



What's Inside?

- The Origins Of Well Known Fabrics-
- The Building Of A Railroad -
- A Few Fun Riddles-
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- Fingerprint Locks-
& **Much More!**

Cinco De Mayo, A Celebration Of Heritage

The festivities have moved north! With the large numbers of proud Hispanics living in American cities and towns, Cinco de Mayo has grown in importance with each passing year.

It's a time to celebrate heritage, but Hispanics aren't the only ones having fun. Mexican dancing, foods, and parades are popular everywhere.

The holiday celebrates the Mexican army's defeat of the French in 1862. But it has significance to all Americans because it marks the last time that any foreign power has been an aggressor in North America.

So welcome to the mariachi music, special foods, pinatas, and colorful decorations. It's time to celebrate. It's time to have a party.

*Oh, By the way, I'm
never too busy for your
referrals!*

Do You Have A Question About Home Maintenance That You Want Answered?

We love to hear from all of our good friends and clients who enjoy reading our monthly newsletter. If you have a question about anything related to your house, feel free to give us a call at (703)656-4580 or via email at monaferrigno@remax.net

May Events

- 3 National Day of Prayer
- 6-12 National Pet Week
- 13 Mother's Day
- 19 Armed Forces Day
- 19-25 National Safe Boating Week
- 27 Indianapolis 500-Mile Race.
- 28 Memorial Day

Making A Difference

Employees do want to make a difference, according to a survey by Impulse Research. Researchers asked, "What do you think is the most important factor in job success?"

The top answers were:

- * Using my talents to make a difference: 36 percent.
- * Financial success: 29 percent.
- * New opportunities: 13 percent.
- * Creating new solutions to existing problems: 9 percent.
- * Being able to give something back to my community and society at large: 9 percent.

Job Distractions

Clutter can take many forms. Here are a few that can distract you from doing your job well.

- * Tasks that can be done by someone else. Those that don't support your objectives should be delegated or given lower priority.
- * Conflicts. Don't avoid a difficult colleague or project. Make peace with the colleague. Cut an unpleasant task into small pieces so it seems manageable.
- * Email overload. Send a quick message back to those that don't require an immediate reply saying you'll get back to them as soon as possible. Cancel newsletters that don't interest you.
- * Talkers. Chitchat has its place, but chatterboxes drain your energy. Break away saying you have a deadline to meet. Steer clear of gripe sessions.

Country fabrics have exotic origins

Those heavy cotton calico fabrics with checks just scream "country" and they are frequently the main ingredient in American country-style decorating.

But calico doesn't come from pioneers on the prairies of North America. It comes from Calcutta, India.

In fact, India is the source of many fabric-related words. According to Wordsmith.org, these include cashmere, dungarees, khaki, and seersucker.

One elegant fabric from India mistakenly came to mean poor quality. At one time, Chintz was such an inexpensive fabric that it led to the term "chintzy."

India also gave us the names of clothes, such as pajama, bandana, and jodhpurs.

But it was France that contributed the name for our favorite fabric.

In French, the word "de" means from. If you wondered about denim, it came from Nimes, France, and quickly made its way to the U.S. and into blue jeans, jackets and slipcovers.

Fingerprints unlock the door

If you're tired of your kids losing their keys, or tired of trying to unlock the door while carry a sack of groceries, the new SmartScan deadbolt from Kwikset (\$199.99) could be the answer for you.

It reads a finger pressed against the underside of a small tear-shaped extension of the exterior lock. It can even read dirty fingers and scans the fingerprint as well as details just beneath the skin.

The lock can store up to 55 fingerprints, and customization allows you to grant a baby sitter access just during working hour or a contractor a single 15-minute window to retrieve his tools.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Special thanks go out to all of our clients and friends who graciously referred our company to their friends and neighbors last month! Our business is built based on the positive comments and referrals from people just like you. We just couldn't do it without you.

BNI – Gainesville Business Connection

Asian Workers Help Connect Continent

In May 1869, when the Central Pacific tracks met the Union Pacific in Utah, it was the labor of thousands of immigrants, Irish and Chinese, who made the transcontinental miracle possible.

For the Central Pacific, as many as 12,000 Chinese workers labored on the immense project at one time, alongside with thousands more Irish.

On the Union Pacific side, thousands of civil war veterans flocked to the railroad, along with Irish immigrants.

According to pbs.org, President Abraham Lincoln launched a seven year competition between the railroads in 1862. The sacrifices of thousands of workers finally succeeded in shrinking the world and knitting Americans together. No longer would it take month over sea (and land at Panama) to ship cargo or transport passengers. With the completion of the railroad, goods and travelers could speed across the continent in relative safety in a week.

The advent of the railroad, also spelled the beginning of the end of many traditional Native American peoples. Animals, such as the buffalo and dozens of species of eagles and deer, were either rendered extinct or their numbers greatly reduced.

Nonetheless, the American railroad was merely the first in a worldwide effort to connect people. Six months later the Suez Canal was finished and by 1885 the Canadian transcontinental railroad was finished.

"We truly appreciate all the hard work you put in to helping us locate research and purchase our property. The exceptional personal service provided by you and your team certainly should be commended. You can definitely count on our recommendations for your services to our friends."

~ R. Moore





"I can't eat those. They go right to my hips."

Riddle Me This

1. What do you use to "hoe a row, slay a foe, and wring with woe"?
2. One word I know, six letters it contains. Subtract just one, and twelve is what remains. What word is it?
3. What do you throw out when you want to use it, but take in when you don't want to use it?
4. What gets wetter the more it dries?
5. What goes up and down without moving?
6. What gets whiter the dirtier it gets?
7. What gets harder to catch the faster you run?
8. Take one out and scratch my head, I am now black but once was red. What am I?

Pessimist's Axioms

Never argue with an idiot. They drag you down to their level then best you with experience.

On the keyboard of life, always keep one finger on the escape key.

Life isn't like a box of chocolates; it's more like a jar of jalapenos.

Tell me what you need, and I'll tell you how to get along without it.

Ring bell for maid service. If no answer, do it yourself.

I don't have an attitude problem, you have a perception problem.

My reality check bounced.

You can go anywhere if you don't look serious and carry a clipboard.

May 12: Limerick Day: Write One; It's Fun

Limericks are honored on the birthday of Edward Lear, a prolific limerick writer and author of his Book of Nonsense (Everyman's Library). Example:

There was a young poet named Lear
who said, "It is just as I fear.
Five lines are enough
For this kind of stuff."
Make a limerick each day of the year.

Now it's your turn.....

*For All Your Real Estate Needs,
Mona Ferrigno & Moore Virginia Real
Estate Group, Inc.
Remax Regency, Office (703) 656-4580
10550 Linden Lake Plaza, Suite 102, Manassas, VA 20109*



Riddle answers

1. Your hands; 2. Dozens; 3. The anchor; 4. A bath towel; 5. Stairs; 6. A blackboard; 7. Your breath; 8. A match