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HONORABLES

## 1959 was a very special year.

*You were admitted to the State Bar of Michigan, and...*

- Dwight D. Eisenhower was President and Richard Nixon was Vice-President.
- The federal minimum wage was \$1/hour; a gallon of milk cost \$1.01; a loaf of bread cost 20 cents; gasoline was \$.25/gallon; a new car cost \$2,200; a new house cost \$12,400, and a postage stamp cost 4 cents.
- On February 3, Alaska was admitted to statehood, followed by Hawaii on August 21.
- On December 1, twelve nations signed a treaty for scientific peaceful use of Antarctica.
- On June 26, Queen Elizabeth and President Eisenhower opened the St. Lawrence Seaway, linking the Atlantic Ocean and the Great Lakes.
- Japanese-Americans who renounced their citizenship in 1942 when they were placed in American prison camps under Executive Order 9066 regained full citizenship May 20.
- The Presbyterian Church began allowing women to practice as preachers.
- The US Supreme Court ruled that Louisiana's prohibition of black-white boxing was unconstitutional.
- Congress passed a bill authorizing food stamps for poor Americans.
- The first Australopithecus skull specimen was found by anthropologist Louis S.B. Leakey's and his wife Mary in the Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania, Africa. The find greatly increased scientists' estimates of humankind's history.
- 1959 was a great year for space exploration: The first known radar contact was made with Venus; the United States launched Vanguard 2, the world's first weather satellite, and Pioneer 4, the first probe to enter solar orbit; the USSR's Lunik II became the first spacecraft to land on the moon and take photos of the moon's "dark side." Space monkeys Able and Baker were launched into space, boldly going where no man or monkey had gone before, and on April 9, NASA announced its selection of seven military pilots with "the right stuff" to become the first U.S. astronauts
- **Inventions:** Xerox 914 paper copier, pantyhose, tranquilizer gun, Ski-Doo snowmobile, tab-top easy-open can, aluminum beer can, bubble-free float glass, chocolate velvet cake
- **On television:** *Bonanza, The Twilight Zone, Rawhide, Many Loves Of Dobie Gillis, Bozo the Clown, The Untouchables.* Charles Van Doren confessed that the TV quiz show - *21*, was fixed.
- **On the radio:** Frank Sinatra, Connie Francis, Ella Fitzgerald, The Platters, Ray Charles, Ritchie Valens, Elvis Presley, Fabian, The Coasters, Frankie Avalon
- **At the movies:** *Ben-Hur, Some Like it Hot, North by Northwest, Disney's Sleeping Beauty, Hound of the Baskervilles, Pillow Talk, The Nun's Story*
- The 1959 Academy Award winners were:
  - ★ **Best Picture** - *Ben-Hur*
  - ★ **Best Actor** - Charlton Heston for *Ben-Hur*
  - ★ **Best Actress** - Simone Signoret for *Room at the Top*
  - ★ **Best Song** - *High Hopes*, from *A Hole in the Head* - James Van Heusen, Sammy Cahn
- In sports:
  - World Series:** LA Dodgers defeated Chicago White Sox; **Stanley Cup:** Montreal Canadiens beat Toronto Maple Leafs; **NBA:** Boston Celtics defeated Minneapolis Lakers; **NFL:** Baltimore Colts defeated NY Giants. The American Football League was formed, later merging with the NFL. Lee Petty won the first Daytona 500 auto race, and Jacques Plante became the first NHL goalie to don a hockey mask.