

Timeline: Charles M. Schulz & *Peanuts*

November 26, 1922: Charles Monroe Schulz is born in Minneapolis, MN, as the only child of Dena and Carl Schulz, a St. Paul barber. An uncle nicknames him "Sparky" after Sparkplug, a horse in the *Barney Google* comic strip. He retains the nickname for the rest of his life.

1930s: As a boy, Schulz is interested in comics, especially *Popeye* and the characters created by Walt Disney.

1934: The Schulz family is given a black-and-white dog named Spike. He would become the inspiration for Snoopy.

1937: Schulz's first published drawing, a sketch of Spike, is included in the newspaper comics feature *Believe it or Not* by Robert Ripley.

1939–1940: Schulz enrolls in a correspondence cartoon course with Federal Schools (later known as Art Instruction Schools) during his senior year in high school.

1940: Schulz graduates from high school. The drawings he contributes to the school yearbook are not included in the publication.

1943: At age 20, Schulz is drafted into the Army. While in basic training, his mother dies of cancer. Schulz serves as a machine-gun squad leader in Germany, France, and Austria. He later writes, "The Army taught me all I needed to know about loneliness."

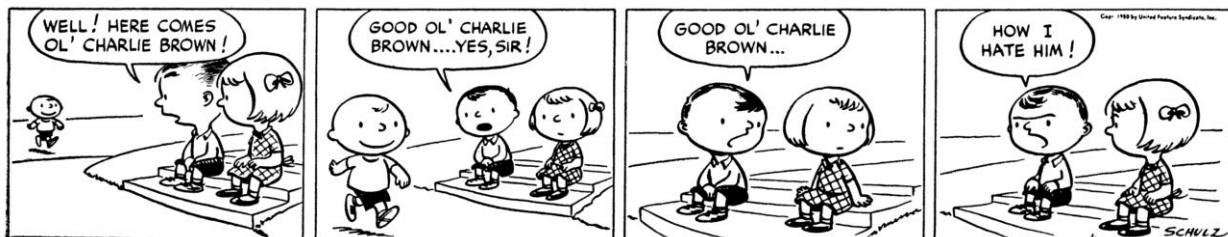
1945: Discharged from the Army, Schulz returns to St. Paul.

1947: Schulz's career as a cartoonist begins with the publication of his panel cartoon, *Li'l Folks*, in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*.

1948–1950: Schulz sells 17-panel cartoons to *The Saturday Evening Post*.

1950: After several rejections, Schulz sells his strip to United Feature Syndicate. The syndicate renames his strip *Peanuts*, a title he never liked.

October 2, 1950: *Peanuts* debuts in seven newspapers. The syndicate pays Schulz \$90 for his first month of strips.



Debut *Peanuts* comic strip, first published on October 2, 1950. © Peanuts Worldwide LLC

1951: Schulz marries Joyce Halverson. After a brief move to Colorado Springs, CO, the family returns to Minneapolis.

1952: The first Sunday *Peanuts* page is published; the strip is then featured in over 40 U.S. newspapers. The first book collection, *Peanuts*, is also published.

1958: Schulz, Joyce, and their five children move from Minnesota to Sebastopol, California. *Peanuts* appears in 355 U.S. and 40 foreign newspapers. The first plastic Snoopy is produced.

1962: *Happiness is a Warm Puppy* is published. *Peanuts* is named "Best Humor Strip of the Year" by the National Cartoonists Society.

1964: Schulz becomes the first cartoonist to be awarded two Reubens by the National Cartoonists Society.

1965: *Peanuts* is featured on the cover of *Time* magazine. Schulz's first animated TV feature, *A Charlie Brown Christmas* airs on television; it later wins a Peabody Award and an Emmy.

1967: The stage musical *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* opens off Broadway. It becomes the most-produced musical in America.

1969: Charlie Brown and Snoopy accompany astronauts on Apollo 10. Schulz opens his Redwood Empire Ice Arena in Santa Rosa, California.

1972: Charles and Joyce Schulz divorce.

1973: Schulz marries Jean Forsyth Clyde. Schulz receives an Emmy Award for writing the television special *A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving*.

1975: *Peanuts* celebrates 25 years. It is carried in approximately 1,480 U.S. and 175 foreign newspapers with 90,000,000 readers. The television special *You're a Good Sport, Charlie Brown* wins an Emmy.

1984: *Peanuts* qualifies for the Guinness Book of World Records after being sold to 2,000th newspaper.

1986: Schulz is inducted into the Cartoonist Hall of Fame by the Museum of Cartoon Art.

1999: *Peanuts* appears in more than 2,600 newspapers worldwide. Over 20,000 products have been developed based on *Peanuts*.

December 14, 1999: Schulz announces his retirement due to health problems.

January 3, 2000: Schulz's final original daily comic strip appears in newspapers.

February 12, 2000: Schulz dies in his sleep at his home.

February 13, 2000: Schulz's final Sunday strip appears in newspapers worldwide.

See the Charles M. Schulz Museum website for an expanded timeline with images:
<http://schulzmuseum.org/timeline/>