

December 2006

Ank's Angle —

Bah humbug!

Well, another year is coming to an end and what an interesting year it has been, especially in real estate. We have had a great year in spite of what you might read or hear from the media. The real estate market is still very strong and we have a lot of orders to prove it. What we are seeing out in the market is that big public builders are playing "Chicken Little", running around saying the sky is falling and laying off their staff and selling projects. We had one of our clients lay off their field staff in the summer and their sales staff sold a lot of product. They did not have the staff to build what they sold. When they tried to rehire the old staff, they would not go back to work for them. We had another client that had a big layoff and at the same time gave their corporate staff raises. Doesn't make sense? If you want to save money, don't cut your field staff. Those are the people that make you money. If you want to save money, go to corporate or your regional offices and eliminate every other person there and you probably would not miss them. Cut your overhead there, not at the field level. Thank you to all of those that helped us have a great year, and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and a very prosperous New Years to you all.

David M. Ankenbrandt



Merry Christmas All Over the World:

Mele Kalikimaka – Hawaiian

Nodlaig Mhaith Chugnat – Irish

Joyeux Noel – French

Chrystos Rozdzajetsia Slawyte Jeho – Ukrainian

Froehliche Weihnachten – German

Kala Christougena – Greek

Buon Natale – Italian

Feliz Navidad – Spanish

La Maunia Le Kilisimasi Ma Le Tausaga Fou— Samoan

Great Holiday Trivia.....

Ever wonder why you do that on Christmas.....?



Pickle in the tree:

A myth; there is no tradition in German culture although in modern times the glass ornaments are made there and recently have been sold there complete with the story of the "German Christmas Tree Pickle". No one knows how this really began.

Spider in the tree:

(Abridged version) Spiders so enchanted by a beautiful Christmas tree crept among its branches spinning webs as they went from branch to branch. Coming to bless the tree, the Christ child touched the webs turning them into silver and gold. Ever since, people have hung tinsel on their Christmas trees and placed a spider among the branches.

Birds Nest in the tree:

No one is sure where this one came from but they do know what it stands for. Good luck is supposed to come to a household that has a nest in its Christmas tree. Considered a good luck symbol, the bird nest represents all the love and warmth, enthusiasm and commitment required in creating the happiest of homes.



Random Christmas Trivia:

Did you know the first Christmas tree lights were telephone switchboard lights? In 1895, a New England telephone employee was looking at a newly installed string of lights made for the telephone switchboard and decided to take some home to decorate his tree.

- America's official national Christmas tree since 1925 is located in King's Canyon National Park in California. The tree, a giant sequoia called the "General Grant Tree," is over 300 feet (90 meters) high.

