

Chit Chat

News for Home and Living

JUNE/JULY 2008

How Does The World See You?

Few of us get the chance to know how the world really sees us. In Alfred's case, his chance may have come through a case of mistaken identity.

Alfred worked with his father and brothers in their family-owned factory in St. Petersburg, Russia, producing land mines and other military equipment during the Crimean War (1853-1856). But once the war ended, the company went bankrupt and Alfred and his brothers had to search for new business ventures. Young Alfred began experimenting with a new substance called *nitroglycerine* and eventually invented dynamite – a product that changed warfare forever and made him a wealthy, powerful industrialist.



Alfred's brother Ludvig died in 1888, and a French newspaper — thinking it was Alfred and not his brother who had passed on — ran his obituary under the cutting headline “Le marchand de la mort est mort” (the merchant of death is dead). Imagine what it would be like to pick up a newspaper and read a report of your own death, and realize that history was not going to be kind to you, or acknowledge – in Alfred's case – a lifetime of accomplishments that included writing dramatic works and poetry, fluency in five languages, and 355 patents for his other inventions.

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With the family name obviously in need of some burnishing, Alfred took a step that changed the way history remembers him. And now his last name is associated *not* with the invention of dynamite and *Merchant Of Death*, but with the creation of an award that honors men and women from all corners of the globe for outstanding achievements in physics, chemistry, medicine, literature, and the best-known award of all — the Nobel Peace Prize.

Alfred Bernhard Nobel (1833-1896) chose the original science categories — ones that reflected his interest in practical knowledge. Winners have included Albert Einstein and Marie Curie. The Peace Prize is awarded annually in Oslo, the capital of Norway. The actual prize is always presented on the 10th of December, the anniversary of the death of Nobel.

How do *you* want to be remembered?

New California Cell Phone Driving Laws

Beginning **July 1st**, California's two new cell phone laws will change driving behaviors. The first law mandates that ALL drivers may no longer use hand-held cellular devices while driving. Instead, drivers 18 and older must use hands-free devices. The second law stipulates drivers younger than 18 will not be allowed to use cellular phones or any electronic device whatsoever. Emergency situations are the only exceptions to these laws.



Got cell phone?
18 and over, hands-free.
Under 18, it's hands off.
Starting July 1st.

Watch the Road.org

Cell phones are the leading cause of traffic accidents in California. The safer driving environment these laws will help create is expected to save 300 lives per year in California, according to the Public Policy Institute of California. "These new laws will help protect our citizens from traffic accidents and keep them more aware of the road while they are driving," said L.A. Police Chief William Bratton.

- ◆ Drivers under 18 may not use any electronic devices, including wireless telephones, pagers, laptops or other electronic communication or mobile services devices.
- ◆ Law enforcement officers will begin ticketing for offenses to these laws on July 1. Officers can pull drivers over singularly for either infraction.
- ◆ The base fine for a first offense for either law is \$20; subsequent convictions incur \$50. With the addition of penalty assessments, a first offense is \$76 and a second offense is \$190, according to the Uniform Bail and Penalty Schedule. The violation is a reportable offense, although a point to drivers' records will not be added by the Department of Motor Vehicles.
- ◆ In emergencies, drivers are allowed to use their cell phones to call law enforcement, fire departments, medical providers or other emergency services agencies.
- ◆ Hands-free ear pieces may be used by drivers 18 or older, but both ears may not be covered.
- ◆ For drivers 18 and older, dialing on cell phones and text messaging is not specifically prohibited, but law enforcement and transportation agencies strongly discourage doing so while driving. Law enforcement officers may cite drivers who are text messaging if the officer believes the driver was distracted and not operating the vehicle safely.
- ◆ The laws do not apply to vehicle passengers.



Starting July 1st:
Keep both hands
on the wheel, not
on your phone.
It's the law.

Watch the Road.org

— Adapted from *watchtheroad.org*

Go Blue!

July is Blueberry Month and a great time to celebrate this native American species that adds so much to our breakfast cereal, pancakes, muffins, desserts, and makes a great snack all year round.



But did you know that eating blueberries could also be one of the keys to living longer and healthier? According to the North American Blueberry Council, foods that are rich in antioxidants can help reduce your chance of getting cancer, heart disease, and diseases associated with the aging process. Blueberries are loaded with antioxidants; in fact, out of 40 different fruits, juices and vegetables, the blueberry comes in with the highest antioxidant level. Blueberries may also help prevent urinary tract infections, macular degeneration, and the effects of Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

A cup of blueberries has about 80 calories, no cholesterol, is low in saturated fat and sodium, and high in dietary fiber. They're a good source of vitamins A, C and E, calcium and iron. Like many fruits they're also high in sugar, so go easy on the sweetener!

Though local blueberries are available only from May through October, you can enjoy them year round by purchasing them now and freezing them. The Blueberry Council suggests not washing blueberries before freezing. If you buy the berries in a pint box, simply wrap the box tightly in cellophane to make it airtight, or slip it into a resealable plastic bag (squeezing out as much air as possible) and freeze. If you buy berries in bulk, freeze them on a cookie sheet first and then transfer them into a freezer container. Keep your blueberries frozen until ready to use – they should last up to a year in your freezer.

Attention Graduates...

You are educated. Your certification is in your degree. You may think of it as the ticket to the good life. Let me ask you to think of an alternative. Think of it as your ticket to change the world.

— Tom Brokaw

One of the greatest things in life is that no one has the authority to tell you what you want to be. You're the one who will decide what you want to be. The greatest thing you have is your self-image, a positive opinion of yourself. You must never let anyone take it from you.

— Jaime Escalante

Welcome New Clients!

Here are some past clients, and new clients who became members of our "Real Estate Family" recently, whom we'd like to welcome, say thank you, and wish you all the best!

John and Sarah Pate (past and treasured clients)

Gregory Fenton and Tiffany Lopez (past and treasured clients)

Rich and Joann Landin

John Verwiell

Charles Fitzsimmons and Lourdes Duran

Earle and Joyce Anderson

Bruce and Leisha Clendenen

We love giving recognition to our new friends and our wonderful existing clients who are kind enough to refer their friends and relatives to us.

June/July Quiz Question

What is the only bone in the human body that doesn't touch another bone?

Everyone responding by calling or e-mailing us with the correct answer will be entered into a drawing for:

A \$30 gift certificate for a store of your choice!

Drawing to be held on 7/15/08



Jan/Feb Quiz Answer

Question: Which human organ produces insulin?

Answer: The pancreas is an organ in the digestive and endocrine system that releases digestive juices through a duct into your duodenum — the first part of your small intestine. It also contains sodium bicarbonate which neutralizes acid in your stomach.

Congratulations to Barbara Adams

Your name was selected at random from all of the correct quiz entries and you'll receive a \$30 gift certificate for a store of your choice!

See An Interesting Home?

No need to wonder about the price. No need to call a high-pressure sales agent who will just make you feel obligated. Our computers can send you the information quickly and easily, for any house, listed or sold, anywhere.

Just ask "The Sister Team"!

**It's all part of our
Free, No-obligation
Home Finder Service.**

Call April or Tara any time:
(951) 205-4429 or (951) 205-4428

www.thesisterteam.com

We'll fax, mail or e-mail you the information on that listing within 24 hours.

“There is a common misconception that if you want to help animals, your only option is to become a veterinarian. And that’s just not the case,” says Betsy McFarland, director of communications for the HSUS’s Companion



Animals section. “Just about any skill can be geared toward helping animals. For example, there are lawyers who specialize in animal law. And at the Humane Society of the United States, they have a full-time art director who designs their

“The Sister Team” is willing to donate money to help those who would like to adopt a needy (and doomed) pet from any animal shelter!

We are willing and able to *confidentially* help those who are unable or unwilling to spay or neuter their companion (or stray) animals.

Together, forever and always
for the animals!

--Tara and April

If you are thinking about adopting a companion animal, please consider the Riverside County Animal Shelter at 5950 Wilderness Avenue (951-358-PETS) or Nona's ARK of Anza, an animal rescue, at 951-378-1976. You will not only find a friend that will love you unconditionally, but you will be saving a life. Nona's ARK currently has 6 Labra-Doodles ranging in ages from 1 to 3 yrs, a 1-yr-old Chihuahua/Corgi mix, and a female wire-haired Jack Russell who doesn't like cats! If you live in Riverside and have lost a pet, go to the Riverside County Animal Shelter's website at www.rcdas.org to view photos of found pets. If you need help with the cost of a spay or neuter, please contact The Sister Team for this incredibly important cause!



If you've lost, or found, any type of creature (cat, dog, bird, tortoise), please contact "The Sister Team" so that we may put its photo and/or description in this newsletter, so a happy reunion can be arranged with the proper owner!!

REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY REPORT

Listed AND Sold by “The Sister Team”

SOLD

2979	Aleppo	\$590,000	6 bed, 4 bath	4150 sq ft	3-car garage & pool/spa
6845	Barcelona	\$175,500	3 bed, 1 bath	1140 sq ft	2-car garage
1000	Central, #26	\$153,000	2 bed, 2 bath	965 sq ft	2-car carport
1151	Coronet	\$400,000	3 bed, 3 bath	2353 sq ft	3-car garage
4141	Linwood (<i>sold in 1 week!</i>)	\$294,900	2 bed, 1.75 bath	1500 sq ft	1-car garage & workshop
4202	Linwood	\$351,500	3 bed, 1.75 bath	1500 sq ft	2-car garage
3911	Redwood (<i>sold in 2 weeks!</i>)	\$424,900	3 bed, 1.75 bath	1728 sq ft	2-car garage

IN ESCROW

5342	Magnolia	Sold prices posted in next “Activity Report”	5 bed, 2.75 bath	2168 sq ft	2-car garage
4065	Larchwood		3 bed, 1 bath	1235 sq ft	2-car garage & workshop
4710	Linwood		3 bed, 2 bath	1477 sq ft	2-car garage

AVAILABLE

4050	Adams (Historical Mansion)	\$595,000	3 bed, 3 bath	2500 sq ft	2-car garage & pool/spa
1275	Blazewood	\$456,000	4 bed, 3 bath	2145 sq ft	2-car garage (huge yard)
5068	Carlingford	\$324,900	3 bed, 2 bath	1560 sq ft	2-car garage
3581	Elmwood Drive	\$449,900	3 bed, 1.75 bath	2052 sq ft	2-car garage
260	Fox Mills	\$299,999	4 bed, 2.5 bath	1680 sq ft	2-car garage
4158	Highland	\$299,900	3 bed, 1.75 bath	1250 sq ft	2-car garage
4333	Maplewood	\$375,000	2 bed, 2 bath	1780 sq ft	2-car garage
6707	Mt. Whitney	\$354,900	3 bed, 1.75 bath	1600 sq ft	2-car garage & spa

ALL of the properties above were listed and/or sold by “The Sister Team.”

If you would like information on other properties in your neighborhood, please contact us at (951) 205-4429.

*We **LIVE** in the neighborhood, we **WORK** in the neighborhood,
we **KNOW** the neighborhood, we **SELL** the neighborhood!!!*



\$324,900 3 bd/2 bth 1560 sq ft, turn key with central air/heat, new paint, new windows, new roof! Almost everything is new! 2-car garage!



\$449,900 3 bd/2 bth 2052 sq ft “Wood Street” Spanish- style with gorgeous hardwood floors, coved ceilings, wine cellar and 2-car garage!



\$456,000 4 bd/3 bth 2145 sq ft ranch-style in Canyon Crest on huge park-like lot with newer roof, new windows, central air, and RV parking!

Older Someday... Grumpier, No Way!

If you're afraid of getting older and meaner, here is some great news.

That stereotype is starting to shrivel because it is just not true, says Laura Cartensen, founding director of the Stanford Center on Longevity. Cartensen says older people have an ability to block out negative information and so are more content than younger people. There *are* grumpy seniors, but they were probably *always* grumpy, even when they were young. Older people experience less depression than their younger counterparts, says Cartensen, and when seniors do experience a negative emotion, it usually passes more quickly than it does in young people.

What's the secret? As we get older, we try to make the most of life by focusing on the positive. We get rid of the riff-raff and time-wasters in our lives and spend our time with those who are important to us and doing things that matter to us. And we're happier because of it.



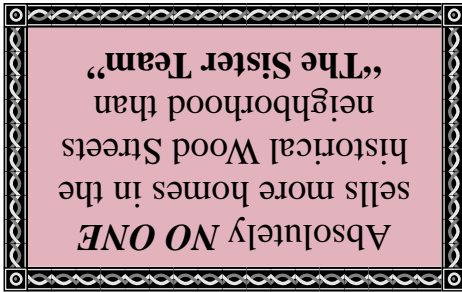
Remember:

*You don't stop laughing because you grow old.
You grow old because you stop laughing.*



As the newest member of
"The Sister Team",
I'm loving real estate,
and looking forward
to getting
my driver's license
so I can show property!





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Chit Chat

Place
Stamp
Here

Referral Reward Program ...

We want to thank those of you who have participated in our Client Referral program! Marketing for new clients costs us tons of time, money and energy. Like any company, we need new clients to stay in business. Over the years we've found that looking for new clients takes away from the time we would rather be spending focusing on your goals, explaining your options, and providing the excellent service you expect.....*and deserve!*

If you refer your friends and relatives to us, everyone benefits. We can serve you better. We send you a nice gift. And we assure you that we'll take the very best care of anyone you refer to us.

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