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2005 NHN&WR letter/story #8)

**In The Glare.**

We have three outdoor location choices for our afternoon drinks which could be 2P.M., 3 P.M., 4 P.M. ... whatever. The front porch if raining, the lee deck if wind velocity would blow the ice cubes out of our glasses, and the lake deck weather permitting. The view from the lake deck is toward the west. Before evening lights come on at dusk, the vista has changed very little since the War of 1812, when the British fleet would have come into view from North Hero as it passed by Isle LaMotte and started around Cumberland Head on its southward journey to Plattsburg Bay. (The Brits got womped incidentally, ... but we digress.)

This year the vista has changed. A brand new building is visible across the lake, probably somewhere around Chazy, NY. From 491 Cedarvale Lane, North Hero, VT, it appears about 1/8 inch x 1/2 inch. Considering it’s several miles away, obviously a significant structure. Unfortunately, ... the building in question has a bright, shiny, metallic roof which is in a class by itself in reflecting sunlight. Have you ever followed behind a car on a sunny day and had the chrome on the car reflect a glare right in your eye? Right, ... bummer, ... we now sit on the deck and try to ignore this new shinning beacon in the Empire State. Like losing a filling and trying to keep your tongue out of the hole.

What to do?

Option 1, A German 88.

This is not a new thought. We have threatened to get this WWII vintage high velocity weapon in the past. It was to be acquired as soon as we had been advised of a terminal disease and used to blast seadoos out of the water as they screamed past our cabin. Would it have the range? How many holes in the roof would be necessary to cut down the glare? Research needed.

Option 2, Tar buckets dumped by helicopter.

We’ve seen copters on TV, fighting forest fires by dousing them with water. Rent one, fill the buckets with hot tar, over-fly on a dark night and splatter away. Sounds good to me.

Option 3, Retaliation.

A North Hero, VT, neon sign visible from N.Y. State. Conduct a survey to determine what would be most offensive to New Yorkers. i.e.: *"Empire State Sucks",* 40 second porno flick in lights, *"Keep Hillary, ... we don’t want her", "Red Sox, Red Sox, Rah Rah Rah!*

Option 4, Historical Societies. (We admirably refrain from our usual spelling of these organizations.)

Obviously what we have here is Defamation of an Historic Site. Probably too late in this case to enlist the ‘Historics’, but what’s coming next? A glittering Mohawk gambling casino? They better not, we’d send our Abnakis over to take care of that.

Option 5, Drink on the lee deck.

Option 6, Drink when the sun is at a pre-glare angle.

Hmmmn, no doubt have to start drinking about 10:30 A.M, ... sort of an attractive option though.

Option 7, Don’t drink.

Nope. Already done our three months of that.

Option 8, Glare Block.

Cyclists use a small mirror that’s screwed on their head/hat somehow so they can see behind them. These devices are good defense against those sick drivers who try to see how close they can pass a bicycle.

Doctors sometimes have the same sort of thing on their heads. With a little practice we should be able to keep the mirror blocking out the 1/8 x 1/2 inch annoyance from across the lake to the west. Hey! Side benefit, ... would also be able to see neighbors/friends sneaking up from the east.

Decisions, decisions.

With all the controversy extent over ‘Wind Farms’, we must say we’d much prefer a dozen wind machines whirling away on Isle LaMotte to our Glaring Building. Oh well, ... whipping a dead horse here for the last 3 1/2 weeks anyway. Have not seen the sun, constant rain, wind & overcast and are drinking inside by the fire.

Lucile & Ken.

North Hero, Vermont.