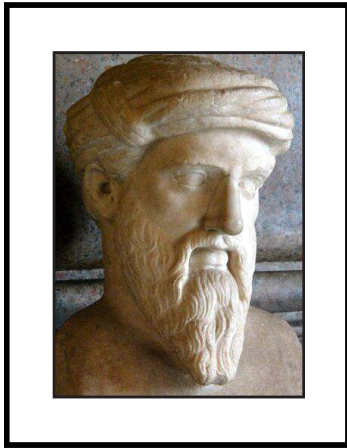


60 Fun Facts about *Sound, Radio, TV, Video, & Shanahan*



- 1.* Research into acoustics begins as early as the 6th century BCE by the Greek philosopher Pythagoras (yes, the same person who developed that infamous theorem).
- 2.* The physical understanding of acoustics really advances, however, during the Scientific Revolution, which begins during the mid 16th century.
- 3.* Some of the loudest natural sounds made on earth are volcanic eruptions.



- 4.* Emile Berliner invents the first microphone in 1896. He also invents the phonograph and opens the Berliner Gramophone Company in 1895 (and companies in London, Germany, and Canada).

- 5.* Guglielmo Marconi receives the first transatlantic radio transmission on December 12, 1901, in Wellfleet, Massachusetts.

- 6.* The first licensed commercial radio station is KDKA (AM) out of Pittsburgh. The year? 1920. It's still in operation today as a news/talk radio station.

- 7.* The Beatles took their name from the movie "The Wild Ones" starring Marlon Brando.

- 8.* The term "disc jockey" is coined in 1935 in reference to the first radio star, Martin Block. It appears in print for the first time in 1941 in Variety.



Celebrating 60 Years

1951-2011

9. The Guiding Light starts as a radio drama back in 1937. It is the longest running drama in radio and television history. It ends in 2009.

10. Popular shows during the Golden Age of Television – from the late 1940s to the early 1960s - include I Love Lucy, The Jack Benny Show, and Gunsmoke, all of which originated in radio.

11. Walter Shanahan and his wife, Mary Caroline, open Shanahan Radio and Television Service in Lowell, Massachusetts, in 1951.



12. The Ampex VRX-1000 is the first commercially successful videotape recorder. It is released in 1956.

13. Sony introduces the first transistorized radio in 1960.

14. Ninety percent of American households have a television set by the early 1960s.

15. Popular disc jockeys during the “Top 40” era of the 60s, 70s, and 80s include Wolfman Jack, Don Imus, and Dick Clark.

16. Walter Shanahan changes the name of his company to Shanahan Electronic Services, Inc. in 1961.

17. The VCR enjoys mass-market success starting in the late 1970s. The Betamax and VHS war ensues.

18. Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Jim Morrison, and Kurt Cobain all passed away when they were 27.



Celebrating 60 Years

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19. Apple is founded in 1976.  Apple

20. In 1981, Walter and Mary Caroline Shanahan retire; sons Timothy and Patrick take over company operations.



21. Sony releases the first consumer camcorder—the Betamovie BMC-100P — in 1983.

22. In 1984, Walter’s daughter, Catherine, joins Shanahan.

23. “We Are the World”, written by Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie and recorded by 45 music artists in 1985, is one of fewer than 30 all time singles to have sold 10 million or more copies worldwide.

24. As we age, we lose our ability to hear high frequencies.

25. Dire Straits sells one million CDs of its album Brother in Arms in 1985.



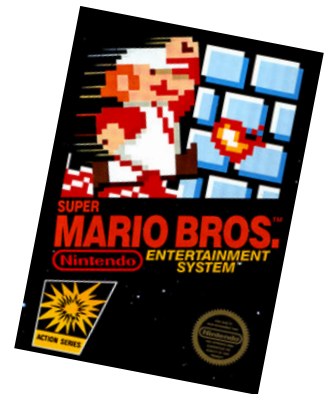
26. Nintendo introduces its Nintendo Entertainment System that same year. “Super Mario Brothers” becomes a household name.

27. Thirty percent of American TV households have VCRs in 1985.

28. The harmonica is the world’s best-selling instrument.

29 In 1987, Catherine and Patrick become partners at Shanahan. The company focuses on sound system installation and service for corporations and religious organizations. Partnerships develop with commercial sound manufacturers.

30. Video beats the box office by 1988.



31. HDTV is introduced to the US in the 1990s.

32. Jim Berlo, Senior Engineer, joins Shanahan in 1991.

33. Mary Caroline Shanahan dies in 1993.

34. In 1994, Catherine becomes the president of Shanahan.

35. Shaun Crossen, Systems Consultant, joins Shanahan in 1994.



36. In 1995, the company's name changes to Shanahan Sound and Electronics, Inc.

37. Can sound kill? It can if you're a sperm whale -- it emits grunt-like sounds to stun and disable its prey.

38. AOL reaches one million members in 1995.



39. The .mp3 file name extension is introduced that same year.

40. DVD is introduced to the US in 1997. (Developed in 1995.)

41. The singer-songwriter duo known as Simon & Garfunkel was originally called Tom & Jerry.

Celebrating 60 Years

1951-2011

42. In 1998, Shanahan introduces additional product lines and services, including video presentation systems, video conferencing, and board conference rooms.

43. Netflix launches that same year.

44. Titanic went blockbuster, selling over one million DVDs in 1999.

45. Napster launches in 1999. "Music piracy" becomes buzzword.

46. TiVo is introduced in 1999.



47. iPod is introduced in 2001.



48. Shanahan celebrates its golden anniversary (50 years) that same year.

49. By the early 2000s, DVD overtakes VHS.

50. In 2002, the FCC selects HD Radio as the official digital audio broadcasting method for the US.

51. In 2004, Shanahan adds home theater installation as a service.

Celebrating 60 Years

1951-2011

53. The largest hi-definition TV in the world belongs to Dallas Cowboys owner and general manager, Jerry Jones. The "Jerry-Tron" is over 70 feet tall and has a screen resolution equivalent to 1080p.

54.  YouTube is created in 2005.

55. In 2007, Catherine Shanahan is elected to the Board of Directors for the National Systems Contractors Association (NSCA) and Massachusetts Systems Contractors Association (MSCA).

56. In 2009, Walter Shanahan, The Shanahan founder dies.

57. A teenager from New Zealand, Adrian Mann, built the world's largest piano in 2009 – measuring over 18.5 feet!

58. Avatar becomes the fastest-selling DVD of all time in early 2010.

59. Apple introduces the iPad that same year.

60. Shanahan celebrates 60 years in business in 2011!



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