

REFERRALS ARE THE ♥ OF OUR BUSINESS!

VISIT US AT WWW.AMYSHAIR.COM

Home News of the Triangle

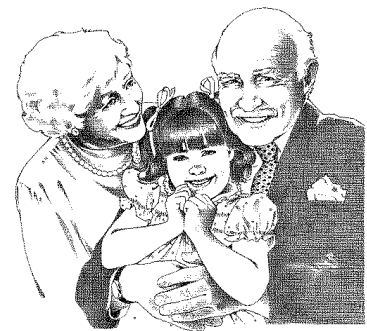
News To Help You Save Time And Money

September-October 2005

Celebrating Grandparents

In honor of Grandparent's Day that was held on September 11th, here are some astute observations from a group of eight-year-olds:

- ☞ Grandparents are a lady and a man who have no little children of their own. They like other people's.
- ☞ A grandfather is a man grandmother.
- ☞ Grandparents don't have to do anything except be there when we come to see them. They are so old they shouldn't play hard or run. It's good if they drive us to the store and have lots of quarters for us.
- ☞ When they take us for walks, they slow down past things like pretty leaves and caterpillars.
- ☞ They show us and talk to us about the color of the flowers and also why we shouldn't step on "cracks."
- ☞ They don't say, "Hurry up."



Win A Gift Certificate!

Check Out Quiz Question on Page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- How To Plant Bulbs That Grow
- School Bus Safety Tips
- Hair-Raising Facts
- It's A Bird! It's A Plane! It's An Echidna?
- The Value Of Staying Home
- Getting Married? You Need To Talk About Money
- A Fiery Twist Of Fate
- In Appreciation Of Teachers
- Timely Gardening Tips

- ☞ Sometimes grandmothers are fat, but not too fat to tie your shoes.
- ☞ Grandparents wear glasses and funny underwear. They can take their teeth and gums out. They don't have to be smart.
- ☞ They have to answer questions like "Why isn't God married?" and "How come dogs chase cats?"
- ☞ Everybody should try to have a grandmother, especially if you don't have television, because they are the only grownups who like to spend time with us.
- ☞ When they read to us, they don't skip. They don't mind if we ask for the same story over again.

- ☞ Grandma lives at the airport. When we want her we just go get her. When we're done having her visit, we take her back to the airport.
- ☞ Grandparents know we should have snack time before bedtime and they say prayers with us every time, and kiss us even when we've acted bad.

Be sure to celebrate having grandparents – and being grandparents!

Amy Shair

September-October Quiz Question

Q. Throwing a no-hitter in a Major League Baseball game is something very few pitchers achieve. But pitching *two consecutive* no-hitters? That's only happened once. Who threw these back-to-back gems?

The first person to email me with the right answer will win a gift certificate!
Email Amy at Amy@AmyShair.com with your quiz answer.

NOTE: It usually takes 2 days for the winner to answer – don't hesitate to try!

How To Plant Bulbs That Grow

It's pretty simple to plant bulbs in the fall and then welcome their blooms in the spring. For the greatest success, you should plant bulbs about six weeks before the ground freezes. When you plant the bulbs, you also need to water them. Here are a few more tips to help you get those beautiful spring blossoms going in the fall:

- ☑ Make sure you plant your bulbs at a depth three times their height – you can increase this if you live in a cold climate to ensure survival over the years. If you're planting a group of bulbs, remember to plant each bulb at three times its width from the previous bulb.
- ☑ When planting tulips, daffodils, and other pear-shaped bulbs, the pointy end should be up. If you can't tell (sometimes it's hard to distinguish), just plant the bulbs on their sides.
- ☑ In order to keep track of where you've planted your bulbs, it's a good idea to plant at least one grape hyacinth (muscari) in the middle of a grouping. The reason – this bulb will sprout leaves in the fall. This will help you in the future if you're putting out more bulbs, so you won't accidentally dig into an already planted bulb or group of bulbs.
- ☑ Many consider a slow-release bulb fertilizer the best food to use – not bone meal. Sprinkle the fertilizer on the ground after planting, in the spring when there is breakthrough growth, and after the flowers are gone.
- ☑ You might want to add some sharp gravel in the hole where you plant. It can keep away some underground dwellers who would like to make dinner of your bulbs.
- ☑ Don't neaten up the dying foliage after your bulbs have flowered. This browning of the leaves must be allowed to take place, as it's a photosynthetic process and feeds the bulbs so they can come back the following year.

- ☑ If you need to learn more about planting bulbs take a trip to www.bulb.com.

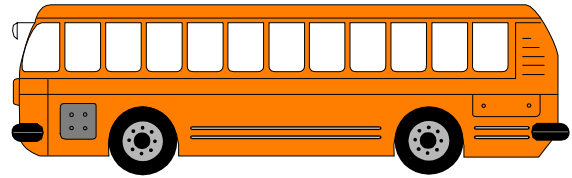
-- Adapted from *Real Simple*

School Bus Safety Tips

If your child rides a bus to school, you'll want to make sure he or she is following these safety tips.

Waiting for the bus:

- Arrive at the stop at least five minutes before the bus arrives.
- Stay out of the street and avoid horseplay.
- Cross the street at least 10 feet (or 10 giant steps) in front of the bus. Maintain eye contact with the bus driver to get an "all clear" sign before moving out into the street. Look left, right and left again while crossing the street. Many cars disregard school bus warning lights.



Boarding and leaving the bus:

- Always wait for parents on the same side of the street as the school bus loading/unloading zone.
- Be aware of the driver's blind spot (10 feet all around the bus) when walking away from the bus.
- Remove loose drawstrings or ties on jackets, sweatshirts and book bags, and replace with Velcro, snaps or buttons. Loose drawstrings can snag on bus handrails.
- Always ask the bus driver for help if you drop anything while entering or exiting the bus.
- Walk in a single-file line.
- Use the handrail to avoid falls.
- Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before approaching it.
- Exit from the front of the bus after it comes to a complete stop.

PAST CLIENTS:

IS IT TIME

FOR A BIGGER HOME?

Interest rates are still low. Take advantage and get the extra space you need!

I can help you decide whether to sell your current home first or after you have found another home.

Talk to Amy before you start to look

AMY SHAIR
919-469-6569
Amy@AmyShair.com

Sitting on the bus:

- Remain seated at all times and keep the aisles clear.
- Don't throw objects.
- Keep heads and arms inside the bus at all times.
- Don't shout or distract the driver.

– Adapted from safekids.org

Hair-Raising Facts

Here are a few fun facts about men and shaving:

- 94 million men (90% of the U.S. male population) 15 and older remove hair.
- 68 million men (72% of men who shave) shave with a blade and razor.
- 26 million men (28% of men who shave) shave with an electric shaver.
- On the average, U.S. men shave 5.33 times per week, 24 times per month.
- In 2000, the U.S. male shaving industry (male-positioned blades, razors and shaving creams/gels) accounted for \$1.7 billion in sales – more than \$1.4 billion for blades and razors and more than \$250 million for shaving cream/gels.



It's A Bird! It's A Plane! It's An Echidna?

Most everyone knows about the platypus, that duck-billed, web-footed, fur-covered critter that's a warm-blooded mammal like us – only it lays eggs. But did you know there's another mammal on our planet – just one – that also lays eggs?

Meet the echidna!

Like the platypus, echidnas are native to Australia. Commonly found in hollow logs, thick underbrush, caves or under piles of debris, the adaptable little echidna can live anywhere from hot, arid deserts to above the snow line in alpine regions.

Home Helpers, Inc.
Handyman Service

- General Home Repair
- Door And Window Replacement
- Rotted Wood Repair
- Siding Replacement
- Faucets And Fixtures
- Drywall
- Deck Repairs
- Ceiling Fans & Lights
- Ceramic Tile

"Over 10 Yrs Of Experience"
Call For Your Free Estimate
233-8522
Professional Service You Can Depend On

Bonded And Insured



An adult echidna – or spiny anteater as they're sometimes called – can weigh up to 15 pounds and reach 12-18 inches in length. It looks like a small porcupine with spines intermingled in its fur, and its snout is hairless, covered with sensory receptors that detect vibrations from the ground and lead it to prey. While echidnas dine mostly on ants and termites, they'll also eat earthworms, small beetles, and the larvae of moths and beetles. The echidna's long, sticky tongue flicks back and forth up to 100 times a minute to catch its meals.

The female echidna lays just one or two eggs a year. After about 10 days, the egg hatches and a "puggle" is born. The puggle stays close to mom in her pouch for two months or until it becomes too prickly. But don't worry about the young echidna; just like its parents, when threatened by predators, the echidna pulls its head in and curls up, presenting adversaries with a ball of sharp spines.

Friends Don't Let Friends Rent When They Can Own!



If you know someone who is renting but can probably afford to buy, let me know! They are missing out on the tax advantages & opportunity to build equity.

Even if they don't have cash or if they have a lot of debt, there are ways to get them into a home with a payment close to their current rent.

AMY SHAIR
919-469-6569

Amy@AmyShair.com

The Value Of Staying Home

Some workers are overpaid; some are underpaid. Well, stay-at-home mothers aren't paid at all!

Have you ever thought about what a stay-at-home mother would earn if she received a weekly paycheck? Well, an informal study by the website Salary.com showed she would bring home more than her fair share of the bacon: An average yearly income of \$131,471.

Naturally, a stay-at-home mother would not work the typical nine-to-five workday. The theoretical salary is based on a 100-hour work week and assumes the mother cares for at least two children. Salary.com, which tracks what jobs pay, suggested a base pay for a stay-at-home mother at \$43,461. However, mothers would earn an additional \$88,009 for the 60 hours of overtime each week.

According to Bill Coleman, senior vice president of compensation at Salary.com, "The importance of this

estimate is just calling attention to the fact that being a stay-at-home mom is not a cop-out, it's not the woman's way out of the workforce, and it's not a job of no value. There's a lot of value there, and some would say it's even priceless."

Coleman added that feedback on the figure was mixed. Some mothers felt they deserved more, some less, and some mentioned that you can't attach a figure to the time spent with their kids.

-- Adapted from *Stay-At-Home Moms Deserve High Pay, Analysis Shows* by Jessica Wohl

Getting Married? You Need To Talk About Money

Some couples seem to want to avoid talking about money before they get married. But talking can put a couple on the road to happiness and a healthy relationship. Couples need to define financial goals and see if there are attitudes that might cause problems later on. If there are, dealing with them up front is the smartest thing to do. Find out if you are on the same financial page. Even if you find out



information about your partner that you don't like, this will give you time to work things out. Here are a few questions to ask yourself:

- Do you know what your intended's income is?
- What would you do if you found out your intended has credit card debt you don't know about? Are you keeping any financial secrets from your future spouse?
- Do you know your and your future mate's credit score?
- Are you basing your wedding budget on what you can afford, what you want, or what you think you deserve?
- How would you describe your intended's financial style? How would you describe yours?
- Do you have a financial plan? Does it fit in with your vision of your future?

– Adapted from bankrate.com

July-August Quiz Answer

Question: What is the lowest point of elevation in North America?

Answer: Death Valley, California

Source: Britannica.com

Congratulations to **Ted Krulick** for being the first caller with the right answer.
He received a gift certificate.

A Fiery Twist Of Fate

Anyone heavily invested in Enron or WorldCom stock knows fortunes can be lost in an instant. Edmund McIlhenny learned the same lesson more than a century ago. In the mid-1800s, McIlhenny built his fortune operating a sugar plantation and salt works on Avery Island, Louisiana. But his fortunes fell with the South during the Civil War. In 1863, he was forced to flee his home as Union troops invaded.

Returning when the war ended two years later, he found his sugar cane fields and salt works in ruins. But fate hadn't quite finished with McIlhenny. He was living hand-to-mouth on the little he could yield from his garden when he spied some Mexican peppers that had reseeded themselves and were growing wild among the vegetables. Figuring they might liven up the bland fare, he ground the peppers to make a sauce. Before long, McIlhenny's fortunes changed again – this time for the better. The sauce he concocted became known as Tabasco, and the McIlhenny family still markets it today.

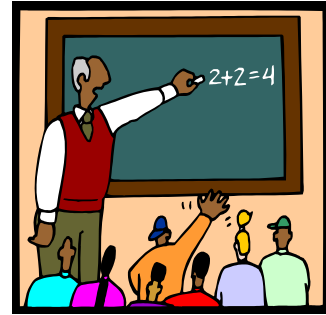
July-August

– Adapted from *Speaker's Library of Business Stories, Anecdotes, and Humor* by Joe Griffith

In Appreciation Of Teachers

An anthropologist studying the native society on a small South Pacific Island decided one day that he wanted to meet their leader.

He had become good friends with the tribe's medical healer and asked him if he would take him to meet with the tribe's most important man – assuming this would be their king. Instead, the healer took him to a small clearing in the jungle where an old man was teaching a group of children.



“Is that your king?” asked the anthropologist.

“No,” said the healer, *“the king is the most powerful man on the island, but you said you wanted to meet the most important, so I brought you to our teacher.”*

Timely Gardening Tips

- ❖ **Lawn Seeding** – Mid-September is the optimum time to start seeding and renovating fescue lawns. Fertilize lawns in September, November & February for good root growth.
- ❖ **Autumn Color Ideas** – As autumn merges into winter, you'll want to accent the landscape scene with berry color from such plants as pyracantha, nandina, viburnum, beautyberry and many of the holly group. The ever-popular shade-loving aucuba has a dwarf form which appears to be more reliable regarding berry production. Don't forget the brilliant red foliage of the burning bush (*euonymus alata*).
- ❖ **Iris** – You should divide and replant iris every 3 to 4 years. Otherwise, you'll have thick clumps of hollow-centered foliage, and blooms will become sparse. This chore should be attended to before September 30.
- ❖ **Fruit Trees** -- Many well-done landscapes include fruit trees as seasonal accents to the front or side yard. A flowering pear, peach, apple, crabapple or cherry is every bit as showy as a flowering dogwood in the spring.
- ❖ **Garden Compost** – Of continuing importance is the gardening practice of composting leaves and other garden refuse. Never burn or throw them away. Grinders, compost hasteners, fertilizers and lime all help to decompose the compost pile – making it available for garden use next spring.
- ❖ **Houseplants** – Make cuttings for indoor winter blooms. September is an excellent month to make cuttings for inside greenery. It's a good opportunity to multiply your begonias, coleus, and geraniums. Enjoy the plants this winter. Then you'll have a fresh new stock of plants ready to fill in sparse places in your garden next spring.