**POPULAR CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT (Theme #37)**

1690 – John Locke wrote his *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* which was a landmark in the Enlightenment and influenced the Founding Fathers; listed natural rights from God to be protected by government

Ca. 1700 – Negro Spirituals – Black slaves include songs based on Old Testament stories in their worship services

1732 – Benjamin Franklin’s *Poor Richard’s Almanack* was first published which was a collection of proverbs and of general information important to the average citizen at the time

1734 – John Peter Zenger trial held as the editor in his *New York Weekly Journal* criticized the governor of New York; he was acquitted as what he printed was proven to be true; the ruling that if it is true it is not seditious is an important one in securing freedom of the press

1773 – British soldiers sing "Yankee Doodle" to mock colonists; Americans adopt it as their own tune

1776 – Thomas Paine’s political pamphlet *Common Sense* became an overwhelming bestseller and helped lead to the Declaration of Independence

1787-1788 – *The Federalist* essays helped convince Americans to support the ratification of the Constitution

1788 – 1st Amendment to the Constitution guarantees freedom of speech and freedom of the press

1793 – the *Pennsylvania Evening Post* becomes America's first daily newspaper

1815 – Francis Scott Key puts *The Defense of Fort McHenry* to music of popular British song, *To Anacreon in Heaven*, and publishes “Star-Spangled Banner”

1816 – Gaslighting is used for the first time in American theater at Philadelphia's Chestnut Street Theatre

1816 – Thomas Drummond invents the limelight, which is used in the same manner as the spotlight is used today

1829 – *Encyclopaedia Americana*, America's first encyclopedia is published in Philadelphia

1842 – Philharmonic Society of New York founded, nation's oldest symphony orchestra

c. 1845 – Paperbacks are introduced to the US as newspaper supplements and soon appear as small-sized reprints of existing books

1846 – Richard Hoe patents the first rotary press, which allows publishers to increase circulation exponentially

1851 – Selling for a penny a copy, the *New York Times* debuts (penny press)

Mid 1800s – P.T. Barnum began a travelling circus show, and opened up other entertainment ventures like the American Museum in New York that featured oddities, and other interesting exhibits to attract customers

1861 – Julia Ward Howe writes poem for Atlantic Monthly, "Battle Hymn of the Republic," based on hymn, "John Brown's Body"; it was put to music to create popular Civil War song

Late 1800s – dime novels became popular with themes glorifying heroic characters, often from the west; for example Mark Twain’s *Huckleberry Finn* and *Tom Sawyer* and Owen Wister’s *The Virginian*

1877 – Phonograph invented by Thomas Edison

1883 – Metropolitan Opera House opens in New York

1883 – “Buffalo Bill” William Cody began his travelling Wild West shows

1891 – Carnegie Hall opens in New York

1892 – First phonograph records sold

1894 – The Edison Corporation establishes the first motion-picture studio

1894 – the first Kinetoscope parlor opens at 1155 Broadway in New York City. Spectators can watch films for 25 cents

1897 – Radio first sent over long distance

1897 – John Philip Sousa composes the march "Stars and Stripes Forever"; creates more than 100 popular marches, orchestral music

1897 – Composers Scott Joplin, James Scott, and Joseph Lamb establish, popularize ragtime, give birth to America's popular music industry, ending reliance on Europe

Late 1800s-early 1900s – Shorter working hours led to more leisure time for industrial workers; this free time and improved education led to reading books, newspapers and magazines, going to amusement parks like Coney Island in New York, attending sporting events like boxing matches and baseball games, going to live vaudeville variety shows, going to dance halls and saloons, etc.; the Social Gospel movement and other reformers tried to improve the morals of the lower class and how they used their free time

1900 – "Country" music of southeastern U.S. features guitar, fiddle banjo, harmonica - direct descendant of English, Scottish, Irish ballads, folk songs

1900 – "Western" musical genre spreads through western states, features steel guitars and large bands; singing cowboys

1900 – based on Mississippi River boat music and black, French, Spanish piano music, jazz develops in New Orleans brothels, honky-tonk bars

1900 – baseball cards introduced

1901 – Ping-Pong introduced

1902 – Teddy Bear introduced, named after President Teddy Roosevelt

1902 – *McClure's* Magazine prints “Tweed Days in St. Louis” by C.H. Wetmore and Lincoln Steffens. The article introduces the muckraking era

1903 –*The Great Train Robbery*. With 14 shots cutting between simultaneous events, this 12-minute short establishes the shot as film's basic element and editing as a central narrative device. It is also the first Western

1904 – George M. Cohan's musical play, *Little Johnny Jones*, followed by *Forty-five Minutes from Broadway*, 1906, help create indigenous American musical theater

1905 – the first movie theater opens in Pittsburgh

1906 – Upton Sinclair exposes the public-health threat of the meat-packing industry in *The Jungle*

1907 – Florenz Ziegfeld launches *Ziegfeld Follies*, elaborate musical stage shows, through 1931, starring such performers as Billie Burke, Fannie Brice, W. C. Fields, Eddie Cantor, Will Rogers

1909 – jigsaw puzzle introduced

1910 – Thomas Edison introduces his kinetophone, which makes talkies a reality.

1911 – Popular songwriter Irving Berlin completes "*Alexander's Ragtime Band*," his first hit; culmination of ragtime craze

1912 – The Radio Act of 1912 assigns three- and four-letter codes to radio stations and limits broadcasting to the 360m wavelength, which jams signals.

1913 – first crossword puzzle appears in the *New York World*

1914 – in his second big-screen appearance, Charlie Chaplin plays the Little Tramp, his most famous character; he was the most famous silent movie star

1915 – D. W. Griffith's technically brilliant Civil War epic, *The Birth of a Nation*, introduces the narrative close-up, the flashback and other elements that endure today as the structural principles of narrative filmmaking, but features a glorification of the KKK as a major theme

1914-1918 – World War I prompts women to work in factories, offices; women wear pants; military cut influences clothes

1916 – President Woodrow Wilson issues executive order making "The Star-Spangled Banner" the national anthem. Congress confirms it, 1931

1920 – KDKA, a Pittsburgh Westinghouse station, transmits the first commercial radio broadcast.

1920 – technicolor invented for movies

Ca. 1920 – Women participate in sports, prompting new styles, including the "flapper"

Ca. 1920 – singers Gertrude "Ma" Rainey, Bessie Smith popularize blues; Beale Street in Memphis becomes blues center

1920s – *Reader’s Digest* and *Saturday Evening Post* became popular sources of fiction (usually in condensed form)

1920s – baseball becomes immensely popular with stars like Babe Ruth of the New York Yankees

Early 1920s – Chicago becomes jazz capital, trumpeter Louis Armstrong, pianist Jelly Roll Morton perform

1922 – Jazz musician Duke Ellington moves to New York, forms band that ultimately becomes Duke Ellington Orchestra, he was part of the Harlem Renaissance

1924 – Walt Disney creates his first cartoon, "*Alice in Wonderland*"

1924 – Juilliard School for performing arts opens in New York

1924 – George Gershwin composes Rhapsody in Blue, symphonic jazz composition; Porgy and Bess, folk opera; becomes one of most original and popular American composers

1925 – Grand Ole Opry, Nashville, Tennessee, begins Saturday night radio broadcasts featuring regional music, helps fuse Southeastern and Western styles, creating country and western genre

1926 – RCA, General Electric and Westinghouse establish NBC, which operates two national radio networks.

1926 – Miniature golf introduced

1927 – Popular vaudevillian Al Jolson astounds audiences with his nightclub act in *The Jazz Singer*, the first feature-length talkie

1927 – *Show Boat*, music by Jerome Kern, lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein, based on Edna Ferber's novel, becomes first hugely popular musical comedy

1927 – Duke Ellington performs for radio from Cotton Club, nightclub in New York City's Harlem, wins national following; 1932 song "It Don't Mean a Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing" ushers in swing

1928 – Walt Disney introduces Galloping Gaucho and Steamboat Willie (predecessor to Mickey Mouse), the first cartoons with sound

1928 – the Academy Awards are handed out for the first time in the movie industry

1929 – FM radio introduced in US which features music only stations

1929 – yo-yo introduced

1930 – as head of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, William Hays establishes a code of decency that outlines what is acceptable in films

1931 – double features emerge as a way for the unemployed to occupy time

1931 – there are nearly 40,000 television sets in the United States; 9,000 of them are in New York City alone

1933 – Monopoly game introduced

1933 – drive-in theaters first opened

1934 – the Communications Act of 1934 creates the Federal Communications Commission, which regulates broadcasting

Ca. 1935 – Clarinetist Benny Goodman named "King of Swing"; Tommy Dorsey, Harry James, Glenn Miller, Artie Shaw lead popular dance bands

1937 – Walt Disney's first full-length animated feature, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, hits theaters and becomes an instant classic.

1938 – Orson Welles radio broadcasts his adaptation of H.G. Wells's *War of the Worlds* on October 30, creating a nationwide panic as listeners believe that aliens have landed in New Jersey

1939 – *Gone With the Wind* became the first major color movie hit with the *Wizard of Oz* following the same year

1940 – CBS demonstrates color television in New York (not in widespread use for decades)

1940 – WNBT, the first regularly operating television station, debuts in New York with an estimated 10,000 viewers

1941 – TV broadcast begins in US

Ca. 1947 – singer Mahalia Jackson inaugurates "golden age of gospel music" through 1965"

1948 – Columbia Records introduces LP or "long playing" vinyl record (albums)

1948 – The Hollywood Ten, a group of writers, producers and directors called as witnesses in the House Committee's Investigation of Un-American Activities (HUAC), are jailed for contempt of Congress when they refuse to disclose if they were or were not Communists

1951 – Color television introduced in the U.S.

1951 – Cleveland disc jockey Alan Freed uses term "rock 'n' roll" to promote rhythm and blues to white audiences

1953 – To counteract the threat of television, Hollywood thinks big and develops wide-screen processes such as CinemaScope, first seen in *The Robe*

1954 – the revenue for television broadcasters finally surpasses that of radio broadcasters. Gross revenue for television is $593 million

1950s – sit-coms featured suburban families (except the *Honeymooners*) such as in *Leave it to Beaver* and *Ozzie and Harriet*

Ca. 1954 – Bill Haley and the Comets become first major white band to use black rock 'n' roll forms, featuring heavy, danceable beat and repetitive patterns, "Rock Around the Clock" becomes huge hit

1955 – Chuck Berry's "Maybellene" is first of series of hits for "Mr. Rock' n' Roll"

Ca. 1955 – Elvis Presley becomes first "rock star"; 1956 first appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show to national audience

1956 – Eisenhower had first TV political advertisements

1957 – frisbee introduced

1958 – the first "video game," a table tennis-like game, was played on an oscilloscope

1959 – Barbie doll introduced

1960 – first televised presidential debate between Kennedy and Nixon

1960 – Ninety percent of U.S. homes have a television set.

1961 – *Spacewar*, the first interactive videogame, is introduced

1962 – Telstar satellite broadcasts TV worldwide

1963 – viewers tuned into NBC witness Jack Ruby shoot Lee Harvey Oswald on camera — the first live telecast of a murder

Ca. 1963 – folk singer Bob Dylan popularizes protest songs; Peter, Paul and Mary sing Dylan's "Blowin' in the Wind" at the 1963 March on Washington

1964 – G. I. Joe introduced

1964 – the Beatles' song "I Want to Hold Your Hand" is a sensation, igniting the immense popularity of British groups, known as the "British invasion"; Other popular British groups are the Rolling Stones, the Who, and Herman's Hermits

Mid 1960s – the Vietnam War became the first televised war

1967 – Congress creates Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) to provide educational programming as an alternative to the networks

1967 – Rolling Stone and New York Magazine debut, spawning the popularity of special-interest and regional magazines

1967 – a table-tennis like game is introduced as the first video game to be played on a television

1968 – the motion picture rating system debuts with G, PG, R and X

Ca. 1968 – Jimi Hendrix celebrate counterculture with psychedelic rock

1969 – Woodstock Music and Art Fair, featuring Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, The Who, Joan Baez, and Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young; culmination of rock 'n' roll and counterculture movement

1969 – ARPA (Advanced Research Projects Agency) goes on-line in December, connecting four major U.S. universities. Designed for research, education, and government organizations, it provides a communications network linking the country in the event that a military attack destroys conventional communications systems

1970 – VCR (videocassette recorder) marketed

1971 – Computer Space becomes first video arcade game ever released

1972 – electronic mail (e-mail) is introduced by Ray Tomlinson, a Cambridge, Mass., computer scientist. He uses the @ to distinguish between the sender's name and network name in the email address

1972 – Magnavox's Odyssey, the first home video game system, is released, followed shortly thereafter by Atari (whose first game was Pong)

1972 – Gloria Steinem's *Ms* magazine debuts

1975 – skateboarding introduced

1975 – Gunfight, the first computer video game is released. It is the first game to use a microprocessor instead of hardwired solid-state circuits

1976 – Presidential candidate Jimmy Carter and running mate Walter Mondale use email to plan campaign events

1977 – movie *Saturday Night Fever* popularizes "disco" music

1977 – *Star Wars* hits theaters—for the first time—and will go on to be the second highest-grossing film of all time

1978 – Sony introduces the Walkman

1978 – Midway introduces Space Invaders into arcades. It is the first arcade game that tracks and displays high scores

1978 – Hip hop, a blend of rock, jazz, soul with African drumming, born in the South Bronx

1979 – Sugarhill Gang releases "Rapper's Delight", popularizes rap, combines elements of disco and rock with urban street music

1980s – Cable TV networks aired in U.S.

1980 – Ted Turner launches CNN, the first all-news network.

1981 – MTV broadcast in U.S.

1982 – the word “Internet” is used for the first time.

1983 – compact discs (CDs) begin to replace vinyl records

1984 – Domain Name System (DNS) is established, with network addresses identified by extensions such as .com, .org, and .edu.

1985 – Quantum Computer Services, which later changes its name to America Online, debuts. It offers email, electronic bulletin boards, news, and other information.

1989 – Nintendo releases the handheld Game Boy for $109.

1990 – Rollerblading introduced

Early 1990s – Grunge rock, a combination of various rock styles, rises in Seattle; features such bands as Nirvana, Pearl Jam, Metallica

1993 – Senators Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut and Herbert Kohl of Wisconsin launch a Senate investigation into violence in video games, hoping to initiate a ban on violent games

1994 – resulting from the Senate investigation, the Entertainment Software Rating Board is created. Rating are now given to video games and are marked on the games' packaging to indicate the suggested age of players and violent content.

1994 – initial commerce sites are established and mass marketing campaigns are launched via email, introducing the term “spamming” to the Internet vocabulary.

1995 – Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum opens in Cleveland

1997 – the controversial television ratings system debuts on cable stations and broadcast networks. The ratings, TV-Y, TV-G, TV-Y7, TV-PG, TV-14 and TV-M

1997 – the term “weblog” is coined. It’s later shortened to “blog”

1998 – Google opens its first office, in California.

1998 – *Titanic*, the most expensive film to produce and market, becomes the highest-grossing film of all time, raking in more than $580 million domestically.

1998 – the Wal-Mart retail chain decides to ban over 50 video games that it deems inappropriate for minors.

1999 – MySpace.com is launched.

2000 – The Sims is released, and quickly becomes a hit. It eventually (in 2002) surpasses Myst as the best-selling PC game ever.

2000 – internet transforms music scene; music industry angry about companies offering free music over the Internet, without paying copyright fees; Court action prompts Napster to stop distributing copyrighted music free, and team up with industry giant Bertelsmann to provide material for a fee

2001 – Wikipedia is created

2002 – *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* becomes the most profitable movie of all time. It earns more than $200 million at the box office, while costing only about $5 million to make.

2003 – Spam, unsolicited email, becomes a server-clogging menace. It accounts for about half of all emails.

2005 – YouTube.com is launched.

2006 – Nintendo releases the Wii, a gaming system that lets gamers use the controller in new ways