

San Jacinto River Authority Kids Page

75 Years is a Very Long Time!



This year the San Jacinto River Authority is celebrating its 75th Anniversary. That means the Authority was established in 1937. Many things we take for granted today hadn't been invented -- or even dreamed of -- back then! A lot of important history occurred during those years...far too much to cram into this limited space, but here are some of the highlights...by decade.

LATE 1930's: Franklin Delano Roosevelt was president of the U.S.; World War II began in Europe; and Roosevelt became the first president to give a speech that was broadcast on television.

1940's: Bugs Bunny and Tom and Jerry were created in 1940; NBC -- the National Broadcasting Company -- was launched in 1941, and homes with a newfangled TV set could tune in to several hours of programs a day. President Roosevelt was re-elected two more times (1940, 1944), making him the only president ever to be elected to four terms! The Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor (Hawaii) on December 7, 1941, bringing the U.S. into the war. In 1945, Germany surrendered -- ending WWII in Europe, and when Roosevelt died before the end of his term, Harry S. Truman became president.

The 1950's witnessed the birth of Rock and Roll, Elvis Presley, the opening of Disneyland in California, and the introduction of McDonalds. The "space race" began when the Soviet Union (Russia) sent an unmanned satellite -- "Sputnik" -- into space. Jonas Salk developed the polio vaccine, and Lego toy "bricks" were on the market. Dwight D. Eisenhower served two terms as president.

1960's: In addition to "hippies" and "flower children", the 60's were all about SPACE. John F. Kennedy was elected president, and vowed to put a man on the moon "in this decade." That mission was accomplished when Apollo 11 astronaut Neil Armstrong announced in 1969, "Houston, the Eagle has landed" Earlier in the decade, Alan Shepard (Freedom 7) became the first American in space and John Glenn became the first American to orbit the earth (Friendship 7). NASA opened its Manned

Spacecraft Center in Houston. Also during the 60's, the Beatles came to America, the first Super Bowl was played, the first Wal-Mart opened, and Sesame Street made its debut. Lyndon Johnson became president when Kennedy was assassinated, and Richard Nixon was elected to that office in 1968.

1970's: Protecting the environment and technology were especially important during this decade. The first Earth Day was observed in 1970 and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency was created that same year. The construction of the Alaska oil pipeline got underway in 1975, the same year that Bill Gates founded Microsoft. The first home personal computer was sold in 1977. Jimmie Carter was elected president in 1976.

1980's: Technology continued to advance...the Pac-Man video game was invented; the Nintendo Entertainment System was released to the public (1985); Space Shuttle Columbia returned America to space; and Sally Ride became the first American woman to travel into space. Ronald Reagan served two terms as president, and George H.W. Bush was elected to the office in 1988.

1990's: The Hubble Space Telescope amazed the world with its "eye" into outer space, and the World Wide Web (www) made its

public debut as an internet service. Everyone prepared for the worst...Y2K...that threatened to wreak havoc with computers. Bill Clinton served two terms as president.

2000's: George W. Bush became the first president in the new century, and served two terms. The world reeled from the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on American soil. Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Ike visited the Gulf Coast doing \$121 billion in damages. Severe drought struck Texas during 2011, killing crops and millions of trees. Barack Obama was elected president in 2008 and 2012. The so-called social media -- Facebook (2004), YouTube (2005), Twitter (2006) -- has virtually changed our lives. "Smart" phones and "tablets" have brought the world to our fingertips.

What will the next 75 years bring?

