republican)
- Governor of Minnesota: Theodore Christianson (Republican)
- Governor of Mississippi: Dennis Murphree (Democratic) (until January 16), Theodore G. Bilbo (Democratic) (starting January 16)
- Governor of Missouri: Samuel Aaron Baker (Republican)
- Governor of Montana: John E. Erickson (Democratic)
- Governor of Nebraska: Adam McMullen (Republican)
- Governor of Nevada: Fred B. Balzar (Republican)
- Governor of New Hampshire: Huntley N. Spaulding (Republican)
- Governor of New Jersey: A. Harry Moore (Democratic)
- Governor of New Mexico: Richard C. Dillon (Republican)
- Governor of New York: Al Smith (Democratic) (until December 31)
- Governor of North Carolina: Angus Wilton McLean (Democratic)
- Governor of North Dakota: Arthur G. Sorlie (Republican) (until August 28), Walter Maddock (Republican) (starting August 28)
- Governor of Ohio: A. Victor Donahey (Democratic)
- Governor of Oklahoma: Henry S. Johnston (Democratic)
- Governor of Oregon: I. L. Patterson (Republican)
- Governor of Pennsylvania: John Stuchell Fisher (Republican)
- Governor of Rhode Island: Aram J. Pothier (Republican) (until February 4), Norman S. Case (Republican) (starting February 4)
- Governor of South Carolina: John Gardiner Richards, Jr. (Democratic)
- Governor of South Dakota: William J. Bulow (Democratic)
- Governor of Tennessee: Henry Hollis Horton (Democratic)
- Governor of Texas: Dan Moody (Democratic)
- Governor of Utah: George Dern (Democratic)
- Governor of Vermont: John E. Weeks (Republican)
- Governor of Virginia: Harry F. Byrd (Democratic)
- Governor of Washington: Roland H. Hartley (Republican)
- Governor of West Virginia: Howard M. Gore (Republican)
- Governor of Wisconsin: Fred R. Zimmerman (Republican)
- Governor of Wyoming: Frank C. Emerson (Republican)

Lieutenant Governors

- Lieutenant Governor of Alabama: William C. Davis (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Arkansas: Harvey Parnell (Democratic) (until March 4), William Lee Cazort (Democratic) (starting March 4)
- Lieutenant Governor of California: Buron Fitts (Republican) (until December 4), H. L. Carnahan (Republican) (starting December 4)
- Lieutenant Governor of Colorado: George Milton Corlett (Republican)

- Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut: J. Edwin Brainard (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Delaware: James H. Anderson (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Idaho: O. E. Hailey (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Illinois: Fred Sterling (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Indiana: F. Harold Van Orman (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Iowa: Clem F. Kimball (Republican) (until September 10), Arch W. McFarlane (Republican) (starting September 10)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kansas: De Lanson Alson Newton Chase (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky: James Breathitt, Jr. (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana: Philip H. Gilbert (Democratic) (until month and day unknown), Paul N. Cyr (Democratic) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts: Frank G. Allen (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Michigan: Luren D. Dickinson (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota: William I. Nolan (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Mississippi: vacant (until January 16), Bidwell Adam (Democratic) (starting January 16)
- Lieutenant Governor of Missouri: Philip Allen Bennett (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Montana: W. S. McCormack (political party unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nebraska: George A. Williams (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nevada: Morley Griswold (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of New Mexico: Edward G. Sargent (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of New York: Edwin Corning (Democratic) (until end of December 31)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina: Jacob E. Long (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Dakota: Walter Maddock (Republican) (until August 28), vacant (starting August 28)
- Lieutenant Governor of Ohio:
 - until April: Earl D. Bloom (Democratic)
 - April-November: William G. Pickrel (Democratic)
 - starting November: George C. Braden (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Oklahoma: William J. Holloway (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania: Arthur H. James (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Rhode Island: Norman S. Case (Republican) (until February 4), vacant (starting February 4)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina: Thomas Bothwell Butler (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Dakota: Hyatt E. Covey (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Tennessee: vacant
- Lieutenant Governor of Texas: Barry Miller (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Vermont: vacant
- Lieutenant Governor of Virginia: Junius Edgar West (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Washington: W. Lon Johnson (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin: Henry A. Huber (Republican)

Events

January

- January 16
 - U.S. murderer Ruth Snyder is executed at Ossining.
 - 6th Pan-American Conference opens in Havana. Calvin Coolidge becomes the last sitting U.S. President until 2016 to visit Cuba.

February

- February 8 – British inventor John Logie Baird broadcasts a transatlantic television signal from London to Hartsdale, New York.^[1]
- February 25 – Charles Jenkins Laboratories of Washington, D.C. becomes the first holder of a television license from the Federal Radio Commission.^[2]

March

- March 12 – In California, the St. Francis Dam north of Los Angeles fails, killing 400.
- March 21 – Charles Lindbergh is presented the Medal of Honor for his first trans-Atlantic flight.

April

- April 10 – "Pineapple Primary": The U.S. Republican Party primary elections in Chicago are preceded by assassinations and bombings.

May

- May 10 – The first regular schedule of television programming begins in Schenectady, New York by the General Electric's television station W2XB (the station is popularly known as WGY Television, after its sister radio station WGY).
- May 15 – The animated short *Plane Crazy* is released by Disney Studios in Los Angeles, featuring the first appearances of Mickey and Minnie Mouse.

June

- June 17 – Aviator Amelia Earhart starts her attempt to become the first woman to successfully cross the Atlantic Ocean (she succeeds the next day). Wilmer Stultz was the pilot.
- June 29 – New York Governor Alfred E. Smith becomes the first Catholic nominated by a major political party for U.S. President, at the Democratic National Convention in Houston, Texas.
- June 29 – Outerbridge Crossing and Goethals Bridge in Staten Island, New York is opened

July

- July 4 - Jean Lussier goes over Niagara Falls in a rubber ball.
- July 6 – The world's largest hailstone falls in Potter, Nebraska.
- July 7 – The first machine-sliced and machine-wrapped loaf of bread is sold in Chillicothe, Missouri, using Otto Frederick Rohwedder's technology.
- July 12 – Mexican aviator Emilio Carranza dies in a solo plane crash in the New Jersey Pine Barrens, while returning from a goodwill flight to New York City.
- July 25 – The United States recalls its troops from China.

August

- August 16 – Murderer Carl Panzram is arrested in Washington, D.C. after killing about 20 people.
- August 22 – Alfred E. Smith accepts the Democratic presidential nomination, with *WGY/W2XB* simulcasting the event on radio and television.

August 6 Andy Warhol is born.

September

- September 1 – Richard Byrd leaves New York for the Arctic.
- September 11 – Kenmore's WMAK station starts broadcasting in Buffalo, New York.
- September 16 – The 1928 Okeechobee Hurricane kills at least 2,500 people in Florida.

October

- October 12 – An iron lung respirator is used for the first time at Children's Hospital, Boston.
- October 22 – The Phi Sigma Alpha Fraternity is founded at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus.

November

- November 4 – At Park Central Hotel in Manhattan, Arnold Rothstein, New York City's most notorious gambler, is shot to death over a poker game.
- November 6 – U.S. presidential election, 1928: Republican Herbert Hoover wins by a wide margin over Democratic Governor of New York Alfred E. Smith.
- November 17 – The Boston Garden opens in Boston.
- November 18 – Mickey Mouse appears in *Steamboat Willie*, the third Mickey Mouse cartoon released, but the first sound film.

December

- December 5 – Police disperse a Sicilian gangs' meeting in Cleveland.
- December 21 – The U.S. Congress approves the construction of Boulder Dam, later renamed Hoover Dam.

Undated

- W2XBS, RCA's first television station, is established in New York City.
- Eliot Ness begins to lead the prohibition unit in Chicago.
- The Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America ratifies a new revision of the Book of Common Prayer.

Ongoing

- Lochner era (c. 1897–c. 1937)
- U.S. occupation of Haiti (1915–1934)
- Prohibition (1919–1933)
- Roaring Twenties (1920–1929)

Births

- January 2
 - Howard Caine, character actor (died 1993)
 - Robert Goralski, journalist (died 1988)
 - Dan Rostenkowski, politician from Illinois (died 2010)
- January 5 – Walter Mondale, 42nd Vice President of the United States from 1977 to 1981
- January 6 – George H. Ross, businessman
- January 7 – William Peter Blatty, novelist and screenwriter (died 2017)
- January 8 – Slade Gorton, U.S. Senator from Washington from 1981 to 1987 and from 1989 to 2001
- January 14 – Lauch Faircloth, U.S. Senator from North Carolina from 1993 to 1999
- January 20 – Rudy Boesch, soldier
- January 22 – Birch Bayh, U.S. Senator from Indiana from 1963 to 1981
- February 8 – Jack Larson, actor, producer and playwright (died 2015)
- February 22 – Clarence 13X, religious leader, founder of the Nation of Gods and Earths (died 1969)
- March 10 – James Earl Ray, assassin of Martin Luther King Jr. (died 1998)
- March 11 – Frank Borman, astronaut
- March 12 – Edward Albee, playwright (died 2016)
- March 20 – Fred Rogers, educator, minister, songwriter, writer and television host (died 2003)
- April 4
 - Maya Angelou, African American poet and novelist (died 2014)
 - Estelle Harris, screen actress and voice artist
- April 6 – James D. Watson, geneticist, recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine
- April 9 – Tom Lehrer, singer-songwriter, satirist, pianist and mathematician
- April 23 – Shirley Temple, child film actress and ambassador (died 2014)
- May 4 – Joseph Tydings, U.S. Senator from Maryland from 1965 to 1971
- May 8 – Robert Conley, journalist (died 2013)
- May 11 – Vern Rapp, baseball player, coach and manager
- June 3 – Louise Daniel Hutchinson, historian and academic (died 2014)
- June 12 – Richard M. Sherman, songwriter
- June 13 – John Forbes Nash, Jr., mathematician, recipient of the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences (died 2015)
- July 4 – Chuck Tanner, baseball player and manager (died 2011)
- July 18 – Billy Harrell, baseball player and scout (died 2014)
- July 26 – Stanley Kubrick, film director (died 1999)
- August 6 – Andy Warhol, leading figure in the visual art movement pop art (died 1987)

- September 6 – Robert M. Pirsig, philosopher (died 2017)
- September 7 – Donald Henderson, epidemiologist, leader of global smallpox eradication program (died 2016)
- September 14 – Dick Clark, U.S. Senator from Iowa from 1973 to 1979
- September 19 – Adam West, actor
- September 22 – Richard Stone, U.S. Senator from Florida from 1975 to 1981
- October 4 – Alvin Toffler, futurologist (died 2016)
- October 7 – Herb Rich, football player (died 2008)
- October 17 – Jimmy Breslin, journalist (died 2017)
- November 13 – Steve Bilko, baseball player (died 1978)
- November 15 – Seldon Powell, jazz and soul woodwind player (died 1997)
- November 29 – Paul Simon, U.S. Senator from Illinois from 1985 to 1997 (died 2003)
- December 23 – Roger Jepsen, U.S. Senator from Iowa from 1979 to 1985

Deaths

- January 1 – Loie Fuller, dancer (born 1862)
- January 3
 - Dorothy Donnelly, actress and songwriter (born 1880)
 - Emily Stevens, actress (born 1882)
- January 6 – Alvin Kraenzlein, American athlete (born 1876)
- January 12 – Ruth Snyder, murderer (born 1895)
- March 7 – Robert Abbe, surgeon (born 1851)
- March 19 – Nora Bayes, singer and actress (born 1880)
- April 2 – Theodore William Richards, recipient of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry (born 1868)
- April 22
 - Warner B. Bayley, admiral (born 1845)
 - Frank Currier, actor (born 1857)
- April 25 – Floyd Bennett, aviator (born 1890)
- May 8 – Clara Williams, actress (born 1888)
- May 18 – Big Bill Haywood, labor leader (born. 1869)
- June 6 – John D. Works, U.S. Senator from California from 1911 to 1917 (born 1847)
- June 22
 - A. B. Frost, illustrator (born 1851)
 - George Siegmann, actor (born 1882)
- June 24 – Holbrook Blinn, actor (born 1872)
- July 1 – Frankie Yale, gangster (born 1893)
- October 8 – Larry Semon, actor (born 1889)
- October 24 – Arthur Bowen Davies, artist (born 1863)
- October 30 – Robert Lansing, Secretary of State (born 1864)
- December 11 – Lewis Latimer, inventor (born 1848)

- December 14 – Theodore Roberts, actor (born 1861)
- December 16 – Elinor Wylie, poet and novelist (born 1885)
- December 25 – Fred Thomson, silent film actor (born 1890)

See also

- 1928 in American television
- List of American films of 1928

References

1. "Transatlantic Television in 1928". *Baird Television*. Retrieved 2015-09-29. Extract from *The New York Times* 1928-02-09.
2. Edgerton, Gary R. *The Columbia History of American Television*. p. 30.

External links

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