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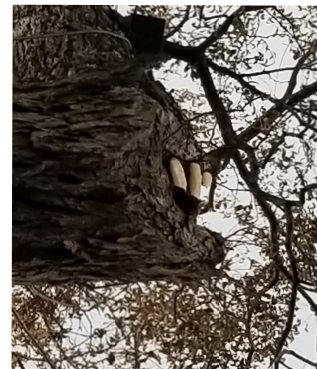
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The Party Animal News

“Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale”

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This year A-All customers supported saving a couple bee colonies. We can't save all bee colonies because of the locations. Brick walls, a hollowed out living tree or a difficult height may prevent live removal. But if a wooden board can be pulled apart and the nest is within reach, than our beekeeper can remove it in a few hours. I get several calls a year from customers for assessments of bee colonies. A recent one was to check out a complaint from a neighbor who lived across a pond closer to the nest. It was easily three stories up a tree and probably impossible to get to, so I told our customer: 1- there were no active bees flying about 2- even if they were active no one was going to get harmed. I took a picture and left it at that. Perusing my pictures many days later I thought to myself, “what the heck is that picture?!” Once I realized how scary it looked, I imagined someone's superstitious elderly relative sipping their daily hot beverage at the table before nagging the son or son-in-law they needed to do something about that evil thing in the backyard. The white stuff is honey combs but looks like fangs!



Three Legends of Saint Nicholas, 1500, Gerard David

NATIONAL GALLERIES SCOTLAND

It reminded me of when Ann and I visited Scotland (Ann's bucket list) a few years ago. I drove a car (yes, that was scary in itself) and our last stop was Edinburgh. It was raining cats and dogs so we decided to check out the Scottish National Gallery and one of the paintings that made a big impression was “Three Legends of Saint Nicholas” by Gerard Davis. The middle panel is St. Nick as an adult. He is trying to save three daughters from destitution and prostitution by providing anonymous dowries. Their future and the reality of the women in the story impacted my thinking about people's burdens. Somehow the significance of what St. Nick was originally about and the important gifts that could be given has been often lost over time.

So that leads me to the above title of this article, “Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale”. You have probably watched a lot of the Hallmark movies this season. I cannot remember a year when I have watched more with Ann. I have probably always been a Grinch about Christmas because my birthday is in the middle of the month and it should be about me first, right? Most of the world does not believe this, so the past couple of years I have given up and embraced the holiday early and often. (And no, it didn't take 3 ghosts!) But if you want a change of pace and you do not mind a scary Christmas movie, I highly recommend this Stephen Kingish movie, “Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale”, and let it balance the scales. It does focus on the kids along the line of “be good for goodness sake”! On Rotten Tomatoes it has an 89% rating so I am going to leave it at that. Warning though, probably not good for small kids. Teenagers might love it other than the fact there are subtitles. (A plus for parents getting them to read). It's a good Norwegian film even scaredy-cat Ann will watch and enjoy.

Pest of the Quarter:

Casemaking Moths



- Feed on carpets, furs, upholstery, and woolen fabrics
- Larvae stay in a snug case as they eat away at fabrics
- Sometimes see their cocoons on the ceiling
- Thorough cleaning is important to prevent infestation. Clean edges of oriental carpets. Definitely have carpets professionally cleaned at least once a year.

Over time the image of the original St. Nick has changed. Even today I think it changes from year to year. I hope that the giving part is the emphasis every year, but traffic, crowds and the hastening of the season seems to get many of us discouraged and off track. I really thought I was doing good this year by getting my lights up before Thanksgiving, but once again I do not have enough time to get everything done. Most likely, I have added more to the to do list.

But that takes me back to the picture I took of an innocent beehive that when revisited looked scarier than I originally thought. That haunting figure will be there until rats, hive beetles or some other opportunist destroys the honey comb.

The original St. Nick was a good guy. This world has morphed him into many different things over time (some even evil if you watch the movie), but sometimes these changes don't make as big an effect as expected. I hope everyone tries this year to be more like the original St Nick. Have an impact by giving and sharing. Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year. *David*

We VALUE our customers!

If you ever have a possible bug or part of a bug PLEASE save it! That will help us to identify the problem more quickly, target the correct pest and begin treatment sooner.

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Honoring those moving on....



*My Uncle Bill in Tulsa making Billy
Graham an honoree Pawnee Indian*

For years I have been amazed about two things regarding my relatives. The first is that the marriages of my aunts and uncles have lasted for decades. No divorces. The second is that up until this year only a few of my uncles and aunts had passed away. Sadly, this year three of my uncles have moved on. My Uncle Wes, who was a retired firefighter in Tucson, AZ left us at 84 (he was a missionary with my mom's sister in South America in their early years and worked in prison ministry as well later in life). In the past two weeks both my dad's brother, who was 84 years old and owned a pest control company in Tulsa, OK died and then my mom's younger brother died from complications of a chronic illness at 76 years old.

My mom's brother, Bill, had worked with my dad at A-All in the seventies but later moved back to Arizona where his wife's family lived. My dad's brother, also named Bill, started his company in the 1970s and I had helped him with his company and I know he helped us with some contracts over the years. He helped us connect with an individual so we could use termite detection dogs on some military government projects. There is a special place in my heart for all three of my uncles. They loved their family and left this world a better place. Rest in Peace.



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