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2007 NHN&WR letter/story #11

**Forsaken**

(A dangerous departure from our non-political stance? Could be.)

A bit of trivia has brought about a puzzled concern. Your authors, sans Bailey, compete in the World’s largest Trivia Tournament. There are thousands of contestants, it is held in a hockey rink in Ottawa and is coming up November 2nd this year. Actually, double numbers of these contestants are NHN&WR’ers. Boning up we came across this, *"What is the only U.S. State which George W. Bush has not visited as President*?"

Good Grief, ... the answer? Vermont!

Wow, ... is this a slight or what? As far as a letter is concerned it also presents us with a problem. NHN&WR avoids politics like a plague. Can we expound on our thoughts regarding this situation without showing political favoritism? What the heck, we’ll give it a try. Can always say, *"Bailey wrote it."*

There are two main political parties in the U.S. Some Vermonters don’t seem to be too keen on either one at the moment. For years our lone Representative was not a member of either one. As for Senators, we had one of each until one decided to join the lone Representative in the Independent column. Independent is a fine description of the average Vermonter, however, parties aside, most Vermonters are citizens of the U.S. and as such have a right to ask, *"Oh Fearless Leader, why have you forsaken us?"* Especially since some Vermont Service personnel are on their third tour of duty in the middle east.

Well, one reason might be the really independent movement underfoot to secede from the Union. Now don’t laugh. Shortly after the Revolutionary War, Vermont’s bid to become the 14th State was not taken seriously by Congress until Vermont threatened to rejoin the British Empire. Would eminent secession prompt a President to come and say hello? Could be. A parallel movement is the *"Impeach Bush"* campaign being run by some other independent Vermonters. Obviously, there are some of us who would not stand in line to greet/cheer, but our point is, ... some would. And, considering the party involved, Vermont should have some historic ‘Brownie Points" in the bank after it’s sterling performance in 1932. Trivia note #2: Maine & Vermont were the only two States that voted for Herbert Hoover \* and not FDR. Presidents visit/vacation/reside in Maine. Vermont is ignored.

We wonder, could it be security concerns? A water route could be arranged. A Pope Mobile shield would be fitted to the deck of the *‘Lois B. McClure’\*\*.* The Presidential Flotilla could be booed/cheered \*\*\* by all along one hundred miles of Vermont shore line in complete safety. , ... caveat, complete safety if the Veep is not aboard. (The Vermont hunting lobby is not too pleased with him anyway.) Hey, should be a blast for all manner of people. Bon Voyage Prez!

However, a related subject. Vermont’s road & bridges are in bad shape. Example: the draw bridge from Grand Isle to North Hero. This has been judged unsafe for two-way traffic and sometimes has a tendency to get stuck halfway up or down. The Executive branch has recently stated that proposed additional funding for the Vermont infrastructure would be vetoed. Poor Vermont. We can’t even line up at the FEMA slop trough with the rest of the guys. For residents of North Hero who now have to wait out multiple red lights to traverse the one-way span on weekends, a veto here might have an effect on the boo/cheer volumes as the regal flotilla negotiates the passage from the Gut to the Inland Sea. Best case scenario for dyed in the wool Independent Vermonters, ... The bridge gets stuck halfway up just as the Lois B. McClure approaches and ruins the whole day.

Hmmmn, ... just reread this. Lucile, where’s Bailey? Need her a minute.

From North Hero, Vermont.

Bailey Jefferson. (Finally, ... they let me sign a letter. Hope it draws more comment than their silly toilet tale. bj)

\* Poor Herbert, his Presidency was doomed from the start after this introduction to the nation over national radio.

*"Ladies and Gentlemen, I give you the next President of the United States,*

*Hoobert Heever."* (Or something like that. Should Google it we guess.)

\*\* The Lois B McClure is a replica of an early Lake Champlain commercial lake/canal boat.

\*\*\* No partiality intended, used alphabetical order.

Independent politics brings to mind the comment of humorist Will Rogers when asked his political affiliation. *"I’m not a member of any organized political party. I’m a democrat."*

(Does anyone out there know how to cut & paste footnotes?)