

FRESH CUT OR CUT-YOUR-OWN?

Res-Kem Corporation Newsletter

HOLIDAYS, 2005

DON'T DIE TRYING!

If your family celebrates a traditional Christmas, then you probably have some traditions to make it traditional, correct? My tradition is buying a real live Christmas tree. We don't do artificial trees. Up here in the great white north, (gonna be really white soon, they are predicting 4-8 inches tonight), as I was saying, "up here", real Christmas trees are pretty popular. You basically have only two choices of real trees.

CHOICE ONE : FRESH CUT To find a fresh cut tree, you drive 5 minutes to the Quicky Mart, get out of the car, select your tree from 500 trees all nicely stacked on display in wooden racks inside a chain link compound. They are behind 8 foot chain link, because, yes, people DO steal Christmas Trees. You then give your money to the Ex-Convict at the gate and go home. Rumor has it the Mafia runs the Philly tree biz. Choice one is convenient, but not very Christmas like.

CHOICE TWO: CUT-YOUR-OWN I was a Quicky Mart guy until marriage. Now my wife and I are Cut-Your-Own people. Cut-your-own involves you and your family or wife driving 2 1/2 hours to a picturesque tree farm nestled in the Endless Mountains region of Pennsylvania, then searching among 500 acres of trees to find "that perfect one". I like fat trees. Some tree farms sucker in the City Folk with sleigh rides and hot spiced cider. Sounds like Currier and Ives doesn't it? Well read on, it gets better.

MACHO FOOL WITH BALD FIRESTONES

So off to the Tree Farm we go, Christmas music playing, fresh snow in the mountains, the endless mountains. Wow what a day! So we arrive at our favorite cut-your-own joint. This farm has incredible views of the countryside. Just beautiful. Now you must understand, this farm has good trees, and better trees. The better trees (fat ones) are way up a mountain road. So I ask one of the Tree Dudes, (we'll call him Sparky because I don't think his tree has all of its needles), I said "Sparky, how about letting me drive up to the better tree spot"? Sparky replied

"you got tire chains, it's kind of slippery coming down". I said no, and we've never really had any problems in the past. AND, I observed another chainless pick up truck returning from the better spot with no visible trauma. So off we went to the better spot, found our fat tree: no problem. The way back down was a little different. Have you ever driven a 6000 pound full sized extended cab pick up down a ski slope? I did, and it ain't fun! A tap of the brakes almost sent me to bigger insurance premiums real fast! As my 6000 pound Flexible Flyer continued sledding, I heard my 11th grade drivers ed teachers voice "pump the brakes" "pump the brakes"! One problem, THEY DIDN'T HAVE ANTILOCK BRAKES IN 1979! PUMPING ANTI LOCKS IS WORTHLESS! So I dropped the tranny into low gear, laid off the brakes, and slid straight, all the way to the bottom. Sparky watched the whole thing, and said, "See, I told you it was slippery".

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS EVERYONE!

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