

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PEPPERELL

Commemorating 100 Years Historical Moment

What was Life Like in 1919?

Notable events from the year 1919

- January 6 – Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th President of the United States, dies in his sleep at the age of 60.
- January 15 – The Boston Molasses Disaster: A wave of molasses released from an exploding storage tank sweeps through Boston, killing 21 and injuring 150.
- January 16 – The 18th Amendment to the United States Constitution, authorizing Prohibition, goes into effect in the United States.
- February 25 – Oregon places a 1 cent per U.S. gallon tax on gasoline, becoming the first U.S. state to levy a gasoline tax.
- An act of the United States Congress establishes most of the Grand Canyon as a United States National Park
- June 4 – The United States Congress approves the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which would guarantee suffrage to women
- June 28 – The Treaty of Versailles is signed and ends WWI
- Felix the Cat made an appearance, earning the honor of being the first cartoon character.
- December of that year, Babe Ruth is sold by the Boston Red Sox to the New York Yankees for \$125,000, the largest sum ever paid for a player at that time.

Inventions

Oreo cookie (1912), zipper (hookless fastener) (patented in 1917), pop-up toaster (1919)

Fashion

Men wore their trousers a bit shorter, cuffs became popular with crisp creases down the front.

Women wore hats, large and small, and embellished dresses with beads and lace.

Children wore button-up boots with emphasis on collars, with trim and oversized bows

Notable Births

J. D. Salinger, author of *Catcher in the Rye* (died 2010)

Tennessee Ernie Ford, musician (died 1991)

Nat King Cole, African-American Singer (died 1965)

Peter Seeger, folk singer and musician (died 2014)

Liberace, pianist (died 1987)

Notable Deaths

Theodore Roosevelt, 26th US President

Frank Winfield Woolworth, businessman, founder of prosperous department store

L. Frank Baum, author and playwright (*The Wizard of Oz*)

What did things cost in 1919?

postage stamp 03¢	milk 32¢
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1 dozen eggs 61¢	gas 12¢
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A frugal allowance for groceries for a family with 3 children under the age of 14 in Fall River was estimated to be \$11 per week.

Before you get too envious,

How much money would you expect to earn?

Had you been a tailor... (cooks and carpenters experienced a similar pay scale)

you would expect to earn 51¢ an hour, or \$24.22/week. That applies if you were male.

The same job, if you were female, would pay 35¢ an hour, \$17.03/week

Waiters and waitresses earned between \$9-\$18 per week.

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