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Acres of Diamonds

One day, a young man went to Russell Herman Conwell, a lawyer and later clergyman, and told him he wanted a college education but couldn't swing it financially. Dr. Conwell decided, at that moment, what his aim in life was, besides being a man of cloth - that is. He decided to build a university for unfortunate, but deserving, students. He did have a challenge, however. He would need a few million dollars to build the university. For Dr. Conwell, and anyone with real purpose in life, nothing could stand in the way of his goal.

Several years before this incident, Dr. Conwell was tremendously intrigued by a true story - with its ageless moral. The story was about a farmer who lived in Africa and, through a visitor, became tremendously excited about looking for diamonds. Diamonds had been discovered in abundance on the African continent and this farmer got so excited about the idea of millions of dollars worth of diamonds that he sold his farm to head out to the diamond line. He wandered all over the continent, as the years slipped by, constantly searching for diamonds and wealth, which he never found. Eventually he went completely broke and threw himself into a river and drowned.

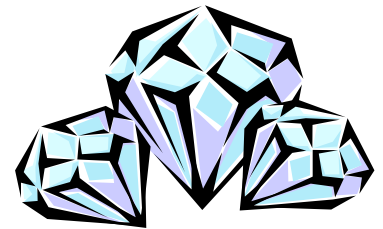
Meanwhile, the new owner of his farm picked up an unusual looking rock about the size of a country egg and put it on his mantle as a sort of curiosity. A visitor stopped by and in viewing the rock practically went into terminal convulsions. He told the new owner of the farm that the funny looking rock on his mantle was about the biggest diamond that had ever been found. The new owner of the farm said, "Heck, the whole farm is covered with them" - and sure enough it was.

The farm turned out to be the Kimberly Diamond Mine...the richest the world has ever known. The original farmer was literally standing on "Acres of Diamonds" until he sold his farm.

Dr. Conwell learned from the story of the farmer and continued to teach its moral. Each of us is right in the middle of our own "Acre of Diamonds", if only we would realize it and develop the ground we are standing on before charging off in search of greener pastures. Dr. Conwell told this story many times and attracted enormous audiences. He told the story long enough to raise the money to start the college for underprivileged deserving students. In fact, he raised nearly six million dollars and the university he founded, Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, has at least ten degree-granting colleges and six other schools.

When Doctor Russell H. Conwell talked about each of us being right on our own "Acre of Diamonds", he meant it. This story does not get old...it will be true forever...

Opportunity does not just come along - it is there all the time - we just have to see it.



What a girl wants...what a girl needs...what a girl knows...

Rolling in the Dough

Have trouble with dough sticking to your rolling pin? Before using, keep your rolling pin in the freezer.



Dinner Delight

Set a festive table with simple white linens and metallic-accented dinnerware. For an extra touch, float crystals, small flower or herb bouquets or ornaments from the ceiling using different lengths of ribbon and thumbtacks.

Dreadful Drip

Little leaks are not only annoying but they add up in a hurry! A faucet drip that totals only two tablespoons a minute comes to 15 gallons a day. That's 105 gallons a week or 5,460 wasted gallons of water a year.

Ice Breaker

Not sure what to do with old ice cube trays? Try these useful ideas...



- Add a squirt of lemon to your ice cube tray and you'll have lemon-flavored ice for your tea.
- Juice flavored ice for the kids, add pieces of fresh fruit for fun.
- Use trays as drawer organizers for paperclips or sewing notions.
- Ice cube trays are the perfect size for freezing small portions of left over baby food, or making your own homemade.
- Freeze tablespoon sized amounts of broth or special sauces for cooking soups and casseroles.



Enthusiasm is excitement with inspiration, motivation, and a pinch of creativity.

-- Bo Bennett

Framed!

If you have dozens of different frames and pictures, tie them together by painting the frames all the same color. Black gives an elegant touch to any style décor. White is very fresh, and a bright color can be fun in a contemporary design.

Prevent Sticking

Use parchment paper to line the bottom of cake pans instead of butter or oil. This cuts down on calories as well as making clean-up easier.

Slumber Party

Having over-night guests? It's easy to make them feel at home, even if you've got a pull-out sofa or air mattress, by adding personal touches. Make the bed in cozy linens with lots of pillows. Be sure to offer soft and firm ones so your guests will be comfortable. Try placing a vase of fresh flowers, a few of your favorite books and magazines and a carafe of water to a bedside table. To cozy up the bathroom, leave a basket of sample-sized soaps, shampoo, conditioner and lotions.

Breathe Fresh, Be Safe

Houseplants are a great way to bring a little of the outdoors inside. They add a fresh look to any room as well as help to purify the air by naturally filtering out toxins.

Be sure to check each type of plant to ensure its safety around pets and small children.



Cheat Sheet

Believe it or not, graduation time is just around the corner. Tired of giving the same old gift or gift card? Try typing up laundry instructions on a card, laminating it, and then attaching it to a laundry bag full of "goodies." You can include anything from towels, detergent or dryer sheets to rolls of quarters (gold for a college student!).



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The important thing about a problem is not its solution, but the strength we gain in finding the solution.

-- Author unknown



April

REASONS TO CELEBRATE!!

- 1 April Fools' Day
- 2 Children's Book Day
- 4 Women and Children's Day
- 7 No Housework Day
- 7 World Health Day
- 9 Winston Churchill Day
- 10 Golfers' Day
- 14 International Moment of Laughter Day
- 16 Easter Monday (Australia, New Zealand)
- 18 International Jugglers' Day
- 19 Passover Begins
- 20 Volunteer Recognition Day
- 21 Patriots' Day (U.S.)
- 23 Administrative Assistants' Day
- 25 World Penguin Day
- 25 Anzac Day (New Zealand)
- 26 Hug an Australian Day



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Simple Chef!

Simple Kitchen Solutions

Coconut Banana Muffins

1/2 cup butter
 2 eggs
 3 very ripe bananas, mashed together
 1 tsp vanilla
 2 cups flour (up to 1/2 cup whole wheat flour)
 1 tsp salt
 1 1/2 tsp baking powder
 3/4 cup sugar
 1/2 cup chopped walnuts
 1/2 cup grated coconut



- Cream together the butter and eggs, then mix in the ripe bananas and vanilla.
- In a small bowl, mix the flour, salt, baking powder, and sugar together, then add to the wet ingredients and mix just until all is moistened. Add the walnuts and coconut.
- Spoon the batter into muffin tins and bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes, or until done.

www.cheapcooking.com



Money Magic

Savvy Financial Ideas

With record-high fuel costs, we're all looking for simple ways to save at the pump. Brad Proctor, founder of GasPriceWatch, a consumer-advocacy website, has a few tips to ease the squeeze.

- At any time, the price of gas can vary by as much as 20 cents within a metropolitan area. When you're out running errands, pay attention to prices around town.
- Try to avoid buying gas on weekends, when most people travel or run errands. Gas stations often raise prices accordingly.
- Plan to take care of errands all at once instead of making extra trips. Make a list of stops to be made so you don't forget any while you're out.
- Stations on toll-highways often charge higher prices due to their captive audiences.
- Search the web for a website that offers volunteer "price spotters" to find the lowest gas prices near your home or work.
- Proctor also says that if you can pump once a week, the best prices are often found on Tuesdays.