

Randall Garrett Gazette

Vol. VII

Price: Priceless
Home Builder News

July 2008

Happy 4th of July!!

NEW HOME PAGE *Of interest....*

How Do I Decide on a Builder?.....Okay, I have decided not to remodel or buy a foreclosure. I want a *real* house, and I want it built just like I want it. How do I go about selecting a builder that is right for me, that will build a good house for me, and be someone I can trust? Knowing what I know, maybe the following research questions could help in making a good decision on a choosing a builder. Of course, I would choose me, but there is only so much of me to go around. *Alas, so many houses, so little time.*

Builder Questions:

1 *How long has the builder been in business, and/or how many times?*

Explanation: Great question. It is important for people to choose established builders. At the tail end of a great run in home building, like we have just had, a lot of “fly-by-nighters” get into the market because all builders are rich, and it looks easy, right? There is huge access to cash, not necessarily profits, in home building, mainly yours. Each time a builder completes a certain task, in the construction “critical path”, he/she is funded a certain percentage of the construction loan funds. For example, the foundation is worth, 25% of the total construction loan. A normal custom home construction loan can easily be \$500,000. Let’s see, 25% of \$500K, that is about...at least a new Rolex. See what I mean. I remember, a guy in the early 90’s that sort of came on the scene as a builder. He was young, nice looking guy, formerly a tractor man that graded lots (“smoothed out”, for the lay person) for builders. The next thing I know, he built a house, and entered it into a Kaleidoscope of Homes show, in which he won several of the “Best of...” awards. Later, I would see him driving around town in a Mercedes 450 SLC Coup with the top down. He could not have been over 25 years old. He was, as Z-Z-Top describes in the song, “I’m Bad, I’m Nationwide” (you remember the lyrics, 3rd Verse, ***Well, I was moving down the road in my V-8 Ford, I had a shine on my boots and my sideburns lowered. With my New York brim and my gold tooth displayed, No body give me trouble cause they know I got it made. I’m bad, I’m nationwide***). Yep, that was this guy to a TEE. Well, about a year rolls by, and this guy is back to driving a tractor. Apparently, some of the home construction bills didn’t get paid (a mere oversight, I’m sure) and a few of the

Randall Garrett Homes, Inc.
P.O. Box 1708
Colleyville, Texas 76034
Office: 817.475.4644

RandallGarrettHomes.com

Randall W. Garrett Construction Company, Inc.
104 Grapevine Hwy., Suite 100
Hurst, Texas 76054
Fax: 817.472.7156

Randall Garrett Gazette

Vol. VII

Price: Priceless
Home Builder News

July 2008

houses he had built were kind of, shall we say, falling apart. Yep, we're all rich and it does look easy.....Not so much.

The other part of the question is *how many times* has the builder been in business? There is a sect of builders that have been in and out of business numerous times. As we say in the biz, "*He has been up and down more than a bad case of hemorrhoids*". Given, you can't blame a guy for trying, but once a builder has puked (builder speak for went broke) a couple of times, there is no esteem left to prevent him/her from puking 5 or 6 more times? It becomes a good business model going forward. Start a group of houses, suck out the cash, hide it, file bankruptcy, and re-load. Life is good! I think a lot of those hedge fund guys were previously builders. My point being, longevity is good, and infrequency is good. By the way, it is never good having your house built by a builder who is on their way out. I think the legal term is "*freaking mess*".

2 *Is the builder registered with the Texas Residential Construction Commission?*

Explanation: A builder can not legally build your house unless he has a registration number from the TRCC for each company he/she operates under. I have two numbers. Randall W. Garrett Construction Company, Inc., is TRCC #1357, and Randall Garrett Homes, Inc., is #27356. One of the reasons the TRCC's was created was to stop the "re-loaders". Let's call them the TRCC the "Preparation H" of the Texas building business. Anyway, the warranty you get on your home has been written by the TRCC. Your tolerances, methods of obtaining resolution to problems, and filing complaints against builders, are all stated on the TRCC their website. There are no more "implied warranties". Generally, this is not a problem in the municipalities, but out in the country, and hinterlands of the counties, there are more than a few non-registered builders, which does not make them bad builders, but they are not legal and you might lose some of your recourse options.

3 *Is the builder a CERTIFIED MASTER BUILDER (a branded trademark).*

Explanation: CERTIFIED MASTER BUILDER (CMB) is a non-profit company, out of Fort Worth, that builders can apply for membership in. Membership in CMB is used as a marketing tool to hold themselves out to buyers as a higher standard builder. As a matter of fact, I am one of the founding members. It was started in the mid-90's to address anti-builder advocacy groups like, Sick of Bad Builders (SOBB), which were formed after the housing crash of the late 80's. CMB helps with some of a home buyer's homework. While it does not guarantee that you will get a perfect home, it does require some fairly strict guidelines in order to maintain membership in the organization. For example, CMB requires all of its members to re-new their membership each year. Some

Randall Garrett Homes, Inc.
P.O. Box 1708
Colleyville, Texas 76034
Office: 817.475.4644

Randall W. Garrett Construction Company, Inc.
104 Grapevine Hwy., Suite 100
Hurst, Texas 76054
RandallGarrettHomes.com Fax: 817.472.7156

Randall Garrett Gazette

Vol. VII

Price: Priceless
Home Builder News

July 2008

of the requirements of membership are: 1) each builder has to have a certain amount of continuing education hours each year; 2) a builder cannot have any outstanding, unsatisfied liens judgments against them; 3) a builder, upon application, cannot have filed bankruptcy in the past 3 to 5 years (I'm not sure about the actual years), and 4) applicants have to have a specific amount of prior experience in the home building business.

In the case of a dispute, a homebuyer can request a meeting with a conciliation team from CMB, for a small fee, to observe your side of any perceived "issues" to facilitate a resolution with the builder. The bottom line is a homebuyer has a third party looking over its members' shoulders to help the homebuyer get the best possible house in which to live.

I had to have a conciliation team meeting requested by the "crazy lady on the corner", in Keller. This couple bought a Villa Home (lot was only 50' wide) from me during the framing stage before the drive way was in place. The house was on a corner and the garage was a straight-in, front, 2-car garage. This lady was a very small person, being about 4'11"ish, and after we poured the driveway, she noticed the fire hydrant was on the left side of her driveway (at the curb). She wanted it moved because of her inability to see out (*over or around a fire hydrant - not a brick wall!*) of her mid-sized Infinity sedan due to her diminutive stature. She was used to parking in the left side of the garage, so she insisted we move it. She conjured up a story that she had talked to the Keller Fire Marshall who said it was only a \$600 deal to move a fire hydrant, not a big deal. Well, that was a big crock of guano because the fire marshall has to approve the location of all fire hydrants, per city codes. Further, they cannot be moved as they are not a lawn sprinkler with wheels on it. Plus, it is about a \$6,000 deal (that's right 3 zeros instead of 2). If you could move one. I had a suggestion to solve the problem, since she was a card-carrying-member of the "lollipop gang", from "*The Wizard of Oz*", and the solution was quite brilliant I thought. My suggestion: **"Why don't you park on the right side of the garage?"**. Well, you would have thought I had just run over her cat! She was highly appalled that I suggested, for one moment, that she be denied her God-given right to park on the left side of the garage. How dare I? Basically, the conciliation team, just looked at me with shoulders shrugged and palms up. Realizing, she was nut. Her husband was a British fellow, named Robert (pronounced Rahbut). He made a few gratuitous attempts to sway me on her behalf, but in the end he just looked at with a look in his eyes which read, "Hell dude this is just one issue, I have to live with her every single day!" I think his "gin" bill was pretty high. I ended up moving her brick mailbox over 4 feet to let her win something and to save face. I did that because she said she could not see her front door because the brick mailbox was directly in the line of sight. It was only about 3'6" tall at the curb, and where it sat, was about 3' below the foundation level of the house. What a nut! I wish she would have taken the yellow brick road, and her little dog Toto, too.

Randall Garrett Homes, Inc.
P.O. Box 1708
Colleyville, Texas 76034
Office: 817.475.4644

Randall W. Garrett Construction Company, Inc.
104 Grapevine Hwy., Suite 100
Hurst, Texas 76054
Fax: 817.472.7156
RandallGarrettHomes.com

Randall Garrett Gazette

Vol. VII

Price: Priceless
Home Builder News

July 2008

(Sorry, I got off on a rant)

4 *Is the builder a member of the local builders association?*

Explanation: This is not a deal breaker by any means, but if you are going to build a home, that you hope to live in for a while, and expect it to perform as it should, wouldn't you want a "professional" building your home. Technology, trends as in "green" building, etc., are changing a fairly rapid pace right now. Unless a builder is plugged into a good source of information, I do not see how they can build the best house possible for a client.

5 *Do your personalities match?*

Explanation: You are getting ready to crawl in bed with a builder (and he/she with you) for about the next year and a half (6 months building time - one year warranty time), so you had better be able to communicate and get along with them. There is nothing worse than building a house via fax or certified letters. That is what I had to do with the crazy lady from Oz. She was a nut!

6 *Does the builder normally build the size, style, or area that you are wanting built for you?*

Explanation: I highly recommend that you DO NOT yield to your cheapskate leanings when selecting a builder. For the love of all that is holy, do not get your friend, who is a superintendent with XYZ tract builders (not that there is anything wrong with tract builders) to build your million dollar home. A million dollar baby, and a \$150,000, 3-2-2 are completely different animals. There are so many amenities that you should expect in a million dollar home, or even a \$500K home for that matter. A tract builder will have to get educated on the various level of amenities, I promise. They are trained to limit the number of choices a home buyer has. That is why custom builders always have that "deer-in-the-headlights" look. Amenities like solid core interior doors instead of hollow, custom built cabinets instead of ones that come out of a box, 3 centimeter thick granite instead of 2 centimeter (an obvious quality difference), stacked up crown and base moulding, faux finishes, and the list goes on and on.

Another aspect of the difference in the two products is the quality of craftsmanship. In volume or tract homes, the dollars paid are much lower, so the key to being successful in that level of home building is speed. The trim carpenter is instructed to join the different moldings together - fast! If you can't throw a small dog through the crack in the joint, then that's good enough, we'll caulk it! The painter is instructed to paint anything that doesn't move, so make sure you move around a lot if you visit the job while the painter is there. The electrician guarantees no sparks to fly when TXU hooks up the meter. Other than that always wear rubber shoes.

Randall Garrett Homes, Inc.
P.O. Box 1708
Colleyville, Texas 76034
Office: 817.475.4644

Randall W. Garrett Construction Company, Inc.
104 Grapevine Hwy., Suite 100
Hurst, Texas 76054
RandallGarrettHomes.com
Fax: 817.472.7156

Randall Garrett Gazette

Vol. VII

Price: Priceless
Home Builder News

July 2008

The other side of the coin is not letting your brother-in-law, Donald Crump, who thinks he is the building business's second coming because he builds McMansion in Southlake, build your house. He knows all, therefore he knows exactly what you need in your 2,000 square foot home. Don't worry, he knows what is best for you. The next thing you know, you will have a \$30,000 commercial kitchen in your \$180K house. You will have enough recessed can lights in your new home to light the new Cowboy Stadium and/or commodes so powerful, the shear flushing force will suck Grandma's wig off her head and right through her legs. His reasoning - that's what he would do if it were his house.

Please, just find the man/lady that builds in the neighborhood you want in, negotiate a fair price, and pay the money. Otherwise, Thanksgivings and Christmases will be a little chilly when you and The Donald refuses to sit across from you at dinner, or Mama's skirt is blown up by the wind coming through the front door. I know! I know! You savvy devil. You saved \$10,000 didn't you? Bravo.

Market News...

A little bird told me....the word on the street is that interest rates are going to start rising. Yea, whatever. In this economy? Well, the little bird says that inflation is driving up the cost of doing business, so lending institutions will be forced to raise rates. They have no choice. If there is no profit in it, why do it? Secondly, attrition has hit the mortgage business. There has been a huge "abandon ship" break out in mortgage industry. The number you used to call to talk to your loan officer, is now a pizza joint. They can't help you with a loan, but you can get 3 toppings for \$5.99. So, you know what happens next? There will be fewer companies making the majority of the loans which means you will have to pay a point or so more to move in to your next dream home. I have been telling you RGG faithful that for some time, so don't come crying to me when the 5 & 6% mortgages are gone. I have been telling you the time to buy is now. You better start feelin' froggy and get hopping.

BUSINESS AND OFFICE PAGE ***Of interest....***

Randall Garrett Homes, Inc, - For Sale

Keller, Bourland Oaks Community (www.bourlandoaks.com):

Randall Garrett Homes, Inc.
P.O. Box 1708
Colleyville, Texas 76034
Office: 817.475.4644

Randall W. Garrett Construction Company, Inc.
104 Grapevine Hwy., Suite 100
Hurst, Texas 76054
RandallGarrettHomes.com Fax: 817.472.7156

Randall Garrett Gazette

Vol. VII

Price: Priceless
Home Builder News

July 2008

816 Gentle Wind - 4 Beds, 4.5 Baths, Study, Game, Media, 3 car (4,189 sf)
Cool Feature - "Pottery Barn" Styling **\$579,000**

812 Gentle Wind - 5 Beds, 4.5 Baths, Study, Game, Media, 3 car (4,487 sf)
Cool Feature - wheel chair access to 2nd bedroom **\$619,000**

416 Settlers Ridge - 4 Beds, 4.5 Baths, Study, Game, Media, 3 car (4,142 sf)
Cool Feature - 2 outdoor living areas **\$589,000**

400 Settlers Ridge - 4 Beds, 4.5 Baths, Study, Game, Media, 3 car (4,596 sf)
Cool Feature - Pond view/best price per sf in B Oaks **\$599,000**

Arlington, Lago Vista - Gated Community with common pool & cabana (randallgarretthomes.com):

4802 Spicewood - 3 Beds, 2.5 Baths, Study, 2 car (2,515 sf)
Cool Feature - "Pottery Barn" Styling **\$299,000**

4810 Spicewood - 3 Beds, 2 Baths, Study, 3 car (2,566 sf)
Cool Feature - only 3-car available **\$319,000**

4815 Starmont - 3 Beds, 2.5 Baths, Study, 2 car (2,472 sf)
Cool Feature - SOLD! **\$SOLD!!**

Hurst, Glade Pointe Court (randallgarretthomes.com):

3209 Glade Pointe Ct. - 3 Beds, 2.5 Baths, Study, Game, Loft, Upper Balcony,
exercise room 2 car (3,569 sf)
Cool Feature - It's like living in a mountain chalet. Low maintenance,
wooded lot that backs up to a creek. Like a bird sanctuary. Mallard
ducks come in in the winter only. 3-car available **\$469,000**

Classified Section...

Restaurant Furnishings for Sale!! The lovely and talented Ana Garrett closed down her restaurant in Frisco, so we have an abundance of **real marble and granite**

Randall Garrett Homes, Inc.
P.O. Box 1708
Colleyville, Texas 76034
Office: 817.475.4644

RandallGarrettHomes.com

Randall W. Garrett Construction Company, Inc.
104 Grapevine Hwy., Suite 100
Hurst, Texas 76054
Fax: 817.472.7156

Randall Garrett Gazette

Vol. VII

Price: Priceless
Home Builder News

July 2008

tables with iron chairs. Purchased wholesale for \$1200 originally (you can't tear up granite and iron).....per set (1 table, 4 chairs).....**\$250.00**

Original Oil Paintings by Venezuelan artist, *Hugo Camacaro*.....**\$250.00**

1955 Chevrolet, model 150, 2 door post. Frame off Re-build in 1994, 7,000 miles on it since. Bel Air trim, Blue metal flake paint, mid '80's 350 ci w/650 Eldebrock carb, headers, disc player w/ remote, front disc brakes, Crager S/S mag wheels, blue Del Rey interior. I have owned it for 14 years, always garaged (**I know, you used to have one. I have heard that line at least 2.1 million times**).....**\$29,500.00**

For Information on the above Call Annie at the office, 817.428.7103, or me 817.475.4644.

Advertising rules (It's my paper):

- 1 Send me \$50. You get 3 months.
- 2 I write the ad. We are "ocular pollution green" - no stupid ads.
- 3 I have to like the product or service before it goes in the paper. I will not compromise my integrity for \$50. Now, for \$100, I could be swayed. I call it

What you get for \$50:

- 1 A 3 months-running ad in a paper that reaches at least some people (most of them in my family) from all walks of life.
- 2 Professionally-ish written ad.
- 3 Personal product endorsement.
- 4 No ticks from Fifi (last months reference to being in the dog house, after I call).

Call the office or email to make arrangements. We are considering corporate sponsors as well, before we take this company public with our imminent IPO (working on my goal setting).

In My Opinion (that, and \$5 will get you \$0.50 worth of coffee at Starbucks).....By Randall Garrett

The Governor's Mansion Burning - Bummer dude! As one who embraces grand architecture, especially the densely detailed majesty of early Texas, I am sincerely distraught that the Governor's Mansion, in Austin, burned. The latest news says officials can clearly determine that a person has been videoed lighting a Molotov cocktail and

Randall Garrett Homes, Inc.
P.O. Box 1708
Colleyville, Texas 76034
Office: 817.475.4644

Randall W. Garrett Construction Company, Inc.
104 Grapevine Hwy., Suite 100
Hurst, Texas 76054
RandallGarrettHomes.com Fax: 817.472.7156

Randall Garrett Gazette

Vol. VII

Price: Priceless
Home Builder News

July 2008

throwing it on the front porch. I am certain the building can be rebuilt, but I do not believe it can be rebuilt as an “exact” replica. I do not believe the craftsmanship, nor some of the material are available today. Besides, wait till the Travis County tree huggers get a hold of that project. It will be built out of hay bails held fast by bat guano. It will have bicycle clubs riding stationary bikes in shifts to generate the electricity. Maybe even a few Dems can volunteer for a photo-ops around election time.

I am not accusing anyone of anything, but that would be taking **Texas - OU Weekend** to a whole other level. Anyway, bummer.

Hummers - With gas prices of today, I wonder if you will see more and more insurance claims on big SUV's. I can just see the claim forms now.....

Reason for Claim: *“Well, I was driving around Cabo in my H-2, while my wife at kids were at the beach, and this band of deranged Mexican bandits with criss-crossed ammo belts and sombreros, jumped out from behind some cacti. They jumped on my running boards, waiving pistleros, shouting, ” pull over gringo!”. They forced me from my beloved SUV, threw me in the street (luckily it was a block from my favorite little beach-side margarita bar where I called my wife to rescue me a couple of hours later), and sped off laughing, shooting their guns in the air, and singing ‘aye yay yay yay something’. I can remember them calling me estupido gringo. I don’t why the Mexican Police couldn’t find them, they only had ¾ of a tank, so they couldn’t have gotten very far. I told the Mexican Police officer that they all has mustaches and smelled of fried corn. Luckily, I had left my nav system, Ipod, Barry Manilow CD’s, a box of Castro’s finest, and my golf clubs, in the hotel...no, I take that back, **my brand new Titleist golf clubs** were in the back of the SUV. Yep, brand new Titleist. That’s what was in the back. Boy, that was really lucky the other stuff was back at the hotel. I was so traumatized by the whole thing (I’m still under doctor’s care) that my family and I could hardly enjoy the other two weeks we were down there. Yep, that is what really happened. Yep, yep, yep. Yes, I’m pretty sure.*

I’m thinking the insurance check will just about cover the cost of 2 Toyota Prius’s.

Vegas is a Family Town - It must be a fabulous vacation spot for families because I have seen so many old dudes taking their “nieces” out there. That’s so sweet!

Greg Ellis of the Dallas Cowboys - You want some cheese with that whine?

Josh Howard of the Dallas Mavericks - Since it’s the off season, well, I think we all know what that peculiar smell is.

Randall Garrett Homes, Inc.
P.O. Box 1708
Colleyville, Texas 76034
Office: 817.475.4644

RandallGarrettHomes.com

Randall W. Garrett Construction Company, Inc.
104 Grapevine Hwy., Suite 100
Hurst, Texas 76054
Fax: 817.472.7156

Randall Garrett Gazette

Vol. VII

Price: Priceless
Home Builder News

July 2008

Smaller Cars - If the cars get much smaller, eventually we will all look like those clowns in the Shriner Parades.

My Mind - Being a home builder, I have given much thought as to how to describe my mind. Upon a great time span of pondering (I have the time), I realized my mind is has become as a "mini-warehouse complex", as it seems to be 90% occupied, but with other people's worthless crap.

On America (Since it is the month of our country's birth)

*** **Recent Supreme Court Decisions:**

1 5 to 4 Vote on no more torture for prisoners at Guantanamo Bay -

WRONG! The "Dress Wearers" (S/C Justices - but capitalized out of respect) voted it was cruel and unusual punishment to torture "terrorists". You idiots! They are called "terrorists" for a reason! If you Dress Wearers had to face the families of those that were in those fallen towers, or at the Pentagon, or on that Delta flight that went down, you might open "torture season" as a sport. That way we could all play. Yea, you're right. We should really send Jimmy Carter, Al Gore, Jessie Jackson, and Al Sharpton down there to ask the Al Queda terrorist guys, that really have good hearts, to please, please "pinky-swear promise" to play with any more bombs. Ok? That is all you have to do is just communicate to them. After all, they aren't really bad people, we just do not understand their culture. Let's all take some Al Queda classes so we can see their point of view. Ok? Group hug. **WE ARE AT WAR! THEY ARE THE ENEMY. THAT IS WHAT YOU DO TO THE ENEMY TO GET CRITICAL INFORMATION.** They are not being held there for sub prime lending fraud. I know! I know! We could give them scholarships to UTA. Already did that? Oh, okay. *Idiots!*

(Sorry, that one hissed me off.)

2 5 to 4 Vote it was unconstitutional to award the death penalty to child rapist - WRONG!

Once again, Dress Wearers, if you had friends, family, or knew any child that was molested, you would know that their lives are screwed up forever. What happens is a person like that doesn't rape one child one time. It is either one child many, many times, or many children. I can't remember if I have mentioned this before in the RGG, but I dated a girl in college that was a victim of child molestation/rape, she was jaaaaacked up! I ran into her at a party about 5 years ago. She was she was still goofier than a run over dog. She has had mental problems all of her life. She has not been able to enjoy her life because of the demons left by the guy that assaulted her many times. Did I mentioned, he led a normal life with a wife and kids? Sorry, we don't need child rapists and molesters on this earth. Let's be "green" about it and re-cycle them.

Randall Garrett Homes, Inc.
P.O. Box 1708
Colleyville, Texas 76034
Office: 817.475.4644

RandallGarrettHomes.com

Randall W. Garrett Construction Company, Inc.
104 Grapevine Hwy., Suite 100
Hurst, Texas 76054
Fax: 817.472.7156

Randall Garrett Gazette

Vol. VII

Price: Priceless
Home Builder News

July 2008

No time like the present to clean our planet by getting that “ashes to ashes, dust to dust” thing started early.

3 5 to 4 Vote overruling the Washington D.C. gun laws. - DING!

DING! DING! CORRECT! Washington D. C. was trying to prohibit the owning of guns, a direct attack on the Second Amendment to the Constitution of these United States. I know the Libs will point to all of the violence and crimes committed with guns. The point is, what gun resting on a table will harm someone? What parked car can run over someone, or be involved in a “moving violation”? When there is an accident involving a motor vehicle, or a moving violation occurs, there is a 999,999 out of 1,000,000 probability that there was some one operating that vehicle, right? Everybody with me so far? That person, being of fault, gets punished, fined, incarcerated, or blow into the tube to start the car, right? Ok, so why is that different for a gun. A gun of any type is harmless at rest. The problems occur when an “operator”, or person handling that gun willfully, accidentally, or inadvertently use the gun improperly. The logical process is then to punish the offender right? That is the part that needs to be “controlled”. Properly, swiftly, and completely, punish the offender and, gun control will be a non-issue. Might I suggest a prison colony at the North Pole. The prisoners could help fight global warming by freezing their posteriors off, and save the planet. Commit the crime, do the time. By the way, when Adolph Hitler took over Germany, he first outlawed guns. As did Stalin did, and that is what the Clintons tried to do. The “well armed militia” part of the 2nd Amendment was not put in place, by our founding fathers for protection against outside aggression. It was about protection from “our own” government. When the citizenry is unarmed, tyranny and oppression are soon to follow. Yes, I own at least one gun, but, you know, I have not killed, nor drawn down on , nor even threaten, while bearing a gun, one single human being. No one has died in my presence, while numerous guns were at present, yet at rest , on the various hunting trips I was engaged in. Yes, that’s right. Guns everywhere, but no human died. The Libs would have declared it an “armed encampment”.

I will confess to launching projectiles at another human being, in my reckless youth. Yes, I am ashamed today to admit, I did in fact, drawn down on an adversary. I stealthily took aim, under deep cover, so as not to be detected by my victim or the authorities at hand. I took a slow deep breath, and released my air with precise, murderous thrust, hurling at high velocity, an extremely large caliber spitwad out of the barrel of an ink cartridge-less bic pen (medium point no doubt), striking my target just above the ear with fierce impact. Yep, I nailed Judy Robbins, but good. The only problem was, she told the authorities, Mrs. Peters, the 5th grade teacher. I can honestly say, if criminals of violent crimes had to face Mrs. Peters and her handy little paddle, there would be a sharp decrease in crime. She was, as we say, a big woman, and was quite famous for being able to lift a 5th grader off the floor after she got warmed up.

Randall Garrett Homes, Inc.
P.O. Box 1708
Colleyville, Texas 76034
Office: 817.475.4644

RandallGarrettHomes.com

Randall W. Garrett Construction Company, Inc.
104 Grapevine Hwy., Suite 100
Hurst, Texas 76054
Fax: 817.472.7156

Randall Garrett Gazette

Vol. VII

Price: Priceless
Home Builder News

July 2008

The Constitution of the United States of America - The Constitution is not a living, breathing document. It is the basis for governing our country and the laws for which the inhabitants should abide. That is all it is, and all it was meant to be. Our founding fathers did not want The Constitution changed like a business plan when the market changes. The Supreme Court should not be involved in "making" laws. They are not the rule makers, they are only the referees. Quit using your judicial white-out on The Document.

Drilling Our Own Oil - The Constitution

FUN PAGE

Of interest....

Wine Tip of the Month (& Bonus Tip)

Kunde Estate, 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon - This is a Sonoma Valley vineyard with the website describing the wine as, "***A dry summer, a small crop, and a careful thinning gave us one of our most concentrated cabernets to date. Rich, thick flavors of ripe blackberries mixed with vanilla, caramel, and toasty oak flavors along with the ever present smoky, olive signature of cabernet fruit. Not subtle, but well balanced, this wine promises interesting development for at least five, if not ten years of bottle age.***"

Looking back on my tasting of the wine, I sensed all of those elements in this cab. Drinking it today, this wine needs about 30 -45 minutes to open up. I tried it right out of the bottle with meager delight. As my wife, the lovely and talented Ana Garrett (my own personal "second opinion") and I talked, the passing time allowed for the second glass to be more opened. The second glass rose up the official RGG Yummy scale to the "that's nice" range. It is \$19.99 per bottle at Market Street which is not bad, but for the money, if you stored it for a year or two, I would be willing to bet the 2004 Kunde Estate, Cab would fly up the official RGG Yummy scale.

Bonus Tip...

Texas Cabernet Sauvignon - (pick one, and pick a vintage, it's irrelevant). Upon taking in the bouquet, by pressing my nose into the glass so far that a circular crease, beginning at mid-chin, symmetrically rounding up through each cheek, and completing the orb at the bridge of the nose, I detect odiferous leanings much like I-35E around 5:00 pm on any Friday evening, with a piercing, pungent brush of iron ore, black bass, water from the Houston Ship Channel, and passing hint of alum with tannins

Randall Garrett Homes, Inc.
P.O. Box 1708
Colleyville, Texas 76034
Office: 817.475.4644

RandallGarrettHomes.com

Randall W. Garrett Construction Company, Inc.
104 Grapevine Hwy., Suite 100
Hurst, Texas 76054
Fax: 817.472.7156

Randall Garrett Gazette

Vol. VII

Price: Priceless
Home Builder News

July 2008

from a lead smelter. **My tip: It's awful, Save your money.** Although, it can be used to kill the crabgrass in the garden quite well. The **Randall Garrett Gazette** official rating is...Yuuuuck!

Editors Note: I have decided that my niche in the wine judging department is going to be more as an "everyman's wine critic". I just cannot bring myself to spend more than about \$20 for a bottle of wine, not even for the sake of educating your pallets. I just can't do it. Besides the lovely and talented, Ana Garrett, has me on a strict money diet. Therefore most of the wine I taste will be, let's say, comfortable, in many ways. I will be happy, of course, as a service to my subscribers, accept bottles to taste. I will take the affliction, commonly diagnosed as "purple teeth" for the team. That is the kinda guy I am, always thinking of others first.

Humor of the Month

Since hemorrhoids talk has already fouled this periodical, let's take it one step further in the form of a joke. Do you know what hemorrhoids and Yankees (people from the north, not the baseball kind) have in common? **Answer:** If they come down for a little while then go back up, they only bother you a little, but when they come down and stay, that's when they are a real pain in the ars.

On come on!! If you're here, you're one of us now. You got here as fast as you could. Lighten up!We are the world, we are the children...(you remember all of those rock stars singing that song).

Parting Thought

"Today is what you make of it, whether you meant it or not." Me - (I don't think I have heard anyone else say this. If I have, then my bad.)

This Jimmy Buffet Song comes to mind. I think you will find it apropos. It is from his "Beach House on the Moon" CD, he released in 1999. The song is called "Permanent Reminder of A Temporary Feeling".

She was no marine back from the Philippines

Randall Garrett Homes, Inc.
P.O. Box 1708
Colleyville, Texas 76034
Office: 817.475.4644

RandallGarrettHomes.com

Randall W. Garrett Construction Company, Inc.
104 Grapevine Hwy., Suite 100
Hurst, Texas 76054
Fax: 817.472.7156

Randall Garrett Gazette

Vol. VII

Price: Priceless
Home Builder News

July 2008

She was their pride and joy, their incarnation.
Her parents viewed the chief
With shock and disbelief
Looking for some explanation.

The Indian, her back was poised for an attack.
She said 'a tattoo is a badge of validation'.
But the truth of the matter is far more revealing.
It's a permanent reminder of a temporary feeling.

Permanent reminder of a temporary feeling
Amnesic episodes that never go away.
It's no complex memento, it's no subtle revealing.
It's a permanent reminder of a temporary feeling.

Vegas in the rain, drunk on cheap champagne
He hears out of tune synthesized chapel bells
Painfully ringing.
Where's his limo ride? Who's this foreign bride?
Is this really Elvis spinning round the ceiling?

Permanent reminder of a temporary feeling
Forgotten fabrications in the chapels of love.
What is this ring on his finger? Why is he kneeling?
She's just a permanent reminder of a temporary feeling.
Chromosomes and genes, spawn these fateful scenes.
Evolution can be mean, there's no 'dumb ass' vaccine.
Blame your DNA, you're a victim of your fate.
It's human nature to miscalculate.

To make up for the fight they go out for the night.
Sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll seems like the easiest answer.
But a short nine months later, there's no way of concealing,
That permanent reminder of a temporary feeling.

Permanent reminder of a temporary feeling
Amnesic episodes that never go away.
It's no complex memento, it's no subtle revealing.
It's a permanent reminder of a temporary feeling.

.....whether you meant it or not.

Randall Garrett Homes, Inc.
P.O. Box 1708
Colleyville, Texas 76034
Office: 817.475.4644

RandallGarrettHomes.com

Randall W. Garrett Construction Company, Inc.
104 Grapevine Hwy., Suite 100
Hurst, Texas 76054
Fax: 817.472.7156