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The Christmas Carol

In the footnotes of "Toxic Terror", by Dr. Elizabeth M. Whelan, when Dr. Charles Wurster, chief scientist for the Environmental Defense Fund was responding to a reporter's question about the banning of DDT he stated that there were too many people in the world and, "this is as good a way to get rid of them as any...."

When I read this again I thought it was eerily similar to the response of Charles Dicken's Scrooge after being asked for a contribution to the poor. Scrooge declines and states, "If they would rather die, they had better do it, and decrease the surplus population." In a Forbes article by Jerry Bowyer he digs deep into the meaning of the Christmas Carol. The 175 year old story is a battle between the philosophies of Thomas Malthus and Adam Smith. Malthus supported Zero Population Growth and Sustainability while Jean Baptiste Say, a disciple of Smith, argued population growth benefitting trade and gains for labor division.

Charles Dicken's Scrooge would have been a supporter of Malthus. Scrooge kept his money and did not spread it around, he had only one employee who he paid poorly. He may have had reasons for his behavior, but if everyone had his stinginess the economy would have been even worse. Ebenezer Scrooge was a miser not an entrepreneur. Jerry Bowyer writes, "If Scrooge has modern counterparts, they're more likely to be found among those sad, self-sterilizing minimizers of carbon footprints than in the circles of supply-side entrepreneurs. Who, after all, could claim to a smaller carbon footprint than the man who tried to heat his office with a single piece of coal?" This debate, it seems, has been going on for centuries. The neo-Malthusians still believe in over population. There are many, like Dr. Wurster, who would support getting rid of an inexpensive and effective chemical because that lack of such a good tool "decreased surplus population." However, the neo-Malthusian revival drew criticism from many in the 1960's when the green (growing more not organic movement) revolution (Nobel Prize winner Dr. Norman Borlaug) developed increases in food production to keep up with population growth.

Even though we have a steady group today, you can imagine that with over 55 years in business our A-All employee population has varied with some years more like the excitement of Scrooge's early boss, Mr. Fezziwig's Christmas party. I remember some employees getting their first job at A-All and then moving on to their dream job. I remember one who became a missionary and another a navy seal. There have been a few who lasted a day or less before quitting because the work was too hard or the initiation of coming upon a plastic snake in a crawspace that Tony enjoys doing didn't go over well. One individual always appreciated my Dad for giving him a job and eventually started his own company.

So the next time you are in, on or around a highway, mall, store or crowd just think of the ghost of Christmas Present. He was the symbol of abundance. Jerry Bowyer wrote, "He literally and figuratively holds a cornucopia, a horn of plenty....When Scrooge asks him how many brothers he has, the ghost replies, "More than 1800". When Scrooge declares that this is a tremendous family to provide for, the ghost rises in anger. And then he takes Scrooge where? To the university economics department? To the socialist meeting house? No, he takes Scrooge to the market and shows him the abundance there." So if for some reason you are depressed this season pretend that you are being accompa-

nied by the ghost of Christmas Present. (I must say, because of Cyber Monday it was pretty quiet at the mall, Santa was definitely not busy that evening.) There is nothing wrong with a good economy.

- David

Pest of the Quarter:

Imported Fire Ants



- Check for fireant mounds close to the foundation
- Are there ant mounds in the yard?
- Do you see dirt falling around a baseboard in the house?
- Watch for possible Allergic reaction with a bite/sting

Wasps, Ladybugs and Box Elder Bugs, Oh My!



There are occasional invaders and there are over wintering invaders.

We have adapted to the environment so that humans can live in Antarctica. Insects have in turn learned to piggy-back on our success. Fire ants move to our warm foundations during the winter. Wasps will move into a warm chimney in the winter and fly into the house during warm days. And, we are now getting ladybug and box elder bug calls. The box elder bugs thrive on junk trees so cutting down the tree is the long term solution. As for the lady beetles and wasps, sometimes fogging the attic helps to solve these problems. Give us a call if you are seeing these invaders and we can help.

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.

We VALUE our customers!

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Our Technicians

The A-All Family

Since it is the holidays, I wanted to highlight our group of hard-working field technicians. It is not always an easy job (cold rain, hot sun, high roofs) and there are risks. While we all know this, Tony unfortunately found this out last month in a too real manner. He fell from his ladder and broke a wrist on one arm and bone in the other hand. He is home and recovering, but it certainly shook us all up. During these holidays it's time to be grateful, thankful and count our blessings. We are certainly appreciative that his accident wasn't any worse and are counting the days until he is with us again....because we miss him, we are family. Our technicians, and often our clients as well. Some of you have had us into your homes for 40+ years, and we are thankful for you.

Wishing you a Merry, Happy Holiday!!

From ALL of us here at A-All



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