

inside PULSE

ROOM TO GROOVE | LORI MILLER

THINKING OF REMODELING?

Do you have the remodeling bug sitting on your shoulder these days?

Typically, the rooms that get an awesome facelift are our kitchens and baths. In these locations, the hard surfaces can become specially dated and unappealing.

When tackling these or other rooms, here are some important things to think about before taking on that bug.

The first step in your project should be to locate a highly-regarded and talented contractor. Definitely talk to a contractor that has been referred to you, but also interview a couple others.

As much as you may want to progress the project, it is important to find the right guy for the job. Ask to see pictures of their work when you meet and get references if you have not already. Ask for a bid and do not choose a person based solely on the least expensive. You may be immensely disappointed.

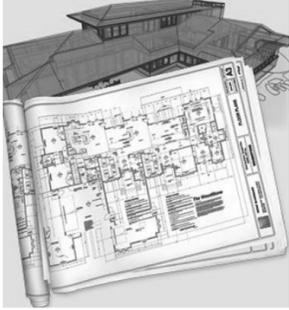
You should know that remodeling, if you have not been through the process, could make for an uncomfortable situation in your home for a while. Know that there will be dirt, dust and chaos during the period of time it will take to complete such an undertaking. Be sure to pick the right time for you and your family to endure this feat. If you are gutting your home, you should of course, move out until the project is complete.

Your project will most likely end up costing more than your original bid. As the project progresses, unforeseen items may come up. Such items can be repaired, but could eminently raise costs and create time loss. You may also decide midway that you actually do want the more expensive item that you originally decided against. In my experience, if you anticipate these items beforehand, they are much easier to digest and work out with your contractor.

You should also figure on the project taking longer than expected. There are a myriad of situations that can cause this — products may not be readily available, weather conditions, worker availability and the timing of every detail involved. Even the best of contractors run into a bump or two. If there seems to be an overabundance of bumps, than you may want to reconsider your decision.

Remodeling projects can also be an exceptionally fun, exciting process. From the choosing of your new design to the choosing of your new products, there is always something pleasant. As you see your new design slowly jump from the blueprint to a real life scene, it becomes more and more appealing to observe. Once your project comes to a close, you will forget all about the sacrifice. The end result is always the reason we must put up with the not so appealing process of remodeling. Happy Decorating

Interior decorator Lori Miller has been designing and decorating residential homes in the area for eight years. She is a graduate of The Art Institute and can be reached at lori_a_miller@comcast.net.



MOVERS & SHAKERS

Robert Snelling, *the employment magnate*



By Shawn Floyd
Staff Writer

I am: one of the Snellings in Snelling and Snelling.
My parents: Gwen and Lou Snelling started Snelling and Snelling in 1951.

I came into the business: in 1952.
That was: after studying chemical engineering at Penn State.
We were: the first employment service to franchise in 1955.
Pioneers: is how I would describe my parents.
They taught me: honesty and to be a man of your word.
My hometown: is Philadelphia, Pa.
I live: in Frisco.

I was just: honored as a Legacy Mentor at the Collin County Children's Advocacy Center lunch in Plano on Feb. 21.

This one is: especially poignant and hopeful in that my wife, Anne, and I have done mentoring virtually all our married life.

We mentor: through the church and then when people come across our path.

Otherwise we: are coaches and we coach people on writing their resume and job search and how to be interviewed.

Over the years: our business has changed continually.

Snelling and Snelling: is now run by our daughter, Linda Paulk.

I just: started RESUMESBYROSS last month. It's a resume writing, job coaching and job interviewing business.

I also have: a column, Putting America to Work, that just went into syndication.

We can: handle anybody anywhere.

I came to North Texas: from Sarasota, Fla. in 1989. This area has much better air flights out.

My focus: is helping people find the right job and utilizing their talents and education and experience.

We have all kinds of people: some are unhappy, some are changing careers and some are right out of college.

Did you know: that 70 percent of college grads aren't working in the field they trained for.

The worst thing that can happen: is to get just one job offer. We want people to get two or three or more.

I don't have a crystal ball but if I did: it would signal that it's becoming more crucial that resumes stop being written to make the resume holder happy. They have to be written from the viewpoint of

the company.

Companies want: the facts and only the facts. No more three pages of fluff. No more flowery stuff.

If I couldn't do this I would: be doing something. Because I can't stay retired. I've got to keep the mind active.

Hobbies and interests:

Writing. I've written three books on the subjects of jobs, job hunting, resumes and self-owned businesses.

My birthday is: Aug. 16, 1932.

Favorite color: blue

Favorite food: quesadillas

Last movie seen: "A Second Chance"

I keep my radio tuned to: 820 WBAP

My forte is: creativity, perseverance, love of work, caring about people.

My worst fault: I'm a perfectionist. I agonize.

I have: no regrets.

I like it when: people get the job.

I wouldn't change: anything. I enjoy what I'm doing.

Did you know: 70 percent of people are unhappy with their job. And that's because they didn't go about the job search in the right way.

Companies are: begging for people. We have the lowest unemployment rate we've had for years.

Anywhere between: three and four million people change jobs each month.

I can be contacted through: my two Websites at www.resumesbyross.com and www.ROSS-HR.com.

Contact staff writer Shawn Floyd at 972-398-4267 or Shawn.Floyd@scentx.com.

TRACING OUR ROOTS | BRENDA KELLOW

STUMBLING OVER AND THROUGH GENEALOGY BRICK WALLS

Can you just waltz through a brick wall? I don't know anyone who can do this, but I have seen it done in the movies. Movies are not real life. Family history is certainly real life.

Solving what we call a 'Brick Wall Bottleneck' in genealogy combines both of the above: real life and passing through brick walls. How would you get passed a brick wall in genealogy? Remember the song, "I never promised you a rose garden"? Well, that song always comes to mind when I search for an answer for a long time and find nothing. I'm sure there are brick walls in New England research, but it is much more common when conducting research in the South. Many of their records were

burned during Sherman's march or from natural causes, fire and floods. Records were kept in wooden buildings which sometimes caught fire. Some records were destroyed by the Union military during the Civil War. Others were lost during the Civil War when county governments tried to hide their records from the destruction. Often these were kept in caves where they were destroyed by humidity. Sometimes the records were not recovered until a couple or three years after hiding them. During the Civil War, keeping records for some war-ravaged states was rare. Conquering brick walls can be accomplished in many ways. Here is one of my challenges.

One way to find records after

the end of the war is to hunt for sheriff's censuses. These were often taken in the year ending in five. In one case in Washington County, Arkansas, I found the couple on the 1865 sheriff's census with five extra children, some with different surnames. They were too old to be the couple's children born after the 1860 census. I must identify the parents of each child.

To find them, I need to hunt records compiled during the time they lived with their parents, plus follow them in records after their maturity. The federal census was taken in 1860, before the children were born. The 1865 sheriff's census does not give their parents' names. And, it was a half century before the state recorded vital

records. I don't find the surnames listed in the probate records, but then those were stored in a cave from 1861 to 1864 when they were returned to their rightful place in the court house. The exception is for probate and will record books A and B for 1833-1886, which were stolen and never returned. The information I need may be in these books.

I checked deed records and hit another brick wall. People with that particular surname did not own or sell land.

So I checked the only record that just might record the men paying taxes. There was one of the men with the surname of two of the mystery children, but not of the other three.

With the brick wall penetrated,

I stopped my research for the unidentified parents last month because I thought I had spent enough time on this particular brick wall for one month. This month I began searching in contiguous counties for the man having the same surname as the two mystery children. Sometimes changing surnames or counties helps to revive interest in the prior searches. Also, I might find a clue to help with the other problem, or I might find a clue to their whereabouts by reading again what I have so far collected.

In any case, in conducting southern research, there are always bottlenecks. Brick walls just happen. With lots of hard work they can be conquered, but it may take a long time, lots of patience, and

reviewing information already collected. It isn't a rose garden, but the hunt for the elusive ancestor is the most fun part of family history.

Here I have given you one example I used to penetrate only one of my brick walls. For 500 other solutions submitted by 400 researchers with brick wall problems, the book, "500 Brickwall Solutions to Genealogy Problems," published by Family Chronicle Magazine is available from their Web site at <https://familychronicle.com/> for \$25. In this book you will find all the latest technology available for brick wall and tried-and-true research methods for knocking down brick walls.