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Jim's Journal

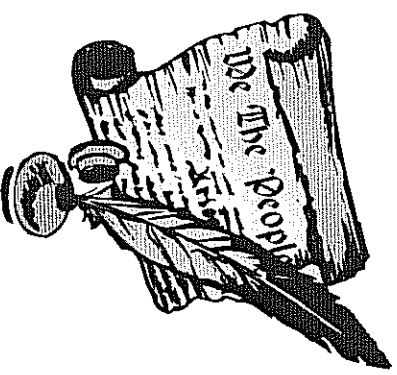
News To Help You Save Time And Money

July

In Honor Of Our First Patriots

Who were the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence? British subjects at the time, they advocated the overthrow of the government for a free and independent America. They knew they could be targeted by the British as traitors, yet showed tremendous courage and bravery by willingly putting their names on a document that could bring about their deaths.

These rebels signed the Declaration of Independence and pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to their new country. Seventeen signers fought in the ensuing war and five of the signers were captured by the British. Thomas Lynch of South Carolina was arrested in 1780 and held on board a British prison ship for a year. During his imprisonment, his plantation was sacked and his slaves (more than 130) were taken and believed sold to sugar plantations in Jamaica. The homes of 12 others were



ransacked and burned in the British “scorched earth” policy against the colonies.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, lost his ships to the British Navy and, after making several bad investments, was forced to sell his home and properties to pay his debts. Colonel Thomas McKean of Delaware was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. And Francis Lewis of New York saw his wife captured by the British, and his home and property destroyed.

What kind of men were these 56 rebels who signed the Declaration of Independence? Twenty-two were lawyers and nine were judges. Stephen Hopkins had been governor of Rhode Island. Eighteen of the signers were merchants or businessmen, 14 were

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July Quiz Question

What is the lowest point of elevation in North America?

Everyone who faxes, e-mails or calls in the correct answer by the next publication of this newsletter will be entered into a drawing for a \$30 gift certificate to the restaurant of their choice

farmers, four were doctors, and three were or had been clergymen. Forty-two had served in their state legislatures. Seven had attended Harvard, four each at Yale and William & Mary, and three at Princeton. Nine of the signers were immigrants, two were brothers, two were cousins, and one was an orphan. They were men who were good in business and men who were not. In short, they were ordinary human beings, thrust into an extraordinary situation. They put their lives on the line to preserve the country they loved.

Take a few minutes while enjoying your Fourth of July holiday to remember and honor our first patriots.

– Adapted from usa-patriotism.com

Remember, freedom is never free!

Fireworks Safety Tips

This year over 9,000 people will be treated in emergency rooms for fireworks-related injuries, half of those ages 14 and younger. If fireworks are part of your summer festivities, here are some safety tips from the National Council of Firework Safety:

- ☆ Always read and follow label directions.
- ☆ Have an adult present.
- ☆ Buy from reliable sellers.
- ☆ Use outdoors only.
- ☆ Always have water handy (a garden hose and a bucket).
- ☆ Never experiment or make your own fireworks.
- ☆ Light only one firework at a time.
- ☆ Never re-light a “dud” firework (wait 15 to 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water).
- ☆ Never give fireworks to small children.
- ☆ Store fireworks only in a cool, dry place.
- ☆ Dispose of fireworks properly by soaking them in water and then placing them in your trash can.
- ☆ Never throw or point fireworks at other people.
- ☆ Never carry fireworks in your pocket.
- ☆ Never light fireworks in metal or glass containers.
- ☆ The shooter should always wear eye protection and never have any part of the body over the firework.
- ☆ Stay away from illegal explosives.

Celebrate!

July 1

Canada Day

July 4

U.S. Independence Day

WELCOME NEW CLIENTS

Here are some of the new clients who became members of my “Real Estate Family” this past month. I’d like to welcome you and wish you all the best!

James and Maria Perita Johnson

Welcome Back!

John Bickly

Welcome

Jodi Love

Welcome

Jerry Austin

Welcome

I love giving recognition to my new friends and my wonderful existing clients who are kind enough to refer their friends and relatives to me.

Laws governing the use of fireworks vary from state to state; for information visit www.fireworksafety.com.

The Dog Days Of Summer

July is National Hot Dog Month, and here’s a bit of history to go with your “dog.”

The name “hot dog” is actually credited to sports cartoonist Tad Dorgan. In 1901 he was covering a baseball game at the Polo Grounds in New York where he encountered an intriguing scene. The vendors at the game were selling hot

Dachshund

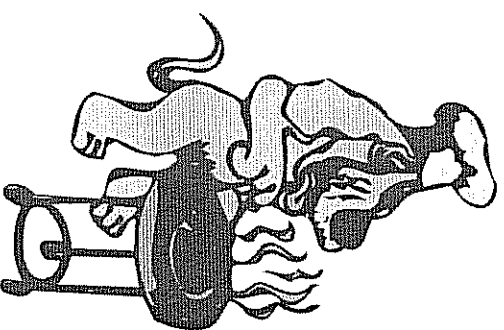
sausages in rolls.

Up in the press box, Dorgan heard them yelling, “Get your Dachshund sausages while they’re red hot!” He tried to sketch a cartoon depicting the vendors, but had absolutely no idea how to spell “dachshund” so he simply wrote “hot dog.”

According to the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council, this summer folks will consume frankfurters in record numbers. In fact, seven billion hot dogs are likely to be devoured between Memorial Day and Labor Day, 155 million of those on July 4th.

But you can’t eat just a plain old hot dog – you’ve got to give it some panache, some character. The Council’s research shows that for adults, mustard is the preferred condiment, while children opt for ketchup. Other popular condiments include onions, relish and sauerkraut.

However, no one seems to know why hot dogs come in packages of 10 and hot dog buns come in packages of eight!



Chocolate Math

1. Pick the number of times a week that you would like to have chocolate (of course it’s more than one, but keep it less than 10).
2. Multiply this number by 2.
3. Add 5.
4. Multiply it by 50 (go ahead and get a calculator).
5. If you’ve already had your birthday this year, add 1755...if not add 1754.
6. Subtract the 4-digit year you were born.

7. You should have a 3-digit number. The first digit is your original number (how many times you want chocolate) the next two numbers reveal your age.

Chocolate knows everything!

Make Traveling Time Learning Time

If you're getting ready to take a family trip in the car, you might want to take advantage of that time to set up some educational activities your children will enjoy.

If you want to enhance your child's creativity, take along a tape recorder and give everyone a chance to sing a song. Then ask your child to sing a song he or she knows well but to change the lyrics. Education can be fun for your kids if you know how to deliver it.

You can also play games along the way. For instance, find license plates from other states and count them. Or you can look for things to identify in the landscape that follow an order – alphabetical perhaps, or color categories. Let your kids choose.

Word games are another excellent way of passing time and exercising your child's mind. Try rhyming games, opposite meaning words and so forth.

You can also have everyone in the car empty their pockets of change, then let your child count it and calculate how many nickels, dimes, etc., you have and determine the overall total of change available.

June Quiz Answer

Question: If you began spelling out numbers in sequence, beginning with o-n-e, t-w-o, t-h-r-e-e, what is the first number you would come to with an "a" in it?

Answer: One Thousand

Congratulations to Jeri Nichols.

Your name was selected at random from all of the correct quiz entries and you'll receive your \$30.00 gift certificate to the restaurant of your choice.

Watch for your name in a coming month!

Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around, you might miss it.

– Ferris Bueller

And don't forget to bring books. When you're tired and don't feel like playing anymore, your child still needs to be occupied. Giving him a book will allow him to stay active and give you a break.

– Adapted from the *Big Book of Hints from Heloise* by Heloise

The Summer Extravaganza

Ah, July – long, sunny days, picnics, swimming, the All Star game – and summer blockbusters.

July is the second biggest month, after May, for Hollywood and its big-budget films. From *Forrest Gump* to *Pirates of the Caribbean*, 18 of the top 100 grossing movies of all time were released in July. But why have

people loved movies ever since those first short “silents” from a century ago?

Movies allow us to escape our daily lives for awhile. They create an illusion, realistic in the way we *become* the undercover detective solving an impossible crime or the person who has given up on love until they meet that special someone. The theater creates an environment where you can travel to other lands, other worlds and other centuries, all from the safety of your seat.

Do you remember the first movie you saw on the big screen? Did your feet reach the floor or were you still in that feet-dangling-over-the-edge-of-the-seat phase? Can you recall your first smell of the popcorn or that display of gigantic candy boxes and great big drinks? And after loading up on goodies, did you walk slowly to your seat, careful not to spill anything, then sit down and simply stare ahead at the enormous projection screen where you knew something magical was about to happen?

Give people a job and they will have a wage. Teach them how to start a successful business and they will have an income for life.
— Mike O'Donnell

Of course, now with stadium seating, advertisements and plenty of coming attractions, the movie-going experience is a tad bit different. At most theaters you can order tickets on-line, earn reward points for watching movies and listen to the latest in movie music. But when it comes down to the basics, we go to the movies for the same reason we did a century ago – because they captivate us.

Are You A Rebel Without A Cause?

If you've ever been accused of being stubborn, then you might consider this: When you're a rebel, you're *against* something. Take away the thing you're against, and where are you? Nowhere.

Everything that is really great and inspiring is created by the individual who can labor in freedom.
— Albert Einstein

It may be a lot better if you decided to make a shift from being against something to being *for* something. For instance, instead of saying “I’m not going to be fat,” you’ll probably feel better if you say, “I’m going to be thinner and healthier.”

In making the shift from being against something to being for something, you make the jump from being rebellious to being determined.

— Adapted from *Life 101* by Peter McWilliams

Do You Have A “Bad Back”?

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If you suffer from a “bad back” it could be due to a heavy emotional load or stress coupled with physical problems. Back problems often are manifestations of tension in the body that begin in the mind. This doesn’t mean the problem is “just in your head.” Back pain is often real and excruciating, but stress can make a back problem worse.

“The pain is not in your head; it’s in your body.

But what’s in your head causes it to happen,” says

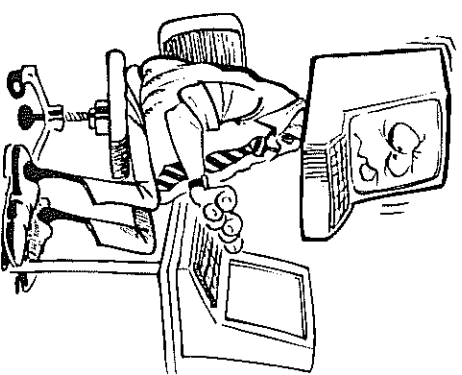
Dr. John Sarno, author of the book *Healing Back Pain: The Mind-Body Connection*. Sarno suggests a strong back pain/mind connection, and theorizes that repressed anger from early traumas and pressure we put on ourselves on a daily basis can cause the mind to create a distraction – pain. This then reduces the blood flow to the area, and this in turn reduces the oxygen delivered to the muscles. Over a period of time, this decrease in oxygen causes muscle spasms and nerve dysfunction, which are very real physical health problems.

– Adapted from *Natural Health*

Put A Cap On Information Overload

If you feel overwhelmed by the amount of information you have to process at work every day, you’re not alone. On the home front, though, you’re in control. Here are a few tips to help you cope with the glut of data that floods our lives:

- ☐ Take a break. One day a week vow to not turn your computer on for the entire day. Spend that time with your friends and family.
- ☐ Be careful giving out your cell phone number. It’s probably best to limit it to family and friends.
- ☐ Limit your computer searches or the time you spend answering e-mail. Set a timer, and when your time is up, quit. Don’t cruise the Internet for hours.
- ☐ Don’t be consumed or obsessed with your e-mail. Check it at designated times, say three times a day – at 10am, 2pm and 4pm.



Canada: It's Not Just About Moose And Hockey

Canadians celebrate July 1 as Canada Day, the national holiday established in 1879 in honor of the country's founding. In honor of Canada Day, here's a list of some famous people you may not know came from Canada:

- **Dr. James Naismith (1861-1939)** – A well-educated man, Naismith is known for what he accomplished during the winter of 1918 in Springfield, Massachusetts, when he created 13 rules for an indoor activity that would later evolve into the game of basketball. Recognized in 1968 for his major contribution to the sport, the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame opened in Springfield, attaching his name to basketball forever.
- **Jack Warner (1892-1978)** – Warner and his three brothers started a film distribution business in Southern California in 1912. After 11 years and some hit-and-miss short films, the quartet established one of Hollywood's most recognizable studios in Burbank, California: Warner Bros. Assuming the role of production chief, Warner launched the sound era in motion pictures with *The Jazz Singer* in 1925. He stayed with the company until 1967 when he sold his interest and became an independent producer.
- **Fay Wray (1907-2004)** – An actress from Hollywood's "Golden Age," Wray's most recognizable role came in the 1933 epic *King Kong*, where the giant gorilla carried her to the top of the Empire State building. Her 1989 autobiography, *On the Other Hand: A Life Story*, concludes, "No one who made movies during the thirties thought of those years as the 'Golden Age'. . . . It seems we don't know much about defining anything until long after the fact. I feel very good that there *was* a 'Golden Age' and that I was a little, even very little, part of it."
- **Roy Brown (1893-1944)** – In one of the most famous aerial combats of World War I, Brown and the Royal Air Force (RAF) encountered the Germans on April 21, 1918. During the dogfight, Brown shot down the infamous Red Baron. For his actions, Brown received a bar to his Distinguished Service Cross. After leaving the RAF in 1919, Brown returned to Canada where he founded a small airline company and became an editor for the magazine *Canadian Aviation*.
- **James Gosling (1956-)** – This software developer invented the Java programming language along with its original design, compiler and virtual machine. Gosling has built several satellite data acquisition systems, a multiprocessor version of Unix, several compilers, mail systems and window managers. Today, he is the Chief Technology Officer at Sun Microsystems.

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As a way of saying "thanks," **I will donate \$50.00 to your favorite charity** when the transaction closes. In this way, we complete an important cycle of giving. First, I help you meet your personal real estate goals. Then you help your loved ones with their buying and refinancing needs. You also assist me in building my business with preferred clients, like yourself. Finally, with a charitable donation, we all give back to the community in which we live. Everyone benefits!

For more information about my Client Referral Donation Program, just give me a call at 360-657-3334.

It's a great program where, as my way of saying "thanks," we can all feel good about our contribution to each other's lives.

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