

Life in Clearwater and Tampa Bay, Florida in the late 1890s and early 1900s

Tarpon Springs residential and commercial buildings, including the Arcade Hotel, were built between 1881 and 1935.

The Pass-a-Grille neighborhood, south of St. Petersburg Beach, was established between 1890 and 1920.

The Belleview Biltmore Hotel in Belleair was under construction in 1896.

In 1906, South Ward School at 610 South Fort Harrison Ave. is the first public elementary and high school in the county.

Morton F. Plant, the son of the illustrious Henry Plant, donated and raised money for the first hospital in 1914.

In 1914, aviation history was made when Tony Jannus made the world's first scheduled airline flight between St. Petersburg and Tampa.

Harbor Oaks residential district located south of downtown and west of Fort Harrison Ave. was established between 1914 and 1937.

The city of Clearwater was incorporated in May 1915 and a year later the city library was built.

The city built the first wooden bridge to Clearwater Beach. It was completed in 1917 and opened up the island for development.

In 1924, the Gandy Bridge opened.

The Vinoy Park Hotel on Beach Drive in St Petersburg opened in 1925.

In 1926, Calvin Coolidge was president, and Lou Gehrig became the New York Yankees first baseman. The governor of Florida was the Honorable John Wellborn Martin.

According to the state of Florida, "As governor during a land boom that attracted national attention, Gov. Martin encouraged a variety of progressive endeavors that outlasted the speculation. These included the building of highways throughout the state, financing public schools by direct state appropriations, and furnishing free textbooks to all pupils through the sixth grade. Florida's economic bubble burst in 1926, when money and credit ran out, and banks and investors abruptly stopped trusting the 'paper' millionaires. Severe hurricanes swept through the state in the 1926 and 1928, further damaging Florida's economy."

According to the city of Clearwater, "The Florida real estate boom began in earnest in 1921 and peaked in 1925. The bottom fell out in the bust of 1927, foreshadowing the 1929 market crash and nationwide depression."

The St Petersburg Lawn Bowling Club was established in 1926.

Drew Field, today known as Tampa International Airport, began in 1926.

The Don CeSar hotel on then St. Petersburg Beach, now St. Pete Beach, was built in 1928.

Products and Events Since 1926

Cell phones	Pagers
The Oscars	Bubble gum
Air bags	Car radios
Turn signals	The interstate system
The Volkswagen Beetle “bug”	The Great Depression
Penicillin	Drive-in movie theaters
PEZ candy	Yo Yos
Frozen food	Aerosol cans
Scotch tape	Parking meters
Nylon	Photo copiers
Ballpoint pens	Color TVs
Frisbees	Velcro
Cake mix	Credit cards
McDonalds	Barbie dolls
Acrylic paint	Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs)
Diet soft drinks sold	Diet cola sold

Population - U.S. Bureau of the Census

	1920	1930	2000
United States	106,021,537	123,202,624	281,421,906
Florida	968,470	NA	15,982,378
Pinellas County	28,265	62,149	921,482

A Look at 1926

General

A French team of engineers uncovered the body of the Sphinx from the desert sand as part of a restoration effort. Ironically, this speeds deterioration.

January

George Martin, "5th Beatle": producer of The Beatles' records, later inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame born
Soupy Sales, comedian born (died October 22, 2009)
Patricia Neal, actress born (died August 8, 2010)

February

Leslie Nielsen, actor born (died November 28, 2010)

March

Alvin "Pete" Rozelle, commissioner of the National Football League (NFL) from Jan. 1960 to Nov. 1989 (died 1996) born
Alan Greenspan, American economist born
Jerry Lewis, comedian born
Peter Graves, actor born (died March 14, 2010)

April

Hugh Hefner, creator of the men's magazine, Playboy born
Queen Elizabeth II, then Princess Elizabeth, born in London
Cloris Leachman, actress born
United Airlines established.

May

Coal miner's strike begins in Britain
Ann B. Davis, actress born
Don Rickles, comedian and actor born
Miles Davis, musician (died 1991) born
Bessie Coleman, first licensed African-American female pilot dies

June

Andy Griffith born
Marilyn Monroe, actress born (died August 5, 1962)
Mel Brooks, entertainer born
Mary Cassatt, artist dies

August

Gertrude Ederle becomes the first woman to swim the English Channel from France to England
In New York, the Warner Brothers' Vitaphone system premieres with the movie "Don Juan" starring John Barrymore
Rodolfo Valentino, Italian actor dies

September

John Coltrane, musician born (died July 17, 1967)

October

Decree in Italy bans women from holding public office
Magician Harry Houdini dies
Chuck Berry, rock and roll musician born
Charles Vance Millar, rich Torontonion, whose final Will sparked the Great Toronto Stork Derby, dies

November

The NBC radio network opens with 24 stations (it was formed by Westinghouse, General Electric and RCA)
Vesuvius erupts
In Williamsburg, Virginia, the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg begins

December

Agatha Christie disappears from her home in Surrey, England
Claude Monet, painter dies

The Arts, Films and Music of 1926

Drama and Theater

Eugene O'Neill: The Great God Brown
Ernest Hemingway: The Torrents of Spring
Edith Wharton: Here and Beyond
Sinclair Lewis: Mantrap
Thornton Wilder (1897-1975): The Cabala
William Faulkner: Soldiers' Pay
F. Scott Fitzgerald: All the Sad Young Men
Carl Sandburg: Abraham Lincoln: The Prairie Years
Langston Hughes (1902-1967): The Weary Blues
E. E. Cummings: is 5

Films released in 1926 include:

Aloma of the South Seas, starring Gilda Gray
Battling Butler, a Buster Keaton film
The Black Pirate, starring Douglas Fairbanks
Faust, directed by F.W. Murnau
Flesh and the Devil, starring John Gilbert and Greta Garbo
Madame Mystery, starring Theda Bara
Scarlet Letter, starring Lillian Gish
The Son of the Sheik, starring Rudolph Valentino
Sparrows, starring Mary Pickford
What Price Glory, starring Edmund Lowe, Victor McLaglen and Dolores del Rio

Recorded popular music and popular recordings

"Always" by Vincent Lopez & His Orchestra
"Black Bottom" by Johnny Hamp's Kentucky Serenaders
"Black Bottom Stomp" by Jelly Roll Morton & His Red Hot Peppers
"Breezin' Along With the Breeze" by Johnny Marvin
"Bye Bye Bye Blackbird" by Gene Austin
"Do, Do, Do" by Gertrude Lawrence
"Gimme A Little Kiss (Will Ya', Hunh?)" by Whispering Jack Smith
"He's The Last Word" by Ben Pollock & His Californians
"Heebie Jeebies" by Louis Armstrong & His Hot 5
"I'm Sitting On Top of the World" by Al Jolson
"In A Little Spanish Town" by Paul Whiteman & His Orchestra
"Red Hot Henry Brown" by Margaret Young
"Sidewalk Blues" by Jelly Roll Morton & His Red Hot Peppers
"Snag It" by King Oliver & His Dixie Syncopators
"Some of These Days" by Sophie Tucker with Ted Lewis's Jazz Band
"Valencia (A Song of Spain)" by Paul Whiteman & His Orchestra
"When My Baby Smiles At Me" by Ted Lewis & His Jazz Band
"When the Red, Red Robin Comes Bob-Bob-Bobbin' Along" Paul Whiteman & His Orchestra
"Who" by George Olsen & His Music
"Ya Gotta Know How To Love" by Esther Walker

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