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(2006 NHN&WR letter/story/poem/card # 19F)

**80Th’s**

We have just finished reading the March 5th Sunday paper. There was an intriguing article about the English Queen. English Queen? British Queen? Dominion Queen? Fear we are sadly lacking in Royal awareness. However, … the headline follows.

*“Buckingham Backyard to get ‘Magical’ Makeover.*

*Disney-esque theme park will host children on Queen’s 80th birthday.”*

The article went on to describe the planned activities at Buckingham Palace:

\* Backyard to be converted into Winnie the Pooh’s Hundred Acre Wood.

\* Peter Pan will duel Captain Hook on a floating pirate ship.

\* J.K. Rowling will read from her next Harry Potter book.

\* A stage will feature a Mary Poppins musical.

\* The Royal Ballet to perform in Beatrix Potter costumes.

\* A thousand young lottery winners will attend with a friend and a chaperon.

\* The BBC will broadcast a 90 minute show of the party costing $3,000,000 immediately after the World Cup quarter-final that could pit England against Germany.

Wow!

First thought, *“Some eightieth birthday!”* Second thought, *“We’re having an eightieth birthday!”* Third thought, *“We could do that!*” Well, almost do it, … nothing resembling a youngster would be allowed anywhere near the proceedings.

Let’s see.

\* Authentic Seventh Calvary bugle replica will call all to a backyard converted to a 50th acre winery. Free samples galore.

\* Voyageurs will shoot rapids on the adjacent Ottawa River. (Have to borrow the neighbors’ canoe and bring up the ‘Fleet’ from North Hero for this one.)

\* L. Y. Jefferson & L. A. McDevitt will read from a *“Days of our Lives”* script. (This depends on their being able to find one with no: Sex, Profanity or Violence. Else G. K. Jefferson and F. (No Middle Initial) McDevitt will leave the gala occasion and go take a nap.)

\* A Stage will feature:

The original North Hero ‘Blues Brothers’ (M. D. Bennett, G. P. Jefferson, P.W. Jefferson) offering a rendition of their famous classic, … *“Margueritaville”*.

G. R. Bennett, accompanied by M.T. Jefferson on guitar, will repeat his award winning ‘ Gong Show’ performance of *“The Desperado*”.

\* Royal ‘Gamesters’ participating in the 2006 ‘Dance’ & ‘Masters’ tourneys will don tutus and perform a ballet to *“Fugue for Tinhorns”.*

\* A commemorative event from past Cedarvale Challenges will pit Canada against the U.S. We think N.S. Jefferson & D.W. Jefferson’s ‘Grapefruit in the Pantyhose Ball-Banger’ would be apropos.

\* A ‘Cross-Stitch in Time’ competition will feature B. J. Brock, S.J. McCleskey & S.J. Peck going against the clock to complete a wall hanging of G.K.J’s old ukulele.

\* Attendance will be limited to those over 40 and within walking distance.

\* “NHN&WR” will go all out and cover the event with a special illustrated edition at a cost of one Epson color cartridge and all proceedings will be captured acoustically for posterity by M.L. Jefferson.

There, … take that Elizabeth the 2nd.

Ha! Who do we think we are kidding here? Our imminent eighty year old much prefers a quiet reflective day to himself, wherein he can recall fond memories and give thanks to being a member of a wonderful family.

Please, … no phone calls.

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