

# August Famous and Resident Birthdays



Francis Scott Key – August 1, 1779  
Louis Armstrong – August 4, 1901  
Neil Armstrong – August 5, 1930  
Dustin Hoffman – August 8, 1937  
Allegra Kent – August 11, 1937  
Mae West – August 17, 1893  
Robert De Niro – August 17, 1943  
Connie Chung – August 20, 1946  
Dorothy Parker – August 22, 1893  
Leonard Bernstein – August 25, 1918  
Leo Tolstoy – August 28, 1828  
Ted Williams – August 30, 1918

Faye Kent - August 2, 1930  
Marion Havard - August 6, 1927  
Sandy Johannsen - August 8, 1934  
Phyllis Kelley - August 9, 1931  
Sherrie Childers - August 12, 1936  
Pat Applegate - August 12, 1932  
Sharon Will - August 14, 1932  
Marilee Pearson – August 15, 1932  
Bill Nicol - August 17, 1926  
Elaine Moyer - August 31, 1924

## Notable Quotable

“This is one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.”

~ Neil Armstrong, astronaut

## The Little Imp, a Memoir By Bill Nicol



I don't exactly remember all the details of this story, But Bob C. told me in an email letter in 2004 that I had slept with Lucille, his older sister in their house when we were little kids in Little Rock, Arkansas. That was an overstatement from his imagination but there was some truth to it. I was five and Bobby was six or seven. We were very close neighbors near that corner on West 22nd Street and Summit Ave. I had lost track of Bob over the decades since those early days of our lives, but found him again living with his wife, Joye, in La Habra, California. They came to Redding for the first time in ca. 2005 to visit Anne and me and we took them on a short dinner train trip out of McCloud at which time they confirmed the following:

One day that summer so long ago in the early 1930s, I knocked on Bobby's front door, hoping he would come out to play. His sister, a teenager, who Bob said later had been taking a nap in her bedroom just off the hall, opened the door. She saw me standing there and asked, "What can I do for you Billy?" I said I was lost but I did need a glass of water to help me get on my way so I could find my way home, which she could easily see from her front porch.

She said, "Well, just come on in and have a seat and I'll go get you a glass of cold water." I entered their foyer and she turned and walked to her right toward their kitchen; but, for some unknown reason, I turned left and ran into her bedroom, jumped into her opened bed and covered up to my chin.

When Lucille finally found me she said, "Here's your water Billy." I jumped up out of bed, took a quick sip of water, ran past her out the front door and across the street to my house. Bob and I really had a good laugh about that one for the first time . . . he assured me that was the way he also remembered Lucille telling him about it years later. I also have a faint memory of her suppressing a giggle as I shot out the door toward the safety of my front porch.

I would describe my behavior that day as surely impish!

# River Commons News

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## Celebrating August

### Read-a-Romance Novel Month

### What Will Be Your Legacy? Month

### International Clown Week August 1-7

### Lighthouse Day

### Social Security Day August 14

### Bad Poetry Day August 18

### Kiss and Make Up Day August 25

### Love Litigating Lawyers Day August 31

## The Art of Art Appreciation

August 11 is Worldwide Art Day, so whether you paint, draw, sculpt, take photographs, play a musical instrument, write, or dance, this is a day to revel in the beauty of art. For centuries, people have asked, "What is art?" Early critics believed that art was simply imitation—a painting of a flower or sculpture of a dancer—but art is much more than that. It is beauty, harmony, a revelation of truth, a communication of feeling and self-expression. Truly, art is as diverse as its definition. So what is art? You'll know it when you see it—and may

surprise yourself when you make it. And August 8 is the Date to Create. We consume every day: we eat food, watch television, and buy clothes and other goods. This is the day to not be a consumer but a creator. Creation is the bringing of something new into existence, and it is an empowering experience. Whether you paint a masterpiece or construct a makeshift centerpiece out of tissue paper and empty bottles, your creation will take on a life of its own as a form of creative self-expression.



## My New Home By Alpha Tolbert



Wow!! What a beautiful place River Commons is. Beautiful trees all around the building with pretty manicured lawns. There are benches all around the building for us to take a rest and watch the wild turkeys. The inside is very attractive and inviting with beautiful art and pictures on the walls.

What has really touched my heart is the warmth I feel from all the staff members as well as the residents. The love and caring shows through every smile, gesture, caring and helpfulness. It really warms my heart to be a part of River Commons. It is hard to believe that in six weeks I had two garage sales, sold my house, packed and moved to River Commons.

Now I have some big decisions to make: what activities I want to participate in and what I want to eat. The kitchen staff knows our first names, and are very helpful in serving us. The food is good. Earnie the Activities Director makes you feel at home. He has a great sense of humor and lots of energy.

A special thank you to Brian who I have known for years and my daughter-in-law, Ranae, those two helped me in making my decision to move to River Commons.





Brian Martin GM

*Approximately  
49 million bubbles  
are in one bottle of  
champagne.*

As always our Annual Luau was a very fun, tasty and colorful event. It is very fun with our Hawaiian dancers showing and telling the stories behind the dances. We had a lot of guests which is always fun for our residents to show off their home and happenings.

As of this writing we are about 2/3 through our hallway painting project. This has taken a bit longer than planned as we ran into some issues with colors that needed to be worked out before moving forward. This delay has put our painter into his busy season so he is working between us and his other responsibilities. The delay was worth it however, because we landed on a very attractive look that also brightens up our hallways as well as gives them a much more upgraded look. We are also in the process of hanging new artwork throughout the hallways. We are excited about how these changes are making the feel of our community even better.

From the home front: Jackie and I had a wonderful vacation up in the small town of Hoodspport, WA. We got in hiking, fishing, a private tour of the fish hatchery and dam, as well as a big kayak adventure. We attempted to kayak down the Skokomish River on a section that runs down to the ocean. After a short while we realized that due to the rough winter the river had way too many obstacles that made it too dangerous to continue. We realized that after 2 of us capsized because of hidden underwater snags. We then had to find a way to hike out to the roadway which took 2 ½ to 3 hours to figure out (our GPS's would not work), then about a 6 mile hike before being spotted by a Sheriff's deputy. He picked us up and gave us a ride back to our car probably 8 to 10 miles. This is the Readers Digest version. Getting out in one piece, no injuries and just a big adventure, we were all very thankful for how it turned out and thankful for those that protect and serve!



## This Joke's on Joe

Joe Miller was a popular actor on England's stages in the early 1700s. He performed in the plays of Shakespeare and excelled at comedy. Miller, though, is not remembered for his acting but for a pamphlet of jokes published after his death on August 15, 1748, entitled *Joe Miller's Jests*. This is why August 16 is celebrated as Joe Miller's Joke Day. Strangely, Joe Miller himself likely had nothing to do with the joke book bearing his name. A down-and-out writer named John Mottley compiled the volume and

used the popularity of Miller's name to advertise his work. It was a savvy marketing move, for the book was wildly popular and was published in three editions in its first year. The first edition had 247 jokes and witticisms. Over 100 years later, the book was still being published and updated with over 1,300 jests. The stage comedian's name has even entered our modern language. A "Joe Miller" is a term for an old, time-worn joke. Scant thanks for the comedian who made Mottley a small fortune.



*Joe Miller is  
referenced in  
Charles Dickens' book  
A Christmas Carol.*



*The Toyota AA was  
the first car produced  
by the Toyota car  
company.*

## A Car Is Born

Toyota didn't become the world's most successful car company overnight. Its history began on August 28, 1937, when the Toyota Motor Company split from its parent company, the Toyoda Automatic Loom Works. Toyoda was founded in 1926 in Japan by Sakichi Toyoda, the inventor of a series of manual and machine-powered looms. Today, Toyota is still in the textile business and manufactures

sewing machines and looms. However, in 1929, Sakichi encouraged his son Kiichiro to travel to America to investigate the auto industry. The Japanese government strongly encouraged the Toyoda company to begin domestic auto production due to their war with China. The venture proved so successful that the Toyota Motor Co. was spun off, and it became the world's leading car manufacturer.

## The Legends of Bigfoot

Since 1992, believers in the preternatural have gathered during the last weekend in August in Carson, Washington, for Bigfoot Daze, a celebration of the legend of Bigfoot. Washington state is an appropriate venue, for stories of "wild men" living in the woods have long been part of Native American lore in the Pacific Northwest. Curiously, the indigenous stories of a massive, hairy, ape-like man, known as Bigfoot or Sasquatch, are set in the very same locales as contemporary sightings. Is it merely coincidence that modern sightings overlap with historical record? Or is there really a Bigfoot?

While most people agree that Bigfoot sightings are hoaxes, some researchers have looked for plausible explanations to the many sightings and stories. Bigfoot, they speculate, may be the last existing specimen of a prehistoric giant ape, Gigantopithecus, which could have crossed the Bering land bridge from Asia into North America. Other experts suggest that Bigfoot is the last living Neanderthal or other

crude human-like creature such as *Paranthropus robustus*. All of these explanations, however, lack sufficient scientific evidence.

And yet, despite the lack of verifiable proof, many cultures across the world have claimed to see similar creatures. The Sasquatch has been sighted in the Pacific Northwest. The Yeti, also known as the Abominable Snowman, has long been part of the legend in the Himalayas. Australia has its own version of a large ape-like human, called a Yowie, stalking the Outback. In Mongolia, the creature is called an Almas. In China, it is called the Yeren. The tribes of the jungles of South America spin tales of the Mapinguari. Perhaps the reason people still want to believe in this fantastic creature despite hard evidence is because so many separate cultures around the world claim to have sighted it. Is this an example of different cultures suffering the same delusion? Or are there really Bigfoot-like creatures scattered across the globe? The world still waits for solid proof.



*Eyewitnesses describe  
Bigfoot as being  
anywhere between  
six and 10 feet tall.*