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# Richland Review

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August 2010



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Richland Place \* 500 Elmington Ave \* 615-269-4200

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## Celebrating August

**Catfish Month**

**Golf Month**

**Watermelon Day**

*August 3*

**Elvis Week**

*August 10-16*

**Relaxation Day**

*August 15*

**Weird Contest Week**

*August 15-20*

**Radio Day**

*August 20*

**Be An Angel Day**

*August 22*

**Second Hand Wardrobe Day**

*August 25*

**Women's Equality Day**

*August 26*

**Toasted Marshmallow Day**

*August 30*

## Scouting Sweeps the Globe

At the turn of the twentieth century, a British Army officer named Robert Baden-Powell was stationed in India when he noticed that many of his soldiers did not know basic first aid or survival skills. His solution was to write a handbook called *Aids to Scouting*, which detailed qualities of leadership and self-reliance. When Baden-Powell returned to England he discovered that boys all across the country were using his handbook to play scouting games. Baden-Powell had a flash of inspiration. In August of 1907, he took twenty-two boys to a camp on Brownsea Island off of England's southern coast. For twelve glorious days they hiked, went on patrols, learned to cook outdoors, and practiced skills necessary to survive in the backcountry. On that island, scouting began and Baden-Powell's concept soon swept across the globe.

In order for scouting to reach America, an American businessman had to get lost in the fog in England. William D. Boyce was stumbling through a thick fog when a young boy miraculously appeared and offered to guide him. After they had made their way through the fog, Boyce attempted to tip the boy, but the boy refused and explained that he was a scout and scouts never accepted payment in return for a "good turn." Boyce listened in awe as the boy explained the principles of scouting. Boyce even met with Baden-Powell himself. By the time he boarded his ocean liner back to America, he had an entire suitcase filled with handbooks and ideas about scouting. The "unknown scout" who helped Boyce through the fog was never identified, but thanks to his "good turn," Boyce created the Boy Scouts of America in 1910.

Baden-Powell was named Chief Scout of the World and after his death a letter was found in his desk that read: "Try and leave the world a little better than you found it." Fitting words from a man who has inspired millions of children worldwide to act with honor and good character.

## GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH BILLYE GROGAN

Billye Marguerite Lee Spicer Grogan was born and raised in Cookeville, TN. Although she had no siblings, she had many relatives, and she was fortunate to be able to know all four of her grandparents and seven of her great-grandparents. Her favorite memories are of family Christmases, especially the one when her parents decided not to soak the fruitcakes because Cookeville was a “dry county”, and their food baskets were given to so many. However, each decided to soak the cake without telling the other – and when the truth surfaced, they decided to include cake in the baskets after all. “The phone nearly jangled off the wall, letters arrived, and men actually waited on the street to stop my Dad on the drive home from work, all with compliments to Mrs. Lee on the best fruitcake she had ever made!”

Billye attended Tenn. Tech in Cookeville, majoring in Business and Economics. When World War II started, she decided that since her parents had no son, she would join the military herself, and she was in the U.S. Army Air Corps., Air Transport Command. She spent much of the war in Miami, Fla., in charge of the furlough station – which made her very popular with many airmen! After the war, she worked at the Veterans Administration in Nashville, and was a U.S. Army reservist during the Korean Conflict.

When asked about the wildest thing she ever did, Billye shared an event when she worked in the Social Security office and she broke up a fight between an employee and a client – two longshoremen, both well over six feet! “Of the four of us in management, the three men suddenly evaporated”. So Billye went up to the brawlers, putting out her arms and saying “Gentlemen! Gentlemen!” They looked down at that genteel Southern lady and didn’t know what to make of her – so she was able to separate them into different rooms until things cooled down. Billye said, “I must have been totally crazed!”

She met Philip Spicer at an American Legion convention at the Hermitage Hotel, and he kept turning up in her life during the next eight years, so they finally decided to marry. They spent 40 happy years in Galveston County, Texas, where Philip practiced law. They had no children, but Philip had a grown son from a previous marriage, and he and his wife have remained close to Billye ever since.

She was in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade with James Grogan in Cookeville, although neither of them remembered it! Years later they renewed their acquaintance at high school reunions, and discovered that James’ wife had died two months after Billye’s husband. They decided that they were meant to be together, so they married and Billye moved back to Cookeville, where they lived for 12 years until James died in January of 2010.

Billye says: “I came to Richland Place because my home was lonely and far too big for one person. The apartments here are soundproof, and I can play my piano and organ for my own amusement, although I do admit to being so out of practice that even I am not amused! I enjoy listening to good, live music, knitting and needlepoint. I’ve travelled to many places, and I made a good decision to come here.”

Interviewed by Dee Batey

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## Unbelievable Discoveries

On August 25, 1835, the residents of New York opened the *Sun* newspaper to read about a miraculous discovery. The eminent British astronomer Sir John Herschel was testing a powerful new telescope on the Cape of Good Hope in southern Africa. Looking through his telescope at the moon he was able to identify oceans and beaches, trees and plants, bison and goats, blue unicorns, and a race of upright walking beavers that lived in huts. Most astounding of all, Herschel had observed a civilization of tiny, furry men with bat-like wings. The *Vespertilio-homo*, or "man-bat," even



worshipped at the Temple of the Moon, a beautiful golden-roofed structure built of sapphire. When the article appeared in the *New York Sun*, the newspaper became the most-read newspaper in the world.

Other newspapers frantically rushed to cover the extraordinary story, and some even pretended to acquire the original scientific report so they could publish copies of the *New York Sun's* article. The article, of course, was a hoax, but it was not discovered as such until many weeks later. Herschel himself did not know that the discoveries had been attributed to him, and was quite amused when he found out. Edgar Allan Poe, too, was amused by the story. He had recently published the short story "The Unparalleled Adventure of One Hans Pfall," where a man voyages to the moon in a hot air balloon. Poe was allegedly working on a follow-up to the story when the newspaper article broke, and he abandoned his work because he felt that he could not compete with the fantastic fictional reporting.

The *New York Sun* never issued an apology or admission that the article was a fake, and thanks to the Great Moon Hoax it remained one of the world's most popular newspapers.

## Getting Acquainted with Mr. Sam

Unless you eat lunch occasionally in our dining room you are not likely to encounter one of Richland Place's treasures. His name is Sam Moore and he has worked on our wait-staff for 17 years. He played football at Pearl High and can clip off football greats, scores and stadiums at the drop of a fork. Although football remains his favorite sport he can recall baseball games at Sulphur Dale Park when black teams came at the start of the season with names like Cleveland Buckeyes and Birmingham Black Barons. He saw Satchel Paige pitch for the Pittsburgh Crawfords before he moved to the Cleveland Indians.

Sam was born in Nashville in 1932, the only child of a mother who allowed no foolishness from him. When questioned about growing up here he answered "It was complicated. There were places I could not go. Kress's on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue had separate fountains and bathrooms for coloreds and whites." His first job was as a busman at the Hermitage Hotel when he was fourteen. He could slip away off duty and see a movie for ten cents. Today he matches any memory of ours to name favorite old stars.

He married in 1951. They had five children only one of whom lives in Nashville. Three children live in California where one works in security, one is a nurse and one owns a limo business. When asked about grandchildren he scratches his head and recalls fourteen grandchildren (including one set of twins) and five great-grands.

Sam speaks fondly of his Grandmother who lived with them after her husband died. She grew up in Appomatox, Virginia and remembered when General Grant set fire to Richmond. She and his mother were responsible for instilling in him a work ethic that included "Do the best you can and don't be lazy."

~Submitted by Keyes Tate

## What's Coming Up in August

- Coach to Fontanel Trails and then lunch at the Farmhouse Restaurant. We will spend about 1 hour walking and exploring and then lunch. Coach will leave at 10:00 am on Wednesday, August 4th
  - Devotional Service on Tuesday, August 10 at 3:00 pm.
  - Trip to the Village Pub on Friday, August 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:00. The Village Pub is Mailman Tom's son's new bar. The menu and news article will be posted in the Mailroom.
  - Dog Days of Summer, free Hot Dog lunch in the Dining Room on Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup>
  - August Birthday Dinner on Wednesday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:45 pm.
  - Luau! On Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. Cocktails and Luau performance in the courtyard at 5:00. Dinner and dancing in the Dining Room at 6:00. Check the calendar and special postings for all of the day's events.
  - Trip to Bobbie's Dairy Dip for a late summer Ice Cream on Tuesday, August 31<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 pm.
- *Our August Devotional Program will be presented by Dr. Frank R. Lewis, Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church Nashville. The devotional service will be held on Tuesday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm.*

## Italy's Flawed Tower

Construction of Italy's famous Leaning Tower of Pisa began on August 9, 1173. It is the freestanding bell tower to the neighboring cathedral, and, of course, was never meant to lean. The tower first began to tilt in 1178. Its design was flawed from the beginning due to a shallow foundation set in weak and uneven soil. In 1272, engineers tried to compensate for the lean by building upper floors with one side taller than the other, but this caused the tower to lean in the other direction.

Multiple methods have been employed to fix the tower's lean, including the addition of lead counterweights and anchor cables. Finally, in 2008, soil was removed from its base and the tower stopped moving for the first time in its history, preserving its famous angle of 3.97 degrees.

## Boop-Oop-a-Doop

Betty Boop made her cartoon debut on August 9, 1930. The creation of animator Grim Natwick, Betty Boop was originally a French poodle. She didn't become fully human until 1932, when her poodle ears became hoop earrings and her voice adopted her trademark Brooklyn accent.



Although she was a star of the Depression Era, she embodied the carefree flapper girls of the Jazz Age. She earned an adult audience due to her cute and flirtatious personality. Oftentimes, the teenage Betty Boop was depicted defying her parents. She was a modern young woman who got herself in and out of trouble.

Betty Boop's popularity still continues today. She has made cameo appearances in modern newspaper cartoon strips as well as animated films. A Betty Boop musical is even in development on Broadway.

## Mysteries of the Deep



Who knows what monsters roam the uncharted depths of the world's oceans? For as long as humans have sailed the seas, they have told stories of mythical underwater sea serpents.

On August 7, Sea Serpent Day, these tales may make you think twice about visiting the local beach:

A 1555 report from Norway tells of "a serpent of fearsome size...it has long hair hanging from its neck, sharp black scales, and flaming red eyes. It attacks vessels, grabs and swallows people, and lifts itself up like a column from the water."

In 1734, the crew on board a ship sailing past Greenland "saw a most terrible creature, resembling nothing they saw before. The monster lifted its head so high that it seemed to be higher than the crow's nest on the mainmast. The monster was longer than our whole ship."

In August of 1848, the crew of the HMS Daedalus sighted a serpent in the South Atlantic that was at least sixty feet long with a maned head above the water.

In 1905, off the coast of Brazil, the crew of the ship Valhalla, including two scientists, spied a long-necked, turtle-headed creature with a massive dorsal fin.

As recently as 1983, a construction crew working near the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco witnessed a one hundred foot creature underwater speeding towards land. Using binoculars, they watched it make coils in the sea.

Sea serpent sightings continue today, especially along the coast of America's Pacific Northwest. What makes these sightings so compelling are that entire crews, not just individuals, witness the same sea serpent. Are they myth or reality?

## August Birthdays

If you were born from July 23-August 22, you are a Leo, the lion. If you were born from August 23-September 22, you are a Virgo, the virgin. Leos are creative, enthusiastic, generous, and extroverted. Nothing can stop these charismatic and ambitious leaders. Virgos are modest, intelligent, reliable, practical, and able to clearly analyze the most complex of problems.

**Joyce Burton 8/6**

**David Fox 8/6**

**Margaret Sloan 8/6**

**Ray Harrington 8/10**

**Albert Reinfeld 8/11**

**Jean Stumpf 8/13**

**Louie Wilkinson 8/13**

**Nell Wiser 8/17**

**Jean Stewart 8/20**

**Helen Black 8/24**

**Realta Kearley 8/24**

**Bill Scanlan 8/25**

**Jean Gould 8/27**

**Mary Alice Peerman 8/27**

## Fuel of the Future?

Biodiesel has been trumpeted as cleaner, more environmentally-friendly, and more economical than petroleum-based fuels. In an effort to spread awareness of this energy source, countries around the world have named August 10 International Biodiesel Day.



Biodiesel is an alternative fuel that utilizes natural oils from soybeans, peanuts, sunflowers, coconuts, palms, rapeseeds, old coffee grounds, and even algae. While biodiesel's greatest benefits may be yet to come, it was used as fuel in the 1800s. Rudolf Diesel himself, the inventor of the diesel engine, ran his first engine on peanut oil on August 10, 1893.