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Monday, October 01, 2007. c:/wklylt7.7wc15

2007 NHN&WR letter/story #12

**Hearing Aids.**

We have never understood the reluctance of people to go and have a hearing test. There seems to be an aversion towards hearing aids as opposed to glasses. Some people who wouldn’t be seen dead wearing a hearing aid will go out of their way to make a fashion statement with their eyeglasses. Vision need help? Hearing need help? What’s the difference? Do you have your eyes checked periodically? How about your ears?

To begin our letter, a fictional conversation, ... between two graying NHN&WR’ers perhaps?

*"Got the monthly letter?"*

*"Yes, it’s about aids."*

*"Good Grief, ... the letter’s about aids?"*

*"Well, not just aids, hearing aids."*

*"Fearing aids? Why should we fear aids, at our age and with our lifestyle?"*

*"No, ... not fearing aids, hearing aids.’*

*"Hmmmmn, interesting, don’t wear earrings myself, but do some people need help holding them on their ears?"*

*"Here, why don’t you just read the letter."*

Strike any sort of familiar accord? Well, prior to scheduling anyone into anything, consider the following from *"Plato and a Platypus walk into a bar".*

*"A man is worried that his wife is losing her hearing, so he consults a doctor. The doctor suggests that he try a simple at-home test on her: Stand behind her and ask a question, first from twenty feet away, next from ten feet and finally from right behind her.*

*So the man goes home and sees his wife in the kitchen facing the stove. He says from the door, "What’s for dinner tonight?"*

*No answer.*

*Ten feet behind her, he repeats, "What’s for dinner tonight?"*

*Still no answer.*

*Finally, right behind her he says, "What’s for dinner tonight?"*

*And his wife turns around and says, "For the third time -- chicken!"*

(Always wise, ... determine where the problem lies.)

Close to home here, Lucile felt she was missing out on a lot, conversation-wise. She went for a hearing test and took the results to an audiologist. The audiologist was confidant hearing aids would improve her ability to converse, even in noisy social environments (restaurants/parties), and described the changes which have occurred in the hearing aid field in the last 4 years. Aids can now be individual digital computers programmed to filter/enhance sound in one or both of a person’s ears.

*"But will they really work or end up in my dresser drawer?"*

*"They really do and, if you’re not satisfied after 30 days we’ll return your money."*

Hearing aids were ordered. A week or so later, a fitting followed. The car ride home was enlightening.

*"Do you mind if I turn the radio down a bit?"*

*"Not at all."* (Thinking: Golly, might not have to leave the house during ‘Days of Our Lives" anymore."

*"Bailey, do you have to breathe so close to my ear?"*

*"What was that plink I just heard?"*

*"I think it was a little stone coming loose from the tire tread and hitting the inside of the fender."* (Thinking: Boy, gotta be careful what I mumble around Lucile from now on.)

The big test came at a 50th wedding anniversary party in Kanata, ON, two weeks ago. (Jane & George Dawson, how to go guys.) This was a dinner party with over twenty noisy imbibers present. Lucile had a great time. She also experienced the following conversation more than once.

*"Hi Lucile, looking great. I heard you’re thinking about hearing aids."*

*"Yes".*

*"Gonna get’em?"*

*"I’m wearing them."*

Lucile, Ken & Bailey,

from North Hero, Vermont (Till October 26).

Reg. Dist, (63)

cc: Dawson.