

Calhoun's 2021 Thanksgiving

"It was a dark and stormy night; the rain fell in torrents except at occasional intervals, when it was checked by a violent gust of wind"
in Edward Bulwer-Lytton's 1830 novel "*Paul Clifford*"

Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long [evening's] nap,
[Actually we were just getting ready to go up to bed]

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
[The neighbor] sprang from [his] bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window [he] flew like a flash,

As leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;
So up to the [tree]tops the [roof metal] flew

A [ring from the neighbor and what he said]
Soon gave [us] to know [we] had [plenty] to dread;
And I heard him exclaim, ere he [noted our plight]
"['I'm glad you're safe and have] a good night!"

(with apologies to Clement Moore for the changes in the excerpt
from *A Visit from St. Nicholas*)

That is a poetic description of what befell us in May when a 30-second micro burst or mini tornado uprooted numerous trees and took the roofs off our pole shed and a neighboring commercial storage building. We had piles of metal all around our house, but nothing hit the house because of the surrounding trees. Luckily no one was injured in the short storm that expended most of its destruction on just two properties. We had plenty of work for the junk collector, our building contractor, and a tree-removal company as a result.



60+ ft. up in
cottonwood tree



One of many piles of debris



Trees caught debris ...



some of which fell later



baby opossum

left at cafe

Waiting for casualties
(i.e. supper)



Our Sidewalk Cafe

The local wildlife was more interesting than what Myron and I did this year. Here are some pictures of our Sidewalk Cafe clientele. One evening we had quite a crowd: 2 skunks, 3 raccoon, and an o'possum all at once (it was too dark for a picture). In the summer, some critters (probably deer) ate every sweet potato leaf in our garden over about 2 nights! But the critters didn't get all of our produce – Nancy did get some.



So this year had more to report beyond ditto. Nancy inserted new felts and tuned her piano in January during the pandemic.

This fall Nancy looked out the window as she was cooking dinner and noticed what looked like a bonfire ... it was the unoccupied-derelict house in our neighborhood on fire. It burned to the ground while we watched.



We hope you have had much to be thankful for this past year and that 2022 will be better.



Neighborhood house burns

We still live at 2001 Dunbar Road, Manhattan, KS 66502 where the welcome mat is out and you can contact us several ways: (785) 539-4448, <mcalhoun@sdf.org> and <ncalhoun@ksu.edu>

Nancy
& *Myron*