Wow! On time for once, must be the new Editor.

Date written, Friday, September 22, 2006 c:/wklylt6.6wc30a

2006 NHN&WR letter/story #12

**A Day in September, 2006**.

Tuesday, September 12, the last guest had left and we were recovering from our Cedarvale Community’s 45th Anniversary Party, which went off just fine, and a ‘Celebration of Life’ Memorial for Charlie Bennett at his favorite golf course, The Alburg Country Club. Charlie had passed away July 14th in Florida. He was a Charter member there and also a ten year subscriber to NHN&WR. Miss you Charlie. Tuesday, September 12th also brought two new experiences: Primary Voting and a Background Check

We will take up Primary Day first. This may end up being a tirade. so feel free to skip to Background Check.

At age 80, we voted in our first primary. Not ‘we’ exactly. Ken handles the U.S. voting and Lucile does the Canadian. Bailey abstains. Vermont primaries are weird. There are 4 ‘official’ parties. We will call them A, B, C, & D, since we have trouble sp- sp- spelling some of them. There are also candidates who run as Independents and may not be on the primary ballot(s) at all.. We will designate them I’s, as in *"the I’s have it".* ‘Official’ parties use the primary ballot to resolve multiple candidacies for the same office. At the voting site, each registered voter is handed 4 ballots, one for each party, but, ... can only fill out one and must hand in the other three blank. Are the blanks counted? Re-cycled? Who knows. Now, ... does anyone care which party’s ballot a voter fills out? No, ... absolutely not.

(An aside: Your writers affiliations have gravitated over a life time from ‘This’ to ‘That’ to ‘I.’, he is pretty fed up with politicians, negative campaigns and rich people buying their way into office. Warned you, ... this is a tirade.)

For months prior to the primary, ‘soured’ voter was subjected to one candidate’s barrage of offensive TV ads. He considered the ads devious and an insult to his intelligence, ... assuming he has any. Upon realization that he could fill out any party’s ballot though he brightened right up. On Tuesday September 12, 10:00 A.M., soured voter marched into the polling place. Knowing he was not going to vote their way in the November election, he selected the TV Barrager’s Party’s ballot, voted for one of his opponents and walked out feeling much better. The candidate who received the most primary votes had allowed his name to be on an ‘Official Party’s’ ballot after informing them that he would not accept their nomination and the day after the primary he promptly declined it. Wonder how much this Primary ended up costing? Do I think I could explain the virtues and workings of Democracy to an Iraqi? Definitely not. Oh well, ... let the election campaigns begin.

*"I am Ken Jefferson and I approve this Tirade."*

Now, to the background Check.

Grand Isle County has a very active, non-profit organization which provides transportation and services to those in need. It is C.I.D.E.R. There is no connection to apple orchards, fermentation or backwoods stills. C.I.D.E.R. stands for "Champlain Islanders Developing Essential Resources". Most transporting is done with a fleet of small busses/vans. However, for isolated trips, appointments and last minute emergencies volunteer drivers, supplying their own cars, are called upon. There are about 50 of these volunteers in Grand Isle. We are one. An adjoining county has a similar setup. We will call it County X. Recently, a County X gentleman (?) volunteer driver asked a lady he had driven to appointments to go out to dinner with him. She did. He reportedly did not behave like a gentleman. A Court case is pending.

So much for County X. Back to Grand Isle County, ... a phone call.

*"Hi Ken, it’s Robin Way at C.I.D.E.R."*

*"Hello Robin."*

*"Have you heard about the volunteer driver over in County X?"*

*"Yes."*

*"Well, the fallout from that is, we are all grounded until background checks can be run on all C.I.D.E.R personnel and volunteers. Can you come in for some paper work?"*

*"Will I end up in Guantanamo?"*

*"I suppose that depends on what the background check turns up."*

*"Well, ... I’ll say good-bye to family and friends and come in at 3:00 P.M.*

*Tuesday, September 12."*

*"Fine and thanks."*

The afternoon of the 12th, Bailey and Ken showed up. Ken commiserated over C.I.D.E.R.’s administrative task: mountains of paper work, idle vans, grounded volunteers. Wow! Pretty sure though that none of this was on Gentleman X’s mind when he made his supposed after dinner move. C.I.D.E.R. had the routine down pat. Statements and Forms were passed and signed. Car used in transportation was checked out. Car and dog received approval. Insurance was validated. Sworn statement notarized. Drivers license check run. No torture. Done. Time, 30 minutes. Thoughts during the inquisition:

*"What about me? How do I know I’m not transporting an ax murderer?"*

*"Should I peruse the local phone book for Lizzie Bordens?"*

*"Being in one’s eighties, would a sexual assault accusation be all bad?"*

*"Should Lucile ride shotgun on assignments? No, ... most assignments impact the noon hours and Lucile never misses ‘Days of Our Lives’."*

*"Take Bailey? No, don’t think dog testimony is allowable. In addition, would probably have to pay blackmail for the duration of the trial. A quarter cup dog chow and two martini ice cubes daily."*

*"Good Grief! What if I flunk the background check? What would life be like as a defrocked C.I.D.E.R. volunteer"*

*"Let’s see, there was that speeding ticket outside Savanah, GA in 1979."*

*"Maybe a quasi military ceremony where my C.I.D.E.R.. badge is ripped off?"*

*"Gentleman X, ... why have you put us through this?"*

*"But hey, he could be compltely innocent."*

Well, today is September 22. Ten days and no feedback. If we don’t hear anything by the end of the month, I think we’ll fish a different letter out of the barrel.

Well, ... now it’s the end of the month. No word from *C.I.D.E.R..* What the heck, let’s send the letter anyway.

Lucile, Bailey & Ken, North Hero, VT.

North Hero News & World Review, ... mostly stuff no one else would print.

Reg. Dist. 84 83. Miss you Charlie Bennett, (Uncle, Brother-in-law, Cousin.)

cc: C.I.D.E.R.