Time Capsule 1937

The Year in Review: In 1931, Japan had invaded Manchuria and set up a puppet state as part of a long-term effort to conquer Asia.

In 1937, the Japanese claim their troops are fired upon near Beijing and use this as an excuse to invade China. By the end of the year, the Japanese have captured all major Chinese cities.

In England, King George V had died on January 20, 1936, and his eldest son became King Edward VIII. The new king, then 41, was single but in love with an American, Bessie Wallis Simpson, who was then married to her second husband. After Simpson later filed for divorce, her relationship with King Edward became increasingly, and alarmingly, public. This created a governmental crisis because the king was supreme governor of the Church of England, and the church did not recognize divorce or remarriage after divorce.

On December 10, 1936, King Edward signed his abdication after 325 days in power. In a radio address to his subjects, he said he could not continue as king "without the help and support of the woman I love." His brother became King George VI on December 12.

The former king, who was granted the title of Duke of Windsor, marries the now-divorced Simpson on June 3, 1937, in France.

The eyes and the ears of the world are shocked when word of the crash and burning of the famed dirigible Hindenburg (LZ-129) reaches them via extraordinary radio reports, newspaper photographs and newsreel film. The airship is destroyed while landing at the Lakehurst Naval Air Station in Manchester, New Jersey. Thirty-six people lose their lives.

Crossing water is much on the mind of Americans as the Golden

Gate Bridge, connecting San Francisco and Marin County across the entrance to San Francisco Bay, California opens in May. It is the longest suspension bridge in the world at the time, with a total length of 1.7 miles. On the Atlantic Coast, the Lincoln Tunnel, connecting Weehawken, New Jersey, and Manhattan in New York City, opens in December. It is a 1.5-mile tunnel under the Hudson River. (The Holland Tunnel, connecting Jersey City, New Jersey and Manhattan, was completed in 1927.)

Names in the News: American aviatrix Amelia Earhart attempts the first around-the-world-at-the-equator flight with copilot Frederick Noonan, but their plane is lost between New Guinea and Howland Island.

Author J.R.R. Tolkien's book The Hobbit introduces readers to the mythical world of Middle-earth.

Music: Glenn Miller's new band from New York City makes its first location appearance at the Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans. The job is for 2 weeks, but the hotel owner keeps the band on for 2 months. Other jobs are not so lucrative, however, and Miller disbands his orchestra by the end of the year before reorganizing later.

Benny Goodman and his band's intense instrumentals, including his pumped-up version of the Louis Prima song Sing, Sing, Sing, continue to ignite the swing era.

The Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart musical Babes in Arms debuts on Broadway and spawns such hits as My Funny Valentine, The Lady Is a Tramp and Where or When.

The film Shall We Dance does the same thing for the title song, as well as for They Can't Take That Away from Me, Let's Call the Whole Thing Off and They All Laughed, all sung by either Fred Astaire or Ginger Rogers or both.

Astaire's popularity is also boosted by the No. 1 hit Nice Work If You Can Get It, and Walt Disney's feature-length sensation Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs makes you want to sing—or whistle—Whistle While You Work. It's a runaway success although, before release, it was called "Disney's folly" because production costs topped a whopping $1.5 million.

Other popular songs include I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm by Billie Holiday, the Cole Porter song In the Still of the Night by Tommy Dorsey and his orchestra, September in the Rain by Guy Lombardo and his orchestra and Sweet Leilani by Bing Crosby.

Other popular performers and bandleaders include Hal Kemp, Ella Fitzgerald, Gene Krupa and Harry James.

Radio: "Can this girl from a mining town in the West find happiness as the wife of a wealthy and titled Englishman?" That opening segment helps introduce Our Gal Sunday, starring Dorothy Lowell, to radio listeners.

It is one of many radio soaps featuring female leads, including Stella Dallas, the character first popularized by Anne Elstner on radio and played earlier in the year on the big screen by Barbara Stanwyck.

Other notable shows premiering include Grand Central Station with Jack Arthur and The Guiding Light.

Mae West's racy repartee with ventriloquist Edgar Bergen's character Charlie McCarthy on The Chase and Sanborn Hour leads to a Federal Communications Commission investigation.

Movies: The film Anthony Adverse claims four Oscars when the Academy Awards are presented in March for the films of the previous year. The Great Ziegfeld is voted Best Picture, while Luise Rainer accepts the Best Actress award for her role in the film.

Paul Muni gains the Oscar for Best Actor after playing the title role in The Story of Louis Pasteur. He follows that up with another biographical title role, playing the famed writer and critic in The Life of Emile Zola, and also costars with Luise Rainer in The Good Earth.

Other films include The Awful Truth with Irene Dunne and Cary Grant; Captains Courageous with Freddie Bartholomew and Spencer Tracy; Lost Horizon with Ronald Colman, Jane Wyatt and Sam Jaffe; A Star Is Born with Janet Gaynor and Fredric March; Stage Door with Katharine Hepburn and Ginger Rogers; and Topper with Grant, Constance Bennett and Roland Young.

Warner Oland plays B-film detective Charlie Chan for the 16th and final time in Charlie Chan at Monte Carlo before the popular actor leaves the business as he struggles with alcoholism.

Sports: At age 23, Joe Louis, the "Brown Bomber," KOs James J. Braddock in Chicago in the eighth round to begin this 12-year reign as boxing's world heavyweight champ.

National Football League tailback/ quarterback Sammy Baugh, in his rookie season out of Texas Christian University, leads the Washington Redskins past the Chicago Bears, 28-21, in the NFL championship game. The Redskins had moved from Boston to Washington, D.C. in February. "Slingin' Sammy's" frequent use of the forward pass begins to revolutionize the pro game's offense.

In baseball, New York Giants pitcher Carl Hubbell finally loses after a phenomenal 24-game winning streak extending over two seasons. He goes on to post a 22-8 record, but his Giants drop four of five games to their crosstown rivals, the Yankees, in the World Series.

Hank Luisetti is among the few players revolutionizing the game of basketball with his one-hand shooting, averaging 17.1 points per game and leading Stanford University to the national collegiate title.

Pittsburgh is crowned national champion in college football, while halfback Clint Frank of Yale takes the Heisman Trophy.

The Detroit Red Wings claim their second straight Stanley Cup in professional hockey, and Wilbur Shaw takes the checkered flag for his first Indianapolis 500 auto racing victory.

Bread Is Wicked Good

MARGARET RUDKIN, a Connecticut housewife and mother of three children, learns that one son is allergic to commercial breads containing preservatives and artificial ingredients.

She experiments with baking bread and perfects a whole wheat loaf containing only natural ingredients. She begins selling the bread under the name of her family's farm, Pepperidge Farm.

New in '37

- **Nylon**
- **SPAM**
- **Cobb salad**
- **Kit Kat** candy bar
- **Kix** cereal
- **Kraft Macaroni & Cheese Dinner**
- **Ragu** spaghetti sauce
- **Shopping cart**

A Few Prices

- **Annual income**, $1,259
- **Man's dress shirt**, $1.39
- **Nurse's uniform**, $1
- **Large eggs**, 45¢ a dozen
- **Floor wax**, 39¢ a pint
- **Ground beef**, 2 pounds for 29¢
- **Linoleum**, 22¢ a square yard
- **Gasoline**, 20¢ a gallon
- **Bacon**, 18¢ a pound

- **Lemons**, 11¢ a dozen
- **Potatoes**, 10¢ for 3 pounds
- **Toilet paper**, 6¢ for two rolls
- **Yeast**, 3¢ a cake
- **First-class stamp**, 3¢
- **Daily newspaper**, 2¢
- **Split peas**, 1¢ for 2 pounds

Popular Books

Fiction

- ***Gone with the Wind***, Margaret Mitchell
- ***Northwest Passage***, Kenneth Roberts
- ***The Citadel***, A.J. Cronin
- ***Drums Along the Mohawk***, Walter D. Edmonds
- ***The Years***, Virginia Woolf
- ***Of Mice and Men***, John Steinbeck
- ***The Rains Came***, Louis Bromfield

Nonfiction

- ***How to Win Friends and Influence People***, Dale Carnegie
- ***An American Doctor's Odyssey***, Victor Heiser
- ***Mathematics for the Million***, Lancelot Hogben