

# THE 1970s IN A NUTSHELL

## 1970

- Spiro Agnew was Vice President
- Gas is 36 cents a gallon
- *Venus* by the Shocking Blue was #1 on the Billboard Top Ten
- *Bridge Over Troubled Water* by Simon and Garfunkel was the song and album of the year
- Janis Joplin died
- IBM introduces the “floppy disk”
- Four Kent State students killed by the Ohio National Guard
- Jim Plunkett wins the Heisman
- The *Flip Wilson Show* is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most popular TV show in the country
- *Love Story* by Erich Segal was a best seller
- George C. Scott won best actor for the movie *Patton*

## 1971

- The movie *Clockwork Orange* by Stanley Kubrick was released
- *Look Magazine* ends its publication
- Cigarette advertising is banned from TV
- Alan Shepard, Allen Rosa, and Edgar Mitchell explore the moon’s surface
- Nixon ends 21 year trade embargo with China
- Lieutenant William Calley Is Found Guilty In My Lai Massacre
- Hot Pants are in
- Intel introduces “computer on a chip”, a microprocessor
- Average cost of a new home in America: \$28,300.00
- Cost of a first class postage stamp went from 6 to 8 cents
- *The Exorcist* by William Peter Blatty was a best seller
- Lew Alcindor of Milwaukee was the NBA MVP, with a 31.7 scoring average

## 1972

- Coach John Wooden leads UCLA to an undefeated season (30-0) and a national championship
- Alabama Governor George Wallace shot in Laurel, MD
- A break-in at the Democratic National HDQTRs at the Watergate, five persons caught
- *My Ding-A-Ling* by Chuck Berry is the #5 song of the year
- *Jonathon Livingston Seagull* by Richard Bach was a fictional best seller; *Dr. Atkins’ Diet Revolution* by Dr. Robert Atkins was a non-fiction best seller.
- Bell Bottoms were in
- The Munich Olympics and the hostages
- Frank Sinatra is called to testify about the Mafia
- Bobby Fisher beats Boris Spassky for the World Chess Championship
- MASH starts its first year on TV

## 1973

- Pet Rocks become popular
- Lyndon B. Johnson dies
- Watergate heats up: Judge Sirica orders the release of tapes; Nixon refuses
- Last U.S. troops leave Vietnam
- Alaskan pipeline is authorized
- U.S. median house income: \$10,512.00
- *The Joy of Sex* by Alex Comfort is a non-fiction best seller
- Notre Dame is #1 in the country in football
- Yogi Berra's Mets lose in the World Series to Oakland
- Best New Artist Grammy goes to Bette Midler
- *Bad, Bad Leroy Brown* by Jim Croce is the #2 song in the country
- Best Actor in a Drama Emmy goes to Telly Savalas for *Kojack*
- Big Bird debuts on *Sesame Street*
- Billy Jean King beats Bobby Riggs in the Astrodome, and wins \$1,000,000
- "Streaking" is a hot fad - finally catches on at VC-8

## 1974

- String bikinis hit the beaches
- Girls are allowed in Little League games
- Federal Debt is \$483.9 billion
- Record of the Year is *I honestly Love You* by Olivia Newton-John
- *All in the Family* is our most popular TV show
- Patty Hearst is captured by the Symbionese Liberation Army
- Nationwide 55mph speed limit is enacted
- Nixon leaves the presidency; Gerald R. Ford and Nelson Rockefeller assume the President and VP positions; Ford pardons Nixon
- Jack Benny, Chet Huntley and Ed Sullivan die
- India goes nuclear
- Muhammad Ali puts down George Foreman in eight rounds using his "rope-a-dope" strategy
- Peter Benchley writes and publishes *Jaws*, and it becomes a best-seller
- *Blazing Saddles*, starring Mel Brooks pockets \$119,500,000 at the Box Office, leading all other movies

## 1975

- *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* wins Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Actress and Best Director
- Saigon falls to North Vietnamese
- Ohio State's Archie Griffin wins unprecedented second Heisman Trophy
- Disposable razor introduced
- Unemployment reaches 8.9%, highest since 1941
- Casey Stengel dies
- Ali beats Frazer in the "Thrilla in Manila" to regain his heavyweight title

- Leisure suits and open collars over the lapels are in
- Oklahoma finally loses after winning 37 times in a row
- Inflation is 14%
- *Island Girl* by Elton John is #2 in the country
- *The Bionic Woman* is the 5<sup>th</sup> rated TV show in America

## 1976

- Alex Haley writes/publishes *Roots*, a nationwide best seller in the non-fiction category
- Average cost per year for a U.S. college education: \$1913.00
- Navy begins testing its latest missile, the Tomahawk
- O.J. Simpson signs with Buffalo for a record 2.9 million dollars
- Women are allowed into the NASA astronaut training program
- Sly Stallone's *Rocky* bags over \$117,000,000
- Bobby Knight leads Indiana to an NCAA Championship and an undefeated - 32-0 - season
- Mao Tse-Tung dies
- U.S. and Iran sign a \$10 billion arms deal
- Farah Fawcett posters are everywhere
- Apple computers are born in a California garage
- Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein write and publish *The Final Days*
- Legionnaire's disease fatally strikes 34 persons in Philadelphia
- Concord makes its first appearance in the air

## 1977

- Top model Cheryl Tiegs earns \$1000 a day
- "Billy Beer" is endorsed by Jimmy's brother Billy Carter
- Federal Debt is \$706.4 billion
- *Star Wars* grosses nearly 461 million dollars
- *The Grass is Always Greener Over the Septic Tank* by Erma Bombeck becomes a best-seller
- "Son of Sam" is arrested in New York City
- President Carter grants unconditional amnesty to Viet Nam draft-dodgers
- Elvis dies
- Department of Energy is created
- Number of imported cars breaks record at 1.5 million
- Billy Martin's NY Yankees beat Tommy Lasorda's LA Dodgers 4-2 in the World Series
- The country's three top TV shows are comedies: *Lavern and Shirley*, *Happy Days*, and *Three's Company*
- *All in the Family* wins Best Comedy, Best Actor, Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress
- Dow Jones Index gets up to 999
- New York blacks out

## 1978

- Average cost of a new home in America is \$62,500.00
- Carl Sagan's book the *Dragons of Eden* wins the Pulitzer Prize for non-fiction
- *Animal House* opens in theaters nationwide
- Gambling is legalized in NJ
- Betty Ford goes to dry out
- "Louise Brown", the world's first "test tube baby" is born in Oldam, England
- Panama Canal treaty is ratified, and will go into effect in 1999
- City of Cleveland defaults
- Prime lending rate goes to 12%
- Pope Paul dies, John Paul I is elected; Pope John Paul I dies; Polish Cardinal is named Pope John Paul II and takes command of the Catholic Church
- Electronic "bugs" are found in the U.S. embassy in Moscow
- Susan B. Anthony dollar coin is minted
- *Saturday Night Fever* wins the Grammy as the Top Album of the Year
- Camp David Accords

## 1979

- Golfer Tom Watson sets a record, winning \$462,000 in a year
- Voyager sends photos of Jupiter
- Inflation 13.3%; Prime lending rate up to 15.75%
- Shah leaves Iran for a "vacation"; Ayatollah Khomeini returns to Iran from France
- *The Dukes of Hazard* premieres on TV
- Nuclear accident at Three Mile Island occurs
- Stephen King writes *The Dead Zone*
- *60 Minutes* is America's most watched TV show
- Loretta Swit wins an Emmy for Best Supporting Actress in MASH
- Bo Derek stars in the motion picture *10*
- Led by Magic Johnson, Michigan State wins the national NCAA Championship
- Federal Debt is up to \$829 billion
- *Y.M.C.A.* by the Village People is the #6 song in the nation
- Chrysler receives a \$1.5 billion federal bailout
- Jonestown
- Hostage crisis in Iran commences