Thursday, December 02, 20041.                                                c:/wklyltr4.4wc40

                               (2004 NHN&WR letter/story/poem/card/whatever # 19)

**Miscellaneous Potpourri,**

**(Definitely, … Redundancy)**

Lucile, Jason & Ken are back in Ottawa.  The very first morning an elderly man strolled slowly by the house at 6:30 attired in short, short gym pants and undershirt.  The temperature was 0 C/32 F.  Yesterday it snowed, flakes as big as cotton balls.  Yes, … definitely Canada.  But hey, … no hockey!

          Ken’s father George was wont to say, “If you buy a ‘used car’ have $500 extra in hand to fix what is going to go wrong with your purchase.”  ($ is Circa 1940.)  Good advice.  Good advice to transfer to buying a ‘used house’ too.  The Ottawa abode is over 50 years old.  Caveat emptor.  Right!  Far from housing neophytes, we expected to upgrade the electrical entrance, repair a partially collapsed sewer line, redo a yucky lavatory and replace a few tired toilets.  We did not expect to be inundated/overwhelmed by the worst torrential rains Ottawa had known for 60 years.  However, that is the price one pays for having Jefferson as a last name.  Basement damage was in excess of $13,000.  Out of pocket cost, … the $500 deductible.  Thank you Father.  We will not go into the philosophical discussion of which is less aggravating to the buyer, an old house or a new house.  Think it boils down to which you have bought most recently.

          Abode status to date: Basement floor outstanding, Sewer line repaired, Panel upgraded, Lavatory done (Well Ken Jefferson done.  I.E..99% done.), two out of three toilets are new.  (Without mentioning names, one of our subscribers, …  should he come to Ottawa,  would immediately point out the 1% that is not finished.) .The first toilet replacement was in the remodeled lavatory.  #2 in the upstairs bath, was replaced yesterday.  Hey, … #1 & #2 is kind of an apt way of denoting a toilet operations huh?  Wow!  It is *amazing* how much heavier toilets have become in the 20 years since we put in our last one.  Oh the aching back, … but heavy or not the worst aspect of toilet replacement is disposal of the old.  Regular trash pickup collects toilets in the normal scheme of things.  However, we are requested to have the item out on the curb by 7 A.M. and understand pickup will not occur until approximately 4.P.M.   Get the picture, … yes sir, invitingly on the curb for all to see is a lovely bone colored toilet complete with seat attached.  Maybe we should borrow Linda McDevitt’s digital camera and record the reaction of passers by.  No doubt a gamut of: sideways glances, sitters/flushers, close inspection and complete ignores.  The best, and no doubt a candidate for submission to the Sunday paper, a trash purloiner, en bicycle, pedaling off with the treasure balanced on the back fender.

          Last year in Ottawa we did Dickens and German 101.  This year it will be Piano, Paying off Watercolor Debts, Volunteering and taking in the Theatre Scene..  Not quite sure just what kind of  volunteer work  we’ll end up doing, but pretty sure it will be something.  They are always looking for people to go and talk with terminally ill patients in the hospital, but the prospect of Ken trying to console some poor soul in a hospital is too frightening to consider.  There is a *‘Red Nose’* Holiday operation here wherein people drive home those too drunk to drive themselves.  This was considered, but Lucile was afraid they would throw up in the car.  Habitat for Humanity is active in the Ottawa area.  Been there, done that.  The work itself is OK, but instructing others in how to do it is for the birds.  Ah, but then we went to the local theatre.

          Backing up a bit, when recently in the ‘Big Apple’ we took in a Broadway Show, *“The Producers.”* Talk about toilets getting heavier in the last twenty years, … what about theatre tickets.  Wow!  And a matinee no less.  We were going to see a few, but decided one was enough.  Anyway we caught the show business bug.  Back in Ottawa on November 21, we went to see *“Crazy for You”* (at one fifth the price), music and lyrics by George and Ira Gershwin.  Nice theatre, fine production, enjoyed it immensely.  *“Damn Yankees”* and “*Oliver*” are coming up.  Maybe they can use an old ‘Punch Out’ man to help with the scenery!  .

          That’s it for now from Ottawa.  Good heavens, … it is almost Christmas, New Years and 2005!  And Jason says, ‘

“and almost time for the de-subscription drive.”  Right, … how to go J-Man.

Lucile & Ken.