

Chit Chat

News for Home and Living

MAY 2003

A Timeless Tribute To Mothers

- Somebody said a mother is an unskilled laborer...
Somebody never gave a squirmy infant a bath!
- Somebody said being a mother is what you do in your spare time...
Somebody doesn't know that when you're a mother, you're a mother ALL the time!
- Somebody said you learn how to be a mother by instinct...
Somebody never took a three-year-old shopping!
- Somebody said you don't need an education to be a mother...
Somebody never helped a fourth grader with his/her math!
- Somebody said if you're a "good" mother, your child will "turn out."
Somebody thinks a child is like a bag of plaster of Paris that comes with directions, a mold & a guarantee!



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- Somebody said a mother's job is done when her last child leaves home...
Somebody never had grandchildren!
- Somebody said being a mother is a side dish on the plate of life...
Somebody doesn't know what fills you up!
- Somebody said it takes about six weeks to get back to normal after you've had a baby...
Somebody doesn't know that once you're a mother, "normal" is history!
- Somebody said your mother knows you love her, so you don't need to tell her...
Somebody isn't a mother!!!

The author of this piece is unknown,
but the tribute to mothers is universal!

-- Tara & April



May is National Strawberry Month



The strawberry fruit in the botanical sense is not a berry, and it is much more than a single fruit; it is the greatly enlarged stem end or receptacle, in which are partially embedded the many true fruits, or *achenes* (popularly called seeds).

Strawberries are 90% water by weight. They have more vitamin C than an equal quantity of lemons -- a handful of fresh-picked strawberries supplies an adult man's entire day's need of vitamin C -- and more vitamin A than the same weight of raisins. Eight medium strawberries provide as much vitamin C than a large orange. Those eight berries (1 cup) provide a good source of vitamins, minerals, and fiber with only 50 calories.

Not only is this member of the rose family "the very primrose of fruits, announcing the season has opened again, "but it is widely esteemed for its flavor than any other fruit, and is the most common grown fruit in the home garden. Strawberries will grow almost everywhere throughout the world, need little room, multiply themselves each year by producing "daughter plants," have no thorns as so many small fruits do, need no trellises and supports, and can produce good crops without spraying because they bear their fruit before pests get a good start in the garden.

Strawberries are the fourth most valuable fruit crop in the U.S., after grapes, apples and oranges.

Here in the U.S., winter and spring crops come from Florida, the Gulf, and southeastern states, but three-fourths of all strawberries are grown in California.

Commercial strawberry growing in America began about 1800, near the largest cities. Strawberries are now a leading small fruit in the U.S., their culture extending from Florida to Alaska.



What's a Mom's Salary?

What would the average stay-at-home mother's work be worth in today's marketplace? A recent study determined that those moms would command a \$641,000 salary. The figure is derived from totaling the average salaries of 17 different occupations that a typical mom performs throughout the year. Here are just a few of the jobs included in the total:

- Child-care worker -- \$15,400
- Housekeeper -- \$14,600
- Animal Caretaker -- \$17,200
- Executive Chef -- \$64,800
- Management Analyst -- \$56,500

-- Adapted from *Family Circle*

Little Girls and Lipstick

A junior high school principal was faced with a problem: A number of girls were beginning to use lipstick and would put it on in the bathroom. That was fine, but after they put on their lipstick, they would press their lips to the mirror, leaving dozens of little lip prints.

Finally, the principal decided that something had to be done. She called all the girls to the bathroom and met them there with the custodian, explaining that the lip prints were causing a problem for the custodian, who had to clean the mirrors every day.

To demonstrate how difficult it was to clean the mirrors, the principal asked the custodian to clean one of the mirrors. He took out a long-handled squeegee, dipped it into the toilet, and then cleaned the mirror. Since then, there have been no lip prints on the mirror!

Helpful Hints

MOTHBALL ALTERNATIVE: A better idea than using mothballs is to take your leftover soap slivers and put them in a vented plastic bag. Place the bag with seasonal clothes before packing them away. Not only will the scent prevent them from moth harm but also they'll smell great when you pull them out. This is especially great for sweaters, which can be difficult to remove the odor of mothballs from. By using soap, you simply have a clean smell rather than the smell of an attic.

SOILED SHIRT COLLARS: Take a small paintbrush and brush hair shampoo into soiled shirt collars before laundering. Shampoo is made to dissolve body oils.

ANT REPELLANT: To keep ants out of the house, find where the ants are entering the house and sprinkle a "barrier" of cinnamon or any type of ground pepper to block their way. The spices are too hot for the ants to cross. Or try sprinkling Comet cleanser if you don't have children.



STICKERS, DECALS AND GLUE: To remove them from furniture, glass, plastic, etc., saturate with vegetable oil and rub off.

PHOTOS STUCK TOGETHER: With a hair dryer on low, slowly melt them apart.

Welcome

Here are some of the new clients who became members of our "Real Estate Family" this past month. We'd like to welcome you and wish you all the best!

Dan Zimbardi & Lori Schoulten
(referred by Ron & Cheryl Barnett)

Jack and Helen Yeager
(referred by Lloyd & Vernal Sellin)

Patricia Emmenegger
(past and treasured client)

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.

April Quiz Answer

Question: What is a group of sea otters called?

Answer: A "raft." Rafts typically consist of two or more resting otters. Rafts often sleep side by side, wrapped up in strands of kelp, so that they don't drift far from each other.

Source: http://www.mbayaq.org/efc/efc_fo/fo_ottr_faq.asp

Congratulations to Suzanne Mallery

Your name was selected at random from all of the correct quiz entries and you'll receive a \$30 Barnes & Noble gift certificate!

May Quiz Question

What's the human body's largest organ?

Everyone responding 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 6/01/03



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How To Live Peacefully In Your Animal Kingdom

Do you sniffle and sneeze every time Fluffy the cat slinks into the room? Or does the affectionate cuddling your little terrier craves send you into tearful, itchy fits? Pet allergies can take more than two years to develop and may not go away until six months or more after you end contact with the animal. If the animal in question is the family pet, you may have a problem: Your allergies may never go away, without intervention, anyway.



Household pets are the most common source of allergic reactions to animals. Many people think that pet allergies are provoked by the fur of cats and dogs. But researchers have found that the major allergens are proteins secreted by oil glands in the animals' skin and shed in dander, as well as proteins in the saliva which sticks to the fur when the animal licks itself. Urine is also a source of allergy-causing proteins. When the substance carrying the proteins dries, the proteins can then float into the air. Cats may be more likely than dogs to cause allergic reactions because they lick themselves more and may spend more time in the house, closer to people. Also, there is no such thing as a "non-allergic" breed of dog, but dog allergens vary from breed to breed, and even between dogs within a single breed.

Here are some solutions for getting along with your furry housemates:

- Keep pets out of bedrooms.
- Ask your veterinarian about bathing your pet more often.
- Brush your pet frequently.
- Keep pets off your sofas and chairs, and remove carpets where possible.
- Before you move into a new living space, find out if fur-bearing pets lived there before. Allergens can stay in the air for months after an animal has left.

– Adapted from the *AllHealth* website



A friendly reminder ...

Spaying and neutering is the most important thing we can do to help dogs and cats.

"The Sister Team" is willing and able to help those who are unable to spay or neuter their companion animals. Please contact us and we will donate our time and money to this most-important cause. Thank you!

-- Tara & April

Preferred Service Directory

Below are some hard-working, reliable people/companies that we highly recommend:

A.H.P. 

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Chris Allen
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\$189,000



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Absolutely charming dollhouse
built in 1928 with newer wood floors,
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Perfect for first time homeowners or retirees...

\$254,900



JUST LISTED

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custom one-owner home
built by Harry Marsh in 1951

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gas & wood-burning fireplace in living room,
Exquisitely maintained backyard with
privacy block wall and 2-car detached garage.
Exterior recently painted.



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Three of our
recent listings
each sold within
ONE day!!!!

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Chit Chat

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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