

“TERMITE” TERRY’S INSIDER INFORMATION

TOP SECRET

January 2026

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**



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“Home of Your Ironclad, Money-Back Guarantee”

What Life Was Like In 1926

2026 is here and we would like to wish everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year! Before you get too far with all of your new year’s resolutions, let’s go back and see what life was like in 1926.

- The population of the U.S. grew to over 117 million. Our current population is close to 343 million, with a new person being added every 19 seconds!
- Men had a life expectancy of 57 years, and women lived an average of 58 years.
- The U.S. Federal Budget was 3.3 billion dollars, and they had a budget surplus of 370 million dollars. Today, we have a Federal Budget of 7 trillion dollars and a budget deficit of 1.8 trillion dollars!
- About 22 million motor vehicles were registered in the U.S. Today, we have close to 299 million vehicles on the road.
- The price of a Model T Ford was about \$360. Ford manufactured about 1.65 million of these cars in 1926.
- 56 to 60 percent of the homes had electricity. It was not until 1960 that virtually all homes had electricity.
- On January 12th, the first episode of “Sam ‘n’ Henry” was broadcast of WGN in Chicago. It is considered to be the first-ever sitcom, and it ran until 1928.
- The children’s book, “Winnie-the-Pooh”, was first published on October 14th by English author A.A. Milne. His Winnie-the-Pooh stories have since been

translated into over fifty languages, and been adapted into other media.

- On March 16th, Robert Goddard launched the world’s first liquid-fueled rocket. It rose 41 feet and went 184 feet in 2.5 seconds. Between 1926 and 1941, he and his team launched 34 rockets that achieved altitudes as high as 1.6 miles, and speeds as fast as 550 mph. During his lifetime (October 1882 – August 1945), he received little public or financial report, and he was ridiculed for his theories of spaceflight. It was not until the Space Age began in 1957 that he was finally credited as one of the founding fathers of modern rocketry.
 - Union wages in New York city were:
 - Bricklayers at \$1.75 per hour
 - Carpenters at \$1.50 per hour
 - Painters at \$1.50 per hour
 - Plumbers at \$1.50 per hour
 - Structural steel workers at \$1.50 per hour
 - American farm workers had an average pay of \$39.87 per month, with board. Without board, their average pay was \$50.83 per month.
 - The minimum wage in California was \$0.33 per hour.
 - On March 7th, the first transatlantic phone call, from London to New York, was completed. The first commercial service, using radio, began in January of
- (turn the page)

80 Years Ago . . .

On January 8, 1946, Elvis Presley received his first guitar for his 11th birthday. (Apparently, he would have preferred a bicycle or a rifle.)

Remembering A Great Fighter

“If they can make penicillin out of moldy bread, they can sure make something out of you.”

Muhammad Ali, born January 17, 1942

Rave Reviews!

“Alex is great! He’s very nice and knowledgeable and he’s respectful of my home. He doesn’t try to upsell me and his recommendations are helpful. He’s trustworthy and professional.”

Lisa Leuducci
Newport Beach

“I was very impressed with all the details and how thorough they were. I was extremely impressed with the job they did, and seemed very thorough and their attention to all the details. They checked everything. I would definitely recommend them.”

Jill Schuller
Costa Mesa

“As always, Alex is the best. His knowledge and special customer service skills are greatly appreciated. Thank you, Alex, for your kindness and your hard work on taking care of my house.”

Julinda Sentman
Lakewood

“I am a new customer to Termite Terry and was looking in the Southern California area for a specialist that could accurately assess the condition of my home. I called three companies and Termite Terry was the only one that promptly answered the phone with a live person that was knowledgeable, professional and patient. Their in-house inspector arrived on time, was efficient and effective. I was given all the information necessary in a very reasonable time frame to make a well informed decision. Once the fumigation process was over, the relationship stayed true. I was able to call and receive the same prompt and professional level of service as before. Given my experience, I would highly recommend Termite Terry to my family and friends for any fumigation needs.”

Abel Baca
Fountain Valley

1927. Only one call could be made at a time, and the costs was \$75 for the first three minutes!

- The number one hit song was “Valenica”, by Paul Whiteman and his orchestra.
- On November 15th, The NBC radio network opened with 24 radio stations.
- The Ford Motor Company, let by Henry Ford, became one of the first companies to implement the 40-hour work week for factory workers on May 1st.
- The average prices for these items were:
 - Round steak sold for 37 cents a pound
 - Eggs were 55 cents a dozen
 - Milk sold for 56 cents per gallon
 - A loaf of bread cost 9 cents
 - Coffee was 50 cents a pound
 - A ten-pound bag of potatoes cost 60 cents
 - Gasoline sold for around 23 cents per gallon
 - The price of a first-class postage stamp was 2 cents
 - A movie ticket went for around 25 cents
- 1925’s top movie was a silent comedy titled “The General”. Buster Keaton starred in this film as an engineer who recaptured his beloved locomotive after it was seized by Union spies.
- The origins of United Airlines can be traced back to April 6th of 1926, when Varney Airlines was founded by Walter Varney. United acquired this company, which was the first scheduled commercial airline in the U.S.
- On November 11th, the plan for a United States Numbered Highway System was approved by the American Association of State Highway Officials. Prior to this new system, roads were designated as auto trails by private organizations, and they were not done in a uniform manner.
- Ernest Hemingway’s debut novel, “The Sun Rises”, was published

on October 22nd. By 1983, this book had been in continuous print and became one of the most translated titles in the world.

- The first SAT test was first administered to about 8,000 students on June 23rd.
 - On January 26th, Scottish engineer and inventor John Logie Baird gave the first demonstration of his television system to members of the Royal Institution, at his laboratory in London.
- As you can see, life in America has changed quite a bit over the last 100 years. Can you even imagine living without electricity and your smart phone?

Don’t Start Digging Until You Call DigAlert @ 811

Six people were hospitalized after a home exploded near Hayward, California.

75 firefighters arrived to battle the three-alarm blaze. The explosion and fire left three buildings destroyed, and neighboring homes badly damaged.

Here's how the story began that day:

- At 7:35 am, Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) was notified that a third-party construction crew had damaged an underground gas line.
- PG&E sent out their workers, and by 9:25 am, the damaged lines had been isolated and the gas leaks had been stopped.
- However, the gas had been released at several locations, and the home exploded at 9:25am.

The construction company was doing an improvement project in this neighborhood that involved new sidewalks, bikeways, and

pavement repairs.

A spokesperson for the construction company told a local news outlet that one of its subcontractors had inadvertently hit a gas line, and that the incident should have never happened.

Federal investigators are working to determine why this gas leak developed into a massive fire and explosion. They have stated that the steel gas lines were installed in the 1940s, and have confirmed that the line was damaged during grading work.

Ladies and gentlemen, if you are planning to do any digging on your properties, you need to **contact DigAlert @ 811** before you start your project. This is a **FREE** national program! Call them and they will mark the approximate locations of underground utilities so you don't unintentionally dig into an underground utility line.



President's Economic Stimulus

Gasoline prices are dropping and the national average price is now at \$2.90 per gallon. Oklahoma has the lowest average price at \$2.22 per gallon!

California is one of the most expensive places to buy gas with an

average price of \$4.27 per gallon.

President Termite Terry "feels your pain" and wants to help by giving you a **FREE** tank of gas.

Here are just a few more of your fellow citizens who have benefited from his Economic Stimulus Plan:

- Gloria Hansen of Fountain Valley recommended our service to Carlos Andrade of Orange.
- Sidney Wu of Irvine referred us to Christina Shen of Newport Beach.
- Don Shaarda of Fountain Valley recommended our service to John Wolff of Huntington Beach.
- Kevin Ryan of Tustin referred us to David Ishmael of Tustin.
- Sweatpea Gutschow of Fountain Valley recommended our service to her neighbor, Thoi Ho of Fountain Valley.

The President's plan is easy and with your help, we can **double the number of people who get FREE GAS each month**. All you have to do is simply refer us to someone who needs a termite treatment, wood repairs, or a monthly pest control service. And, if they hire us, we'll send you a **\$50.00 Gas Card**. That is real economic stimulation you can bank on!



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California Dried Plum Month

January is California Dried Plum Month, so let's take a look at some fun facts about this healthy food:

- Prunes are simply dried plums – nothing more, nothing less.
- Prunes have a bad rap for being associated with "old age", and all that stuff about irregularity. That is why the California prune growers persuaded the FDA to allow the use of the alternative name of "dried plums" to get away from the old prune associations.
- California prunes are made from one special variety of plum – the Petit d'Agen.
- 99% of the US supply and 40% of the world's supply of prunes are produced in California.
- 80% are grown in the Sacramento Valley, and the remaining 20% are grown in the San Joaquin Valley.
- A prune plum tree can produce fruit for over 30 years. Mature trees can produce 150-300 pounds of prune plums per year.
- Prunes are allowed to fully ripen before they are picked. Once picked, they are cleaned, graded, and stacked on rolling shelves to be dried. These shelves remain in climate-controlled tunnels until the prunes are dried to exacting levels.
- Prunes are a good source of Vitamin C, Vitamin K, copper, and potassium. They also have important levels of soluble fiber and antioxidants.
- Prunes can last in your pantry for about 6 months. When stored in a sealed container in your fridge, they can last for up to a year.
- Have you considered adding prunes to your favorite dishes? How about cooking a pot roast with red wine and prunes? Or, roasting fillets of pork with prunes and apple? Those dishes sound so good, and I'd love to join you for dinner! 😊

A FREE Monthly Newsletter for Friends and Clients of:

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I Guarantee It.”**

Raccoon Has Early New Year’s Celebration In A Liquor Store

Animal control officers got an unusual call after a raccoon broke into a liquor store, got drunk, and passed out in the restroom.

Officials believe that this raccoon broke into this liquor store through the building’s ceiling. While exploring the building, the animal damaged the building’s alarm system, and this triggered a power outage alert from the security company.

When the animal control officers arrived at the store, they found a trail of smashed liquor bottles on the floor. They followed this trail and it led them into the store’s bathroom, where they found the raccoon passed out next to the toilet, with its limbs splayed in every direction.

The animal control officers took the inebriated raccoon to an animal shelter so it could recover. After a few hours of rest, they determined that the animal was uninjured, so it was released back into the wild.

No one knows what type of alcohol the raccoon drank, but the liquor store’s owners did say that about \$250.00 of booze was damaged.

It is interesting to note that a neighboring business revealed that this raccoon may be a serial offender, as they were also broken into about a year ago. An employee of this business said, “It was up in the crawl space, like in the ceiling, and it went through our break room, and got into our snacks, it was all over the place.”

Ladies and gentlemen, it sounds as if this building could use some pests-proofing to help keep these animals out. Of course, the building’s owner could always rename the building and call it “Party City!” ☺



“Termite” Terry Singleton