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2007 NHN&WR letter/story #06

A mid-month Special. We had unusual response to the *"Potato Bulb",* ... so, here in the same vein is:

***"The Penny Ice Cube".***

We are sure all have: gone out, come back home, been greeted by flashing digital clocks. Right? Well, other than the nuisance of re-setting which Lucile does very well and Ken can’t do at all, this is normally just a slight inconvenience. However, if one has been gone 4 months, other factors enter in, ... to wit:

How long was the electricity off?

What about the food in the freezers?

Ah hah, ... superior intellect to the rescue. (A y .. y ...y .. yale man (there we got it out) is probably incapable of coming up with the simple logic involved in this solution.))\* We freeze two ice cube trays. On top of one cube in each tray we place a penny. One tray goes in the downstairs freezer and one tray goes in the freezer compartment of the refrigerator. Some osmosis may occur, but in our normal absentee span this is not noticeable. However we do refresh the penny ice cubes once a year. (Are you following this George Dubya?) Okay, so we come back from Ottawa this year. Clocks are flashing. We check the penny cubes. Look at that! One penny has sunk down a bit in the ice cube! Hmmmn. Why just one?

First reaction: don’t tell the neighbors, they’ll never come to our place for dinner again..

Next: should we toss the food or keep it?

Continuing: How about letting Bailey taste-test some? No, ... we couldn’t do that to Bailey.

Decision: If the ice cube didn’t melt completely, the food should be okay. Good, not to worry.

(But don’t go away, we’re not finished.)

The 06/07 winter ice cube trays are re-freshed. Two days later Lucile tells Ken in Canadian, *"The Garburator doesn’t work., it just hums."* For U.S. people read, *"The Disposal doesn’t work., it just hums."* This is not an uncommon POM problem. (See previous letter.) Tool required is an allan wrench. Switch off the garburator/disposal appliance (GDA) circuit breaker, clean out the under sink area, insert the allan wrench in the manual socket at the bottom of the GDA and turn. An allan wrench is a double-ended tool shaped like an ‘L’. The long end of the ‘L’ enables greater leverage. The shorter leg less. Normally, for bones and such, once one is able to rotate the socket 360 degrees with the short end of the allan wrench, the GDA is able to un-hum and grind away normally. This year this did not happen. After an hours turning, no significant easing had been achieved. The GDA acronym for Garburator/Disposal Appliance had progressed into a different GDA acronym.

Lucile, *"Oh Oh, after we thawed out the trays I could only find one penny. There should have been two. I bet I know where the missing penny is."*

Ken, *"Good Grief!"*

Well, ... showing that he actually did learn something from the Potato Bulb caper, Ken is actually going to *ask* the local plumber how to get the penny out of a the GD appliance.

This ‘Penny’ caper will not be news to some of our readers. Perfect hosts that we are, we usually tell guests,

*"If you want a drink go out in the kitchen and make it yourself."*

This invariably leads to,

*"There’s a penny in the ice cube tray! What is it doing there?"*

While tempted to say, *"Ice Skating"* we explain our frozen food precaution. Probably should make and serve the drinks ourselves like normal people.

Bet’cha can’t hardly wait to hear what the plumber is going to say. And, ... we will also reveal why only one penny was ice embedded.

From North Hero,

Lucile, Bailey & Ken.

\* A note from management: Prejudiced statement and there’s no doubt the average Yale man runs rings around our writer when it comes to spelling, punctuation and handling parens.