



## FIVE MINUTES WITH TOM MOOTY

Column Number 2416

### "Getting a Two-Fer"

I have studied enough about bees to know just pert-near everything depends on their very short lived life style. Our familiar colonies of honey bees around here generally live just a few weeks; and each one will forage, pollinate, cross pollinate, and boost the growth cycle of various divisions and kingdoms of all plant life.

Now, before you write that letter, or make that call, or send that e-mail; I concede that I am not a botanist of any form of plant biology and don't know all the high falootin' terms of how bees do what they do; but I do know the source of their instinct to do it - The Creator God!

The "Cliff's Notes" version of that process seems to be they rub against plants and mix and mingle with them to enable those plants to grow and multiply. And they will take enough "plant rubbings" back to the hives to make a very small amount of honey; and then they die!

So, I am in the corner of the honey bees!

There are other types of bees that I wonder about.

I have heard about the "killer bees" that are working their way to us; and all the similar colonies of hornets, wasps, yellow jackets and other types of animal life; but today, I am referring to the present infestation of a pesky form of bee

biology known generally as "carpenter bees"; which I am perfectly willing to try to figure out some way to do without!

They greet me when I pull up at home, buzzing around when I try to sit on the porch to do a little reading while enjoying God's Creation; and they are - how can I say this and not offend all the professors of our local botanist persuasion - a nuisance!

So, I have a friend (who shall remain unnamed so nobody will get all worked up about him) who gave me the answer to the question!

Most people never know the answer because they don't even know the question!

What can I do about those carpenter bees that are slowly eating me "out of house and home"?

I expected a very professor-like answer when I asked this friend; seeing as how he is a scholarly-type; but he just laid it on the line right there in front of me!

Badminton rackets!

Say what?

Badminton rackets!

Yep; when they swarm around you; git 'em!

And if you are really good at it, you can "git a two-fer".

Swat 'em! As the old expression said, "Knock 'em down, John". Watch 'em bounce off the walls, the floor, even out in the grass, and . . . well you get the picture!

They might do some good; but I kinda need my place to go home to at night; and, it might take them several years to destroy it; but sooner or later, they are gonna bore their last hole in the last beam and the whole shootin' match is going to come crashing down.

So, "Praise The Lord and pass the badminton racket"!

I love what their cousins (the honey bees) do; and I'll protect them to the ninth degree; but can do without the carpenters.

By the way, it's still a beautiful creation in which we live - this world - and I thank The Lord for it!

*Tom Mooty serves as Very Senior Pastor to Newport's West End Baptist Church; and writes this column for the Wednesday Edition of the "Newport Plain Talk". Your comments are always appreciated; 'specially the gooduns'.*