Time Capsule 1945

The Year in Review: General Charles de Gaulle comes out of retirement to lead France as prime minister, then is elected president.

In the USSR, Nikita Khrushchev becomes premier.

Egypt and Syria unite to form the United Arab Republic; former Egyptian leader Gamal Abdel Nasser becomes the new country's first president.

A left-wing coup by Arab nationalists in Iraq overthrows King Faisal II and leads to his death. British paratroopers come to the aid of Jordan's King Hussein, who is being pressured by Iraq. In Lebanon, 5,000 U.S. Marines land in Beirut to help protect the pro-Western government.

In the air, a U.S. F-104 Starfighter sets a world speed record of more than 1,404 miles per hour. British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC) becomes the first airline to fly jet passenger service across the Atlantic Ocean. The United States launches its first satellite, Explorer I, into orbit, 3 months after the Soviet Union had launched Sputnik I.

Congress creates the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Under the sea, the nuclear-powered submarine USS Nautilus becomes the first vessel to cross the North Pole underwater.

The United States Air Force Academy opens in Colorado Springs,

Colorado.

Expo 58 opens in Brussels, Belgium. It is the first major world's fair since World War II. The fair's symbol is the Atomium, a large building shaped like an iron atom—magnified 165 million times!

In the fashion world, the sack dress catches on.

Names in the News: Cardinal Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli is elected pope and takes the name John XXIII following the death of Pope Pius XII.

Fourteen-year-old chess whiz Bobby Fischer, who first learned the game at 6, wins the U.S. chess championship.

Television: Westerns ride herd over other programming. Leading the way is Gunsmoke, with James Arness as Marshal Matt Dillon and Amanda Blake as saloon owner Kitty Russell.

Of the fall season's top 10 shows in the Nielsen ratings, seven are Westerns, including a newcomer at No. 4: The Rifleman with Chuck Connors. Wagon Train ranks second, and Have Gun Will Travel is No. 3.

The other Westerns in the top 10 are Maverick (No. 6), Tales of Wells Fargo (7) and The Life and Legend of Wyatt Earp (10). The only shows breaking up the high-riding posse are The Danny Thomas Show (5), The Real McCoys (8) and I've Got a Secret (9).

Other notable premieres include 77 Sunset Strip with Efrem Zimbalist Jr. and The Donna Reed Show.

Music: To the dismay of his fans everywhere, Elvis Presley goes from king of rock and roll to Army private (see top of page), but not before he scores hits with records like Don't and Hard Headed Woman and stars in the movie King Creole.

Other hit songs include All I Have to Do Is Dream and Bird Dog by the Everly Brothers; At the Hop by Danny and the Juniors; Poor Little Fool by Ricky Nelson; The Purple People Eater by Sheb Wooley; Get a Job by The Silhouettes; Yakety Yak by The Coasters; Johnny B. Goode by Chuck Berry; Chantilly Lace by The Big Bopper; It's Only Make Believe by Conway Twitty; Smoke Gets in Your Eyes by The Platters; Volare (Nel Blu Dipinto Di Blu) by Domenico Modugno; and Catch a Falling Star by Perry Como.

Connie Francis hits the music scene with her big record Who's Sorry Now? Debut records that reach No. 1 on the music charts are Tommy Edwards' It's All in the Game, The Champs' Tequila and The Kingston Trio's Tom Dooley, which starts a rise in the popularity of folk music.

Other popular artists of the year include Frank Sinatra, Johnny Mathis, Peggy Lee, Johnny Cash, The Teddy Bears, Tommy Dorsey and his orchestra, and the Crickets with Buddy Holly.

Notable debuts are made by Frankie Avalon, Bobby Darin, Dion and the Belmonts, the Shirelles and Neil Sedaka.

Movies: Two highly popular musicals that produce best-selling soundtrack albums are Gigi, which stars Leslie Caron, Maurice Chevalier and Louis Jourdan, and South Pacific, which features Rossano Brazzi and Mitzi Gaynor.

On film's dramatic side, Sidney Poitier and Tony Curtis play escaped convicts who are shackled together in The Defiant Ones, while Elizabeth Taylor and Paul Newman star in Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, about a greedy Southern family.

Other strong dramas include Separate Tables with David Niven, Rita Hayworth and Deborah Kerr; Auntie Mame with Rosalind Russell and Forrest Tucker; Some Came Running with Frank Sinatra, Shirley MacLaine and Dean Martin; I Want to Live! with Susan Hayward; The Young Lions with Marlon Brando, Martin and Montgomery Clift; Touch of Evil with Charlton Heston, Orson Welles and Janet Leigh; and Vertigo with James Stewart and Kim Novak.

Seven Oscars, including one for Best Picture and the Best Actor honor for Alec Guinness, go to the war drama The Bridge on the River Kwai in March, when Academy Awards for the previous year's films are presented in Hollywood.

Sports: Quarterback Johnny Unitas of Baltimore stars in the Colts' 23-17 victory over the New York Giants in the National Football League's first sudden-death overtime championship. In the regular season, running back Jim Brown of Cleveland gains a record 1,527 rushing yards as league MVP.

Boston's Bill Russell is the MVP in pro basketball, but his Celtics lose to the St. Louis Hawks in the title series.

Other championships go to Kentucky in college basketball, Montreal in pro hockey and Louisiana State in college football.

Milwaukee pitchers Warren Spahn and Lew Burdette post a combined 42 victories in the regular season, but their Braves fall to the New York Yankees, 4 games to 3, in the World Series. The Yanks avenge a loss to the Braves in the previous year's Series by winning the final three games.

Golfer Arnold Palmer is the PGA's top money-winner with $42,607.50. Mickey Wright wins the two major women's golf championships, the U.S. Women's Open and the LPGA.