

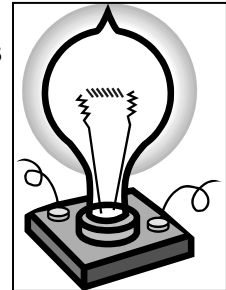
The McJunkin Messenger

News To Help You Save Time And Money

June 2011

He Found Great Value In Disaster

Thomas Edison (1847-1931) was possibly the greatest inventor who ever lived. He received more than 1,000 patents in his lifetime, many for items we take for granted today: the alkaline battery, the motion picture camera, the phonograph and, of course, the light bulb. There's a story that it took Edison more than 2,000 experiments before he got his light bulb to work. When a reporter asked him how it felt to fail so many times, Edison said, "I never failed once. I invented the light bulb. It just happened to be a 2,000-step process."



Edison opened his most famous laboratory in 1876 in Menlo Park, New Jersey. In December, 1914, the laboratory was virtually destroyed by fire. Although the damage exceeded \$2 million, the buildings were only insured for \$238,000 because they were made of concrete and thought to be fireproof. Much of Edison's life's work went up in spectacular flames that December night.

At the height of the fire, Edison's 24-year old son, Charles, frantically searched for his father among the smoke and debris. He finally found him, calmly watching the scene, his face glowing in the reflection, his white hair blowing in the wind. "My heart ached for him," said Charles. "He was 67 – no longer a young man – and everything was going up in flames."

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Different Ways to Honor Dad
- Should We Ban Dihydrogen Monoxide
- Time To Turn It Off?
- Changing Lives And Attitudes
- They're Stuck On You
- It's Good To Laugh A Lot
- Steps To Success And Happiness
- It Is This Easy
- Did You Know?
- Keith's Thought of the Month

The next morning, Edison looked at the ruins and said, "There is great value in disaster. All our mistakes are burned up. We can start anew."

Three weeks after the fire, Edison completed his first phonograph.

Edison also said, "If we did all the things we are capable of, we would literally astound ourselves."

Keith

Different Ways To Honor Dad

Fathers play a special, irreplaceable role in our lives, and Father's Day is a great time to let them know that. On June 19, skip the tie and tell all the special, irreplaceable dads in your life what they mean to you from the bottom of your heart. Some suggestions:

Write a letter thanking your father/uncle/grandfather/ brother/son for all he's done and all he means to you. Read it in front of him and the whole family. You can frame it and even add photos or other mementos.

Create a thank-you book. Buy a small book of blank pages. On each page, write why you're thankful for him. For example, "Thanks, Dad, for all the help you provided on my algebra homework when I was a kid." Send it around to family members and invite them to contribute the reasons they're grateful.

Create a review of the dad's life. Get family members and friends to write down their memories, then assemble all the stories in a binder or scrapbook and present it to him.

Make a date. The most precious gift you can give or receive is *time*. Schedule some uninterrupted, relaxing, one-on-one time together to go for a walk, share a meal, catch a movie, or do whatever he'd most like to do.

Should We Ban Dihydrogen Monoxide?

A high school freshman won first prize at a science fair for his experiment demonstrating people's gullibility. He was attempting to show how conditioned we've become to alarmists practicing junk science and spreading fear of everything in our environment. In his project, the student urged people to sign a petition demanding strict control or total elimination of the chemical *dihydrogen monoxide* for the following good reasons:

1. It is a major component in acid rain.
2. It can cause severe burns in its gaseous state.
3. Accidental inhalation can kill you.
4. It contributes to erosion.
5. It decreases effectiveness of automobile brakes.
6. It's been found in tumors of terminal cancer patients.

He asked 50 people if they supported a ban of the chemical:

- Forty-three said "Yes."
- Six were undecided.
- One knew that dihydrogen monoxide is another name for...water.

Time To Turn It Off?

It's a common complaint: The news we read, hear, and watch is chock full of negative, disturbing information. It's true – and it can be bad for your health.

While it's good to be well-informed about the world around you, keep in mind that gloomy news is like eating junk food. It's okay, as long as you don't overdo it. Here are some tips to avoid overexposure:

- Cut back. Start by eliminating all news for a day. Then slowly build up exposure until you find a level that suits you best and leaves you less stressed.
- Try reading or just listening more and watching less. Negative images flashed on TV and computer screens often have more depressing results than reading about or listening to the news.
- Put it into perspective. You're less likely to fret over a plane crash, for example, if you keep in mind that it is statistically safer to fly than to drive.
- Exercise your options. If you find yourself watching hour after hour of depressing news, ask yourself how important that information is to you. If it's not, switch the channel or skip the article.
- Go easy on the trash. Junk television, like junk food, may provide instant gratification, but it has no long-term benefits.

Changing Lives And Attitudes

The Special Olympics 2011 World Summer Games – the world's largest sporting event for athletes with intellectual disabilities – take place from June 25 to July 4 in Athens, Greece, and will draw 7,500 athletes competing in 22 Olympic-type sports. Those athletes hail from more than 180 countries and will be joined by 3,000 coaches and officials, 25,000 volunteers, 40,000 family members and thousands of spectators.

Special Olympics originated with a day camp started in 1962 at the Rockville, MD, home of Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the sister of President John F. Kennedy. In just a few years more than 300 similar camps were serving children and adults with intellectual disabilities, and in 1968 the first International Special Olympics Summer Games were held in Chicago. The first winter games debuted in Steamboat Springs, CO, in 1977, and since then the winter and summer games have alternated, with two years between each.

According to the summer games' website www.athens2011.org, the Special Olympics athlete oath is:

Let me win!

*But if I cannot win,
Let me be brave in the attempt!*

Special Olympics has been changing lives and attitudes for more than 40 years, so...Let the games begin!



They're Stuck On You

The BAND-AID® Brand Adhesive Bandage is commonplace in medicine cabinets and first-aid kits around the world. It was invented in 1921 by Earle Dickson, an employee of Johnson & Johnson.

Dickson was concerned for his wife Josephine, who suffered frequent cuts and burns in the kitchen. They originally tried to wrap Josephine's wounds in gauze and adhesive tape, but the dressing usually fell off in a short time. Dickson tried placing some gauze in the center of a piece of tape, and covering the whole thing with crinoline to keep it sterile.

The invention worked so well for his wife that he took some examples to work to show to his colleagues. The company owner, James Johnson, caught wind of the idea, asked for a demonstration, and ultimately decided the company should manufacture them. And Dickson went on to have a successful career at Johnson & Johnson, becoming a vice president before his retirement in 1957.

It's Good To Laugh A Lot

Are you laughing less often? Some surveys show that many of us are, indeed, laughing less often. In fact, over the last 12 years, the average response to the question, "When did you last laugh hard?" has fallen from a near-immediate answer to 30 seconds. It's gotten harder for people to remember the last time they had a good belly laugh.

Yet laughter releases endorphins, and an endorphin rush makes you feel better. So, rent a funny movie, go to a comedy club, visit humor websites, and laugh well and often. It will translate into better health and a better outlook on life.

Steps To Success And Happiness

Success and happiness depend as much on your attitude as on your resources and advantages. To develop the right mindset, keep these precepts front and center:

Control. Ultimately the only control you have in life is over yourself: your thoughts, actions, responses, and behaviors. Don't obsess over what you can't control; concentrate on what you can.

Results. It's easy to fall into routines and patterns that emphasize the *process* instead of the *outcome*. Learn the rules, but apply them with an eye on what you want to achieve.

Gratitude. You'll stay positive if you remind yourself of what you already possess. Spend some time every day thinking about your health, your family and friends, and the advantages you have, instead of focusing single-mindedly on what you lack.

It Is This Easy

Looking for some easy ways to save money? How about save money *and* help the environment at the same time? Check out these suggestions for reducing your gasoline consumption:

Use the right oil. Check your owner's manual for the recommended grade of motor oil. The wrong oil can negatively affect your vehicle's efficiency.

Lighten your load. Remove unnecessary items from your trunk. The more weight you carry, the more fuel you'll burn.

Get rid of your roof rack. If your vehicle sports a roof rack that you're not using, take it off. It increases wind resistance and cuts your fuel efficiency.

Don't "warm up" your engine. Even at the coldest temperatures, your car doesn't need a five-minute warm-up. 30 to 45 seconds will do it.

Use your A/C wisely. At highway speeds, you're better off running your air conditioning than opening your windows and increasing drag. But when driving around town, keep your windows down and the air conditioner off to conserve fuel.

Do business with companies that deliver to your home. Check out websites and local merchants (dry cleaners, grocery stores, pharmacies) that offer free delivery and let someone else do the driving.

May Trivia Answer

Question: Never before seen - T= places for hitting golf balls

Answer: Strange - ranges

Congratulations Mike Hejducek. Your name was selected at random from all the correct quiz entries and you will receive a \$30 Lowe's gift card.

Watch for your name next month!



Thank You!

Dan and Janis Bordelon

Who are already part of our Real Estate Family. I was fortunate to help them again. I appreciate your continued support.

Welcome New Clients!

Suraj and Chetna Mhatre (referred by Venugopal Srikrishna)

AJay Khater and Ranjana Sankhala

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

Did You Know?

We all know the rotten-egg odor of natural gas, but did you know that it actually has no smell? Natural gas is invisible and odorless, but the gas company adds a chemical called mercaptan, to make it smell. This makes it easily detectable, and much safer to use.

June's Word Scramble

Unscramble all five words, then assemble words into the correct order to create a phrase

RYUO OOTNADUFNI KHCEC SRMTEOIU NUDORA

Everyone who faxes, emails or calls in the correct answer by the last day of this month will be entered into a drawing for a
Lowe's \$30 gift card.

Call 281.597.7300 and leave a message or email me at
keith@mcjunkinhomes.com

Thought Of the Month

Drought Conditions Invite Foundation Failures

It is no secret that most of Texas and all of Houston has experienced severe drought conditions with January 24, 2011 being the last date we received more than ½” of rainfall.

The lack of consistent moisture around a foundation is one of the factors that contribute to foundation failure. When the moisture is removed from the sub-surface clay that supports our foundation it contracts. This contraction results in a void in the space between the bottom of the concrete beams that supports the structure and the contracted soil.

The weight of the structure above the slab can crack the slab and push it down into the void space between the concrete beam and the contracted soil.

A major contributing factor to this situation are trees planted near the foundation that grow over the years and can transpire up to 50 gallons (based on a mature oak tree) of moisture per day within the root zone of the tree.

I am marketing a home now with a raised slab and a steep slope to the street. Even though the sprinkler system was being used, the water ran off to the street so fast, it did not have time to effectively soak into the soil surrounding the tree.

The result was that the front part of the home sank into the contracted void in the soil near the tree.

A structural engineer was called out to assess the problem. His solution was to install 10 piers around the front portion of the slab including the front porch and he supervised jacking the foundation back up to near where it had been before. He also required a root barrier to prevent the tree roots from sucking moisture from this part of the foundation.

Make it a great June. Stay cool!

Keith

As always, please consider referring my construction and real estate brokerage services if you have, a family member, friend or business associate that is planning on purchasing, building, or selling a home.

Happy Father's Day—June 19, 2011

The McJunkin Messenger

Keith McJunkin
14780 Memorial Dr. #204
Houston, Texas 77079
www.mcjunkinhomes.com

**Go Green:
Recycle This
Newsletter!**

After you've enjoyed my
newsletter, please recycle it by
passing it along to a family
member, friend, neighbor or
coworker.

This newsletter is intended for entertainment purposes only. Credit is given to the authors of various articles that are reprinted when the original author is known. Any omission of credit to an author is purely unintentional and should not be construed as plagiarism or literary theft.

Copyright 2011 Keith McJunkin. This information is solely advisory, and should not be substituted for medical, legal, financial or tax advice. Any and all decisions and actions must be done through the advice and counsel of a qualified physician, attorney, financial advisor and/or CPA. We cannot be held responsible for actions you may take without proper medical, financial, legal or tax advice.