

FlashNews Pop Culture Datebook

Monday, August 30, 2010

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

CAMERON FINLEY 23 (Played Beaver Cleaver in the 1997 film version of *Leave it to Beaver*.)

AARON BARRETT 30 (Lead singer of Reel Big Fish. Working at a fast food restaurant may not seem like the ideal career opportunity, but it worked for Barrett. He claims many of the band's songs were inspired during his brief tenure schlepping sandwiches at a Subway sandwich shop. Now that he's a full-time musician, he says it's harder to write songs than it was when he was a full-time sandwich maker.)

CAMERON DIAZ 38 (The 5-foot-9 actress claims she was so skinny as a youngster, other kids would tease her and call her "Skeleton." As a teen, Diaz was a heavy metal-head who dressed in dirty old jeans and cut-off flannel shirts. She filled out in all the right places and would often lift up boys twice her size just to prove how strong she was. Diaz has been linked romantically with Matt Dillon, Jared Leto, and Justin Timberlake, whom she dated for nearly four years. Diaz flicks: *What Happens in Vegas* (2008), *Shrek 3* (2007), *In Her Shoes* (2005), *Shrek 2* (2004), *Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle* (2003), *Gangs of New York* (2002), *Slackers* (2002), *Shrek* (2001), *Charlie's Angels: The Movie* (2000), *Any Given Sunday* (1999), *Being John Malkovich* (1999), *There's Something About Mary* (1998), *My Best Friend's Wedding* (1997), *Feeling Minnesota* (1996), *The Mask* (1994).)

MICHAEL MICHELE 44 (Played Dr. Cleo Finch on *ER* also appeared in *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days* (2003) along side **Kate Hudson** and **Matthew McConaughey**.)

MICHAEL CHIKLIS 47 (Plays detective Vic Mackey on *The Shield*. Also starred in *The Commish*., as well as all of the *Fantastic Four* movies.)

JACKO 51 (Former Australian football player. Real name is Mark Jackson.)

TIMOTHY BOTTOMS 59 (Actor. Played President Bush on the TV series *That's My Bush!* and in *The Crocodile Hunter: Collision Course* (2002).)

PEGGY LIPTON 63 (Lipton, who played Norma Jennings, the owner of the Double-R Diner on *Twin Peaks*, was once married to Quincy Jones. Other TV: *The Mod Squad*.)

JEAN-CLAUDE KILLY 67 (1968 Olympic Gold Medal skier.)

TUG MCGRAW would have been 66 today. (The former New York Mets pitcher is the father of country singer Tim McGraw. Tug was a big fan of his son's music, but Tim admits the only song his father knew all the way through beside "Indian Outlaw" was "The Star-Spangled Banner." Tug died of brain cancer in 2004.)

JOHN PHILLIPS would have been 75 today. (The Mamas & The Papas. Years ago, Phillips and his daughter Mackenzie met **Mick Jagger** at a party where he later invited them to his house for sandwiches — but Jagger had love on his mind, not food. John was sent out for mayonnaise and Jagger told Mackenzie: "I've been waiting for this since you were 10 years old." Then Jagger and Mackenzie did the deed while Papa John pounded on the door. Although Mackenzie now admits sleeping with Jagger is a "dubious distinction" at best, she says the sex was unbelievable and she still thinks he's sexy. Phillips other daughter, Bijou, told *Details* magazine that she once pretended she was addicted to heroin just so she could spend a month in rehab to avoid being with her father. Papa Phillips later admitted he was surprised to learn of his daughter's trickery, but said he suspected something was up when the staff at the rehab center told him Bijou didn't need to "detox" when she checked in.)

TED WILLIAMS was born in 1918. (The legendary baseball player was nicknamed "The Splendid Splinter." Williams once claimed he hit a ball so hard he could smell burning leather. He died July 5, 2002, of congestive heart failure. Williams' son John Henry Williams had his father's body cryonically frozen which set off a family feud between him and his half-sister Barbara Joyce Williams Ferrell, who says her father wanted to be cremated. In the end, the executor of his will said he was satisfied Williams wanted to be frozen. In 1960 he ended his 19-year career in a blaze of glory when the Red Sox slugger slammed his 521st career home run. A section of freeway near William's hometown of San Diego is named the "Ted Williams Parkway" in his honor.)

Actor FRED MACMURRAY was born in 1908. (He's best known for his role of the father on the TV series *My Three Sons* and the Disney flicks *The Absent Minded Professor* and *The Son of Flubber*. MacMurray died in 1991.)

Novelist MARY SHELLY was born in 1797. (Her most famous work is *Frankenstein*. Shelley wrote the horror novel in 1818 — but things really took off for her monster in 1931 when Hollywood filmed the *Frankenstein* motion picture featuring Boris Karloff as the monster. Sequels to the first *Frankenstein* movie include *The Bride of Frankenstein* and *Son of Frankenstein*.)

HEADLINES ON THIS DAY

2010 Years Ago Today: Egyptian queen **Cleopatra killed herself by allowing a poisonous snake to bite her.** (30 B.C.)

17 Years Ago Today: *The Late Show with David Letterman* debuted on CBS. (1993)

26 Years Ago Today: The space shuttle *Discovery* made its first flight. Six astronauts were aboard, including Judith Resnick, the second U.S. woman astronaut in space. (1984)

27 Years Ago Today: Guion S. Bluford became the **first black astronaut in space.** He was aboard the space shuttle *Challenger*. (1983)

30 Years Ago Today: "Sailing" by **Christopher Cross was the No. 1 song.** (#2: "Upside Down" by Diana Ross; #3: "Magic" by Olivia Newton-John; #4: "Emotional Rescue" by the Rolling Stones; #5: "Take Your Time" by the S.O.S. Band.) (1980)

31 Years Ago Today: President **Jimmy Carter was attacked by a rabbit while canoeing in Georgia.** (1979)

31 Years Ago Today: The **Lone Ranger was finally unmasked** when actor **Clayton Moore was ordered by a judge to remove and refrain from wearing his famous black mask** in public. In the 1950s Moore starred as TV's Lone Ranger, but he continued wearing the cowboy crime-fighter costume long after the series was cancelled. (1979)

35 Years Ago Today: "Get Down Tonight" by **K.C. & The Sunshine Band was the No. 1 song.** (#2: "Fallin' In Love" by Hamilton, Joe Frank & Reynolds; #3: "Rhinestone Cowboy" by Glen Campbell; #4: "One Of These Nights" by the Eagles; #5: "How Sweet It Is (To Be Loved By You)" by James Taylor.) (1975)

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36 Years Ago Today: The final first-run episode of *The Brady Bunch* aired on ABC-TV. (1974)

42 Years Ago Today: The Beatles launched their own record label, Apple. The first release from Apple was the single "Hey Jude," which sold more than 10 million copies. (1968)

43 Years Ago Today: The U.S. Senate confirmed the appointment of Thurgood Marshall as America's first black Supreme Court justice. (1967)

47 Years Ago Today: The so-called "hot line" between the White House and the Soviet Union became operational. The system was designed to provide instant communication between the superpowers in case of a crisis. The hot line consisted of telegraphs and teleprinters served by full-time duplex wire and radio circuits routed through Tangier. Each country furnished the other with special equipment for the transmission and reception of English and Russian. Each country also had to provide the other with a one-year-supply of spare parts. The first use of the hot line was made in 1967 during the Arab-Israeli war. Soviet leader Alexei Kosygin wanted to know why President Lyndon Johnson had sent several U.S. jets to the area. Johnson explained that the aircrafts were there to help an American ship that had been attacked in the Mediterranean. (1963)

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Tuesday, August 31, 2010

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

CHRIS TUCKER 38 (After working with **Jackie Chan** on *Rush Hour 2*, Tucker told *Maxim* magazine he now knows so many martial arts moves that he should be called "Blackie Chan." The film was shot in Asia where Tucker claims Chan forced him to eat a Chinese delicacy known as "frog spit soup." Flicks: *Rush Hour 3* (2007), *Rush Hour 2* (2001), *Friday* (1995).)

DEBBIE GIBSON 40 (Former teen singing sensation. Appeared on FOX reality show *Skating with Celebrities* in 2006. Gibsons's big hits: "Only In My Dreams" and "Shake Your Love," (1987).)

CHERYL POLLAK 43 (Actress. Played Susan Madsen on *Melrose Place*.)

JULIE BROWN 52 (Comedienne, singer, actress. *Earth Girls are Easy*. Novelty tune "The Homecoming Queen's Got A Gun." Other films: Julie Brown *Intermission* (2004).)

GINA SCHOCK 53 (Drummer formerly with The Go-Gos.)

EDWIN MOSES 55 (Track and field Olympic gold medalist in 1976 and 1984 games.)

MARCIA CLARK 57 (The former Los Angeles Deputy District Attorney prosecuted the O.J. Simpson murder trial. Clark's been called "brassy," "bitchy," and "wonderful," but in 1995 *Glamour* magazine named Clark as one of 10 "Women of the Year." Fashion experts in 1995 also claimed Clark single-handedly was responsible for the resurgence of high-heeled pumps, which she often wore to court.)

RICHARD GERE 61 (Gere got a few lessons in gynecology from **Liv Tyler** while portraying an OB-GYN in the 2000 flick *Dr. T and the Women*. Tyler says she had to instruct Gere on where to place his medical instruments. "It was really funny and uncomfortable to have Richard Gere looking between [my] legs all day," she says. Gere attended the University of Massachusetts on a gymnastics scholarship but dropped out. During the 1995 Academy Award ceremony, Gere, a Buddhist, asked viewers to send a happy "love vibe" to the Dalai Lama. He married model Cindy Crawford in 1991 and was divorced in 1995. He's now married to Carey Lowell, although, he's admitted he still lusts after other women. In 1993 *People* magazine selected Gere and Crawford as "The Sexiest Couple Alive." In 1994 Gere and Crawford paid \$30,000 for a full-page ad in *The Times of London* declaring their love and heterosexuality. However, a survey conducted by the gay-oriented magazine *Advocate* found that Gere and **Tom Cruise** tied for first place as the celebrities gays most suspect as really being gay. Gere flicks: *The Hoax*(2006), *Bee Season* (2005), *Shall We Dance?* (2004), *Chicago* (2002), *Unfaithful* (2002), *The Mothman Prophecies* (2002), *Runaway Bride* (1999), *Pretty Woman* (1990), *An Officer and a Gentleman* (1982), *American Gigolo* (1980). Born Aug. 31 not Aug. 29 as some sources report.)

VAN MORRISON 65 (His real name is George Ivan Morrison. Hits: "Moondance" (1970), "Brown-Eyed Girl" (1967).)

ITZHAK PERLMAN 65 (Grammy-winning concert violinist. Flicks: *Memoirs of a Geisha*(2005), *Fantasia* (2000).)

FRANK ROBINSON 75 (Hall of Fame former Major League baseball player. In 1974 Robinson became baseball's first black major league manager. He was hired by the Cleveland Indians in a \$175,000-a-year contract that required Robinson to act as both player and manager. Robinson later managed the San Francisco Giants, Baltimore Orioles, and Washington Nationals.)

ANDREW CUNANAN would have been 41 today. (The so-called "spree killer" allegedly murdered fashion designer Gianni Versace and four other men in 1997. Cunanan, a gay prostitute, once tried to get friendly with *Friends* stars **Lisa Kudrow** and **Jennifer Aniston** at a 1995 party. Cunanan tried to kiss up to the Hollywood beauties, but the actresses were bored to tears with his drivel. Acquaintances who knew Cunanan in high school claim he once told them, "I will become the most famous gay man in the world." On July 23, 1997, Cunanan was found dead in the master bedroom of a Miami houseboat. He apparently shot himself in the face.)

JAMES COBURN would have been 82 today. (Coburn flicks: *American Gun* (2001), *The Man from Elysian Fields* (2001), *The Good Doctor* (1999), *Keys to Tulsa* (1997), *Affliction* (1997), *In Like Flint* (1967), *What Did You Do in the War, Daddy?* (1966), *Our Man Flint* (1965), *The Great Escape* (1963), *The Magnificent Seven* (1960). He died November 18, 2002, of a heart attack.)

BUDDY HACKETT was born in 1924. (The comedian was an active golfer who liked to play pranks on the links. One time he crawled into the bushes, stripped naked and declared to his fellow golfers: "Didn't you see that bear attack me?" In 1992 a toy company introduced an inflatable Buddy Hackett doll that's designed to be tossed or kicked. The doll's belly contains a balloon that can be filled with beans, air or water. Hackett kicked the bucket on June 30, 2003.)

CALIGULA was born in 12. (The mad and demented Roman was only 25 years old when he became emperor. **The eccentric Caligula declared himself as a god and appointed his horse to a seat on the Roman senate.** He was killed at the age of 29 by his own guards. **Caligula's last words were, "I'm still alive!"**)

HEADLINES ON THIS DAY

13 Years Ago Today: Britain's **Princess Diana was killed in a automobile crash** in Paris. At the time Diana and her boyfriend, millionaire Dodi Fayed, were being pursued by paparazzi photographers on motorcycles. Diana, Dodi and their chauffeur were all killed after their Mercedes Benz crashed inside a tunnel about a half mile from the Eiffel Tower. Police said the limousine was traveling in excess of 60 miles per hour. Witnesses said the driver lost control of the vehicle which then slammed into a concrete support post and bounced off the tunnel's wall. Princess Diana's bodyguard, Trevor Rees-Jones, survived the crash. (1997)

25 Years Ago Today: Serial killer Richard Ramirez, **the so-called "Night Stalker," was captured** and subdued by residents in East Los Angeles. (1985)

34 Years Ago Today: A judge ruled that former Beatle **George Harrison was guilty of "subconscious plagiarism,"** and that his No. 1 hit, **"My Sweet Lord," was lifted from the Chiffon's, "He's So Fine."** The ruling eventually cost Harrison more than \$500,000. (1976)

35 Years Ago Today: **Teamsters Union leader Jimmy Hoffa was reported as "officially missing."** Hoffa was last seen alive outside the Manchu Red Fox restaurant near Detroit on July 30, 1975. One rumor circulating at the time was that **he was ground up into little pieces by the Mafia, shipped to Florida and thrown into a swamp.** Another theory suggested that Hoffa was buried next to a goalpost at Giants Stadium. Either way, he was declared dead in 1982. (1975)

55 Years Ago Today: **The world's first solar-powered automobile** was demonstrated in Chicago. (1955)

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64 Years Ago Today: The Warner Bros' cartoon character **Foghorn Leghorn made his debut** in the 1946 cartoon "Walky Talky Hawk." (1946)

122 Years Ago Today: England's **Jack the Ripper claimed his first victim** when he slashed the throat of a 43-year-old prostitute named Polly Nichols. Nichols was repeatedly stabbed in the stomach and her throat was savagely attacked. Nichols was the first of five known victims of Jack the Ripper, a serial killer who was never captured or identified. (1888)

123 Years Ago Today: Thomas Edison **received a patent for his moving picture device** which he called a "Kinetoscope." (1887)

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Wednesday, September 1, 2010

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

SCOTT SPEEDMAN 35 (Played Ben Covington on *Felicity*. During his run on the show; life imitated art when he and co-star **Keri Russell** began dating. They split in 2001. Flicks: *The Strangers* (2008), *Underworld: Evolution* (2006), *XXX: State of the Union* (2005), *The 24th Day* (2004), *Underworld* (2003), *My Life Without Me* (2003), *The Wheelman* (2001), *Duets* (2000).)

DEE DEE MYERS 49 (Former Clinton White House press secretary. In 1995 Myers was arrested for drunk driving and cruising down the wrong side of the road.)

SCOTT "BAM-BAM" BIGELOW 49 (Nicknamed "The Beast From the East," the wrestler sports a monstrous 6-ft. 4-in., 300-pound body.)

GLORIA ESTEFAN 53 (Miami Sound Machine. She was born Gloria Maria Fajardo. *Shape* magazine selected Gloria's hit "Turn The Beat Around" as the greatest aerobics workout song ever recorded. Her No. 1 1991 song, "Coming Out Of The Dark," is based on a nearly fatal automobile accident when a truck smashed into her tour bus on a Pennsylvania highway in 1990. Her injuries required 400 stitches and the insertion of two 8-inch titanium rods on both sides of her spine. Big hit: "Rhythm Is Gonna Get You" (1987).)

SACHI PARKER 54 (The actress is the daughter of Shirley MacLaine.)

BARRY GIBB 64 (The singer and songwriter with Bee Gees is the oldest of the Gibb brothers. Hits: "Night Fever" (1978), "How Deep Is Your Love" (1977), "You Should Be Dancing" (1976). Gibb states he was born in 1946 not 1947 as incorrectly reported by *Rolling Stone* and other sources.)

ARCHIE BELL 66 (Musician and songwriter. "Tighten Up.")

LILY TOMLIN 71 (Pet therapist Warren Eckstein claims Tomlin's pet terrier, Tess, has multiple personalities caused by Tomlin's impersonations of her famous characters including "Ernestine, the telephone operator." Tomlin studied pre-med at Wayne State University. Flicks and TV: Voice of Ms. Frizzle on *The Magic School Bus*. TV's *Laugh-In*. Flicks: Voice of Mommo in *The Ant Bully* (2008), *A Prairie Home Companion* (2006), *I Heart Huckabees* (2004), *The Kid* (2000), *Picking up the Pieces* (2000), *The Incredible Shrinking Woman* (1981), *Nine to Five* (1980), *The Late Show* (1977), *Nashville* (1975).)

ALAN DERSHOWITZ 72 (Defense attorney who was part of O.J. Simpson's "Dream Team." Dershowitz is also an active nudist who enjoys nude sunbathing.)

CONWAY TWITTY would have been 77 today. (The country singer had 40 No. 1 hits, including five with Loretta Lynn. In 1996 Twitty's widow, Dee Jenkins, wanted to exhume his body from the Sumner County, Tennessee, cemetery where he's buried. Jenkins was hoping to cremate Twitty and protect the tomb from desecration. There were reports that someone had painted the letters "B-I-T-C-H" on a space reserved for her in the cemetery. Jenkins later decided not to proceed with the plan.)

ANN RICHARDS would have been 77 today. (Former Texas governor. She once was a huckster for Dorito corn chips.)

Country singer BOXCAR WILLIE would have been 79 today. (His real name was Lecil Travis Martin.)

YVONNE DE CARLO was born in 1922. (Played Lily Munster on *The Munsters*.)

Radio and TV announcer DON WILSON was born in 1900. ()

HEADLINES ON THIS DAY

16 Years Ago Today: A federal judge approved **the largest product liability settlement in U.S. history:** a \$4.25 billion settlement for women who claimed they were harmed by silicone breast implants. (1994)

20 Years Ago Today: The University of Arkansas announced that many of the thousands of **condoms given away to students just before Spring Break contained holes.** (1990)

25 Years Ago Today: A U.S.-French exploration team **located the wreck of the *Titanic* about 500 miles south of Newfoundland.** The ship was found lying upright in two pieces on the ocean floor at a depth of about 13,000 feet. The expedition found no evidence of a long gash previously thought to have been the cause of the sinking. (1985)

33 Years Ago Today: The **first Radio Shack TRS-80 Model I computer** was sold. (1977)

38 Years Ago Today: Following 20 consecutive years of Soviet domination, **Bobby Fischer became the first American to win the World Chess Championship.** The first game of the match started on June 11. The final game was finished at 12:50 a.m. on September 1, 1972. Fischer defeated Boris Spassky, who resigned after his 41st move. (1972)

63 Years Ago Today: Whisky drinkers everywhere **mourned the passing of Lem Motlow, the nephew of Jack Daniel and owner of the Jack Daniel Distillery.** (1947)

71 Years Ago Today: World War II started as Germany invaded Poland. (1939)

132 Years Ago Today: A woman named Emma M. Nutt was hired as **the first female telephone operator.** Emma started work as an operator in Boston on this day in 1878. The very first phone operators were young men, but many of them were **impatient with callers and blurted obscenities over the line.** (1878)

295 Years Ago Today: French ruler **Louis XIV died at the age of 76.** He reigned longer than any other French monarch. Louis loved to eat. After he died, an autopsy revealed that **his stomach was twice as large as a normal stomach.** (1715)

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Thursday, September 2, 2010

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

SALMA HAYEK 44 (With as Lebanese father and her mother being Mexican; it's no wonder Ms. Hayek has one of the most sought after Hollywood looks. According to Beverly Hills plastic surgeon, Dr. Richard Fleming, most women want a body like Salma Hayek. Even though she gave birth to her first born daughter, Valentina, in September of '07 and recently split from baby daddy and fiance Francois Pinault, Salma's body has already bounced back to tip-top shape. Early in her career, she appeared on Mexican TV soap operas. Hayek flicks: *Lonely Hearts* (2006), *After the Sunset* (2004), *Once Upon a Time in Mexico* (2003), *Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over* (2003), *Murphy's Law* (2003), *Frida* (2002), *Searching for Debra Winger* (2002), *Chain of Fools* (2000), *Shiny New Enemies* (2000), *Wild Wild West* (1999), *Dogma* (1999), *54* (1998), *The Faculty* (1998), *The Velocity of Gary* (1998), *Breaking Up* (1997).)

KEANU REEVES 46 (If Keanu gets fed up with the critics drubbing his acting, he may want to become a football quarterback. Reeves developed the ability to hurl 60-yard passes while filming the football flick, "The Replacements." Keanu denies any rumors that he's gay or bisexual, but he does admit that in 1985 he and his lesbian roommates would watch "Dynasty" every Wednesday night in a Toronto dyke bar. Keanu's first name belonged to his great-great uncle and is a Hawaiian name meaning "cool breeze over the mountains." He was born in Beirut and says he's scared of the dark. His favorite bands include the Ramones, Sonic Youth, Velvet Underground and Hole. Before Keanu made it big in Hollywood he worked as a tree trimmer, an ice skate sharpener, and a cook at an Italian restaurant. For some reason, Keanu says the celebrity he'd most like to kiss is Meryl Streep. Reeves flicks: *Street Kings* (2008), *A Scanner Darkly* (2006), *The Lake House* (2006), *Constantine* (2005), *Thumbsucker* (2004), *Something's Gotta Give* (2003), *The Matrix Revolutions* (2003), *The Matrix Reloaded* (2003), *The Replacements* (2000), *Shooter* (2000), *The Matrix* (1999), *A Walk in the Clouds* (1995), *Johnny Mnemonic* (1995), *Speed* (1994), *Little Buddha* (1993), *Dracula* (1992), *Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey* (1991), *Point Break* (1991), *My Own Private Idaho* (1991), *Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure* (1989).)

LINDA PURL 55 (Played Ben Matlock's daughter on *Matlock*. In 1982 Purl married Desi Arnaz, Jr. The marriage lasted two years.)

JIMMY CONNORS 58 (All-time leader in pro tennis tournament victories with 109 titles. In 1975 Arthur Ashe defeated Connors and became the first black man to win the Wimbledon men's singles tennis championship.)

MARK HARMON 59 (Stars in *NCIS*. Played Dr. Jack McNeil on *Chicago Hope*. In 1986 *People* magazine declared Harmon the "Sexiest Man Alive." He's married to actress Pam Dawber of *Mork and Mindy* fame. Movies: *Chasing Liberty* (2004).)

TERRY BRADSHAW 62 (Former NFL football player. Bradshaw played on four winning Super Bowl games with the Pittsburgh Steelers. Born on September 2 not September 12 as reported by some sources.)

PETER UEBERROTH 73 (Business executive. Former baseball commissioner. Ueberroth is currently head of the United States Olympic Committee. In 1990 a conservative fringe group called the California Women's Coalition wanted Ueberroth to run for senator because of his "unquestioned masculinity" and because he had "...the charisma of Ronald Reagan, the business sense of William Simon and the popularity of Babe Ruth.")

CHRISTA MCAULIFFE would have been 62 today. (The first private citizen chosen for a space shuttle flight died in 1986 when the space shuttle *Challenger* exploded just 73 seconds after takeoff.)

Author and animal rights activist CLEVELAND AMORY was born in 1917. (Amory organized the Fund for Animals in 1967. Early in his career, he became the youngest editor to ever be hired by *The Saturday Evening Post*. Amory died on October 14, 1998.)

HEADLINES ON THIS DAY

37 Years Ago Today: The Detroit Tigers gave Billy Martin the boot as manager three days after he ordered his pitchers to lob spitballs at the Cleveland Indians. (1973)

41 Years Ago Today: The final episode of *Star Trek* aired on NBC. (1969)

47 Years Ago Today: Alabama Governor George C. Wallace ordered state troopers to surround Tuskegee High School in an attempt to prevent racial integration of the school. (1963)

65 Years Ago Today: World War II ended when the Japanese signed a formal document of surrender aboard the U.S.S. *Missouri*. (1945)

66 Years Ago Today: George Bush, who was 20 years old at the time, safely ejected from his plane after being shot down by the Japanese during World War II. He had just completed a bombing run against a Japanese communications center in the Bonin Islands. (1944)

88 Years Ago Today: Posters were placed in every Ford automobile factory warning that any employee with the odor of beer, wine or whiskey on his or her breath would be terminated. (1922)

109 Years Ago Today: During a speech at the Minnesota State Fair, vice president Theodore Roosevelt told listeners to, "Speak softly and carry a big stick." (1901)

221 Years Ago Today: The United States Treasury Department was established. (1789)

344 Years Ago Today: Thousands of homes burned to the ground as the Great Fire of London ignited the city. (1666)

FlashNews Pop Culture Datebook

Friday, September 3, 2010

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

CHABELI IGLESIAS 39 (The Spanish gossip journalist is the daughter of Julio Iglesias.)

CHARLIE SHEEN 45 (Sheen stars on the sitcom *Two and a Half Men*. His wife Denise Richards filed for divorce from Sheen after two-and-a-half years of marriage and their messy divorce has become a tabloid dream. His real name is Carlos Irwin Estevez. Sheen may have a badboy image, but in a 1998 video documentary titled *Sex Lives Of The Stars*, a former girlfriend of Sheen claims he's such a lame lover that he couldn't even locate her private parts one evening. According to Charlie's dad, actor Martin Sheen, Charlie almost died when he was born because his umbilical cord was wrapped around his neck. Martin says he was running around the delivery room screaming, "Get a priest! Get a priest!" But then the doctor said, "Get out of my way, boy. We're going to save this baby." Which they obviously did. Charlie claims he once was buzzed by an ET spacecraft on a deserted beach in Malibu. Hollywood madam Heidi Fleiss says she isn't too fond of Charlie — even though he admitted spending as much as \$50,000 a year with her high class hooker agency. In 2001 Sheen said in an interview with *Playboy* that he once made love to five women at the same time. However, he claims it wasn't that great because, "There's just not enough guy to go around." In fact, Sheen was so uncomfortable that he had to have sex with each girl one-at-a-time and told the others, "Can you guys just look the other way until it's your turn?" Charlie doesn't like threesomes either. He says somebody always gets jealous and "You spend the rest of the night apologizing for something they initiated." Sheen flicks: *Scary Movie 3* (2003), *The Big Bounce* (2004), *Deeper Than Deep* (2003), *The Colored Star* (2001), *Good Advice* (2001), *Terminal Velocity* (1994), *The Chase* (1994), *The Three Musketeers* (1993), *Hot Shots! Part Deux* (1993), *Hot Shots!* (1991), *Major League* (1989), *Young Guns* (1988), *Wall Street* (1987), *Platoon* (1986), *Red Dawn* (1984).)

VALERIE PERRINE 66 (Perrine was the first female actress to appear nude on United States network TV. It happened in 1973 on a PBS teleplay titled *Steambath*. Perrine states she was born in 1944 not 1943 as reported in some sources.)

AL JARDINE 68 (Beach Boys.)

EILEEN BRENNAN 75 (Played Mrs. Bink on *7th Heaven*. Other TV and films: *The Hollow* (2004), *Off The Rack*, *A New Kind of Family*, *Private Benjamin*.)

MORT WALKER 87 (Creator of the "Beetle Bailey" cartoon strip. When Beetle Bailey celebrated his 50th anniversary in 2000, Walker said Beetle was originally named "Spider" and he was a college cut-up, not an Army private. But Bailey enlisted in the army in 1951 and the strip became a hit during the Korean War. In 2000 Walker was awarded the Decoration for Distinguished Civilian Service, the highest military award a civilian can receive. Walker says he thinks the award is ironic since Beetle Bailey often lampoons military life. During the Vietnam War, peace activists thought the strip was anti-war while military folk considered it a slice of life.)

HELEN WAGNER 92 (Since the show's debut in 1956, Ms. Wagner has portrayed Nancy Hughes McClosky on the soap opera *As the World Turns*.)

HEADLINES ON THIS DAY

40 Years Ago Today: The legendary football coach **Vince Lombardi died** at the age of 57. The Super Bowl trophy is named in his honor. (1970)

43 Years Ago Today: A law went into effect that **switched the direction of traffic in Sweden**. On this day, motorists in Sweden began driving on the right-hand side of the road instead of the left. (1967)

55 Years Ago Today: "**The Yellow Rose Of Texas**" by **Mitch Miller was the No. 1 song**. (#2: "Ain't That A Shame" by Pat Boone; #3: "Rock Around The Clock" by Bill Haley; #4: "Learnin' The Blues" by Frank Sinatra; #5: "Seventeen" by Boyd Bennett.) (1955)

59 Years Ago Today: ***Search for Tomorrow* made its debut on CBS**. (1951)

71 Years Ago Today: **Great Britain and France declared war on Germany**. Later that day in a fireside radio chat, President Roosevelt assured Americans the United States would remain neutral in what would become World War II. (1939)

89 Years Ago Today: **The first bowling league was formed in the United States**. (1921)

227 Years Ago Today: The **Revolutionary War officially came to an end** when a treaty between England and the United States was signed in Paris. John Adams, Benjamin Franklin and John Jay signed for the Americans. (1783)

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Saturday, September 4, 2010

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

COOPER HEFNER 19 (Hugh Hefner's son.)

BEYONCE KNOWLES 29 (The songstress and long time rapper boyfriend **Jay-Z** finally tied the knot in April of '08 after years of denying a relationship. Knowles is best known as the lead singer of Destiny's Child. The group broke up in the fall of 2005 and Knowles has since embarked on a solo singing career as well as appeared in a number of films. She is also the spokesman for various products and has her own clothing line, *House of Dereon*, which she designs with her mother, Tina Knowles. Knowles has been romantically linked with rapper Jay-Z for years but the two have made it a priority to stay out of the public eye. Flicks: *Deamgirls*(2006), *The Pink Panther*(2006), *The Fighting Temptations* (2003), Played Foxy Cleopatra in *Austin Powers in Goldmember* (2002).)

DAN MILLER 30 (Singer from the boy band O-Town.)

WES BENTLEY 32 (Actor. *Ghost Rider*(2007), *The Game of Their Lives* (2005), *Carving Out Our Name* (2001), *Four Feathers* (2001), *Soul Survivors* (2001), *American Beauty* (1999).)

NONA GAYE 36 (Singer. Marvin Gaye's daughter.)

JASON FRANK 37 (Played Carl on MTV's short lived series *Undressed*. Played Tommy on *Power Rangers Turbo* and *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers*. Jason portrayed the Red, Green and White Power Rangers. In 2003, he was inducted into the World Karate Union Hall of Fame. He created his own blend of American karate, calling it "Toso Kune Do.")

IONE SKYE 40 (The actress is the daughter of '60s folk singer Donovan. Skye was once married to *Beastie Boys* rapper Adam Horovitz. Most famous for playing bookworm Diane in the 80s classic *Say Anything*(1989). She has most recently been seen in the 2007 film *Zodiac*.)

MIKE PIAZZA 42 (Currently the catcher for the Oakland Athletics. Regarded as the best hitting catcher of all time, holding the career record for home runs hit by a catcher. In 2001 Piazza was voted "Baseball's Sexiest Single All-Star." The catcher scored 11 percent of the votes received by the Kiss.com website in its annual sexy sports stars survey.)

KIM THAYIL 50 (The former lead guitarist for Soundgarden claims his hometown of Seattle has a stupid attitude toward coffee: "Everyone in Seattle likes to pride themselves on their ability to drink coffee, but it's all candy coffee, wimpy dessert coffee — basically coffee-flavored milk...It's horrible.")

DAMON WAYANS 50 (Starred in the television show *My Wife and Kids*. Wayans and David Alan Grier played *In Living Color's* gay movie critics for the "Men On Film" segment. He was a featured performer on *Saturday Night Live*, but was fired shortly after for portraying a cop as flamboyantly gay, though the character was meant to be straight. Wayans flicks: *Marci X* (2003), *Bulletproof* (1996), *Major Payne* (1994), *Mo' Money* (1992), *I'm Gonna Git You Sucka* (1988).)

DREW PINSKY 52 (Dr. Drew is the host of the nationally syndicated call-in radio show *LoveLine*. He also hosts *Strictly Dr. Drew* on the Discovery Health channel. This past year Dr. Drew ventured into television by producing and hosting *Celebrity Rehab with Dr. Drew* on VH1. He made is acting debut in 2004, playing the father of **Mary-Kate** and **Ashley Olsen's** characters in *New York Minute*. Pinsky is also a trained opera singer and plays the bass.)

MITZI GAYNOR 80 (The actress and singer is best known for her role in the 1958 film musical, *South Pacific*.)

PAUL HARVEY 92 (News announcer. Harvey's daily national radio broadcast first aired in 1950.)

Actor DICK YORK would have been 82 today. (He played Darrin on TV's *Bewitched*. If you're confused over which Dick played which Darrin, here's a quick background: York played Darrin from 1964 to 1969 but left the show because of a chronic back injury. He was replaced by Dick Sargent, who played Darrin until the series ended in 1972. York died in 1992 of emphysema.)

HEADLINES ON THIS DAY

17 Years Ago Today: Tiny **Herve Villechaize, who played Tattoo on the TV series *Fantasy Island* from 1978 to 1984, killed himself.** He had been despondent over health problems. (1993)

37 Years Ago Today: **John Ehrlichman and G. Gordon Liddy were indicted in connection with the burglary of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist's office.** The action was initiated by the White House "plumber's" unit, which was created to stop security leaks. (1973)

38 Years Ago Today: Olympic swimmer **Mark Spitz became the first athlete to win a record seven Gold Medals** in one Olympiad. It happened at the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich. (1972)

43 Years Ago Today: **The final episode of *Gilligan's Island* aired on CBS.** (1967)

44 Years Ago Today: **The first *Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Telethon* aired.** (1966)

45 Years Ago Today: **"Help!" by the Beatles was the No. 1 song.** (No. 2: "Like A Rolling Stone" by Bob Dylan; No. 3: "California Girls" by the Beach Boys; No. 4: "Unchained Melody" by the Righteous Brothers; No. 5: "It's The Same Old Song" by the Four Tops.) (1965)

51 Years Ago Today: **WCBS radio in New York City discontinued playing the hit song "Mack The Knife" after the city was plagued by a rash of teenage stabbings.** (1959)

53 Years Ago Today: **The Ford Motor Company introduced the Edsel.** The new model was a bomb with consumers and was yanked from the market in 1959. Edsels in good condition today are worth \$20,000 and more. (1957)

60 Years Ago Today: **The *Beetle Bailey* comic strip appeared in newspapers for the first time.** (1950)

116 Years Ago Today: **12,000 New York City tailors went on strike** to protest the existence of sweatshops. (1894)

122 Years Ago Today: Inventor **George Eastman received a patent for his roll-film camera.** Eastman also registered the trademark for his new camera: "Kodak" (1888)

177 Years Ago Today: **The world's first newspaper boy — 10-year-old Barney Flaherty — was hired by *The New York Sun*.** The paper began publishing just a few days earlier, and an issue of *The Sun* sold for just one cent. In three years, the newspaper became the largest in America at the time, with a circulation of 30,000. (1833)

FlashNews Pop Culture Datebook

Sunday, September 5, 2010

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

PRINCE PIERRE 23 (Son of Princess Caroline of Monaco.)

ROSE MCGOWAN 35 (Played Paige Matthews on *Charmed*. McGowan played Ann-Margaret in a 2005 TV mini-series called *Elvis*. Gowan says she became "very obsessed" with Presley in 2000 when she visited Graceland hoping to laugh at the kitschy shag rugs on the ceiling. But she says she was so affected by the visit that she started crying out by his grave and later recorded a version of "Are You Lonesome Tonight?" at Sun Studios. Now she is such a big fan that she performs his tunes at karaoke bars and is good at it because, she points out, "I've got sort of a deep singing voice." McGowan flicks: *Death Proof* (2007), *Grindhouse* (2007) *The Black Dahlia* (2006), *Vacuums* (2002), *Vacuums* (2002), *Rat in the Can* (2001), *Monkeybone* (2001), *Jawbreaker* (1999), *Phantoms* (1998), *Going All the Way* (1997), *Seed* (1997), *Scream* (1996), *Bio-Dome* (1996), *Encino Man* (1992).)

DWEEZIL ZAPPA 41 (The musician is the son of Frank Zappa. Dweezil's brother and sisters are Moon Unit, Ahmet and Diva. Dweezil played Tguitar on Pat Boone's version of "Smoke On The Water." and a guitar solo on Don Johnson's 1986 Top 5 hit "Heartbeat.")

CATHY GUISEWITE 60 (Creator of the "Cathy" cartoon strip. Won an Emmy for Cathy in 1987.)

KATHY CRONKITE 60 (Daughter of Walter Cronkite.)

LOUDON WAINWRIGHT III 64 (He's the man behind the 1972 novelty hit "Dead Skunk (In The Middle Of The Road).")

AL STEWART 65 (Singer. "Time Passages" (1978), "Year Of The Cat" (1976))

RAQUEL WELCH 70 (Raquel was the principal sex goddess of the 1960s. In 1998 *Playboy* magazine selected Welch as one of "The 100 Sexiest Women of the Century." Raquel was in third place, topped only by **Jayne Mansfield** and **Marilyn Monroe**. Before she become a star, Welch worked as cocktail waitress at a Dallas bar. She says she hated the job because she had to wear a short toga, high-heeled gold pumps and a plastic Helen Of Troy wig that made her look "...like a Conehead with bangs." *Allure* magazine reports that Welch occasionally throws temper tantrums — like the time she threw a mirror and accidentally wounded her hairdresser. Welch reportedly loves Evian water so much that she washes her hair with it. The producers of *Gilligan's Island* almost hired Raquel for the role of Mary Ann. Films: *Forget About It* (2006), *Jim Brown All American* (2002), *Legally Blonde* (2001), *Tortilla Soup* (2001), *Myra Breckinridge* (1970), *The Three Musketeers* (1974). Welch states he was born in 1940 not 1942 as reported by some sources.)

GEORGE LAZENBY 71 (The Australian actor played James Bond in one film, *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*. Born on September 5 not September 9 as reported by some sources.)

WILLIAM DEVANE 73 (Devane auditioned for the role of Sam the bartender on *Cheers* but was bitterly disappointed when he didn't get the part. The Hollywood rumor mill claims Devane lost the role to Ted Danson because *Cheers* producers thought Devane would be difficult to work with.)

BOB NEWHART 81 (Before the actor and comedian hit it big, Newhart worked as an accountant. He once said, "I was a lousy accountant. I always figured that if you came within eight bucks of what you needed you were doing O.K. I made up the difference out of my own pocket." He says being the star of so many TV series has posed a problem when it comes to titles for his shows. "After The Bob Newhart Show, Newhart, and Bob, we just finally ran out of names. The only things left were "The" or "Show." Newhart was offered the job as host of the *Tonight Show* in 1962 but he turned it down.)

BUDDY MILES would have been 64 today. (Drummer for the Gypsies with Jimi Hendrix and Billy Cox.)

Musician FREDDIE MERCURY would have been 64 today. (In 1991 the lead singer for Queen announced that he had been infected with the AIDS virus for quite some time. The next day he died. Born on Sept. 5 not Sept. 9 as reported by some sources.)

JACK VALENTI was born in 1921. (President of the Motion Picture Association of America.)

Movie mogul DARRYL F. ZANUCK was born in 1902. (He co-founded 20th Century Studios which merged with Fox Studios. When Zanuck saw Clark Gable's first screen test, he dismissed the actor and commented: "His ears are too big. He looks like an ape." Zanuck died in Palm Springs on December 21, 1979.)

Whiskey maker JACK DANIEL was born in 1850. (The distillery reports that there is much confusion over the year and day of Jack Daniel's birth. His birth record, if there even was one, was lost in a fire. The distillery has settled on September 5, 1850, as the birthday of Jack Daniel. Jack was quite the rebel. He left home at the tender age of six and got into the booze biz at the age of 13 after he took over a whiskey operation from a Lutheran preacher. Daniel died after he kicked a stubborn cast iron safe that refused to open. His toe became infected and a doctor was forced to amputate it — but the amputation caused more infection, so the doctor chopped off more of his foot. Daniel finally died from the infection on October 9, 1911. The fatal safe is still in his original office at the Jack Daniel's Distillery in Lynchburg, Tennessee.)

Gunslinger JESSE JAMES was born in 1847. (Jesse and his brother, Frank, menaced the Midwest for years, leaving a trail of murder and robberies. James is most famous as a bank robber, but during the Civil War he also worked as a cross-dressing spy for the Confederate Army. It seems Jesse was such a small fellow and had such smooth, rosy cheeks that he would infiltrate Union lines dressed as a woman. He died at the age of 34 after being shot behind his right ear by a member of his own gang. He was **feather-dusting a picture of his horse at the time of his death.**)

HEADLINES ON THIS DAY

13 Years Ago Today: Mother Teresa died in Calcutta at the age of 87. (1997)

22 Years Ago Today: *Live with Regis and Kathie Lee* premiered. (1988)

24 Years Ago Today: The final episode of *The Love Boat* aired on ABC. (1986)

35 Years Ago Today: A follower of Charles Manson named Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme tried to assassinate President Gerald Ford. A quick-thinking Secret Service agent saved the president's life by pulling a revolver from the hands of "Squeaky." (1975)

38 Years Ago Today: The Summer Olympics in Munich were tarnished when 11 members of the Israeli Olympic Team were killed by Arab terrorists. A police officer and five of the terrorists were also killed in the siege. (1972)

FlashNews Pop Culture Datebook

49 Years Ago Today: President Kennedy signed a bill that made hijacking of an airliner a federal crime punishable by death or prison. (1961)

53 Years Ago Today: Jack Kerouac's *On The Road* was published. (1957)

54 Years Ago Today: Elvis Presley surprised his mother with a gift: a pink Cadillac. The Cadillac is now on display at Graceland. (1956)

71 Years Ago Today: The United States officially proclaimed its neutrality in World War II. (1939)

92 Years Ago Today: The Star Spangled Banner was played for the first time at a baseball game. The historic moment took place during the 7th inning stretch of the opening game of the 1918 World Series. By the end of the series, the Boston Red Sox beat the Chicago Cubs and each Red Sox player received a little over a thousand dollars (\$1,102.51) — a record low payment for winners of the World Series. (1918)

96 Years Ago Today: Babe Ruth hit his first official home run for a pro team. The 19-year-old Babe was playing for the Providence Greys when he hit his first home run against Toronto. Although it was his first home run in a regular season game, he had hit a home run months earlier in a spring training game held on March 7. (1914)

128 Years Ago Today: America's first Labor Day parade was held in New York City. (1882)

174 Years Ago Today: Sam Houston was elected president of the Texas Republic. (1836)

236 Years Ago Today: The first meeting of what would become the United States Congress took place in Philadelphia. Back then the group of politicians was known as the Continental Congress. (1774)

312 Years Ago Today: Peter the Greek of Russia imposed a tax on all men wearing beards. (1698)