

## APRIL 21

I mentioned some time back that I like to have a “day book” to work through over a year and that the present one is Edwin Way Teale’s “Circle of the Year”. A portion of his journal note for this day, written back in 1952, reads with remarkable synchrony beside what we experience when we walk outside today:

“...(T)his morning, the radio is collecting the troubles of the world and packing them into a five-minute broadcast. Woe and foreboding fill the air waves...But out of doors the news is good. All of Nature is a going concern. The business of Spring is prospering...Here is beauty and here is calm...For the mind disturbed, the still beauty of the dawn is nature’s finest balm.”

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Some likely news points on this day back then would have been a word from the military situation in Korea. It was the third year of the war; armistice was 15 months away. Tens of thousands of Americans had died already, soldiers from 20+ other countries had died, and hundreds of thousands of Koreans, soldiers and civilians had died.

King George VI had died less than two months before and a young Elizabeth II was queen (and today was her birthday)—big jump up from truck mechanic during WWII (yes, QEII is a WWII veteran--after a fashion).

Over the course of the year, the world-wide polio epidemic burgeoned. Nelson Mandela was arrested and imprisoned, Diary of Anne Frank published. On December 4 (some months in the future) the great smog formed in London, killing 4,000 people in five days, and another 8,000 people over time. Whole herds of animals perished as well. However, smog (a term coined in London) deaths had been noted there for over 100 years already.

The Mau Mau uprising in Kenya began and that war for independence continued for eight more.

And lots more.