



THE
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800 Vine Street
Cincinnati, Ohio
45202-2009
www.CincinnatiLibrary.org

Phyllis Hegner
Assistant Manager
Phone (513) 369-4571
Fax (513) 369-4565
Phyllis.Hegner@
CincinnatiLibrary.org

Richard Helmes
Press Officer
Phone (513) 369-6959
Fax (513) 369-4565
Rick.Helmes@
CincinnatiLibrary.org

Press
Release

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The Nifty '50s: Celebrating 50 Years at 8th & Vine

In 1955, the Scrabble board game made its debut, Disneyland opened in California, Ian Fleming wrote his third James Bond novel (*Moonraker*), and the first transistor radio was sold by Sony's parent company. And in Cincinnati, at the corner of 8th & Vine Streets, the Main Library opened its doors to the public, the first main library built in the United States after World War II.

To celebrate that milestone, you're invited to an exciting golden anniversary celebration on Saturday, October 1 beginning at 1:00 p.m. with music and activities that will take you back to 1955. Included will be music and entertainment from the era, a scrabble tournament, a car show with vintage 1950s automobiles, and the laying of a new time capsule in the building's cornerstone. And it's all free!

Schedule of Events for Block Party (8th St. between Vine & Walnut Closed to Traffic)

- 1:00 p.m. Proclamation, opening ceremonies, and laying of a 2005 time capsule
- 1:00-4:00 p.m.: **Cars from the '50s** car show (8th Street between Vine & Walnut and free registration from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.), with dash plaques to first 50 entries. Trophies for Best of Show, People's Choice, and Best Factory Original.
- 1:30 p.m.: Car Show Judging Begins.
- 1:30 p.m.: Scrabble Tournament (Register in Education & Religion, third floor).
- 1:30 p.m.: Programs for children begin, including hula hoop and jump rope contest, bunny hop, and much more!
- 2:00 p.m.: Renegade Dancers Rock & Roll Review (Atrium)
- 3:00 p.m.: The CincinNatalies (Atrium)
- 3:45 p.m.: Trophies awarded for Car Show and Scrabble winners.
- Copies of the Library's 150th anniversary book *Free & Public* 50% off from 1:00-5:00 p.m. only.
- Free refreshments

First book checked out of the new Main Library in 1955:
The Epistle to the Hebrews by Theodore Henry Robinson (1933)

History of the Main Library Building

In 1955, the Library opened the first post-war main library building in the U.S. Dedicated to Hamilton County residents who were killed in World War I, World War II, and the Korean War; today it serves as the cornerstone of the present Main Library complex. The original building was nearly 200,000 square feet in size and housed a collection of 1,250,000 books and other material. Its design was very contemporary and heralded in a 1955 article in *Progressive Architecture* as "a happy exception to the stuffy architecture that cloaks so many public libraries."

The building was planned with open spaces rather than separate rooms. It was designed to have a department store layout and feel and was in fact often referred to as "department store of knowledge." Since the original building had no interior walls, it was very adaptable. Shelving and furniture was not permanently installed so that it could be moved or added to according to needs.

What Was Happening in 1955?

Famous Events in History

January 19: Scrabble board game debuts.

April 5: Winston Churchill resigns as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

May 2: Tennessee Williams wins the Pulitzer Prize for *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.

June 20: Second longest (7 minutes, 8 seconds) solar eclipse of the sun in Southeast Asia.

July 17: Disneyland opens in Anaheim, California.

August 7: Tokyo Telecommunications Engineering, the precursor to Sony, sells the first transistor radio.

August 27: The first edition of *The Guinness Book of Records* debuts.

August 28: Emmitt Till, a black teen from Chicago, is murdered in Money, Mississippi for whistling at a white woman. In 2005, his accused murderer is brought to trial and convicted of the crime.

September 30: Actor James Dean is killed while driving his sports car in Paso Robles, California.

November 23: Soviet Union nuclear test in Siberia.

November 24: Fokker F-27, replacement for the DC-3, makes maiden flight.

December 1: In Montgomery, Alabama, seamstress Rosa Parks refuses to give her bus seat to a white man and is arrested for violating the city's racial segregation laws (Baptist minister Martin Luther King, Jr. later led the successful Montgomery Bus Boycott as a result).

Famous 1955 Births

January 18 - Kevin Costner, American actor

January 26 - Eddie Van Halen, Dutch-born musician

February 8 - John Grisham, American novelist

February 12 - Arsenio Hall, American actor and talk show host

February 20 - Kelsey Grammer, American actor

March 19 - Bruce Willis, American actor

March 28 - Reba McEntire, American singer and actress

April 29 - Kate Mulgrew, American actress

May 16 - Debra Winger, American actress

May 17 - Bill Paxton, American actor

June 2 - Dana Carvey, American actor and comedian

August 4 - Billy Bob Thornton, American actor

October 7 - Yo-Yo Ma, French-born Chinese cellist

November 13 - Whoopi Goldberg, American actress, comedienne, and singer

Famous 1955 Deaths

April 18 - Albert Einstein, German physicist (b. 1879)

May 16 - James Agee, American writer (b. 1909)

August 5 - Carmen Miranda, Portuguese singer and actress (b. 1909)

November 4 - Cy Young, baseball player (b. 1867)

New Books in 1955

The Acceptance World - Anthony Powell

Andersonville - MacKinlay Kantor

Auntie Mame - Patrick Dennis

Bath Tangle - Georgette Heyer

Birdman of Alcatraz - Thomas E. Gaddis

Bonjour Tristesse - Françoise Sagan

The Chrysalids - John Wyndham

The End of Eternity - Isaac Asimov

Essays in the Public Philosophy - Walter Lippmann

The Ginger Man - J. P. Donleavy

A Good Man is Hard to Find - Flannery O'Connor

Lolita - Vladimir Nabokov

The Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne - Brian Moore

The Lord of the Rings : The Return of the King - J. R. R. Tolkien

The Magician's Nephew - C.S. Lewis

The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit - Sloan Wilson

Marjorie Morningstar - Herman Wouk

Moonraker - Ian Fleming

No Time for Sergeants - Mac Hyman

Not As a Stranger - Morton Thompson

Notes of a Native Son - James Baldwin

The October Country - Ray Bradbury

Pedro Paramo - Juan Rulfo

The Quiet American - Graham Greene

Scuffy the Tugboat - Gertrude Crampton

Something of Value - Robert Ruark

The Talented Mr. Ripley - Patricia Highsmith

Ten North Frederick - John O'Hara

The Tontine - Thomas B. Costain

The Tree of Man - Patrick White

Tunnel in the Sky - Robert Heinlein

1955 Awards

Newbery Medal for children's literature: Meindert DeJong, *The Wheel on the School*

Nobel Prize for Literature: Halldór Kiljan Laxness

Pulitzer Prize for Drama: Tennessee Williams, *Cat on A Hot Tin Roof*

Pulitzer Prize for Fiction: William Faulkner - *A Fable*

Pulitzer Prize for Poetry: Wallace Stevens: *Collected Poems*

♥ Our goal is to make our programs accessible to everyone. Please request ADA services one week in advance at 513-369-4400 (TTY 369-4409).

♥ Information about events at the Main Library and 41 branch libraries is available on the Internet site: www.CincinnatiLibrary.org