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2006 NHN&WR letter/story #??

**November ‘06**

Good Grief! November already! November in northern New England may sound a bit ominous, but it is usually a very lovely month if one is close by Lake Champlain. We’ve still maples in full blaze. It also means one has survived another Halloween, which we did using our time-tested M.O. which is; Pull down the shades, turn off the lights and go to bed. Bad enough sharing Hershey’s Dark Chocolate bars with family, ... strangers? Forget it. Ah those good old Halloween days when Goodies didn’t have to be wrapped and razor blade proof. Seems like it always rained and our kids were under orders to bring back the first 30 minutes haul so we would have something to hand out on the Home Front.

One ‘Old Business’ item before November events. The ...BACKGROUND CHECK.

Ken passed.

Ken should never have gone public with this.

Ken was reminded of forgotten moving violations from Quebec to Arizona.

Ken has been told, by more than one, that he is probably on the Terrorist Register. (Relatives accused of blowing up mail boxes? Good Grief!)

Ken has been assigned and done one post-background check C.I.D.E.R. mission.

Passenger was his first male.

Is he going to be trusted with women?

He received a $5 tip.

Is this solicitation of funds by volunteer?

Keep tuned.

Now, November Event #1. Your NHN&WR Staff competed in a *"World Trivia Contest".* It was held the night of November 3rd in a Hockey Rink in Ottawa. Way over 2000 contestants were entered. Actually, NHN&WR staff and readers entered a parlay of two ten-person teams. Four Jeffersons were on the *"Wine not Whiners"* along with two Bennett/Burkes*.* The *"Beers not Brains"* had two McDevitts and twoDawsons making a total of 10 NHN&WR’ers or 50% of the two teams.. Throw in mascot Bailey and we were the majority party. An interesting preliminary discipline was surmounted with a cooperative effort by both teams. A CD containing snatches of 108 songs, one each year from 1899 to 2006 was distributed to contestants, and we really mean snatches. i.e.: *"Somewh".* The fact that it was Judy Garland’s voice helped here, but boy they went by all run together and so FAST! The ‘Old Folks’ were a help up to 1954, but didn’t recognize one song after that Sounded like just a lot of noise to us. End result; 102 right, 6 wrong. We still have the CD. Anyone want to try it? The competition was a blast; ten categories, ten questions per category , one minute to write down each answer, and much frenzied arguing. The American ‘ringers’ were of dubious value for Canadian oriented categories, but it was lots of fun. We are going back next year. *"Beers not Brains"* placed 19th and *"Wine not Whiners"* were one behind in 20th. Our suggestions for next year’s competition were;

Soft classical background music in lieu of loud rock.

Change the 7 P.M. start time to 8 A.M.

Our suggestions for next year’s competition were;

Immediately discarded.

The Jefferson’s accommodations at *‘The Ottawa McDevitt’* were superb and the Friday night 'Bailey-Sitting' by the Thorslund family was much appreciated.

Event #2. This week our ‘Interpretive Gardeners’ will visit. They are Jeannine and Claude. Jeannine is Lucile’s cousin. (Yes family, ... Claude is the one who juggles the Indian Clubs.) Claude’s main task is overseeing the winterizing of the geraniums. Claude does not speak much English. Ken speaks less French. The operation begins.

Claude tells Jeannine in French, what Ken should do.

Jeannine tells Lucile.

They discuss it in French till both agree on how best to convey the information to the illiterate idiot.

Lucile translates to English and tells Ken.

Ken says, "*What*?" And on & on .....

But hey, we have geraniums that are 5 years old. They sit in the dark, down cellar under the desk without any water, and come to life like magic in the Spring. Not only excellent fauna advice here, but they bring excellent Mille-feuilles from Quebec. (Americans read ‘Napoleons’).

Ooops, ... phone call. Claude & Jeannine are snowbound in the Laurentians. Scratch Event #2. Bad news for the geraniums, they will have to make do with the idiot.

Event #3. National Elections! We hope Americans get out and vote.

Event # 4. Being ‘Homeless in Ottawa’ till December 1st, we have been fortunate to be invited to Glastonbury, CT for American Thanksgiving. This will really be a big gathering. Taking Jeffersons first, there will be: Bailey, Bill (hmmmn, doing this alphabetically, but seems like that should go Bill, Bailey), Dave, Ken, Linda, Lucile, Nancy, Nick & Sara. Then, the Hoffpairs; Kelly & Sparky. Total, eleven. We have heard a rumor that Bill has a brand new Shelby Cobra. If we are lucky we might be allowed to get within ten feet of it.

Event #5. Close-up North Hero and head to Ottawa. Always a bit of sadness here, ... so many memories, so much fun. The old yellow Ghia is already mothballed in the Carriage House for the winter and the F150 has departed with its winter operator Jim Barber. Jim keeps an eye on our place, plows the lane and uses the truck till Spring. (A classic one hand washes the other arrangement which has suited both parties well.)

Post Thanksgiving we will do the final close-up chores.

Your next NHN&WR will emanate from Canada. Wonder if the Wine Cellar has survived the renters?

Lucile, Bailey & Ken.

North Hero, VT

2006 Recipients.

*NHN&WR* is now available to 62 readers @ 20 E-mail (\*) & 6 Snail-mail addresses.

\* Raleigh Armstrongs. 3 Carol, Bruce & Mackenzie, business & nursery cohorts from Atlanta days.

\* Gerry Bennett & Carol 2 Son of Lucile & spouse.

\* Marc Bennett, Michelle Burke 2 Son of Lucile & spouse.

\* Beth Brock 1 Sister of Ken

\* Jeff Brocks 5 Son of Beth, spouse Susan, Elizabeth, Gracie & Taylor

\* Gene & Marilyn Cotton 2 Georgia Squires.

\* Ann & Keith Dawson 2 Ottawa friends

Louise Gaspe & Jean 2 Cousin of Lucile & partner

Atlanta Jeffersons 2 Sons of Ken:, Mike, Phil.

Corpus Christi Jeffersons 2 Greg, son of Ken & spouse Kathi

Pittsford, VT Jeffersons 4 Matt, son of Ken, Spouse Heidi, daughter Morgaen & son Marz.

Clara Jefferson 1 Spouse of Ken’s Uncle Ted

\* Glastonbury Jeffersons 3 David, brother of Ken, spouse Nancy & Son Bill.

\* Linda Jefferson,Kelly Hoffpair 4 Linda is David & Nancy’s daughter, spouse & children, Sara and Nick.

\* Lucile & Ken 2 .

\* Myr, John & Willow Klein 3 Myr is Heidi Jefferson’s daughter.

\* The Lunds 2 Georgia business cohorts.

\* Sue McCleskey 1 Daughter of Ken

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

\* Linda & Norman McDevitt 2 Daughter of Lucile and spouse

\* North Carolina Pecks 4 Sara, daughter of Ken, Bill Peck Jr., Dan & Colin

\* Jane & Bob Perry 2 North Hero neighbors

Gladys & ‘Pete’ Peterson 2 Vermont friends of Lucile & Ken. ‘Pete’ is grade school chum of Ken.

\* Jean Snow 1 Florida friend of Charlie Bennett.

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

26 \* Art & Addie Ward. 2 Pennsylvania friends of Lucile & Ken.

Art is grade school chum of Ken.