Saving People Money Since 1936

... that's before there were TV Dinners.

GEICO has been serving up great car insurance and fantastic customer service for more than 75 years. Get a quote and see how much you could save today.

geico.com | 1-800-947-AUTO | Local office





Contents

APRIL 2015

Cover Story

66 35 THINGS EVERY HOME-OWNER MUST KNOW

FROM THE FAMILY HANDYMAN BOOK 100 THINGS EVERY HOMEOWNER MUST KNOW

Drama in Real Life

80 COLLARED!

Click. An extortionist puts a bomb around a teen's neck ... SIMON BOUDA

Personal Essay

88 MY MOTHER'S SIMPLE BIRTHDAY WISH

We were shocked by what she really wanted. KELLY CORRIGAN FROM MEDIUM.COM

Health

98 MIRACLES THAT STUNNED DOCTORS

Experts can't explain how these five folks survived. Here are their stories. Gretchen voss

First Person

106 A TABLE SET WITH KINDNESS

In a theater basement, I learned a lesson in generosity that I'll never forget. EMILY WINSLOW

FROM QUEST FOR KINDNESS

Book Bonus

110 A FURIOUS CLIMB

With braces on his legs,
Bonner Paddock fueled his way
up Mount Kilimanjaro with fire
in his heart. WITH NEAL BASCOMB
FROM THE BOOK ONE MORE STEP

My Most Unforgettable Character

116 ARI & THE CELLO CHAIR

A chance encounter with a music teacher filled me with passion and purpose. ARI GOLDMAN

National Interest

120 CHILDREN OF THE FIELDS

Why are kids under 18 working on tobacco farms? They say the hazards are worth the risk to support their families.

History

130 THE DAY THE ELEPHANTS DANCED

When a bridge is threatened, two tuskers do something amazing.

P. | 110



Volume 185 | Issue 1109

APRIL 2015

4 Editor's Note 6 Letters



READER FAVORITES

- 16 Life in These United States
- 21 Faces of America
- 24 100-Word True Stories
- 32 Points to Ponder
- 50 All in a Day's Work
- 58 News from the World of Medicine
- 78 Laughter, the Best Medicine
- 96 Photo of Lasting Interest
- 128 Laugh Lines
- 134 That's Outrageous!
- 140 Look Twice
- 146 RD.com
- 147 Word Power
- 151 Humor in Uniform
- 152 Quotable Quotes

Everyday Heroes

8 Man Punches Alligator, Saves Son

11 She Lifted a Car Off Her Dad ALYSSA JUNG

VOICES & VIEWS

Department of Wit

12 Keeping the Magic Alive
One man's attempt to spice up
his marriage. TIM DOWLING FROM
THE BOOK HOW TO BE A HUSBAND

Words of Lasting Interest

18 Give the Earth an Inch ...
Germaine Greer takes hope
from our planet's amazing
ability to renew.
FROM SMITHSONIAN

Finish This Sentence

22 What Was I Thinking When ...

Choice Words

26 Clint Eastwood

A selection of quotes from the actor-director.

You Be the Judge

29 The Case of the Unfriendly Skies
Who's to blame when an obese passenger dies?



ART OF LIVING

35 Happiness: It's Not All It's Cracked Up to Be

EMILY ESFAHANI SMITH

Travel

40 What Living in Paradise Taught Me

AMANDA WALKINS

41 Cookies at Gate A-4

NAOMI SHIHAB NYE FROM THE BOOK HONEYBEE

Family

42 Walking Misty

JILL SMOLOWE FROM THEBARK.COM

Food

44 Put Some Super in Your Food

MANDY OAKLANDER

Health

52 Sniff to Heal

54 7 Dangerous
First Aid Mistakes
THE PHYSICIANS OF THE DOCTORS

WHO KNEW?

136 13 Things Ancestry
Trackers Won't Tell You

138 Art Where You'd Least Expect It

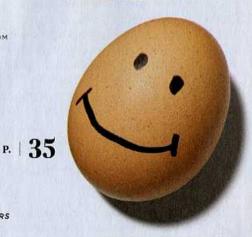
142 5 Geniuses with Serious Procrastination Problems

144 Yes, You Really Did Choose the Slowest Line

ADAM MANN FROM WIRED.COM



PHOTOGRAPH B ADAM VOORHES PROP STYLIST: ROBIN FINLAY



ADDITIONAL MEDIA IN OUR TABLET VERSIONS