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The Party Animal News

The Accidental Bucket List

Some of you might remember the movie “The Accidental Tourist” with the main character played by William Hurt. Basically, the character is a writer of books for a person who reluctantly has to travel for work, but wants to feel like they have never left home. This writer comes from an eccentric family to say the least (what families aren’t in some ways). His sister and brothers live in the former home of a grandfather. They all seem to be happy with this arrangement. Today, each would probably be diagnosed with different levels of autism.

I’ve never really had a bucket list for traveling, even though I’ve roamed more than the average person. Ann and I would venture out on weekends with our kids when they were young. One time we made it to the blueberry festival in Nacogdoches (held in June). Back then no GPS or maps on phones were available, so I stopped at a small independent grocery/gas store to make sure I was heading in the right direction. I told the lady where we were going. I got the impression she may have never been beyond her home and store. She thought I was lucky to go to Nacogdoches. Not everyone has travel on their Bucket list. Ann has a bucket list on a bulletin board at our home in her office (she calls it a princess palace). I wish next to it would be a birthday and Christmas list too, as that would actually help me. She has marked some items off the posted list.

Over the years I’ve developed an accidental bucket list from talking to my customers. I remember a client who told me his church gave a great Christmas pageant. The church at the time was at Arapaho and Hillcrest in Dallas. We did not go to the pageant at that location, but we did go a few times when Prestonwood Baptist moved to Midway and Park Blvd in Plano. It was impressive to say the least.

One time a customer told me about tropical plants growing in a village in Scotland. When we were staying a night at a B&B in Scotland (Ann’s bucket list) the owner happened to mention the place (what a coincidence), so we added the destination to our journey and visited, and it was lovely.

When Purdue football was great one year, the team got to play in the Rose Bowl. Our QB was Drew Brees. Ann got tickets to the Rose Bowl parade (Her bucket list - I was going for the game). I was not that excited about going to it, but as we were taking the shuttle to the rental car center, people riding in the bus told us they go to the parade every year. I thought to myself, every year? Then I found out that this parade is amazing in person and it should be on everyone’s bucket list.

Lastly, for years one of my clients has driven to Wyoming to work at Old Faithful every summer. She is a geologist like Ann, and over the years she has given me rocks to give to Ann. Between talking to her and Ann about when is a good time to go to Yellowstone, we finally booked a trip to visit this past May (thankfully right before the massive flooding). Going from our hot weather in Texas to snow and a frozen lake was definitely a challenge, but it was on Ann’s trip bucket list. Of course, it was extraordinary. Many times I felt I was on a different planet.

The Yellowstone park system is like a small town. I could hear the bus drivers talking about their friends working another part of the park. Talking to young waiters we found out some people come to Yellowstone trying to figure out what they want to do with their life. Some discovered Yellowstone during family trips. Of course, there are many dangers in the park. “Death in Yellowstone” by Lee Whittlesey is an interesting read. Yellowstone Lake is a cold lake, and if a boat or canoe capsizes there is a chance someone could die because of hypothermia, and sadly a couple scout troops have encountered this at Yellowstone.

My oldest son was in high adventure boy scouts and the canoe trip he took one summer was in the boundary waters between Canada and the US. We survived leeches, hypothermia, biting flies, mosquitoes and thankfully no bears! I was really scared about going outside my comfort zone on this trip. Yet again, a bucket list trip that left an impression on me forever. - David

Pest of the Quarter: House Cricket



- Dry summers cause a large population
- Rain causes a fungus which kills the crickets
- Life cycle is 3 months
- Small gaps should be caulked and weepholes screened to prevent entry into the home

We VALUE our customers!

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Troy Dungan WFAA meteorologist

We have been in business since 1963, and when I was still in high school my Dad did termite control work for Troy Dungan. So 45 years is a long time. When talking to Troy recently, he remembered my brother went to Georgia Tech. My dad was his technician for years until he could not perform the service anymore. I have replaced my dad, but have to respect all his years of doing difficult jobs like termite control. My dad helped drill holes at most of the homes up to when he turned 70 years old. Of course, you know my mom and dad retired before the pandemic. They are doing well, and it is always nice to see some of our long time customers, like the Dungans, also enjoying retired life.



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