

## Important Date in Cable Television History

- **June, 1948:** John Walson, an appliance store owner in Mahanoy City, PA, places an antenna atop a nearby mountain to capture television bringing “Community Antenna Television” (“CATV”) to the homes of his customers.
- **1950:** By the turn of the decade, 70 CATV systems are serving 14,000 customers nationwide.
- **1962:** Nearly 800 CATV systems serve 850,000 customers nationwide.
- **April, 1963:** The FCC passes the “**must carry**” rule, whereby cable operators must carry the signal of any TV station within 60 miles of its system.
- **October, 1969:** The FCC issues ruling that all cable systems with 3,500 or more subscribers to begin **local origination**.
- **1972:** The “pay TV network” is born with the launch **Home Box Office**, the first programming service to be delivered nationwide via satellite.
- **1976:** new copyright law required cable systems to pay **compulsory license** fees.
- **1980:** Nearly 15 million households nationwide have signed up for what has emerged as cable television service.
- **1989:** 74 cable networks develop national satellite-delivered programming which is delivered by local cable companies to nearly 53 million households.
- **1995:** 139 cable programming services are available nationwide.
- **2000s:** Cable systems offer broadband, telephone, and DSL services.