

August 2020

Evergreen News

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Psalm 86: 11-12 “Teach me your way, Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may revere your name.” The Message version ends this verse with ***“undivided, I’ll worship in joyful fear.”***

As I write this morning, my thoughts are a bit scattered; landing on one thought for meditation is difficult. But this is our reality. We hold the truth of God’s power and our pitfalls, our praise and lament, our fight and our surrender in our mind and experience always.

In today’s reading, the prayer is well placed: “God, my soul feels scattered and incoherent like that poor wretch Legion (Mark 5:2-10). Gather up my diverse needs, my conflicting desires, my jumbled identity, and make a harmonious whole of me, ‘give me an undivided heart to revere your name.’ Amen.”

Recently my husband’s personal statement essay from a 1984 law school application was discovered in some old files. Remarkably it sets forth in hope and dream the person he has fully become....more than we hope or imagine. It was so solidly him, just young not knowing any of what was to come. Reading it, the helm of God’s hand and direction seems so incredibly sure, in spite of how scattered it often feels.

Listening to resident stories brings about this similar reframing. The remarkable-ness of a life, the blessing of impact both from and to others, the strength and breath of truth, survival ...and always, always thankfulness...is what stands out when it is said out loud. In the telling, one is named. What seems scattered or meaningless can be seen as hemmed in and held by the arms of God.

Praise and thankfulness completes the journey of reframing, ushering us into God’s presence and breath. Undivided, we worship in joyful reverence.

Chaplain Sheri

The Road to Success

The road trip—more specifically the cross-country road trip—is considered an American rite of passage. The automobile itself encapsulates American notions of personal freedom, adventure, and self-sufficiency. The road trip even figures prominently in some of America’s greatest novels, such as Jack Kerouac’s *On the Road* and John Steinbeck’s *Travels with Charley: In Search of America*. Yet before road trips became an American obsession, Bertha Benz, wife and business partner of the German automobile inventor Karl Benz, became the first person in the world to complete one.



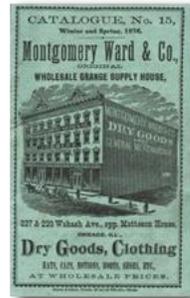
Karl was a brilliant engineer, as evidenced by the invention of his three-wheeled “horseless carriage.” It was Bertha, however, who saw the need to publicize her husband’s automobile, especially in light of the work of Gottlieb Daimler, who was perfecting his four-wheeled automobile. So, in early August of 1888, Bertha gathered her two teenage sons and hit the road to visit her mother in Pforzheim, 65 miles away. Bertha, setting out on the world’s first road trip, acted as both driver and mechanic. Stories tell of how she repaired a broken ignition with her garter and unclogged a fuel line with a hatpin. When the wooden brakes wore thin, she implored a cobbler to install leather soles as the world’s first brake pads. With each town she passed, both Bertha’s fame and the publicity for the Benz auto grew. Smartly, Bertha returned home via a different route, further spreading the fame of the Benz auto and the ingenious woman who drove it. By the time Bertha arrived home, auto orders were pouring in and Benz was birthing an industry.

Just over 20 years later, another woman would make driving history. Twenty-two-year-old Alice Ramsey became the first woman to drive across America, from New York to San Francisco. Like Bertha had, Ramsey faced poor roads and made many ingenious repairs to her 1909 Maxwell DA, but on August 7, 1909, after 59 days and 3,800 miles, she became the first female driver to complete that transcontinental rite of passage.

Flower Power

August 28 is Daffodil Day, a day celebrating this beautiful flower. The ancient Greeks, who called the flower a narcissus, acknowledged its beauty in their myths. A man named Narcissus was so taken with his own beauty that, after seeing his reflection in a pool of water, he stopped to admire himself. He was so obsessed with his beauty that he could not pull himself away from his own reflection. Alas, he died at the waterside, and in his place grew the first daffodil. It is from this myth that we get both the flower’s name and the word *narcissist*, a word for those who admire themselves too much. But why shouldn’t daffodils admire themselves? They are beautiful, after all. And because they are some of the first flowers to bloom in the spring, they are also associated with rebirth, renewal, new beginnings, and hope. For this reason, daffodils have become a potent symbol of hope in the fight against cancer. Cancer councils around the world use Daffodil Day to raise funds to support life-saving cancer research.

Mighty Mail-Order



On August 18, 1872, Aaron Montgomery Ward mailed out a catalog detailing the wares he had for sale at his dry goods business in Chicago. His 8 X 12-inch pricing sheet was the world’s first mail-order catalog. Ward believed that people living in rural communities wanted city goods and that he could provide them at an affordable cost. He mailed his goods from Chicago to rural train stations, where customers could pick them up. Country folk loved the wide selection of goods Ward was able to offer, and his idea gathered steam over the next few years. Rural retailers tried to thwart his success by burning the catalogs, to no avail. By 1883, Ward’s modest pricing sheet had become a 240-page “Wish Book” filled with 10,000 items. Ward had become the titan of the mail-order business.

Only You

During World War II, Japanese submarines bombed a California oil field and nearly triggered a massive forest fire. This prompted the Forest Service to run ads in conjunction with the War Advertising Council that read, “Another Enemy to Conquer: Forest Fires” and “Careless Matches Aid the Axis.” Disney had just released the hit *Bambi* and allowed the young animated deer to be used as a mascot. Then, on August 9, 1944, the U.S. Forest Service retired Bambi and adopted Smokey Bear as its new mascot, wearing his trademark Ranger’s hat and blue jeans and carrying a shovel. Soon, every camper in America knew about Smokey and his mission to prevent forest fires.



In 1950, a manmade fire swept through Lincoln National Forest in New Mexico. While trapped by the flames, twenty-four firefighters found a lone black bear cub clinging to a smoldering tree. All survived, and the rescued cub was named Smokey. He was moved to the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., where visitors could meet the real-life Smokey Bear, learn his story of survival, and understand the horrible dangers forest fires pose to both wildlife and society.

Over the decades, Smokey’s message has sunk into the consciousness of America. The average amount of forest consumed by fire fell steadily each year, from 22 million acres in 1944 to 6.6 million in 2011. Americans understood the dangers and destructiveness of forest fires and that fires could often be prevented.

But has all this fire suppression been counterproductive? Some argue that fire suppression has led to a buildup of dead trees and dried underbrush, creating a fuel to feed catastrophic blazes. We now know fires are a natural part of a forest’s life cycle, important for its growth and renewal. What does this mean for Smokey Bear and his messaging? Perhaps it means that the best way to help our forests is to keep learning about them.

Jazz Milestones

On August 17, 1959, the world experienced what many consider to be the greatest and most innovative jazz recording of all time, Miles Davis’ *Kind of Blue*. To support his trumpet, Davis gathered some of the best musicians in the business: saxophonists John Coltrane and Julian “Cannonball” Adderley, pianists Bill Evans and Wynton Kelly, bassist Paul Chambers, and drummer Jimmy Cobb. Up until this point in jazz music, bebop, with its traditional chord changes, was the norm. Davis and composer George Russell threw precedent out the window. They chose to improvise not by following chord changes but to instead use scales, chords, and melodies. This opened up their music to almost endless possibilities. It was a new musical movement that would change jazz forever. The musicians recorded a mere three reels of tape—not much by recording standards—over just two days of recording. Davis called for almost no rehearsal, and musicians did not even know what they were recording until they showed up at the studio. Even during those sessions, Davis gave almost no instruction. The result of those brilliant improvisations became the best-selling jazz album the world has ever known.

A Can-Do Attitude



The first of August is International Can-It-Forward Day, a day to extol the virtues of preparing for winter by canning all types of foods. With careful planning, summer’s bounty of fruits and vegetables can be enjoyed throughout the winter. The canning of foods was invented by Frenchman Nicolas Appert, a Parisian chef who successfully preserved the first soups, juices, jellies, vegetables, and syrups in jars. His process was simple; he sealed jars with cork and sealing wax and then boiled them to cook the contents, destroy bacteria, and make the jars airtight. In many ways, our modern methods of canning foods are no different from Appert’s methods of a century ago.

King's Inspirational "Dream"

On August 28, 1963, before a crowd of 250,000 Americans, Martin Luther King Jr. gave his "I Have a Dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. The speech remains one of the most memorable ever made, ranking alongside Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address" as one of the most moving and most analyzed in American history. King's mention of his "dream" was not in his prepared remarks. Gospel singer Mahalia Jackson prompted King to "tell them about the dream," and so King improvised the most famous part of his speech on the spot.



King and his thousands of followers had come to the capital for their March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. The march was attended by civil rights leaders, the United Auto Workers Union, and the American Jewish Congress, all of which were

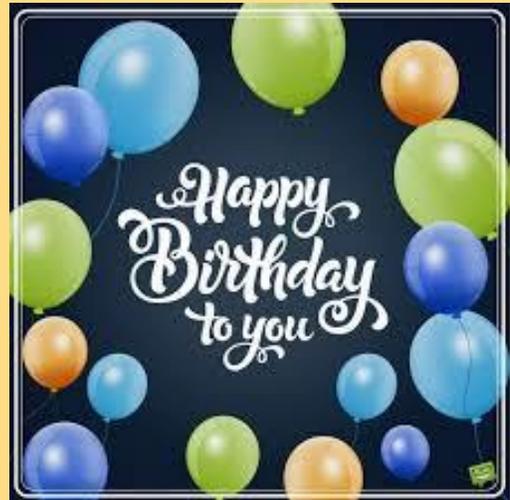
united in their calls for desegregating public schools, expanding federal works programs to train workers, and addressing violations of citizens' constitutional rights. The march was not strictly business. Musicians such as Joan Baez, Bob Dylan, and Mahalia Jackson were scheduled to perform. Jackson, especially, was a mainstay at King's rallies. Their relationship was such that she had no qualms in interrupting King during his remarks and suggesting that he "tell them about the dream."

For many attendees of the march and many in the media, King's speech was the highlight. The fact that it was televised also helped the civil rights movement gain mainstream acceptance. Indeed, King's triumphant speech at the feet of Lincoln helped secure the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and paved the way for the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Both the image of King at the podium and his refrain of "I have a dream" have become defining moments of the civil rights era. Not only was King's speech added to the Library of Congress' National Recording Registry in 2002, but its words were forever etched into the marble steps of the Lincoln Memorial in the exact place where King stood on August 28, 1963.

August Birthdays

Residents:

Malcolm – August 20th



Billiken on Parade



Every August since 1929, the Bud Billiken Parade has marched through Chicago, Illinois, and is the longest-running African American parade in the United States. Bud Billiken was a fictional character created by Robert Abbott, the founder and editor of *The Chicago Defender* newspaper, the foremost black newspaper of the early 1900s. In 1921, Abbott created the Bud Billiken persona to give hope and happiness to Chicago's black youth. He ran a Bud Billiken youth page that even featured a Bud Billiken cartoon. He got the name from the Billiken charm doll, a mythical creature that supposedly brought good luck to children. Abbott's first Bud Billiken parade honored hardworking newsboys, but it soon grew into an annual celebration of African American greatness and has drawn the likes of Muhammad Ali, Aretha Franklin, and presidents Harry Truman and Barack Obama.