

Ku Klux Klan rallies in LA, Muhammad Ali sounding off, and the kissing competition at the first Gay Pride in New York ... Jean-Pierre Laffont captured it all. Here's a selection of his staggering black-and-white photography that runs the gamut of 20th-century US history

● is out now

Tuesday 23 September 2014 02.00 EDT

●  
On Fox Street in the Bronx, an abandoned Plymouth Savoy becomes a jungle gym for kids to play on in the summer of 1966.



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Presidential candidate and New York senator Robert Kennedy greets supporters on a campaign stop in Fort Greene, Brooklyn on 1 April, 1968.



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Two men 'flip the bird' at the Central Park crowd that's formed as they compete in the kissing contest during New York's inaugural Gay Pride celebration on 28 June 1970.



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A fist raised in protest from behind the bars at Toms Prison, Manhattan, on 28 September, 1972.





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Muhammad Ali finger-pointing during the weigh-in before his second boxing match with Joe Frazier on 23 January, 1974, in New York. Ali won the fight and regained the title.



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Cadillac Ranch in Amarillo, Texas on 7 May, 1977.



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The empty streets of Amarillo, Texas on 7 May, 1977.



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Dry Branch, Arkansas, December 1980. Mr Roc Mc Tigert is 80 and lives alone on his farm. He can no longer afford to buy gas so he uses a horse like in the old days.



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Two homeless men squat in the shadow of the recently completed World Trade Center in October, 1975. New York City was on the verge of bankruptcy and the World Trade Center sat largely vacant.







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A Ku Klux Klan meeting in Dunham Springs, LA, December 1976.



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Valerie Mayers shows off her biceps backstage before winning the Ms Empire State Competition in New York, 20 June 1981. All images: Jean-Pierre Laffont



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