

Memory Lane

Reminiscing 1961

Cost of Living

National price averages for 1961:



House: \$18,901

Car: \$2,857

Gallon of Gas: .32¢

Gallon of Milk: .38¢

Loaf of Bread: .19¢

Stamp: .04¢

Compared to today, things certainly seem cheap, but then again, the average income was \$2,206 per year!

Sporting Highlights

World Series

The New York Yankees beat out the Cincinnati Reds four games to one, earning them the 1961 world title in baseball.

Basketball

Wilt Chamberlain and Elgin Baylor took the game to new heights and averaged 38.4, and 34.8 points per game, respectively, in the 1960-61 season

In 1961 Soviet Union Puts First Man in Space

On April 12, 1961, aboard the spacecraft Vostok 1, Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Alekseyevich Gagarin becomes the first human being to travel into space. During the flight, the 27-year-old test pilot and industrial technician also became the first man to orbit the planet, a feat accomplished by his space capsule in 89 minutes. The only statement attributed to Gagarin during his one hour and 48 minutes in space was, "Flight is proceeding normally; I am well."

More top stories from 1961

- The largest check issued, from National Bank of Chicago to Sears, for \$960.242 billion.
- "Doctor Kildare" debuts on NBC-TV
- Entire U.S. figure skating team of 18, dies in plane crash in Belgium
- ABC's "Wide World of Sports" debuts
- TWA starts the trend of in-flight movies with "By Love Possessed"
- John F. Kennedy names Henry Kissinger special advisor

That's entertainment

Top Hits:

Some of the year's favorite music that kept everyone bopping were:

♪ "Runaround Sue" by Dion

♪ "Runaway" by Del Shannon

♪ "Blue Moon" by The Marcels



Top Movies:

The Academy Awards of 1961 were hosted by Bob Hope. The top Oscar winners were:

Best Picture: "The Apartment" The movie was nominated for a total of 10 Oscars and won 5.

Best Actor: Burt Lancaster for his role in "Elmer Gantry".

Best Actress: Elizabeth Taylor for her role in "Butterfield 8".



"A man's gotta do what a man's gotta do. And so do I."

"The Dick Van Dyke Show" first aired on October 3, 1961.