



REAL ESTATE, RATES AND RECIPES

JUNE 2004



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Realtor

Service With an Old-Fashioned Touch



It's important to mention here at the start that this is Mike writing, because I have to tell you about how I cut off my wedding ring today.

Some months ago, like a schlep, I removed the ring with painful and tremendous difficulty, because playing golf with the ring on usually produces blisters or tears. Then last Sunday, DeeDee and I were getting ready to go to a wedding, and I felt it was time to try to put the ring back on. Although my running this year hasn't yet resulted in weight loss (and a smaller finger), I thought it would be okay. Replacing the ring was tight, but not nearly as difficult as the removal, so I proceeded. When the procedure was complete, my finger was blue and puffy (mostly due to the temporary trauma) so I applied ice for a while.



Unfortunately, now several days later, I had to remove it because the tightness and puffiness were not going away and I was concerned about damaging the finger. Even though DeeDee had already reassured me that we could get another ring and to not worry about it, I still felt like I was desecrating our marriage, like I should have just toughed it out.



The wedding that we attended was beautiful; it was a happy, gorgeous day in Sedona, Arizona. As usual, the pastor made special mention of the ring and its significance as a symbol of unending love. But you know, on the other hand (sorry for the pun), it is JUST a ring. Some newlyweds cannot afford rings, and others do not wear them at all.

It's my belief that a married person should wear one if possible; but more important than wearing a symbolic ring is that the spouse's *behavior* reflect commitment, devotion, and selflessness. In that case, I have a ways to go before I am deserving of the next ring.

Average Mortgage Rates (Source: Freddie Mac)			
June 17, 2004	30-yr	15-yr	1-yr ARM
Average Rates:	6.32%	5.70%	4.13%
Fees & Points:	.5	.5	.7

Easy Travel Snack Mix

Try this easy recipe for your next road trip

- 2 cups toasted oat cereal
- 1/2 cup dried cranberries
- 2 tbsp granulated sugar
- 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tbsp butter, melted
- 1 7-oz pkg chocolate-covered raisins

- COMBINE cereal and cranberries in large, resealable plastic bag.
- COMBINE sugar and cinnamon in small bowl.
- POUR cinnamon-sugar mixture and butter over cereal mixture; seal bag. Shake well to combine.
- ADD chocolate-covered raisins; shake well.

Makes 6 servings
(borrowed from www.cooksrecipes.com)



An independent member broker

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