

"Wat's New?"

From Watson's Realty

January 2010

Two Oh One Oh

Wow....2010! Many discussions have ensued about how to pronounce the new year. Is it two thousand ten? Twenty ten? Twenty aught ten?

And while we all may not agree on one of the choices above, everyone I've spoken to agrees that it is NOT Two Thousand AND Ten...

The other thing most people agree on is that they are happy, *happy*, HAPPY that 2009 is over. We all seem to be looking forward to getting on with life in a new year in time. Things are looking up.

I was thinking about what makes a year a good year. I didn't necessarily want to concentrate on what made last year "uncomfortable" because actually being there was "uncomfortable" enough.

So, I started thinking about what I enjoyed in 2009, and here we go:

* I loved seeing the surprise, excitement and joy on grandson Riley's face the first time I picked him up from school. He had just started first grade (yikes!) and I asked his mom if I could surprise him and pick him up from school.

He saw me and pointed at me as he told his teacher, "That's my Nonna!" then ran over and gave me the biggest hug!

* I surprised grandson Bailey in Texas for Christmas on Christmas Day. Scott (Pa) was already there and had celebrated Christmas Eve with our sons Bobby (and wife Shanon), Chad, and Bailey's younger brother, Ryan. Bailey told Pa several times he wished Nonna could be there too.

I had gone to Southern California to see my family for Christmas Eve with the plan to fly to Dallas on Christmas Day to surprise Bailey.

By the time I got to Dallas, it was almost 9:00 pm and past Bailey's bedtime, so he was tired. His dad, Bobby, had told him that Pa, Bailey and he were going to the airport to pick up one of Daddy's friends.

I could tell Bailey was tired, but when I walked up to him in baggage claim, it took him a couple of seconds to realize it was actually me. He gave me a GREAT big hug and *insisted* on carrying (rolling) my luggage to the car, even though he told us his hand hurt. It was for Nonna.

He later told everyone that Nonna was his best Christmas surprise **ever**.

* All the times I visited my Mom is So Cal. We just have the best time hanging out together.

* The trips that Scott and I have taken this year. We are best friends and more. I am so lucky to be married to someone that I love to be with.

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- * I loved hanging out with my brothers, sis-in-laws and niece and nephews. We really **do** have fun together.
- * Everytime someone complimented me on my pink and green tennis shoes...that I got on sale!
- * I helped some very good friends with their wedding in the Mexican Riviera. I created some beautiful invitations, menu cards, gift tags and favors and Scott and I got to enjoy the wedding and a vacation.
- * I continue to enjoy the sound of the little boys across the street as they yell out to me, "Hi JK!", whenever I step outside, pull into my driveway or go for a walk. It's such a sweet, innocent and happy hello.
- * I harvested dozens of tomatoes, plenty of basil, several bushels of lemons, was able to give away huge amounts of grapefruit and enjoy many vases of flowers -- all from my own yard.
- * I helped plan the Fremont Elks Lodge 50th anniversary party. It was an elegant, exciting and a huge success.
- * I hosted the baby shower for Riley's mom at our home. It was so nice to decorate with pink! Since then we welcomed Riley's sister, Adalyn Sue. She smiles when I talk to her. 😊

As I think about it, I could go on and on about the good things that I want to remember about 2009.

I'm not hiding my head in the sand, I'm simply choosing to think about what made me happy. It's amazing what is actually out there if I pay attention. Happy is pretty simple when I think about it.

Happy New Year to One and All!!

JK and Scott

JK & Scott
 Watson's Realty
 Your Real Estate Company For Life



If love sometimes leaves you at a loss for words, here are some quotes you may find inspirational:

If I had a flower for every time I thought of you, I could walk in my garden forever. – *Alfred Lord Tennyson*

You're nothing short of my everything. – *Ralph Block*

Sometimes your nearness takes my breath away; and all the things I want to say can find no voice. Then, in silence, I can only hope my eyes will speak my heart. – *Robert Sexton*

I love thee to the depth and breadth and height my soul can reach. – *Elizabeth Barrett Browning*

I can conquer the world with one hand, as long as you're holding the other. – *Unknown*

I love you: Those three words have my life in them. – *Alexandra to Nicholas II*

If I could reach up and hold a star for every time you made me smile, I would have the whole night sky in the palm of my hand. – *Unknown*

You will always be the answer, when someone asks me what I'm thinking about. – *Unknown*

Come live in my heart, and pay no rent. – *Samuel Lover*

Kids...

Human beings are the only creatures on Earth that allow their offspring to come back home. (Bill Cosby)

She's at that awkward age when she's stopped asking us where she came from and started refusing to tell us where she is going to.

If a mother's place is in the home how come I spend so much time in the car ?

Adolescence is the age when a child feels that its parents should be taught the facts of life.

The real menace in dealing with a five year old is that in no time at all you begin to sound like a five-year-old.

Any kid will run an errand for you if you ask at bedtime. (Red Skelton)



Kids...Part 2

A very self-important college freshman attending a recent football game took it upon himself to explain to a senior citizen sitting next to him why it was impossible for the older generation to understand his generation.

"You grew up in a different world, actually and almost primitive one," the student said, loud enough for many of those nearby to hear. "The young people of today grew up with television, jet planes, space travel, man walking on the moon, our spaceships have visited Mars. We have nuclear energy, electric and hydrogen powered cars, computers with light-speed processing....and," pausing to take another drink of beer....

The senior too advantage of the break in the student's litany and said, "You're right son. We didn't have those things when we were young...so we invented them."

You've got to love being a senior citizen!

UPS Airlines

After every flight, UPS pilots fill out a form, called a "gripe sheet", which tells mechanics about problems with the aircraft. The mechanics correct the problems, document their repairs on the form, and then pilots review the gripe sheets before the next flight.

Never let it be said that ground crews lack a sense of humor. Here are some (allegedly) actual maintenance complaints submitted by UPS pilots (marked with a P) and the solutions recorded (marked with an S) by maintenance engineers.

P: Left inside main tire almost needs replacement.
S: Almost replaced left inside main tire.

P: Test flight OK, except auto-land very rough.
S: Auto-land not installed on this aircraft.

P: Something loose in cockpit
S: Something tightened in cockpit

P: Dead bugs on windshield.
S: Live bugs on back-order.

P: Evidence of leak on right main landing gear.
S: Evidence removed.

P: DME volume unbelievably loud.
S: DME volume set to more believable level.

P: Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick.
S: That's what friction locks are for.

P: IFF inoperative in OFF mode.
S: IFF always inoperative in OFF mode.

P: Suspected crack in windshield.
S: Suspect you're right.

P: Number 3 engine missing.
S: Engine found on right wing after brief search

P: Aircraft handles funny.
S: Aircraft warned to straighten up, fly right and be serious.

P: Noise coming from under instrument panel..
Sounds like a midget pounding on something with a hammer.
S: Took hammer away from midget.

Why Does An Itch – Itch?

We've all scratched an itch and felt better for it. But why do we get relief?

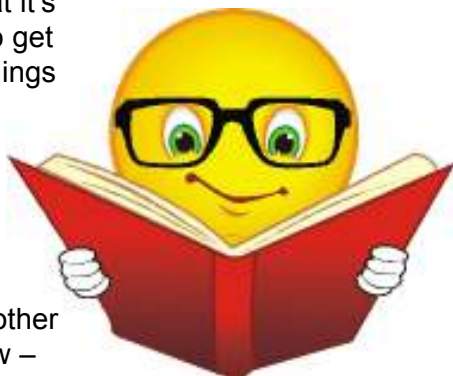
Scientists uncovered an answer with magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) in a study where participants were scratched with a small brush – 30 seconds on and 30 seconds off – for a total of about five minutes. Researchers were surprised when areas of the brain that are associated with unpleasant or aversive emotions and memories became less active when participants were being scratched.

Scientists hope this knowledge will lead to help for people who suffer from chronic itching (for example, about 42% of patients who undergo kidney dialysis) by developing a drug that inhibits the same areas of the brain that scratching does.

How To Help Your Child Learn

Asking your kids about their school day is a good idea. Why? Researchers who study how kids learn already knew that children learn best with their parents or a peer, but it wasn't clear whether this was because the children were getting feedback and help, or merely because they were explaining their solutions to someone. In a recent study, researchers had mothers simply listen to their children without providing any assistance.

They learned that it's really effective to get kids to explain things themselves instead of just telling them the answer. Explaining their reasoning – to a parent, peer, or other people they know – helps kids understand the problem and apply what they've learned to other situations.



Mysteries Of Life

Take a few moments to ponder some of these wonderful mysteries of life:

1. If swimming is so good for your figure, why are whales so fat?
2. What should you do if you see an endangered animal eating an endangered plant?
3. If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends?
4. When cheese gets its picture taken, what does it say?
5. If it's true that we're here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?
6. What is a free gift? Aren't all gifts free?
7. How come you never hear about *gruntled* employees?
8. Before the invention of drawing boards, what did people go back to?
9. I went to the bookstore and asked the saleswoman, "Where's the self help section"? Said if she told me it would defeat the purpose.
10. What if there were no hypothetical questions?
11. Is there another word for synonym?
12. If a parsley farmer is sued, can they garnish his wages?

Do You Know The Watsons?

If you see Scott or JK at an Open House, on the street, in a store, or anywhere, just say "hi!"

We like meeting people and we're not shy about giving away gift certificates. Just tell us you "know" us somehow, whether you recognize us, you read our newsletter, or we look like our pictures - or even better in person (wink, wink) Just say something and enjoy eating out at Saki's Spin-A-Yarn.

You might have to tell us who you are - just in case we don't have a gift certificate with us, we want to know where to mail it!



Not redeemable for cash.

Do You Know Your “nyms”?

The English language has its challenges – even if it’s your native tongue. Here’s a short refresher course in “nym” words, “nym” from the Greek *onoma*, meaning *a name*:

Acronym: a word formed from the initial letter or letters of a series of words such as NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration).

Antonym: a word opposite in meaning to another, e.g., *fast* and *slow*.

Autoantonym: a word that can take two (or more) opposite meanings; for example, *fast* means both *moving quickly* or *fixed firmly in place*.

Capitonym: a word that changes its meaning (and sometimes pronunciation) when it’s capitalized: *march* and *March*.

Heteronym: words that have the same spelling, but different meaning and sometimes different pronunciation, such as *lead* (to conduct) and *lead* (a metal).

Homonym: words having the same sound and often the same spelling but different meanings: *quail* (to cower) and *quail* (a bird). Not to be confused with *homophones*, which are homonyms that have the same sound but different spelling and meaning (*to*, *too*, and *two*).

Metonym: a word that designates something by the name of something associated with it; e.g., *the Crown* referring to *the monarchy*.

Synonym: a word having the same or nearly the same meaning as another in the language, for example, *joyful*, *elated*, *glad*.

That’s No Mermaid!

In 1493, Christopher Columbus logged seeing three mermaids while he was sailing near the Dominican Republic. He wrote that he was surprised they weren’t as attractive as the depictions he’d seen in paintings. So did the famous explorer actually see three half-fish, half-female creatures frolicking in the sea?

Not likely, experts say. Columbus’ mermaids were probably manatees, which can grow to lengths of up to 12 feet and weigh up to 1,200 pounds. Manatees look somewhat like aquatic elephants, and some think that the romantic depictions of mermaids with long green or blue hair might have been manatees breaking the water surface with seaweed hanging from their heads.

So, while manatees and mermaids are vastly different, there is something lovable about manatees. These bewhiskered, gentle, slow-moving plant eaters are air-breathing mammals – just like us. They communicate with each other using chirps, whistles and squeaks, and just like us, they’ve been observed participating in loosely organized, playful activities such as bodysurfing and follow-the-leader.



Cranberries

Cranberries do prevent bladder infections. They are rich in proanthocyanidins, chemicals that adhere to the bacteria that cause urinary tract infections (UTIs) and prevent the bacteria from sticking to the bladder wall.

Women with recurrent UTIs should consider taking cranberries daily -- in juice or capsule form -- as a preventive measure. Look for pill made from powdered whole cranberries.

If you prefer juice, but find pure cranberry juice too tart, drink a blend -- but look for one that is low in sugar.

Note: Cranberries do not help once a bladder infection has begun. Then antibiotics are needed.



Where's The Remote?



Take your garage door opener with you whenever you leave your car outside your home. Thieves look for openers clipped to visors in unlocked cars and use them to open garages, gaining access to homes.

If you have lost the remote control opener, reset the code to disable it (follow the instructions that come with your opener to reset the code). Consider replacing the standard size remote with an easy to carry keychain version -- available for \$30 to \$40 at home centers or wherever you bought your garage door opener.

Saving Ink

Ecofont looks like a standard font, but as you increase the size, you can see white circles within the lines of the letters. The company estimates that Ecofont uses up to 20% less ink than standard fonts.

Free for Mac and PC. www.ecofont.eu

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needs our help?**

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Thanks for thinking of us!

The Speeding Ticket

An older lady gets pulled over for speeding...

Older Woman: Is there a problem, Officer?

Officer: Ma'am, you were speeding.

Older Woman: Oh, I see.

Officer: Can I see your license please?

Older Woman: I'd give it to you but I don't have one.

Officer: Don't have one?

Older Woman: Lost it, 4 years ago for drunk driving.

Officer: I see...Can I see your vehicle registration papers please.

Older Woman: I can't do that.

Officer: Why not?

Older Woman: I stole this car.

Officer: Stole it?

Older Woman: Yes, and I killed and hacked up the owner.

Officer: You what?

Older Woman: His body parts are in plastic bags in the trunk if you want to see

The Officer looks at the woman and slowly backs away to his car and calls for back up. Within minutes 5 police cars circle the car. A senior officer slowly approaches the car, clasp his half drawn gun.

Officer 2: Ma'am, could you step out of your vehicle please! The woman steps out of her vehicle.

Older woman: Is there a problem sir?

Officer 2: One of my officers told me that you have stolen this car and murdered the owner.

Older Woman: Murdered the owner?

Officer 2: Yes, could you please open the trunk of your car, please.

The woman opens the trunk, revealing nothing but an empty trunk.

Officer 2: Is this your car, ma'am?

Older Woman: Yes, here are the registration papers. The officer is quite stunned.

Officer 2: One of my officers claims that you do not have a driving license.

The woman digs into her handbag and pulls out a clutch purse and hands it to the officer.

The officer examines the license. He looks quite puzzled.

Officer 2: Thank you ma'am, one of my officers told me you didn't have a license, that you stole this car, and that you murdered and hacked up the owner.

Older Woman: Bet the liar told you I was speeding, too!!!!

Don't Mess With Old Ladies

The Golden Ticket

Have you seen the Golden Ticket? If you have received a yellow envelope on your porch, you might have the Golden Ticket. If you do, it's worth \$100.00!

Keep your eyes open and check out what's inside the yellow envelope!

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January Quiz Question

And the results are in for our **November Quiz Question**...the question was: **What was a gladiator armed with, in addition to a dagger and spear?** **Answer:** Depending on the type of gladiator, a net, shield, harpoon or helmet.

Congratulations go to **Peg Tait!** Her name was selected at random from all of the correct quiz answers. She may choose from Saki's Spin-A-Yarn Restaurant, Trader Joe's, Macy's, Safeway or Dale Hardware.

Here's your **January Quiz Question**: **This month we have a riddle....I am used to bat with, yet I never get a hit. I am near a ball, yet it is never thrown. What am I?**

If your name is chosen from our group of correct answers, you can choose a \$30 gift certificate to your choice of Saki's Spin-A-Yarn Restaurant, Trader Joe's, Macy's, Safeway or Dale Hardware. Good luck!

Send your answers to:

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