



Robert Kennedy

“LET US BEGIN BY COMMITTING OURSELVES TO THE TRUTH, TO SEE IT LIKE IT IS AND TO TELL IT LIKE IT IS, TO FIND THE TRUTH, TO SPEAK THE TRUTH, AND LIVE WITH THE TRUTH.”

RICHARD NIXON (1913–1994), ACCEPTING HIS NOMINATION FOR THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY, 1968

“I SUFFER FROM AN INCURABLE DISEASE—COLOR BLINDNESS.”

JOOST DE BLANK (1908–1968), DUTCH CLERIC

US Forces Struggle to Repel Communist Advance

South Vietnam, January 31: As American forces and their South Vietnamese allies were preparing for Tet holiday festivities today, North Vietnamese and Vietcong troops estimated at over 80,000-strong have launched a massive coordinated attack on South Vietnam's 44 provincial capitals and five of the country's six autonomous cities, including Saigon and the ancient capital of Hue.

This attack represents the first major conventional offensive by the North Vietnamese, and it has caught the US unawares. The fighting around Hue is continuing and is reported as being extremely ferocious. Elements of the US 1st Cavalry and 101st Airborne Division, along with marines and South Vietnamese forces, are engaging in the first urban house-to-house combat of the war.

The US Embassy in Saigon has also been attacked. At least five GIs have been reported killed in the storming of the compound, though US forces ultimately regained control.

The US base at Khe Sanh in the north is also under assault by an estimated 40,000 North Vietnamese and Vietcong forces, although this is seen by intelligence as a deception which is meant to draw the US forces away from the cities.

It has been known for some time that the North Vietnamese forces had been infiltrating arms, ammunition, and men into South Vietnamese towns and cities since late last year. By last November, the traffic heading south along the Ho Chi Minh trail had eight times more than the previous year's monthly average.

On January 5, when a Vietcong was captured near the demilitarized zone with a notebook in his possession giving a broad overview of the offensive to



Corretta King and Harry Belafonte at Martin Luther King Jr's funeral.

come, it was dismissed by military intelligence as a decoy. A CIA analyst, Joseph Hovey, even circulated a memorandum to US leaders predicting a major offensive in the months to come. His analysis was dismissed as unrealistic. This failure of intelligence rivals that of Pearl Harbor, and the “Tet Offensive” is certain to

demonstrate to the Johnson Administration that victory in Indochina is likely to require a bigger commitment of troops than the American public is willing to bear.

Funeral of Martin Luther King Jr

Atlanta, USA, April 9: More than 150,000 people have attended the funeral of the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr at the Ebenezer Church at Morehouse

College in Atlanta, Georgia. King was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, five days ago, when he was shot through the head while standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel.

King's inspirational speeches and non-violent direct activism have helped alter the fabric of American life, with his concept of “somebodiness” giving blacks and the poor a new sense of worth and dignity. In 1964 King became the youngest ever recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. His courage and selfless devotion has given direction and momentum to the Civil Rights cause since 1955.

Robert Kennedy Shot in LA Hotel

Los Angeles, USA, June 6: Americans are waking up this morning to the shocking news

that the Democratic presidential candidate, Senator Robert Kennedy, has died.

In the early hours of yesterday morning he was shot four times at point-blank range by 24-year-old Palestinian Sirhan Sirhan in the kitchen of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles. Kennedy had just delivered a rousing speech in celebration of his win in the California presidential primary and was greeting some of his supporters working in the kitchen when a series of muffled sounds was heard. Several people were wounded, and Kennedy was shot in the head. The gunman was wrestled to the ground and has been taken away for questioning.

Senator Kennedy has been taken to the Good Samaritan Hospital, where a team of neurosurgeons is working to save the life of our late President's younger brother. The prayers of a nation are with him and his family.

time out

New Jersey police confiscated 30,000 copies of John Lennon and Yoko Ono's album, *Two Virgins*. A nude photograph of the couple on the cover violated pornography laws in the state. Press and fans also reacted strongly against the cover.

Thule, Greenland, January 21: A US B-52 bomber crashes, carrying four hydrogen bombs.

South Vietnam, January 31: North Vietnamese and the Vietcong launch the Tet offensive

UK, February 4: Kenyan Asians flee repressive laws that prevent them from making a living since independence.

My Lai, South Vietnam, March 16: US troops massacre hundreds of unarmed civilians.

Washington DC, USA, March 31: President Lyndon Johnson stuns America by announcing that he will not run for office in the forthcoming elections.

Atlanta, USA, April 9: The funeral of Martin Luther King, who was assassinated in Memphis on April 4, is attended by 150,000 people.

Wellington, New Zealand, April 10: The ferry *Wahine* capsizes in Wellington harbor in a severe storm. Of the 734 passengers and crew on board, 51 lose their lives.

France, May: Ten million workers strike in solidarity with students after leftist student riots earlier this month were brutally suppressed by the police. President de Gaulle issues an ultimatum for the country to back his reforms or sack him.

Los Angeles, USA, June 6: Presidential candidate Robert Kennedy is assassinated by Palestinian militant Sirhan Sirhan.

World, July 1: The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is signed by 62 nations, including the USA, the USSR, and the UK.

Vatican City, July 29: Pope Paul VI confirms the ban on the use of contraceptives by Catholics, despite calls for change, with the release of the encyclical *Humanae Vitae*.

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, August 15: Peace talks between Biafran secessionists and Nigeria, aiming to reconcile the two states after Biafra declared itself independent of Nigeria in May, end without progress.

The economic blockade of Biafra has led to mass starvation.

Prague, Czechoslovakia, August 21: The “Prague Spring” program of liberalization initiated by Alexander Dubcek comes to an abrupt end when Warsaw Pact countries send in tanks to reinstate hard-line communist policy. Czechoslovaks take to the streets to show their support for the reforms.

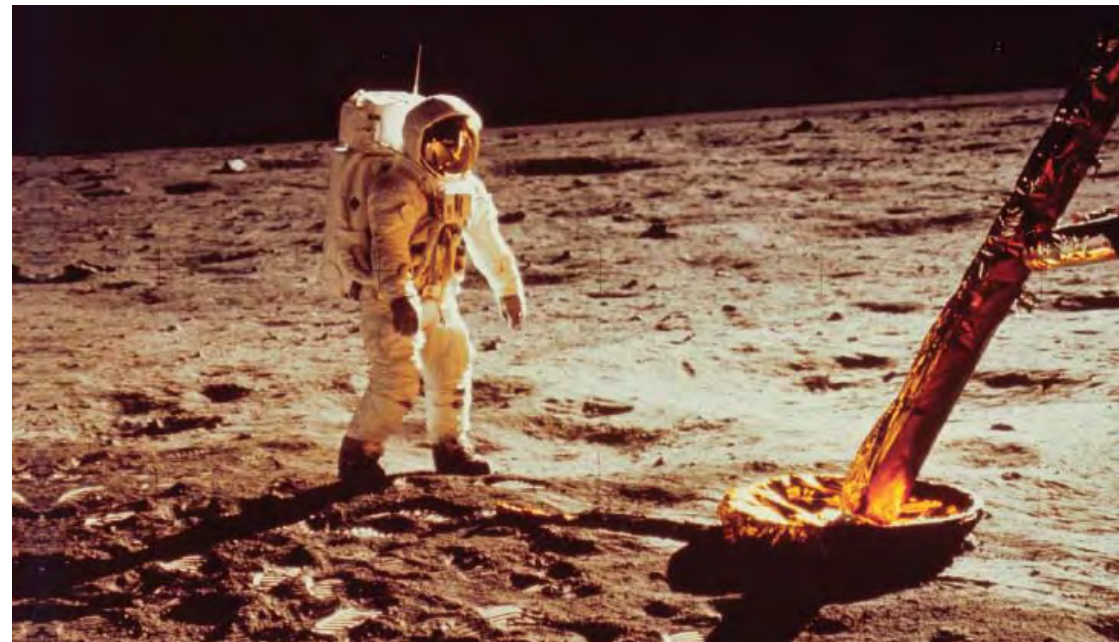
USA, November 5: Republican Richard Nixon is elected president.

Man Walks on the Moon

Houston, USA, July 21: Astronaut Neil Alden Armstrong emerged backward from the lunar module *Eagle*, a large figure in a white spacesuit, backpack of breathing apparatus, and helmet. Slowly he descended the steps of the ladder that led to the surface of the moon.

Then came the moment, watched by countless millions around the world on television. Armstrong's foot touched the surface and he said, “That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.” US Navy Commander Armstrong was soon joined by USAF Colonel Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin, and they looked like children playing as they experimented with the moon's gravity, taking leaps and jumps that moved them with a floating motion.

Armstrong reported: “The surface is like a fine powder. It has a soft beauty all its own, like some desert of the United States.” The astronauts collected samples of rock and dust, planted the Stars and Stripes, and took pictures before returning to the lunar module.



Colonel Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin is the second man to walk on the moon's surface.

The *Eagle* is scheduled to remain for less than a day, and then must power up and rendezvous with *Apollo 11*, with USAF Colonel Michael Collins on board in his lonely job as pilot. They will transfer to the main spacecraft, taking their samples with them, jettison the *Eagle* and then fire the *Apollo 11* engine to set a course for their return to Earth.

The operation, meticulously planned by NASA, can go badly wrong if anything malfunctions, and NASA engineers cannot relax their concentration until the astronauts are back on Earth.

The landing itself was fraught with tension as the *Apollo* went into orbit around the moon, and Armstrong and Aldrin transferred to the *Eagle*, before firing their engine to begin the descent. There were tense moments as the *Eagle*, on remote control, appeared to be heading for some rocks. Armstrong took manual control of the space vehicle and landed it safely on a flat area. His first words from the moon, again heard by millions, were: “Houston, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed.”

British Troops Arrive in Ireland to Quell Unrest

Ulster, Northern Ireland, August 14: In response to a dramatic escalation in civil disorder, with thousands of residents forced to leave their homes in the face of riots verging on pogroms, London has dispatched troops to Ulster in Northern Ireland in an attempt to stop the rising unrest between Protestants and Catholics, and their emerging paramilitary arms.

Sectional divisions in Northern Ireland have been present for well over 300 years. This complex conflict has at its core the centuries-old English sense of superiority over the Irish, and their view of the legitimacy of British colonial rule.

Northern Ireland became a separate state after a nationalist revolt in 1921, effectively partitioning the country.

Okinawa to be Returned Japanese Sovereignty

Okinawa, Japan, November 21: It has been announced today that the Pacific island of Okinawa and other islands in the Ryukyu archipelago will be returned to Japan. The announcement followed a meeting at the White House between President Nixon and the Japanese Prime Minister Eisaku Sato.

Okinawa, an independent kingdom in the fifteenth century, became a Japanese prefecture in 1879. Okinawa was the final island battle fought between the USA and Japan in World War II, and the only battle fought on Japanese soil. Thirteen thousand Americans, 50,000 Japanese, and 150,000 local Okinawans were killed, and US troops have occupied Okinawa and other Ryukyu islands since March 1945. Today's meeting will set in motion a timetable for the return of administrative rights over the islands to the Japanese.

Sato told the Japanese Diet in March that Japan's anti-nuclear policy would apply to the islands after their return.



Commander Neil Armstrong

Key Events

Key Events

Paris, France, January 18: The Paris peace talks open between the USA, South Vietnam, North Vietnam, and the Vietcong.

Cairo, Egypt, February 3: The leader of the Fatah faction, Yasser Arafat, is the new head of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Memphis, Tennessee, USA, March 10: The killer of Martin Luther King, James Earl Ray, is sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of the civil rights leader.

Tel Aviv, Israel, March 17: Seventy-one-year-old Golda Meir comes out of retirement to become Israel's first female prime minister.

Paris, France, April 28: French president Charles de Gaulle resigns, following the defeat of a referendum on sweeping governmental reforms.

USA, May 10: The government signals a crackdown on student protests, with Vice-President Spiro Agnew stating, “The time has come for American colleges under siege to assert themselves.”

Midway Island, Pacific Ocean, June 8: US President Nixon meets with South Vietnamese leader Nguyen Van Thieu to discuss the “Vietnamization” of the Vietnam War. Around 25,000 US troops are projected to withdraw by September.

Nigeria, June 30: The Nigerian government bans Red Cross night flights from distributing food aid in disputed Biafra state, jeopardizing the survival of four million people.

The Moon, July 21: Neil Armstrong walks on the Moon, watched by millions of television viewers.

Los Angeles, USA, August 9: Charles Manson and his “family” kill Sharon Tate, wife of director Roman Polanski, and four others, in Polanski's Beverly Hills mansion.

China, August 13: Soviet troops make incursions into Chinese territory; heavy fighting occurs.

Northern Ireland, August 14: British troops are deployed to restore order in Ulster after escalating religious violence.

Libya, September 1: The 18-year rule of King Idris is ended by Colonel Gaddafi's bloodless coup.

Bonn, West Germany, October 21: Social Democrat and former mayor of West Berlin, Willy Brandt, is elected chancellor, ending the Christian Democrats' hold on government since the end of World War II.

Washington DC, USA, November 15: A group of 250,000 people marches to the US capital to demand an end to the Vietnam War.

Okinawa, Japan, November 21: A joint US-Japanese communique announces that Okinawa and the other Ryukyu Islands are to be handed back to the Japanese.



Ernest Hemingway

"I LOVE MICKEY MOUSE MORE THAN ANY WOMAN I HAVE EVER KNOWN."

WALT DISNEY (1901-1966), AMERICAN FILM PRODUCER AND ANIMATOR AND CREATOR OF MICKEY MOUSE

"A MELODY IS NOT MERELY SOMETHING YOU CAN HUM."

AARON COPLAND (1900-1990), AMERICAN COMPOSER

Crazy British Radio Comedy to Be Aired

London, England, May 27, 1951: Those present at the BBC's Aeolian Hall last night were fortunate. They witnessed the first performance of a very zany new radio comedy aptly called "Crazy People."

The show is performed by a group known as the Goons, consisting of Peter Sellers, Michael Bentine, Harry Secombe, and Spike Milligan. The script was written by Milligan in partnership with Larry Stephens. Each performer plays multiple parts. The plot, if it can be called that, is ludicrous (intentionally so), the characterization absurd in the extreme, the sound effects very silly indeed, and the dialogue surreal and full of ingenious puns. There appears to be a strong element of parody, although it is very broad and indirect, and not narrowly political.

Musical interludes provide a break from the manic pace and style of the comedy and give the advantage of allowing the audience time to digest some of the left-field jokes. The music is performed by the jazzy Ray Ellington Quartet, the harmonica virtuoso Max Geldray, and vocal group the Stargazers.

If this debut is anything to go by, this is a wholly new style of radio comedy. It will be broadcast tomorrow night.



The Goons: Harry Secombe, Michael Bentine, Peter Sellers, and Spike Milligan.

Husband-Wife Duo in Zany New TV Sitcom

New York, USA, October 16, 1951: A new sitcom went to air on CBS television last night. Entitled "I Love Lucy," it is an extension of Lucille Ball's recent successful radio show "My Favorite Husband."



Desi Arnaz and Lucille Ball in a still from the TV sitcom "I Love Lucy."

Her TV debut looks set to follow the comic marital trials and tribulations of Lucy and Ricky Ricardo, the latter played by Lucille Ball's real-life husband, Desi Arnaz, who introduced the conga line to the USA in the 1930s.

This pairing of a real-life couple adds plausibility to the show, particularly as Arnaz plays a Cuban bandleader—his occupation in real life. Rumors have it that, when Lucille Ball insisted Arnaz play the role of her television husband, CBS executives were concerned about how the audience would respond to his Cuban accent and to the mixed marriage, but she made it a precondition of doing the series.

This is a professional production (apparently it is costing sponsor Philip Morris \$30,000 a week). Like "Amos 'n' Andy," the show uses three cameras, allowing a more cinematic style. More unusually, it was

shot in Los Angeles before a wildly appreciative live studio audience, which may help to explain the dizzy atmosphere and air of spontaneity, something canned laughter does not seem to encourage.

The opening episode, a hyperactive Shakespearian comedy of errors, suggests that the hare-brained but childishly naive and lovable housewife Lucy has a penchant for getting herself into a hilarious mess. Lucille Ball's manic slapstick, superb timing, and expressive face come across better here than in the movies, where she has sometimes been found a little obvious. Some may find this broad humor a little low-brow but, given the extraordinary popularity of Milton Berle, its exaggerated style seems destined to please.

But Is It Art?

New York, USA, November 10, 1952: There has been much discussion in recent years about a type of art known as "abstract expressionism." The best known painter of this school is Jackson Pollock, an exhibition of whose works opened today.

Life magazine devoted a centerspread to him in 1949, and last year *Time* called him "the greatest living American artist." Others claim that their five-year-old could do the same or, like Congressman Dondero, they feel such art is depraved and communistic. By contrast, the Congress for Cultural Freedom sees Pollock's work as exemplary of American freedom, democracy, and individualism.

For those unfamiliar with his style, Pollock's paintings can be a challenge. Recent footage reveals him walking around a canvas laid flat on the floor, entering into an absorbed state of reverie in which he almost dances about in a trance, flicking, splattering, dribbling,



Abstract expressionist painter Jackson Pollock.

throwing, and pouring paint—a method said to allow for the direct expression of the subconscious mind. In Pollock's own words, the artist is "expressing his feelings rather than illustrating." No object from the real world is represented and there is no subject or center to these works. The abstractness of the works is also evident in their numeric titles, such as *Number 11*.

And yet, there is nothing of the art dandy about Jackson Pollock, who was born on a sheep ranch in Wyoming and who comes across as a tough blue-collar guy. He was thrown out of school twice for hitting instructors and is known for his hard drinking.

From Here to Eternity: An Instant Classic

Los Angeles, USA, March 25, 1954: This evening, at the 26th Academy Awards, Columbia Pictures' *From Here to Eternity* achieved a level of success not seen since *Gone with the Wind*. Adapted from James Jones' bestselling novel, it took home a remarkable 8 awards from 13 categories, thereby equaling the record set by David Selznick's 1939 Civil War classic.

In addition to Best Picture, the film clinched Best Supporting Actress for Donna Reed, who plays a curiously fragile but rigid hostess at a USO club, and Best Director for Fred Zinnemann, who was unsuccessfully nominated for *High Noon* last year, as well as Best Screenplay (Daniel Taradash), Best Cinematography, Best Sound Recording, and Best Film Editing. Perhaps most notable was the Best Supporting Actor Oscar for Frank Sinatra, whose career has recently been on a distinct downhill slide. It is rumored he begged for the role. His screen test was the drunken scene in the bar where he rolls olives as craps. Zinnemann felt it was so well done that he cut the test into the picture.

Deborah Kerr, in the role of the barren estranged wife, lost out to Audrey Hepburn in *Roman Holiday*, while Burt Lancaster and Montgomery Clift were both unsuccessfully nominated for the Best Actor Oscar, which went to William Holden for his performance in *Stalag 17*.

When Jones's novel was released in 1951 it was said to be unfilmable. To gain production approval, the house of prostitution had to be changed to a USO club, the profanity, the savage stockade beatings, and Karen Holmes' gonorrhoea had to be cut, and the corrupt Captain Holmes was shown to be drummed out of the army by his superiors rather than promoted. Shot in a mere 41 days for \$1 million, the film has made a remarkable profit and has vindicated the risk-taking of all involved.

Nobel Prize for Hemingway

Stockholm, Sweden, November 12, 1954: This year's Nobel Prize in Literature has gone to that adventurous man of letters, Ernest Hemingway. The accompanying citation singles out "his mastery of the art of narrative [and] the influence that he has exerted

on contemporary style." The discipline, succinctness, directness, and clarity of his prose were surely influenced by his journalistic apprenticeship in a Kansas City newspaper, while his ability to capture accurately the rhythms and cadences of everyday American speech builds on the innovations of *Huckleberry Finn*. It is characteristic of Hemingway's approach to life and writing that he literally

time out

J. D. Salinger published *The Catcher in the Rye*. It is the story of Holden Caulfield, a runaway prep-school student, and his adventures in New York at Christmastime. The novel is expressed in a "stream of consciousness" style and expresses disillusionment with adult culture.

ally threw himself into the heat of battle by volunteering as an ambulance officer in World War I, in which he was severely wounded by shell splinters. His first-hand observations were distilled in the classic novel *A Farewell to Arms*.

Hemingway's fascination with life-and-death struggles and his determination to participate in and write about them are also evident in his involvement with bullfighting, big-game hunting, big-game fishing, and the Civil War in his beloved Spain, where he was a major supporter of the Republicans. For some years now Hemingway has made sunny Cuba his home.



Deborah Kerr

The movie poster for the hit musical comedy *Singin' in the Rain*.

Key Events

New York, USA, February 23, 1950: The Metropolitan Museum exhibits a collection of Hapsburg art for the first time.
USA, April 9, 1950: After years on radio, Bob Hope makes his first television appearance today.
New York, USA, December 20, 1950: *Harvey*, starring James Stewart, premieres.
World, December, 1950: Deaths this year include George Orwell (January 21), Al Jolson (October 23), and George Bernard Shaw (November 2).

New York, USA, March 29, 1951: The musical *The King and I*, starring Yul Brynner, opens on Broadway.
London, England, May, 1951: Crazy *People* premieres on BBC Radio. It stars Peter Sellers, Spike Milligan, Harry Secombe and Michael Bentine.
Florence, Italy, June 9, 1951: The first performance of Haydn's opera *Orfeo ed Euridice* opens at Teatro della Pergola.
USA, July 16, 1951: J. D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye* is released.
USA, October 15, 1951: The first episode of *I Love Lucy* goes to air.

Norway, February 16, 1952: Norse writer Knut Pedersen Hamsun, winner of the 1920 Nobel Prize in Literature, dies at home.
USA, April 10, 1952: The film musical *Singin' in the Rain*, which stars Gene Kelly, opens.
New York, USA, September 8, 1952: Ernest Hemingway's novel *The Old Man and the Sea* is released.
USA, October, 1952: The first issue of *Mad Magazine* goes on sale.
New York, USA, January 22, 1953: Arthur Miller's four-act play, *The Crucible*, premieres.

Manchester, England, February 14, 1953: Vaughan Williams' seventh symphony, *Sinfonia Antartica*, premieres at Free Trade Hall.
New York, USA, November 9, 1953: Acclaimed Welsh poet Dylan Thomas dies in hospital, aged 39.
Nashville, USA, January 4, 1954: Elvis Presley, an unknown truck driver from Tupelo, Mississippi, records a 10-minute demo.
Hollywood, USA, March 25, 1954: *From Here to Eternity* wins eight Academy Awards.

New York, USA, June 12, 1954: Bill Haley and the Comets release "Rock Around the Clock."
Nice, France, November 3, 1954: French painter and sculptor Henri Matisse dies, aged 84.
USA, March, 1955: The year's hits so far include "Mr Sandman," "The Yellow Rose of Texas," "Love is a Many Splendored Thing," and "Ballad of Davy Crockett."
UK, August 27, 1955: The first edition of *The Guinness Book of World Records* is released.

California, USA, September 30, 1955: Film star James Dean crashes his Porsche near Paso Robles and dies, aged 24.
USA, October 3, 1955: A new kids' television program, "The Mickey Mouse Club," starts on ABC TV.
Zürich, Switzerland, January 27, 1956: Austrian conductor Erich Kleiber dies, aged 65.
Sussex, England, January 31, 1956: Creator of Winnie-the-Pooh, A. A. Milne, dies, aged 74.

USA, March 30, 1956: The first printed version of Woody Guthrie's song "This Land is Your Land" is produced.
London, England, August, 1956: *This Is Tomorrow*, an art exhibition featuring the new "Pop Art" style, is put on at Whitechapel Gallery.
London, England, October 3, 1956: The Bolshoi Ballet performs for the first time in the UK, at Covent Garden.
Philadelphia, USA, August 5, 1957: Dick Clark hosts the first episode of *American Bandstand* on ABC TV.

London, England, September 13, 1957: *The Mousetrap* by Agatha Christie becomes Britain's longest running play.
Sweden, October, 1957: The Nobel Prize in Literature is awarded to French writer and philosopher Albert Camus. He is the second-youngest recipient of the prize.
USA, December, 1957: *The Cat in the Hat* by Theodor Geisel (a.k.a. "Dr. Seuss") is released this year.
USA, January 10, 1958: Jerry Lee Lewis' hit "Great Balls of Fire" reaches number one.

Las Vegas, USA, January 29, 1958: Joanne Woodward and Paul Newman are married at the El Rancho Hotel-Casino.
Memphis, USA, March 24, 1958: Elvis Presley enters the army today, having received a draft notice.
New York, USA, August 18, 1958: Putnam publishes the first American edition of Vladimir Nabokov's controversial novel *Lolita*.
USA, January 5, 1959: A live children's television show, *Bozo the Clown*, premieres.

Iowa, USA, February 3, 1959: Rock-and-rollers Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and J. P. Richardson die in a plane crash.
Arizona, USA, April 9, 1959: Acclaimed architect Frank Lloyd Wright dies, aged 91.
New York, USA, November 16, 1959: Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical *The Sound of Music* opens.



Elvis Presley

"I WAS BORN AT THE AGE OF TWELVE ON A METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER LOT."

JUDY GARLAND (FRANCES GUMM) (1922-1969), AMERICAN ACTRESS AND SINGER

"THE NOTES I HANDLE NO BETTER THAN MANY PIANISTS. BUT THE PAUSES BETWEEN THE NOTES—AH, THAT IS WHERE THE ART RESIDES."

ARTUR SCHNABEL (1882-1951), AUSTRIAN PIANIST, 1948

No-Action Drama Opens on London Stage

London, England, August 3, 1955: This evening saw the first English performance of a new play by an Irish writer named Samuel Beckett, whose play is perplexing to say the least. It is essentially a drama without drama. The two main characters are tramps who do not go anywhere, do nothing of any note, and engage, for two acts, in some rather pointless, albeit learned, literate, and occasionally amusing, small talk and slapstick tomfoolery. All this while they wait for someone named "Godot" who never arrives. Two other tramps come along in the middle of each act—a master and his slave—though their appearance causes no real development.

The play is unusual in another sense, in that this is no drawing-room play with a missing fourth wall open to the audience. The scenery consists only of a denuded tree. Naturalism this is not.

At one point in this evening's performance, a character in the play remarked, "Nobody comes. Nobody goes. It's awful." "Hear! Hear!" cried someone from the stalls. A portion of the audience cheered, while others dissented.

Beckett has the distinction, or the notoriety, of having served, in the 1930s, as some sort of secretary to his Irish compatriot James Joyce, which may go some way to explaining his perplexing play.

"Angry Young Man," Says Press Release for New Play

London, England, May 22, 1956: A startlingly irreverent new drama, playing to almost empty houses at the Royal Court Theatre, has got critics talking, even if only to say how much they dislike it. The play, *Look Back in Anger*, written by 26-year-old John Osborne, is an assault on both contemporary Britain and on British theater.

Instead of the usual drawing-room play of upper-class manners, Osborne's work is set in a one-bedroom flat. The protagonist is a passionate, idealistic, articulate, but restless and thwarted lower-middle-class man who is trapped in a dead-end job. He rages with frustration and dissatisfaction with his lot, and directs cruel invective at his upper-middle-class wife and

at a society which is seen as mediocre, stultifying, and crippled by its seemingly indestructible class structure.

Kenneth Tynan, in the *Observer*, is perhaps the only critic who has become a passionate advocate of this raw drama, seeing it as the first totally original play of a new generation and its protagonist as "the completest young pup in our literature since Hamlet."

Bestseller Hits Raw Nerve

New York, USA, December, 1956: An unlikely bestseller occupied our bookshelves this year. William H. Whyte's *The Organization Man* is not a salacious and page-turning tale but a sometimes dry work of non-fiction (some might wish it were a fiction), and yet its sales suggest that its argument has hit a raw nerve in our seeming utopia.

It documents a fundamental shift in the American way of life from competitive individualism and "inner-directedness," as David Riesman described it in *The Lonely Crowd*, to "other-directedness." This trend parallels the rise of large-scale social organization and the shift away from production to consumption and from blue-collar to white-collar work.

According to Whyte, Americans are losing the independent-mindedness, ambition, and initiative that are the hallmarks of our nation, as their mindset becomes increasingly shaped by the demands of large corporations. In other words, America is becoming a nation of conformists whose focus is on advancement through the firm by fitting in with others and agreeing with established views, rather than innovating. In the process, a fear has developed of difference and originality in thought and lifestyle. His concerns are echoed in the bestselling book and film *The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit*.

Achievements in the Arts

Key Structures

Aalto Studio, Helsinki, Finland
Aalto Summer House, Muuratsalo, Finland
Cao Dai Temple, Tay Ninh, Vietnam
Grand Hotel, Taipei, Taiwan
Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA
Hiroshima Peace Centre, Hiroshima, Japan
House of Culture, Helsinki, Finland
Kingo Houses, Elsinore, Denmark
Los Manantiales, Xochimilco, Mexico
Maisons Jaoul, Paris, France
Maria Konigin, Cologne-Marienburg, Germany
Meiji Shrine, Tokyo, Japan
Munkegaards School, Copenhagen, Denmark
Notre-Dame-du-Haut, Ronchamp, France
One Pillar Pagoda, Ha Noi, Vietnam
Otaniemi Technical University Chapel, Otaniemi, Finland
Phillips Pavilion, Brussels, Belgium
Shodan House, Ahmedabad, India
Sidney Myer Music Bowl, Melbourne, Australia
United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA
Unite d'Habitation, Marseilles, France

Nobel Prize in Literature

1950 Bertrand Russell; 1951 Par Lagerkvist; 1952 Francois Mauriac; 1953 Sir Winston Churchill; 1954 Ernest Hemingway; 1955 Halldor Laxness; 1956 Juan Ramon Jimenez; 1957 Albert Camus; 1958 Boris Pasternak (declined prize); 1959 Salvatore Quasimodo.

Pulitzer Prize for Fiction

1950 *The Way West*, A. B. Guthrie, Jr.; 1951 *The Town*, Conrad Richter; 1952 *The Caine Mutiny*, Herman Wouk; 1953 *The Old Man and the Sea*, Ernest Hemingway; 1954 no award given; 1955 *A Fable*, William Faulkner; 1956 *Andersonville*, MacKinlay Kantor; 1957 no award given; 1958 *A Death in the Family*, James Agee; 1959 *The Travels of Jaimie McPheeters*, Robert Lewis Taylor.

Academy Awards

Best Film 1950 *All About Eve*; 1951 *An American in Paris*; 1952 *The Greatest Show on Earth*; 1953 *From Here to Eternity*; 1954 *On the Waterfront*; 1955 *Marty*; 1956 *Around the World in 80 Days*; 1957 *The Bridge Over the River Kwai*; 1958 *Gigi*; 1959 *Ben-Hur*.

BAFTAs

Best Film 1950 *All About Eve*; 1951 *La Ronde*; 1952 *The Sound Barrier*; 1953 *Jeux Interdits*; 1954 *Le Salaire de la Peur*; 1955 *Richard III*; 1956 *Gervaise*; 1957 *The Bridge on the River Kwai*; 1958 *Room at the Top*; 1959 *Ben-Hur*.

Elvis De-pelvised

New York, USA, January 7, 1957: National phenomenon Elvis Presley has made his third appearance on the *Ed Sullivan Show*. After the raging controversy over his wild gyrations, "Elvis the Pelvis" was shown on television last night strictly from the waist up. Sullivan once vowed never to have the singer on his show but relented owing to the ratings success experienced by rivals. Sullivan paid \$50,000 for the three appearances, the most ever paid for a performer by a network variety program. Sullivan was duly rewarded with an audience of 60 million (82.6 percent of the television audience).

With his sultry, almost sullen, greasy look, ducktail haircut, informal attire, and his amalgam of hillbilly and black music, the singer topped the Billboard charts for 25 of the 52 weeks last year and had two number-one LPs. Last week the *Wall Street Journal* declared that "Elvis Presley today is a business," noting his impact on the youth market.

Presley merchandising is said to have grossed over \$22 million, and includes everything from stuffed hound dogs to colognes. Sales of "rock" records and Presley-style clothing have skyrocketed. He recently starred in his first film, *Love Me Tender*, and is said to have signed a three-picture deal for \$450,000.

Presley has been denounced by his own church as a sinful backslider who is playing the devil's music. In August last year a Juvenile Court judge in Florida referred to the singer as a "savage" and declared he would have him arrested if he gyrated while playing in Jacksonville. Presley responded by standing still but wiggling one finger.

Nonetheless, teenagers, especially the young girls, love him. They flock to his concerts and behave in such a hysterical manner that a hundred National Guardsmen had to ring the stage at the Mississippi-Alabama Fair. If his appearances are banned, young people pile into cars and travel to where he is playing.

Today's affluence means that the young have the money to buy their own radios and record players. Radio stations, aware of that spending power, play this music, allowing children to circumvent parental authority. It seems that the more Presley is disdained by the older generation, the more he is beloved by the young. In this way he has become a symbol of the new youth culture and a focus for the older generation's anxieties about the generation gap and juvenile delinquency.

Peyton Place Now a Movie

New York, USA, December 14, 1957: Last night the red carpet was rolled out for the première of the film *Peyton Place*, which is based on a sensational best-seller by Grace Metalious. Few will admit to reading the book, although it has sold three million copies since being released in

The New England town of Gilmanton is fictionalized in the novel *Peyton Place*.

paperback this fall. It has almost single-handedly demonstrated the great profitability of the mass-market paperback.

The novel tears the lid off life in a small New England town. It depicts a community which is driven by lust, incest, infidelity, abortion, murder, social inequality, conformity, hypocrisy, and class privilege. Denounced by the clergy, it was initially expected to sell about 3,000 copies. Instead, it shifted 60,000 within 10 days of its hardback release last year and remained on the bestseller list for 59 weeks. The film rights were sold for \$250,000.

Grace Metalious was raised by her grandmother after her father deserted the family and her mother became an alcoholic. She grew up in poverty that was not alleviated by marriage, but drove her to become a writer. She lives in small-town Gilmanton in New England but insists her novel is not autobiographical, even though the incest-murder at the story's heart was based on a real incident in a nearby town and at least one local has filed suit for libel. She is not a popular figure in her home town; she is known for her unladylike style of dressing (jeans, sneakers, flannel shirts) and for the negative publicity she has brought.

Those expecting big-screen sensationalism from the film adaptation may be disappointed, as it is much altered and far tamer than the novel.

Beat Writers Blasted

New York, USA, April 3, 1958: Yesterday, in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, columnist Herb Caen coined the term "beatnik" when he referred to a group of young disaffected writers. Caen's unflattering allusion conjures up a social milieu of bearded complaining malcontents who are eager to avoid work and drink free alcohol.

Caen is not alone in his views. In this season's issue of *Partisan Review*, Norman Podhoretz has delivered a scathing blast in his essay, "The Know-Nothing Bohemians," in which he refers to them as anti-intellectual "barbarians" who, like today's delinquents, are "hostile to civilization" and who worship "primitivism" and "instinct."

One of the group's leading lights, Jack Kerouac, published the novel *On the Road* last September. Despite some good sales, and a positive review in the *New York Times*, Kerouac and the

Beats have been criticized in the *Nation*, the *Atlantic Monthly*, the *New York Times Book Review*, *Commentary*, and the *Chicago Tribune*. Most of these reviews have taken exception to the morality (or lack of it) in the novel, which depicts a group of people traveling the country in flight from commitment, steady employment, and "straight" society, listening to jazz, drinking, taking drugs, and engaging in promiscuous behavior. However, in fairness, it must be noted that the protagonist's romanticized attitude to this lifestyle and to his "holy" friend, the ex-con Dean Moriarty, does sour toward the novel's conclusion.



Samuel Beckett



Beat poets Allen Ginsberg (left) and Gregory Corso during a poetry reading party.

Dr Seuss (Theodor Seuss Geisel) holding his book *The Cat in the Hat*.