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# Richland Review

July 2010



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Richland Place\* 500 Elmington Ave, Nashville, TN 37205\* 615-269-4200

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## **Celebrating July**

**Picnic Month**

**Recreation & Parks Month**

**Anti-Boredom Month**

**Canada Day**  
*July 1*

**U.S.: Independence Day**  
*July 4*

**Hop-a-Park Day &  
Clerihew Day**  
*July 10*

**France: Bastille Day**  
*July 14*

**Cow Appreciation Day**  
*July 17*

**Ugly Truck Day**  
*July 20*

**Hammock Day**  
*July 22*

**Cheesecake Day**  
*July 30*



## **Mongolia's Manly Month**

Manliness is close to godliness in Mongolia, especially from July 11-13 during Naadam, a celebration of the nation's "Three Manly Games," wrestling, horseback riding, and archery. All across Mongolia's dusty steppes, descendants of Genghis Khan's Mongols turn out for the world's second-oldest Olympic-style competition. In these "manly games," men show off skills that have been part of Mongolian nomadic life for 800 years. But today the word "manly" is inaccurate, because both women and children participate.

The manliest game is wrestling, and it is still only for men. Over 500 massive wrestlers, dressed in the traditional uniform of bikini trunks, leather boots, and arm coverings, grapple each other to the ground. Winners dance the eagle dance, become national heroes, and earn nicknames like The Invincibly Powerful, The Perfect Among Ten Thousand, and Honored Master of Mongolian Sports. One year, a woman pretending to be a man won the competition, and every year thereafter wrestlers have been forced to compete bare-chested.

Today, women rule the archery competition. They must fire arrows made of willow branches and vulture feathers at 360 small leather targets, which are placed over 100 feet away. Before the contestant shoots, the audience shouts, "Hit the target!"

The last manly sport, horseback riding, is for children, whose smallness makes them perfect jockeys. Mongolians joke that their children ride horses before they learn to walk, and it is common to see five-year-olds riding in the competition. Horses and jockeys train for months leading up to the races, and spectators watch breathlessly as the horses gallop up to 30 kilometers. Since it is the horse that wins, not the jockey, horses are trained to keep racing even if the rider falls off. When the race is over, spectators fight to slap the hindquarters of the winning horses, because the horse perspiration brings good luck all year.

## GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH KEN AND EVELYN LARSON

Ken grew up on a Wisconsin farm, and met Evelyn when he came to work in her hometown of Waconia, Minnesota after World War II. Evelyn reports that they were not impressed when they first met – but soon overcame their first impressions after he took her on a date in his Model A Ford, and they married in 1948.

Evelyn graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Education, and taught Home Economics in public schools.

Ken was in the Civil Air Patrol during his senior year of high school and learned to fly in a small Piper Cub. After graduation, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps in the cadet pilot program at Washington University in St. Louis. However, as many young men were in those days, he was eager to be actively involved before the war was over, so he volunteered to serve as an aerial gunner – and finish pilot training later. He was sent to England with the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force and served in the 92<sup>nd</sup> Bomb Group – known as “Fame’s Favorite Few”. He served on 6 combat missions as a tail gunner before being seriously wounded over Germany, but after months of rehab he returned to fly 24 more combat missions.

Ken related a recent memorable experience, when several years ago he attended the dedication of the World War II Museum in Washington, and he was interviewed by a representative of the Smithsonian who was gathering veterans’ histories for the museum. Ken received the Distinguished Flying Cross from General Jimmy Doolittle, and also received five air medals, the European Theater Medal with 4 bronze stars, and also the French Legion of Honor Medal.

After his discharge in 1945 he remained in the Reserve until after he married in 1948. His civilian career was with United Telephone Company, in engineering and management, and he and Evelyn and their two children lived in different towns all over the Midwest. When he retired after 39 years, he was Vice-President of the company. In 1986 he and Evelyn moved to Naples, Fla., where they lived until moving to Richland Place.

Ken and Evelyn have a son and a daughter, a step-grandson, plus 4 grand-dogs and 3 grand-cats!

They both have enjoyed golf, and Evelyn formed the Women’s Island View Golf Club and was president for two years. Ken’s special hobby was flying radio-controlled airplanes. Evelyn enjoys playing bridge, and although she hasn’t played much lately, she hopes to find a group here to pick it up again. They were members of the Moravian Church for many years, but since there is no congregation in our area, Ken reports that both the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches are very similar.

Their daughter, who lives in Nashville, had a favorable impression of Richland Place from her husband’s aunt, who lived here. She toured Richland Place as well as other retirement living situations, and urged Ken and Evelyn to move here. Later, during a visit to the Steeplechase, they met a Richland resident who raved about it – and this made a real impression on them.

So here they are – and still getting settled, but are looking forward to meeting new friends and enjoying life here. Ken reports, “I’m not as serious as people think I am, and I’ve never found a stranger”. They both have many more interesting stories to relate, so I’ll give you the opportunity to find out for yourself - you could start by asking Evelyn about her surprise visit to Mount Rushmore in a hot air balloon. ☺

Interviewed by Dee Batey

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## Barbershop Songs

“Let Freedom Sing!” That’s the motto of the Barbershop Harmony Society for their international convention from June 28-July 4 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

This unique “a cappella” music originated in the barbershops of black communities. African-American gospel singers gathered in local barbershops to rehearse their singing for church. What makes barbershop music unique is the “ringing chord.” When the four voices in the quartet harmonize perfectly, the illusion of a fifth singer is created, producing a distinct sound known as “the angel’s voice.” Barbershop quartets practice endlessly to attain this difficult and elusive chord.



With the advent of radio, live performances went out of fashion and barbershop quartets were on the verge of extinction, but a lawyer and singer named Owen C. Cash acted to make sure the barbershop sound was preserved. On April 11, 1938, he gathered friends on the rooftop garden of a Tulsa, Oklahoma hotel. They burst into singing, stopping traffic on the street below and warranting a visit by local police, who told them to keep it down. But the Barbershop Harmony Society was founded and soon even women were forming their own “beauty shop quartets.”

In appreciation of the barbershop quartet, gather three of your friends, unite your voices, and belt out a tune, perhaps a barbershop favorite, “Down by the Old Mill Stream.”

*My darling I am dreaming of the days gone by,  
When you and I were sweethearts beneath the  
summer sky;  
Your hair has turned to silver the gold has faded  
too;  
But still I will remember, where I first met you.*

## Awards and Honors

The Medal of Honor is the highest military honor awarded in the United States. It is awarded for “gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States.” This distinguished medal was established on July 12, 1862, by President Abraham Lincoln, and it was originally intended to be awarded only to those fighting in the Civil War.

The first recipient of the Medal of Honor was General Winfield Scott, a 75-year-old Civil War general who was so overweight he could not even mount a horse. Scott, who some people thought was senile, devised the plan that would eventually help to defeat the Confederacy. When the Medal of Honor was first proposed, General Scott did not like it. He opposed the European idea of receiving awards for heroism, yet thanks to his plan the Union was preserved.

## France’s Yellow Jersey

France’s race for the yellow jersey takes place from July 3 to July 25. This demanding 2,200-mile bicycle race has been compared to running a marathon several days a week for almost three weeks. Each day, cyclists pedal as fast as they can to finish that stage, with some stages cruising over flat ground, and other stages rising up over grueling mountain passes. The winner dons the yellow jersey.



The Tour is a source of national pride in France, and millions of people watch by the roadside, sometimes even causing collisions with cyclists. The first Tour de France was staged in 1903, and in its 107-year history there has been only one seven-time winner. The American Lance Armstrong won the race for seven straight years, from 1999 to 2005.



## What's Coming Up in July

- Devotional Service on Tuesday, July 13 at 3:00 pm
- Dog Days of Summer, free Hot Dog lunch in the Dining Room on Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup>
- New Resident Mixer on Tuesday, July 20<sup>th</sup>. Cocktails at 5:30 and dinner at 6:00 pm.
- Trip to the Frist Center on Wednesday, July 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00am
- Slideshow on "Beautiful Switzerland" by Dr. Fusner on Thursday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3:00 pm
- July Birthday Dinner on Wednesday, July 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:45 pm

• *Our July Devotional Program will be presented by the Reverend Battle Beasley of St. Mark's Episcopal Church. The devotional service will be held on Tuesday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm.*

### Limo Service Reminder



Please make all appointments at least 24 hours in advance or your request may not be accommodated.

- Remember that the limo runs only in a 5 mile radius of Richland Place.
- Doctor appointment transportation takes priority over other types of rides.
- Please schedule appointments during our business hours of Monday-Friday from 8:00am-4:30pm.
- Please call Matthew when you need to be picked up at 615-969-3655.
- Please be prompt for all appointments and remember that the limo must be returned to Richland Place by 4:30 pm.

No limo service on holidays.

## July Birthdays

If you were born from June 22-July 22, you are a Cancer, the crab. If you were born from July 23-August 22, you are a Leo, the lion. A Cancer can be highly emotional, caring, generous, and intuitive. Leos are creative, enthusiastic, charismatic, and ambitious.

**Ejay Vidrine 7/3**  
**Jean Barksdale 7/4**  
**Sarah Hawes 7/13**  
**Elizabeth Cormier 7/14**  
**Dr. Fred Cowden 7/16**  
**John Morris 7/18**  
**Bishop Roy Clark 7/24**  
**Dee McNabb-Batey 7/31**



## Mirror, Mirror on the Wall

While standing in front of your mirror on July 3, give both your good-looking self and your mirror a compliment because the third is Compliment Your Mirror Day. After years of displaying your beautiful or handsome face, isn't it time you thanked your mirror for all its wonderful work?



Humans have been admiring themselves in mirrors for 10,000 years. The first mirrors were probably pools of water, and then people of ancient cultures fashioned mirrors out of polished stone and metal. Today, mirrors are made by applying a reflective silver coating to the back of a pane of glass. No matter what they're made of, their shape, size, or style, mirrors have played an important role throughout civilization – reminding us of how good we look. Time to return the favor.