Saturday, January 28, 2006. c:/wklylt6.6wc06

(2006 NHN&WR letter/story/poem/card # 2)

**The Christmas Present most Traveled By.**

(International Trade?)

(Well, … maybe more of a family thing.)

(Definitely a late breaking Christmas thing.)

With 9 children Christmas ‘*Giving’* can easily get out of hand. Adding

spouses plus parents, the total would be 240 presents for a full sibling parental exchange! Apart from the awesome fiscal aspect, we do not think this family would be up to the mechanics involved. (If you read on as we track the travails/travels of a single 2005 gift, we think you will agree.) Years ago we switched to a grab name drawing format. Official 2005 gifts, …16. Now it is off to the ‘Big Apple’ where our saga begins.

It is late November. A Canadian UN employee and his UNICEF employed Kenyan spouse are under multiple deadlines. Mr. Canada is leaving December 1st for a 6 month stint in the Sudan. Because of work and educational commitments, Ms. Kenya will remain in NYC. She will venture to the Sudan later in the Spring. (Goody goody, an empty NYC apartment! Someone, anyone, … get the key.) Christmas shopping must be done early. Lastly they are moving into a new apartment the week before Mr. Canada departs. They complete the shopping, a few official gifts and a few unofficial ones. Now … quandary, in between apartments, too early to mail, no place to store and don’t know the addresses. Solution, put peoples names on them and send the whole batch to Canada, that’s where some of them are going anyway. Good plan, off they go by courier to a college teacher in Ottawa. Let’s call her Ms. Sociology.

(First leg: NYC, New York – Ottawa, Ontario.)

‘Super Christmas Package’ completes its international journey and is hand delivered by courier to Ms. Sociology in Ottawa. Operation breakup begins. Presents are separated into two piles, U.S. & Canada. Canada to U.S. delivery time might run two weeks. Those are done first. Recipient names are looked up in an address book and added to the packages, Okay, the U.S. is ready to mail. Wait a minute … Canadian/U.S. postal are out of this world. Transient Ottawans, will call them ‘Olde Folkes’, are making a quick trip to Vermont January 3rd. A U.S. present won’t be much later than it would be if mailed from Canada, and think of all the money we’ll save. Good plan, Olde Folkes will carry them over the border and mail them in Vermont.

(Continuing: NYC, New York – Ottawa, Ontario – North Hero, Vermont.)

Olde Folkes carry out their assignment. Super Christmas Present has been processed, … end of story.

Hold it! Hold it! January 8th. A communiqué to the Ottawa Transients from Glastonbury, Connecticut. The Nutmeggers have just received a package for the Pittsford, Vermont Jeffersons, the sender being Ms. Kenya in NYC., and Glastonbury does not have a Pittsford address. Hmmmn, … where did Ms. Kenya get the Glastonbury address? She probably didn’t even know there were Glastonbury Jeffersons. Ms. Sociology is called and the problem related. Silence. Then, *“but we didn’t have a present for Glastonbury. Did we mix presents? Has everybody else received their present? I better check. Come to think of it you guys mailed this from Vermont. How did you screw it up?*

*“Screw it up? We were only the messengers,”*

(Update: NYC, New York – Ottawa, Ontario – North Hero, Vermont, - Glastonbury, CT.)

Communiqué to Glastonbury, *“Hold the package, we’ll get back to you.”*

A follow up on the presents is conducted. All is in order. Ah ha, … the address book is checked. Yes, adjacent Jefferson addresses, Glastonbury and Pittsford.

Communiqué to Glastonbury, *“Sorry. Please resend package to this Pittsford address, … Thanks, let us know the financial damages.”*

(We are now drifting into mid January and the undelivered present is still en route.)

Finally, a call from Pittsford. The package had arrived on Friday the 13th, that figures.

(Final tally: NYC, New York – Ottawa, Ontario – North Hero, Vermont, - Glastonbury, CT. – Pittsford, Vermont.)

The present is now hanging in a cheery kitchen in a lovely home in Pittsford, Vermont. It is a picture of a NYC landmark which is not far from the gift sender’s old apartment, The Brooklyn Bridge’. 240 presents? Don’t even think about it! Incidentally, we sent a note to Ms. Sociology asking her to review an outline of this letter which we would paste in the Email. We forgot to cut and paste it. We got this reply

*“You didn’t paste the letter, … see, I knew it was you guys who screwed this up all along!”*

Also, there was an interesting dialogue between Mr. Nutmeg and a lovely creature in a rural Connecticut P.O. The report we received was potentially too libelous to incorporate in our documentary.

Ottawa Transients

Ottawa, ON

Regular Distribution.

*NHN&WR* is currently available to 66 readers @ 26 E-mail addresses(\*) & 6 Snail-mail addresses.

1.      \*Armstrongs 3 Carol, Bruce & Mackenzie.

2.      \* Barber, Carolyn & Jim 2 North Hero friends.

3.      \* Bennett, Charlie 1 Cousin of Ken.

4.      \* Bennett, Gerry-Anyango, Carol 2 Son of Lucile & Spouse.

5.      \* Bennett, Marc-Burke, Michelle 2 Son of Lucile & Spouse.

6.      \* Brock, Beth 1 Sister of Ken

7.      \* Brock, Jeff, Susan, Elizabeth, Taylor, Gracie 5 Jeff is son of Beth

8.      \* Cotton, Gene & Marilyn 2 Atlanta friends.

9.      \* Dawson, Anne, Keith & Victoria 3 Ottawa friends

10.  \* Demand, Nancy & Erhart 2 North Hero neighbors.

11.  Gaspe, Louise & Jean Michel 2 Cousin of Lucile & partner

12.  \* Jefferson, Bill 1 Son of David & Nancy

13.  Jefferson, Clara 1 Spouse of Ken’s uncle Ted

14.  \* Jefferson, David & Nancy 2 Brother of Ken & spouse.

15.  Jefferson, Greg & Kathi 2 Son of Ken & partner.

16.  \* Jefferson, Lucile, & Ken 3 NHN&WR Management.

17.  \* Jefferson, Linda-Hoffpair, Kelly, Sara & Nick      4 Linda is daughter of Nancy. .

18.  Jefferson, Matt, Heide & Morgaen 3 Matt is son of Ken.

19.  Jefferson, Mike. 1 Son of Ken.

20.  Jefferson, Phil. 1 Son of Ken

21.  Kelly, Marz 1 Son of Heide

22.  \*Klein, Myr, John & Willow 3 Myr is daughter of Heidi

23.  \* Lund, Vaughn 1 Business Associate & Friend.

24.  \* McCleskey, Sue 1 Daughter of Ken

25.  \* McDevitt, Frank & Etta 2 Linda McD in-laws.

26.  \* McDevitt, Linda & Norman 2 Daughter of Lucile & spouse

27.  \* Peck, Sara, Bill Jr, Dan & Colin 4 Daughter of Ken, spouse & sons .

28.  \* Perry, Jane & Bob 2 North Hero neighbors

29.  Peterson, Gladys & ‘Pete’ 2 Vermont friends.

30.  \* Snow, Jean 1 Friend of Charlie Bennett.

31.  \* St John, Moira & Eric 2 North Hero neighbors.

32.     \* Ward, Art & Addie 2 Pennsylvania friends.