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Sunday, December 02, 2007. c:/wklylt7.7wc19

(2007 NHN&WR letter/story/poem/card #20)

**December, … Again!**

Seems impossible, … 2007 almost gone. Think we will close out the year with some short comments re the NHN&WR status, at the mo. Or quo should you prefer. By the way, it is freezing here, even Canadians are complaining. However, in three weeks daylight will be lasting longer and Christmas will be imminent . Good! Then New Years and back on the wagon. Bad! Well not really. Abstinence when over, leaves one feeling very good with oneself.

1.Christmas.

Ah, plans & preparations are already underway for a traditional feast; Roast Beef, Yorkshire Pudding, gravy and vegetable medley. For the non-English, Yorkshire Pudding is a rich batter, poured into, and cooked in, about an inch and a half of greasy roast beef drippings. Yes, … 110% cholesterol. The Plum Pudding will be Susie Cleveland’s well tested and well brandied recipe, circa 1946. (Susie was mother of Ken’s first wife Velma.)

2.Abstinence.

This yearly 3-month discipline has always zeroed in on “Boozers/Alkies/Tipplers” which seems a bit unfair. Believe it or not there are a few NHN&WRers who shun alcohol all the time. Well all you Chocoholics, Chippers & Dippers etc, feel free to sign up and join us this year. Us being about 8 or nine we think, with perhaps a new convert in Kansas City. Will name names come January.

3.Exercise.

A new convert here too. Lucile has taken on physical therapy! Lucile has her own exercise routine to follow! Will Lucile & Ken exercise together? Very doubtful. Lucile is the more common social exercise type, while Mr. Recluse sneaks down in the basement when no one else is around. Unfortunately though, Bailey is. Has anyone ever tried to do 25 sit ups while a friendly dog is licking an ear?

4.Wine.

Just winding up Batch #16 (Chardonnay). Good Grief, … 480 bottles produced in the basement winery! This home-made stuff appears to be aging well. One thing should be altered we feel. From the beginning, we have saved two bottles of each batch. We call their shelving, *“The Archives”*.  Hypothesis, … we open one of the archived bottles to see if it’s still good. This leaves only one and the ‘agonizing’ begins. What kind of event would warrant the opening of, … *“The Last Bottle”*? Interesting question. (Am sure some ‘Smarty-Pants’ will reply, *“Your Wake”,* or perhaps now it is *"Celebration of Life".*) We will give this subject some thought, but saving three bottles would at least defer the issue for a few years. Think we will add a line to the batch control form: *“Final Disposition of last bottle.”* Possibilities: Bailey wins Westminister Dog Show, Notre Dame has winning season, FEMA does credible job, Red Wing boots last three years, 2001 Carhartt vest is cremated .

5.Painting.

Only one painting outstanding. Probably should say “owed”. (We think they are all outstanding.)

Going to put a ‘North Hero series in the works in 2008.

Considering a digital camera. Should be a big help subject selection.

6.Subscription renewal for 2008.

Ha! Your once a year chance to free yourself of un-wanted spam should you be so inclined. All subscribers who are not heard from by the end of December will be dropped from the distribution list. An updated distribution list will accompany the January letter.

7.Reading.

The reading program for the coming winter is still up in the air. Waffling between: Hemmingway, Dumas, & London. (Historic note, have done: E.B.White, A.A.Milne, Shakespearean Tragedies, Harvard Classics, ((well the first 10 anyway)) and Charles Dickens.)

8.Projects.

Just one. Our 1950 Ottawa windows in the living & dining rooms are far from energy efficient. New windows are really the ultimate solution, but Global Warming aside, in the middle of winter? We are opting for new insulated drapes. Ah, ... do you think spanking new drapes would call for the opening of an archived Bottle? Oh, Oh, … suppose the drapes weren’t up until January? A Twinings Tea Toast?

9.Piano.

Concentrate on chords.  Might even learn what an augmented 7th is.

10.’08 Resolutions.

Oh gee! Running out of paper. No room.  (With only 5 Snail Mailers this excuse is on borrowed time.)

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