

Stripling Irrigation Research Park

July 2018



Water standing in the VRI and Front 4 fields after one of the many heavy rains last month.

View more of Stripling's photos at...
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/ugasirp>

This Month

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From the Superintendent

During June, Stripling Park received an above average amount of rain (9.01 inches) during less than average number of rainy days – 8. We had four rain events of 1.3 inches or greater with one event of over 2.5 inches. The high temps exceeded the long term average (91.4F) on several days and our nightly lows were often warmer than the long term average (68.5F). The storm that rolled through on June 27th had high winds that tossed around several of our corn plots.

When it wasn't raining, we were busy planting the last of our cotton plots as well as irrigating and spraying our other cotton and peanut plots. We applied liquid nitrogen fertilizer to cotton plots either with our applicator rig (side-dress) or with our injection rig (fertigation). Our corn plots are at the stage that we basically are only irrigating (when conditions require it).

Last newsletter we noted our annual 4-H2O Summer Camp that was held June 5-7. Right after 4-H2O ended, we emptied all the rooms in the Park's main building that had tile floors (conference room, kitchen, restrooms, offices, and hallways) and then had Bishop Clean Care (Albany) come in to refinish our floors. Luckily, we got help from four inmates from our local correctional institute to move all furniture out of the rooms and then back in. It was quite a job but well worth it.

SIRP was pleased to host about forty new USDA-NRCS employees from primarily south Georgia. Area engineer Randy Odom from Moultrie asked me to help him offer an "Irrigation 101" workshop and tour to introduce the employees to irrigation systems, sprinkler types, water sources, soil moisture sensors, VRI, etc. The day-long workshop was very well received.

Kelly Downing with Valley Irrigation installed two Arable Labs "Mark" sensors along with six soil moisture sensors in two of Dr. Harris' cotton plots – one fertilized for high yield and one for low yield. Valley is interested in how well the "Mark" sensors can detect varying levels of crop vigor.

We put on our international outreach hat and once again hosted Fernando Martins from Brazil along with four of his farmer clients. Fernando is co-owner of Agroexata, a crop and precision ag consulting business in some of Brazil's prime agricultural areas, including the states of Mato Grosso Do Sul and Mato Grosso. The scale of row-crop agriculture in Brazil is truly mind-blowing. Fernando brought his farmers to SIRP to introduce them to many of the technologies we work with. And we appreciate the gift of pack of Guampa mate cup and straw to sip yerba mate tea.



Calvin Perry

Supreme Court Case

As most of you know, back in October of 2013 the state of Florida sued the state of Georgia in the US Supreme Court (SCOTUS) over Georgia's use of water resources in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) River Basin.

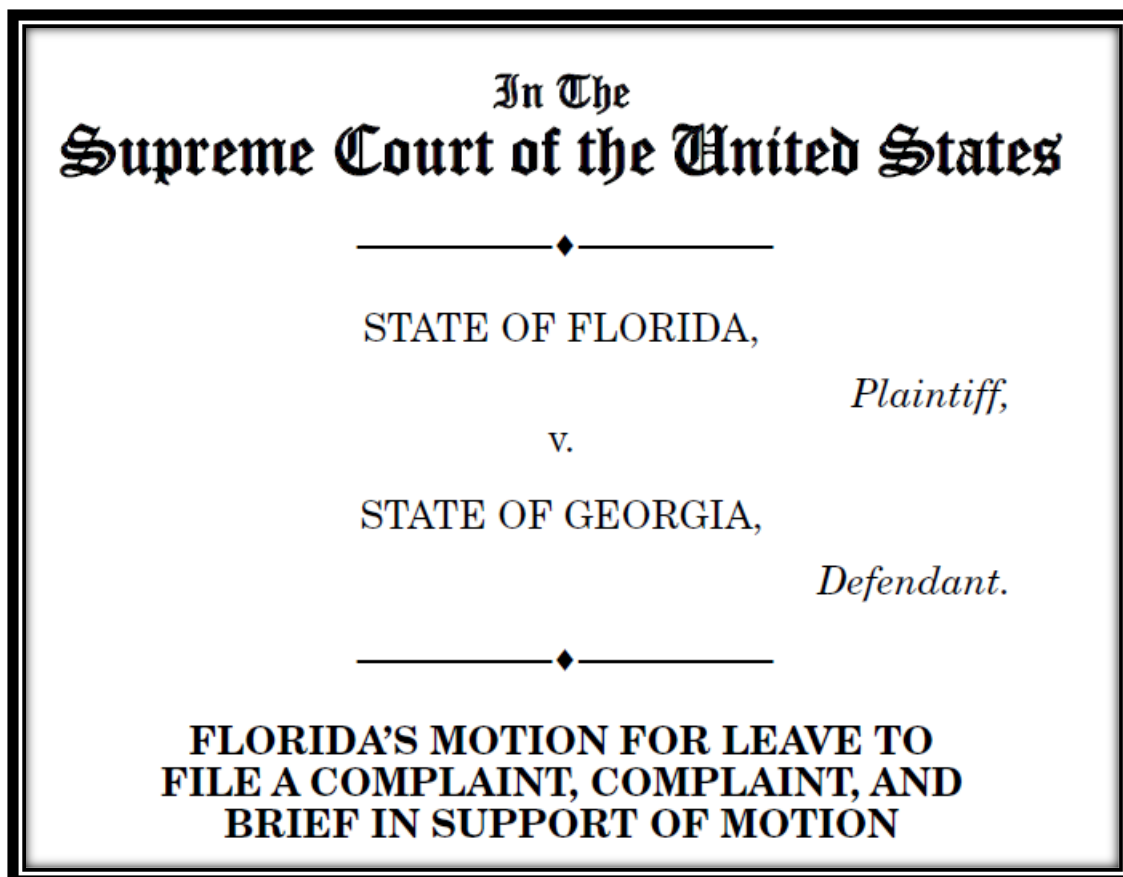
On June 27th, the SCOTUS issued their ruling on the FL v GA case. It was a 5-4 decision with Justice Stephen Breyer writing the opinion, and he was joined by justices Roberts, Kennedy, Ginsburg, and Sotomayor. The dissenting justices were Thomas, Alito, Kagan, and Gorsuch.

According to SCOTUSblog – "In latest chapter in long-running water war, SCOTUS holds special master applied too strict a standard in requiring Florida to prove that capping Georgia's water consumption from Chattahoochee, Flint and Apalachicola Rivers would improve river flow during drought."

Here is the SCOTUS Opinion:

https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/17pdf/142%20orig_h3ci.pdf

We have several news reports in this newsletter that cover this story.



Smart Irrigation Month

Once again, the Stripling Irrigation Research Park is celebrating Smart Irrigation Month by continuing to help growers maximize water-use efficiency – a fancy term for “more crop per drop”! We all eat food. We all wear clothes. We all use energy. We may not know it, but we rely on agriculture more than we think.

Smart Irrigation Month is a public awareness campaign to promote efficient water use. Focused on July, Smart Irrigation Month highlights effective practices and innovative technologies to:

- + Increase crop yield per acre.
- + Apply water and nutrient inputs more precisely for improved results with no waste.
- + Minimize runoff and top soil erosion.
- + Help protect and preserve water supplies for today and the future.

Join us as we promote Smart Irrigation in Georgia!

Smart Irrigation Month is an initiative of the Irrigation Association, a non-profit industry organization dedicated to promoting efficient irrigation. Visit www.smartirrigationmonth.org to learn more.



AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY

Improving Irrigation Efficiency

Farmers produce 262% more food with 2% fewer inputs than they did in 1950.

Data from American Farm Bureau

WATER **FERTILIZER** **SEED**

Minimize Runoff & Waste

If too much water is applied and the storage capacity of the soil is exceeded, runoff occurs. Applying water with precision is key.

Know Your Soil

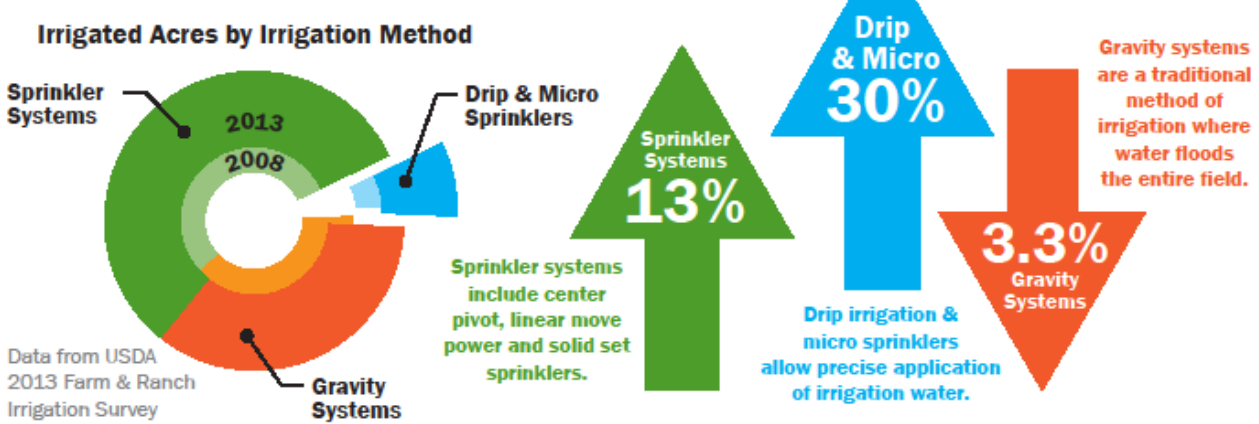
Proper soil management is one key to conserving water. Explore techniques to improve water efficiency.

Use Efficient Irrigation Systems

Use smart irrigation systems and technologies to properly apply water to the field to maximize water efficiency.

Improve Irrigation Scheduling

Use either soil/plant or atmospheric based measurements to determine when to irrigate. This will help you decrease the amount of water applied.



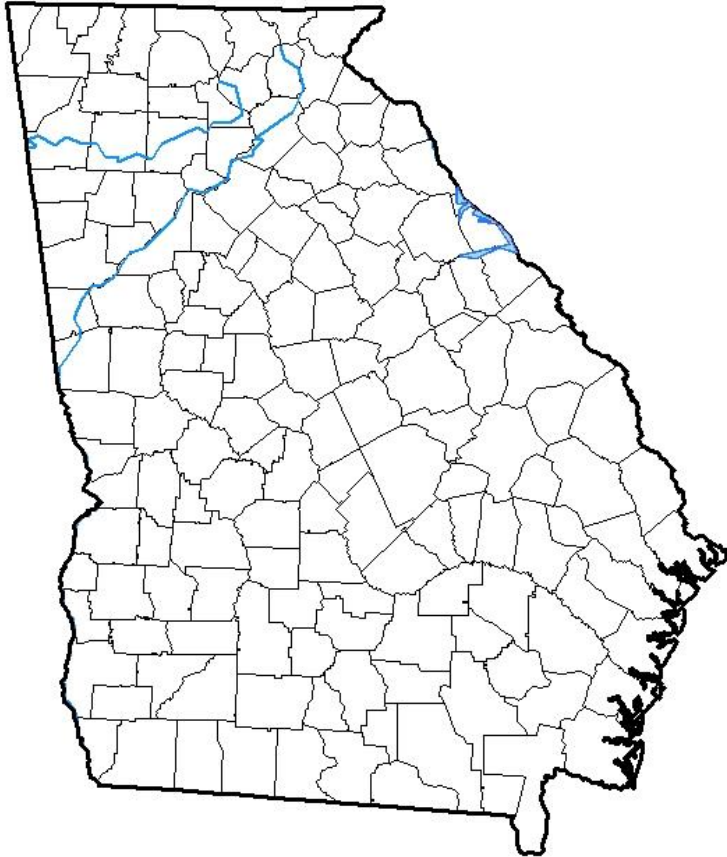
Smart Irrigation Month is an Irrigation Association initiative to increase awareness of the value of water use ... and grow demand for water-saving products, practices and services.

For more great resources, visit: www.smartirrigationmonth.com

Drought Conditions

U.S. Drought Monitor Georgia

July 3, 2018
(Released Thursday, Jul. 5, 2018)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week <i>06-26-2018</i>	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago <i>04-03-2018</i>	31.27	68.73	51.19	16.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-02-2018</i>	12.14	87.86	40.66	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>09-26-2017</i>	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago <i>07-04-2017</i>	98.97	1.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:

Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



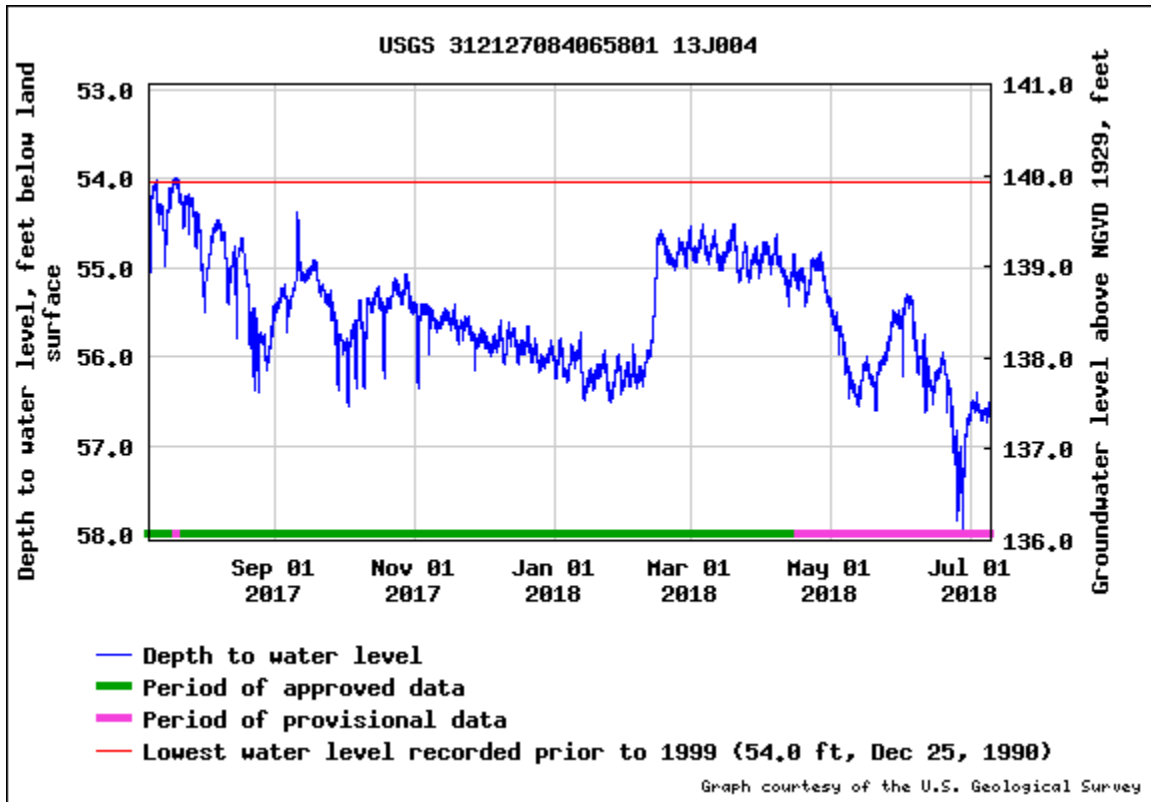
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Drought Monitor map for Georgia as of July 3rd. Once again, Georgia is 100% in the “None” category meaning no area is under any level of drought conditions.

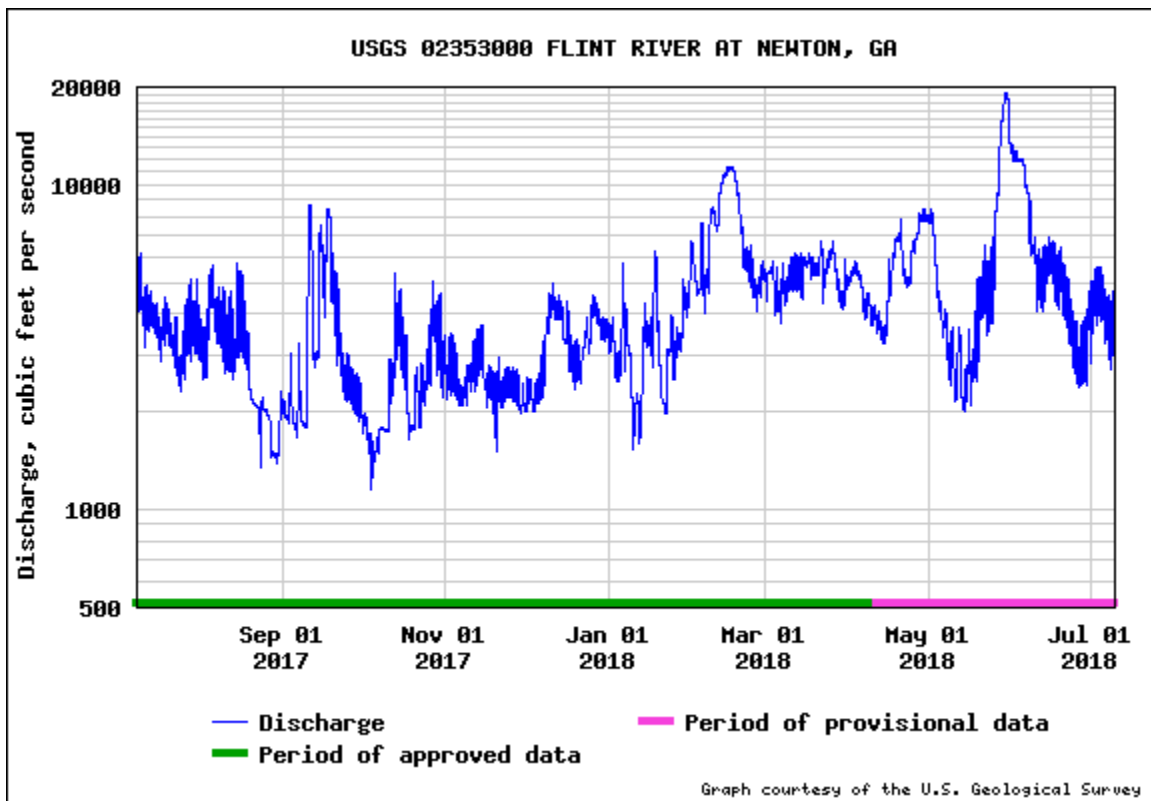
For more info:

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?GA>

Water Resources



Above and below - USGS data for the past year for a groundwater monitoring well in northern Mitchell County and stream gage on the Flint River at Newton.



At the Park



Above: NRCS field tour.

Below: BJ and Cale fertigating Dr. Vellidis' cotton plots.



At the Park



Above & Below: Lorena and Stefano flying UAV over and sampling in cotton plots.



At the Park



Above: Soybeans looking good in the Front 4 field.
Below: Soil erosion in the Camilla Lateral cotton.



Events

Past events

June 5 – 7	4H2O camp
June 12	NRCS training
June 26	Brazilian farmers visit SIRP
July 4	Holiday
July 12	IGEL tour

Upcoming events

July 24	Sunbelt Expo Field Day
July 25	Asst Deans Stougaard & McCann visit SIRP
August 22	AGL tour
September 10	Forestry Judging Contest

In the News

[Economic developer to steer rural initiatives](#)

[Supreme Court ruling in water war may shift burden to farmers in Southwest Georgia](#)

[What Comes Next in Georgia Water Wars](#)

[Supreme Court opinion on Florida v Georgia](#)

[Supreme Court extends Florida-Georgia water fight](#)

[Gov. Deal Says He Regrets Not Resolving Water Wars](#)

[Georgia gov regrets near-miss on water wars deal as court readies decision](#)

[New Irrigation Injection Surfactant Released From Precision Labs](#)

[UGA Scientists Talk New Methods For Crop Production](#)

[For rural Georgians with no nearby clinic, a doctor may soon be a phone call away](#)

[This NASA Satellite Can Map the Planet's Soil Moisture Content In Just Three Days](#)

[Water Is Leaving Colorado Farmland For The City — But Will It Ever Return?](#)

[Soil Moisture Sensors An Open Secret Of Profitability](#)

[Technology: The Catalyst for Efficient Irrigation](#)

In the News

[Farm Policy: Trade War Begins, as U.S. Soybean Exports Surged in 2nd Quarter](#)

[CONAWAY AND ROBY DISCUSS PENDING FARM BILL WITH WIREGRASS CONSTITUENTS](#)

[Tips For Irrigating Cotton In The Southeast](#)

[Nematodes a growing concern](#)

[Leaders Pass Farm Legislation, but Crucible Remains for Farm Bill](#)

[Senate passes farm bill; conference committee next](#)

[Georgia corn, cotton and soybean acres up, peanut acres decline](#)

[Last-Chance Nitrogen Application With Irrigation](#)

[Peanuts: Navigating The Late Season](#)

[Agriculture's Next Breakthrough: New Technologies Are Driving Efficiency, Data Insights](#)

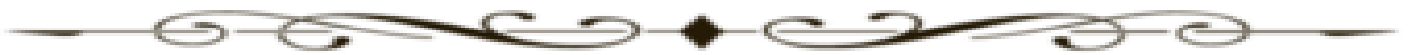
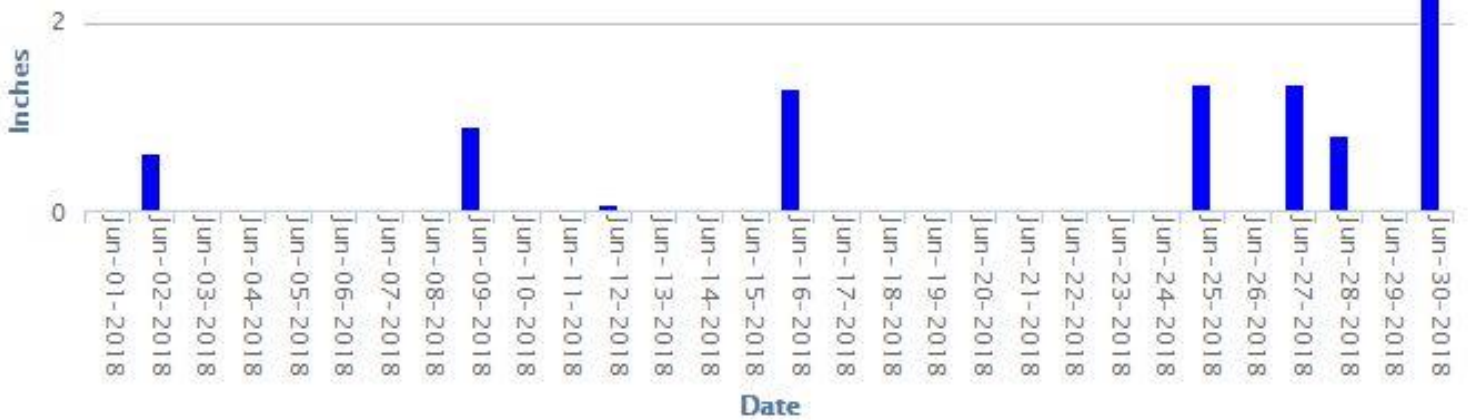
[Jimmy Miller's contour, dryland farming brings impressive peanut yields](#)

Video:

[Farm Monitor - July 7, 2018](#)

SIRP Weather

Daily Cumulative Rainfall



Maximum Temperature, Minimum Temperature



— Maximum Air Temperature — Minimum Air Temperature — Freezing Line

For June, SIRP had 9.01 inches of rainfall, compared to 5.16 inches in May, 5.06 inches in April, and 4.09 inches in March.

To explore weather information, visit www.georgiaweather.net.

Flashback: What year was it?

- 1st newspaper to microfilm its current issues, NY Herald Tribune.
- 1st electron tube to enable night vision described, St Louis, Missouri.
- Billboard magazine publishes its 1st music hit parade.
- Semi-automatic rifles adopted by US army.
- 1st players elected to Baseball Hall of Fame: Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth, Honus Wagner, Christy Mathewson & Walter Johnson.
- "Green Hornet" radio show is 1st heard on WXYZ Radio in Detroit.
- Boulder (Hoover) Dam fully completed.
- NY Yankee Joe DiMaggio makes his major-league debut, gets 3 hits.
- RMS Queen Mary leaves Southampton for NY on maiden voyage.
- Empire State Building broadcasts high definition TV-343 lines.
- 40 hour work week law approved for US federal employees.
- Margaret Mitchell's novel "Gone with the Wind" published.
- 1st x-ray photo of arterial circulation, Rochester, NY.
- RCA shows 1st real TV program (dancing, film on locomotives, Bonwit Teller fashion show and monologue from Tobacco Road & comedy).
- Radio used for 1st time for a presidential campaign.
- Hoover Dam begins transmitting electricity to Los Angeles.
- 1st issue of Life picture magazine created by Henry R Luce was published.

Pop songs: Pennies from Heaven (Bing Crosby); The Way You Look Tonight (Fred Astaire); Summertime (Billie Holiday); Glory of Love (Benny Goodman)

Born: Burt Reynolds (actor); Jim Brown (NFL Running Back-Cleveland Browns); Mickey Gilley (country singer); John Madden (NFL coach & sports commentator)

Deaths:

Rudyard Kipling (English author); John Heisman (football coach); John Ringling (circus owner);

Wages - \$0.17 - 0.77 / hr. (\$0.42 avg. median). 'Minimum wage' not established yet.

New Car - \$640.00 avg.

New House - \$2,000 - 7,500 avg.

Gallon of gas - \$0.10

Loaf of bread - \$0.08

Gallon of milk - \$0.12

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GEORGIA
College of Agricultural &
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Trivia / Interesting facts:

What problem did Leonardo da Vinci, Winston Churchill, Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison and General George Patton have in common?