

A CHRISTMAS STORY

Just a little holiday story to entertain and amuse.

Happy Holidays from the Marketing Staff at Tejon Ranch.

The Christmas Pants:

In 1964, Larry Kunkel's mom gave him a pair of moleskin pants he didn't want, so he wrapped the garment in pretty paper and re-gifted it to his brother-in-law at Christmas.

Brother-in-law Roy Collette discovered he didn't want them either, so he re-gifted them back to Kunkel, who re-gifted them back. Then, one year Collette twisted the pants tightly and stuffed them into a 3-foot-long, 1-inch-wide pipe. Not to be outdone, the next year, Kunkel compressed the pants into a 7-inch square, wrapped them with wire and gave the "bale" to Collette.

Year after year, as the pants were shuffled back and forth, the brothers strove to make unwrapping them more difficult. The brothers agreed to end the caper if the trousers were damaged. Some examples of their handiwork:

- Collette stuffed them into a 5-inch coffee can, which he soldered shut. The can was put in a 5-gallon container filled with concrete and reinforcing rods.
- Kunkel installed the pants in a 225-pound homemade steel ashtray made from 8-inch steel casings and etched Collette's name on the side.
- The pants turned up in a drab green, 3-foot cube that once was a 1974 Gremlin. A note attached to the 2,000-pound scrunched car advised Collette that the pants were inside the glove compartment.
- In 1982 Kunkel faced the problem of retrieving the pants from a tire 8 ft high and 2 ft wide and filled with 6,000 pounds of concrete. On the outside Collette had written, "Have a Goodyear."
- In 1983 the pants came back to Collette in a 17.5-foot red rocket ship filled with concrete and weighing 6 tons. Inside the rocket were 15 concrete-filled canisters, one of which housed the pants.
- The pants were sealed in a 4-ton Rubik's Cube in 1985. The cube was made of concrete and covered with 2,000-board ft of lumber.

- Kunkel repackaged the pants into a station wagon filled with 170 steel generators all welded together. Because the pants have to be retrieved undamaged, Collette was faced with carefully taking apart each component.



Happy Holidays from Steve, Toni, Barry, Renee, & Cory

Sadly, 1989's packaging scheme brought the demise of the much-abused garment. Collette was inspired to encase the pants in 10,000 pounds of jagged glass.

While molten glass was being poured over the insulated container that held them, a chunk fractured, transforming the pants into a pile of ashes.

The ashes were deposited into a brass urn and delivered to Kunkel along with this epitaph:

"Sorry, Old Man

Here lies the Pants. . .

An attempt to cast the pants in glass

brought about the demise of the pants at last."

The urn now graces the fireplace mantel in Kunkel's home.


Source: www.snopes.com

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