

National News



Reuters/Mike Segar/Archive Photos

In July, John F. Kennedy Jr., 38, his wife, Carolyn Bessette Kennedy, 33, and her sister, Lauren Bessette, 34, die in an airplane crash in the Atlantic Ocean near Martha's Vineyard. Kennedy, a relatively inexperienced pilot, is believed to have become disoriented in heavy fog.



PEANUTS © United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

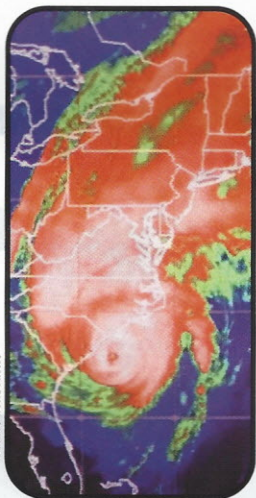
Cartoonist Charles M. Schulz retires in January 2000, bringing an end to PEANUTS, America's most popular comic strip for almost 50 years. Schulz dies in February, the night before his last strip runs in the national newspapers.

As a way to boost tourism, Chicago displays 301 life-size, fiberglass cows decorated by local artists. The public art exhibit lasts all summer until the cows are auctioned for charity.



People Weekly © 1999 William R. Sallaz

Hurricane Floyd strikes the East Coast in September, killing 51 people and destroying over 4,000 homes. North Carolina is hardest hit with total damages estimated at a record \$6 billion.



AP/Wide World Photos



AP/Wide World Photos

The drought of 1999 causes severe damage to Northeastern and mid-Atlantic farms. Several states impose mandatory water use restrictions and emergency federal loans are made available in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Ohio, Virginia and West Virginia.



Lewis and Clark's Native American guide Sacagawea is featured on a new gold-colored dollar coin released into circulation in early 2000.



Beginning in 1999, the U.S. Mint releases specially designed state quarters, the first five representing Connecticut, Georgia, Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. By 2008, each state will have its own quarter.



AP/Wide World Photos

President Clinton announces the removal of the American bald eagle from the endangered species list. In 1999, there are over 5,800 breeding pairs, an increase from 417 in 1963.

Flash

In August, a rare tornado strikes downtown Salt Lake City. Winds up to 112 miles per hour make it Utah's second-worst tornado in history.

In July, Air Force Colonel Eileen Collins, 42, becomes the first woman to command a U.S. space shuttle mission.



Dave McDermott/Press-College Station Eagle/Conis Sigma

In November, a 60-foot log tower collapses at Texas A&M University, killing 12 students and injuring 27. The tower was to be burned at a traditional bonfire pep rally.

1999