

Jewelry

Box

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Spring 2018

A newsletter from

Joseph's Jewelry

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By Joseph Mirsky, Gemologist and Proprietor

www.jewelrynewsletter.com

Your community Jeweler since 1987

Contamination Countdown

Oops! At least it fell butter side up. Quick, pick it up in less than 5 seconds and no worries.

Unfortunately, a new study tested the 5 second rule and it flunked. Researchers dropped watermelon, bread, bread with butter, and gummy candy on stainless steel, ceramic tile, wood, and carpet that had been contaminated with bacteria.

They let it sit for four different times: less than 1 second, 5 seconds, 30 seconds, and 300 seconds. Bacteria go with the flow: the wettest foods pick up the most germs so watermelon had the most bugs, gummy candy the least. Carpet had the lowest transfer rate since fuzz has less contact area.

"Bacteria can contaminate instantaneously", said the 2016 report in *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*.

But I'll bet you didn't wash your hands before dunkin' that donut you paid for with filthy lucre. DNA Studies have shown that a one dollar bill has 3,000 different types of bacteria on it, with a lot of mouth germs found because people lick their fingers to count money.

So don't put your money where your mouth is. On the other hand, consider that if it fell butter side down, your dog will lick the floor with no ill effects.

Have Some More Birthday Cake

California required driver's licenses in 1913. In 1918, the state Motor Vehicle Department required age and weight to be disclosed to get a license. The Arcadia Journal January 5, 1918 reported in an article titled *Women Must Tell Age* "Sylph-like debutantes are hailing the order with joy, but stouter dowagers of indeterminate age are threatening to start a petition against it."



Ring in 14 karat white gold with fine blue aquamarine, .69 carat and diamonds, .04 carat total. \$550. See it in color on the web.

On the Road Again

Pekin, China, is making its campaign against speeders effective. After beheading some of the chauffeurs who exceeded the fifteen mile speed limit, officials hung the heads in boxes at street intersections and over them placed signs in English and Chinese calling attention to the law and the consequences to those who ignored it.

— Article in The Palm Beach Post, May 28, 1928 titled *Pekin Speeders Beheaded*.

Funnel Fake

When passengers boarded the Titanic in Queenstown, Ireland April 11, 1912 on her maiden, and last, voyage, some saw a ghastly omen, a blackened face peering down at them from the top of the ship's fourth funnel. Since no one could survive the intense heat from the boiler room rising up the stack, a rumor started that it was Death himself.

Actually it was a boiler stoker covered with coal dust who climbed up the funnel for air or the view. He could do that because it was a fake funnel — the ship only had three boilers. Captain Smith was furious that this revelation would cause the ship to be perceived as less powerful.

Titanic's sister ships of the White Star Line, Olympic and Britannic, also had dummy fourth funnels.

It would only take a tall pipe to vent exhaust and steam, but funnels are much sexier. The Literary Digest January 3, 1931 quotes the London Times: "... funnels became a count of boilers and a sign of power. She should be the faster ship that had two instead of one. Passengers would want to go by her."

"So ship owners took the funnel in hand, and made a rather better thing of it than the old pipe. They plumped it out to give new lines to the steamer. They painted it in a livery that was often gay."

"And they found that by giving it a rake backward they created an illusion of speed."

British cargo shipper Silver Line launched the S.S. Silverplane in 1948 and it also also had a fake funnel. Life Magazine September 20, 1948 had an article about it:

"While the engines require only one smoke funnel, appearance requires two. But the Silver Line solved the problem by putting the captain in the unused funnel."

With four decks, he has plenty of office and living space. He is thinking of taking his wife on a voyage. "She thinks it's marvelous," he claims, 'even better than our house in South Shields.'" Portholes near the bottom of the funnel are the tells.

Then there are fake floors. A 2003 New York Times article tells of a man who bought a \$2 million apartment on the 67th floor of the Time Warner Center on Columbus Circle. He sat across from the building in Central Park and counted the floors. He was told the building was 80 stories but he only counted 69, putting him 13 floors lower on the 56th floor.

Donald Trump says his penthouse in Trump Tower runs from the 66th to the 68th floor, 10 floors higher than the actual 58 floors of the building. 7 of his other buildings have from 3 to 18 fake floors.

One Hand With Two Hands

When your stupid computer hangs up and you have to put down your glass of wine for the two handed reboot with Ctrl-Alt-Delete, you can blame IBM.

Bill Gates said in a 2013 interview at Harvard "It was a mistake. We could have had a single button, but the guy who did the IBM keyboard design didn't want to give us our single button."

David Bradley, the IBM engineer responsible for the awkward combination said on a panel in 2011 with Gates, "I have to share the credit. I may have invented it, but Bill made it famous." You had to use it to log in to a Windows NT network workstation. Gates wanted to sell Windows NT to the government and Ctrl-Alt-Delete prevented a spoof login prompt from malware.

But on the other hand, for a bibulous reboot when your computer freezes use the Maltron single-hand keyboard. It comes for righties and lefties. But it's a one-armed bandit at \$475. Try it with Two Hands Wines Sexy Beast Cabernet Sauvignon 2014 from Australia. \$29.99.

But don't raise your hand too often or your reboot will hangover the wrath of grapes.

Potato Wipers

In the pre-ballpoint era, you used pens that you dipped in an inkwell or fountain pens. Both of these pens needed penwipers to remove the ink from the nib after use so it wouldn't dry and clog it. There are hundreds of designs of 19th century cloth pen wipers: cats, birds, butterflies, rabbits, and various ornate designs, usually with some black fabric to wipe the pen on.

But the potato seemed to work the best. "The juicy tuber holds the pen steady and removes at once all ink from the nib, and prevents, or at least very greatly delays, the process of corrosion, and spares many a well-loved pen to a ripe old age," said the *New York Times* October 19, 1890, quoting the *Pall Mall Gazette*.

An article in the *Walsenburg World* (Colorado) October 2, 1895 tells of a Milwaukee hotel that uses potatoes as pen wipers. The hotel used one potato a day, with Early Rose and Kidney Flake being the preferred types. A half dozen pens are stuck in the potato and are withdrawn as needed to sign the register.

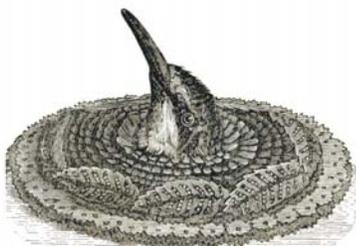
Sponges and bird shot were also used, but sponges rust the pens and shot "does not absorb the ink rapidly enough to prevent it from clotting and spoiling the point."

But another hotel keeper said the main disadvantage of shot was "twenty pounds of bird shot was used up during one woodcock season. The shooting men came and took the shot before our very eyes and laughed at us when we asked them to leave the shot in the pen box."

You can also use the versatile spud as a windshield wiper. If your wipers give out when driving in the rain, just pull out that potato you always carry, slice it in half with your handy penknife, rub it across the windshield, and continue on your way.

"Visibility through a windshield decreases when water beads up on the glass, distorting your view through it,"

"But if you rub the exterior with a cut potato, the starch coating strongly attracts the rain molecules and spreads them out in a smooth layer, with visibility now reasonably clear," according to *The Flying Circus of Physics*, by Jearl Walker, physics professor at Cleveland State University.



Hummingbird penwiper from Godey's Lady's Book, 1868.



Below Churchill it says "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat," from his first speech as Prime Minister to the House of Commons on May 10, 1940.

Fat-Shaming the Five Pound Note

England released new plastic five pound notes in September, 2016, with the Queen on the front and Winston Churchill on the back. The plastic notes are tough enough to survive "a splash of claret, a flick of cigar ash, the nip of a bulldog and even a spin in the washing machine," said the Governor of the Bank of England. However, this toughness comes at a price: people who snort cocaine with rolled up fivers report problems with cut noses.

But it turns out that there is animal fat in the plastic used to make the notes: "There is a trace of tallow in the polymer pellets used in the base substrate of the polymer £5 notes," tweeted the Bank of England in response to an inquiry.

This outraged vegans and vegetarians. A petition to the Bank of England to lose the fat quickly gathered over 100,000 signatures. The Bank of England then said it had contacted the supplier of the plastic pellets used to make the money and "potential solutions" were being worked on.

So how much fat is in the note? One estimate is 0.00007 gram or about 1/40th the weight of a snowflake. So don't lick your fingers to count your money.

The Churchill portrait on the back of the bill is the famous one of him scowling, taken by Canadian photographer Yousuf Karsh December 30, 1941 after Churchill had given a speech to the Canadian Parliament in Ottawa.

Churchill, who had not been informed that he was to be photographed, said he would allow only two minutes for the session, then lit a cigar and began puffing. Karsh diplomatically held out an ashtray but Churchill refused to surrender the cigar. Karsh then said "Forgive me, sir," and plucked the cigar from his mouth. "He looked so belligerent he could have devoured me," said Karsh. The result was the famous portrait of a defiant Churchill.

Churchill was impressed by Karsh's cheekiness and allowed him to take a picture of him smiling a little later, saying "You can even make a roaring lion stand still to photograph him." Karsh then titled the iconic portrait "The Roaring Lion."

The photo was on the cover of *Life Magazine* May 21, 1945 shortly after the surrender of Germany May 7, VE Day.

Rösta På Kalle Anka*

Every Christmas eve at 3 P.M. almost half of Sweden sits down in front of the TV to watch a 1958 Walt Disney Presents Christmas special, *From All of Us to All of You*, Kalle Anka och hans vänner önskar God Jul — Donald Duck and his friends wish you a Merry Christmas. (Donald Duck is the most famous Disney character in Sweden.)

"You do not tape or DVR Kalle Anka for later viewing. You do not eat or prepare dinner while watching Kalle Anka. Age does not matter—every member of the family is expected to sit quietly together and watch a program that generations of Swedes have been watching for 50 years. Most families plan their entire Christmas around Kalle Anka, from the Smörgåsbord at lunch to the post-Kalle visit from Jultomten [Santa Claus]," said a 2009 article in *Slate*.

In the show *Jiminy Cricket* introduces Disney shorts and film clips from the 30's through the 60's. In 2012, Disney removed scenes with a racist doll and a puppet with stereotypical Jewish features from *Santa's Workshop*, a 1932 short.

"Arne Weise, 82, legendary julvärd [Christmas host], however, thinks it is sad that Disney put themselves in Kalle Ankas Christmas Eve," reported the Swedish newspaper *Aftonbladet* in 2012. In an online poll by *Aftonbladet*, 96% of the 40,000 respondents condemned the Disney edits.

You can vote for Donald Duck in Sweden, too. There's a joke Donald Duck party that "at the very most, the Donald Duck Party has scored enough write-in votes at points theoretically to be the country's ninth-most popular (in 1991, it received 1,535 votes), according to Wikipedia.

* Vote for Donald Duck

Trickle Down Economics

"It is where billionaires tell millionaires what the middle class feels," JPMorgan Chase head Jamie Dimon said of the Davos World Economic Forum.



Earrings in 14 karat white gold with bright red rubies, .48 carat total and diamonds, .22 carat total. \$950. Matching ring \$1100 See it in color on the web.

Deep Thought

Silly boys Jeeps are for girls!

— Decal on a Jeep driven by a man.

The Battle of Santa Monica Bay

Antonio Cornero was born in northern Italy in 1900. His father lost his farm in a card game and a fire destroyed the harvest. The family immigrated to the United States in 1904, settling in Los Gatos, California. He was in reform school for robbery by the time he was 15 and was kicked out of the Naval Reserve at 18 for going AWOL.

With the advent of Prohibition in 1920, Tony along with his brother and a stepbrother became bootleggers and grew rich smuggling Scotch whiskey from Canada.

In 1926, a yacht loaded with bootleg whiskey was seized and Tony was identified as the man who had chartered it after being questioned with a phony name as a too-interested bystander and being let go. Now a wanted man, he boarded a train to Seattle in Los Angeles with \$150,000 in a suitcase, intent on fleeing to Canada. He was spotted by federal agents who boarded the train hoping he would lead them to source of bootleg whiskey in Canada.

Tony spotted his tails, went between cars near Redding and jumped off the train, leaving the suitcase with the cash in the baggage car. At a nearby airfield, he chartered a plane to Portland where he reboarded the same train.

He had hoped the G-men would notice he was missing and get off the train, but they hadn't and were still sitting in the same seats. He bribed a porter to retrieve his suitcase and jumped off the train again as it slowed to enter the Seattle station and vanished, turning up in Europe a year later.

In 1927, Tony chartered a ship in Hamburg, Germany to take 100,000 gallons of booze and parts for a still to Vancouver, Canada. Actually, the ship was supposed to offload the cargo 40 miles off San Diego. But the German captain stopped in New Orleans and contacted U.S. Customs hoping to collect a reward.

Within a day Tony's brother Frank showed up in New Orleans with attorneys who successfully argued that since the ship's manifest said Vancouver, it should be allowed to continue to Canada. A new captain was hired, the ship sailed through the Panama Canal and stopped off San Diego as planned. Tony had been waiting in Mexico and met the ship and offloaded his cargo into speedboats to take it into southern California, outrunning the Coast Guard on the last load.

Tony missed the United States and was tired of all the problems of the rum running business and on October 29, 1929 — Black Tuesday of the stock market crash — he turned himself in to the IRS in Los Angeles. He was sentenced to two years in the federal penitentiary at McNeil Island, Washington.

Tony's brothers opened a grand casino and hotel, The Meadows, in Las Vegas in May, 1931 just after gambling was legalized. The hotel burned down that September while the Las Vegas fire department looked on since it was outside the city limits. The brothers sold The Meadows in 1932.

Gambling ships, unpowered barges that had to be anchored in sheltered water such as a bay yet be outside the 3 mile limit in international waters, had been operating off the California coast since 1928. The clientele were ferried out to the ships in water taxis. In 1935, Tony Cornero bought into a syndicate that owned the gambling ship Tango. Always at odds with the controlling partner, he suggested they roll the dice with the winner forfeiting his share. Tony lost the bet and a share worth \$100,000.

Tony then refurbished an old ship, named it the Rex, and anchored it 3½ miles off Santa Monica pier. He was scrupulous about doing everything completely legit, even having a skywriting plane write R E X above 3 miles up, just in case.

The Rex quickly became a hit and a must-see attraction. Shortly after it opened, the Los Angeles district attorney argued that the 3 mile limit actually started from a line drawn across the mouth of the bay. Cornero then moved his ship south to Redondo Beach where 3½ miles was just outside the line. The district attorney then threatened to blockade the ship and Tony submitted to arrest, got out on bond and went to court on the boundary issue. Tony personally argued that Santa Monica bay wasn't really a bay, but a bight, a small indentation in the coastline. An appeals court ruled in his favor and the case went to the California Supreme Court. Meanwhile the Rex returned to its anchorage off Santa Monica.

Then California Attorney General Earl Warren declared the Rex a nuisance over which the state had jurisdiction and sent a fleet of boats to seize the gambling ships on July 31, 1939 starting the Battle of Santa Monica Bay. Two ships were seized and on August 1, the Rex was besieged and responded with high pressure fire hoses. Cornero made a deal to evacuate the 600 customers on board.

The standoff lasted 10 days when Tony surrendered to avoid a contempt of court charge. The charge was dismissed pending the California Supreme Court decision on the 3 mile limit. The crew of 75 held out until November 21, when the California

Supreme Court ruled that the Santa Monica Bay was really a bay.

In 1946, Cornero opened a new gambling ship, the Lux, anchored 5½ miles south of Long Beach. Within days, Long Beach authorities would not allow water taxis to service the Lux, stranding 800 people on board who had to be rescued by water taxis under Coast Guard supervision. The Lux had been registered for coastwise trade and it was seized on September 17, 1946 on the technicality that since it was anchored in one spot it couldn't be engaging in coastwise trade.

Cornero moved to Beverly Hills and made plans to invest in Mexico. In February, 1948 two Mexican men came to his house and shot him four times in the stomach. He managed to survive and when he had recovered went back to Las Vegas and began building the Stardust Resort and Casino. He got several loans from the Desert Inn owner and mobster Moe Dalitz, but still ran out of money before the hotel was finished.

After unsuccessfully pleading for another loan from Dalitz the morning of July 31, 1955, Tony was drinking and playing craps at the Desert Inn. He was down \$10,000 when the waitress presented him with a \$25 bar bill with Dalitz looking on. He exploded at this insult and fell to the floor dead. His glass was taken away, a mortician was called without notifying the coroner and he was buried 8 hours later in Los Angeles

Nail Your Apple

Here's an old folk remedy. If you have iron deficiency anemia, why take iron pills when you can eat iron apples?

I ran across an infomercial type ad in the Lafayette Ledger (Minnesota) January 12, 1907. The ad starts out saying that when our grandmothers were ailing and were told they needed "more iron in their blood" instead of taking nasty medicines, "they would simply stick half a dozen or more iron nails into an apple, leave them in over night, remove the nails and next morning, before breakfast, eat the apple."

The ad then goes on to say if you write to a chemist in Sheboygan, Michigan he will send you "the names of nine roots and herbs which, when mixed as directed have been found an excellent remedy for Rheumatism, Backache, and Catarrh." Mention your ailment and you will get a free sample of the cure, but hurry as the quantity is limited.

If the nine herbs and roots don't cure what ails you, the nails in the apple will. A study in the Journal of Food Science August 25, 2006 says "ingestion of one red delicious apple that has been exposed to eight large iron nails for 24 hr could provide 10-15 mg iron having good bio-availability."

4/9/18 4/10/17 4/11/16

Gold	1332	1250	1255
Silver	16.28	17.94	16.55
Platinum	923	938	981

You can get live precious metals prices on the web site.

Joseph's buys old gold for cash

Spam is Everywhere

The 2016 expedition to the Marianas Trench in the western Pacific by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ship Okeanos Explorer found garbage even in the deepest parts of the ocean.

The 220 foot ship has a remotely operated vehicle with high resolution cameras. In addition to fantastic deep sea critters like glowing jellyfish it snapped a picture of a can of Spam 16,230 feet down. The code on the bottom of the can says it was made in the Hormel plant in Fremont, Nebraska January 3, 2001.

If you climb back up about ¾ mile you can wash down your low sodium Spam with a can of Bud at 12,420 feet.



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Puma Politics

It turns out that pumas (mountain lions) are fraidy cats. In a study by the Royal Society published in 2017, motion-sensitive cameras were set up in California at the cats' kill sites, where they stash the remains of their prey so they can come back for seconds and thirds. When the cats triggered the cameras, the voices of political talk show hosts came out of hidden speakers.

Rachel Maddow, Rush Limbaugh, Amy Goodman, and Glenn Beck attempted to convince the cats that up is down, left is right, black is white. This immediately caused 80% of them to flee and more than half never returned to finish eating. One of the researchers joked "pumas are nonpartisan in their hatred of American politics."

As a control, the sound of Pacific tree frogs croaking didn't faze the cats. I wonder if they would stay in the neighborhood if they heard the voice of Mr. Rogers.

HOURS	
MON - WED	10 - 6
THU - FRI	10 - 8
SAT	10 - 6
SUN	Closed

Put On a Happy Face

Clickety clack, don't talk back, >:(make a face. Emoticons are so last century, a remnant of the typewriter age first invented in 1982.

Today we can use an emoji to express our feelings. The traditional smiley face emoji has been supplemented with thousands of others, all listed in Emojipedia. Emojipedia founder Jeremy Burge designated July 17 as World Emoji Day "based on the way the calendar emoji is shown on iPhones".

There are now 2,666 official emojis. The best seller for the last three years is the Tears of Joy emoji.



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Cure for Baldness Found!

Going bald? Just shave what's left of your hair then get micro scalp pigmentation aka a tattoo. Teeny dots are tattooed on your bald pate to imitate stubble. The fake hair dots will blend in with the real hair dots after you shave your head. Of course you'll have to keep shaving your head or you'll look really weird.

Problems are getting the hair line right and ink that matches the color of the rest of your hair and won't fade. Better wear a hat at the beach.

There might be a problem when you get old and gray but no one knows since the procedure hasn't been around long enough for anyone who got it to get old and gray.

Expect a tingling sensation while it's being done. It'll take two to five hours over several sessions and will set you back \$2000-\$3000 for the top of your head and \$5000 for a full head of hair.



Pendant in 14 karat white gold with tanzanite 1.04 carat and diamonds, .24 karat total. \$975. See it in color on the web

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