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2008 NHN&WR letter/story #08

**Expiring**

How do we begin? To tell the story of our things expiring? (Should that be one sentence? Could google ‘Love Story’ I guess. Not ot worry, one of our ‘Typo Tyrants’ will let us know.) Well, ... let us count the Expires.

Expiring snowfall patience. Expiring drivers license. Expiring VISA card. Expiring abstinence. Expiring dog license. Expiring truck registration. Good Grief! (And we have already beaten the TV & cell phone to death with a special March letter.)

The snowfall this year is perhaps best exemplified by the disappearance of the back yard fence in Ottawa. Disappearance is sort of an expiration we guess. It was a nice fence, chain link, 4 feet high and very satisfactory in keeping large dogs safely at home. We looked out one morning this past winter and the fence was gone! To subvert the usual cries of *"Embellishment, Embellishment"* hurled from the Nutmeg State, we should probably include a photo with this letter. However, to scale a ten-foot pile of snow by the back door to take a picture of something no longer there didn’t seem to make much sense at the time. Fortunately the Ottawa homestead did not spring any leaks. Thanks mainly to son-in-law Norman scraping the major part of the snow accumulation off the roof of the house and Ken circumcising the downspouts 5 feet off the ground. But, snowfall tolerance? Expired!

Then comes the renewal form for an expiring Vermont drivers license mailed from Montpelier, VT and forwarded from North Hero. This was posted February 18th and received in Ottawa on March 7th. Egad, ... 19 days. Let’s see now, license expiring March 21st, Canadian post off till Monday the tenth, 19 plus 10 puts renewal back in Montpelier on March 29th. Looks like we’d be driving sans license for about a month. Unacceptable. A trip to Vermont is in order. We feel compelled to digress a bit at this point. The four year license in question here is for a driver who would be 82 at renewal. Were it not for the slow mail situation this renewal would be accomplished without any personal contact. Good Grief, ... how do they know the applicant is not a blind, babbling idiot? (At this point Lucile chimed in to say, *"Well I can assure them that there is absolutely nothing wrong with your eyesight."* Thank you Lucile. Anyway, ... must confess that it has crossed our mind more than once that after a certain age, written and road tests would seem to be in order at license renewal time. We would be tempted to show up driving the 1973, four on the floor, yellow Karmann Ghia with its black racing stripe. Heh Heh, ... shades of ,*"Terror of Colorado Boulevard,* *Go Granpa Go Granpa, Go Go Go".* The Vermont trip was successfully carried out. As a side note a certain person’s abstinence regimen expired early. Sitting exhausted in front of a roaring North Hero fire with VSOP brandy and dark Hershey chocolate bars close at hand was too much, ... four days early we gave in, a very good EXPIRY.

Finally, back in Ottawa, our next piece of mail? Bailey’s license was, ... expiring! Beginning to dislike that word.

Then, the Hammer. The VISA card was expiring March 31st. To circumvent slow mail, we go all the way with auto-pay. Vermont and Ottawa utilities bill our VISA automatically. Visa debits our checking account automatically. Works just fine except for the, ... Expiry Date. As of March 22 our new card had not been mailed. We are required to notify those we have an auto-pay agreement with what the new expiry date is. VISA can not give us this information over the phone. Kind of a ‘Catch 22’ here. If the next VISA expiry (2011) comes prior to the cardholders expiry, the latter will make a point of being en residence all expiry month. What a mess. Many phone calls, mostly by daughter Linda, checking bill dates and making interim arrangements. In summary, three sets of cards were mailed. Set one was not forwarded to Ottawa from North Hero and was returned to VISA. Set two was to be intercepted in North Hero by the cardholders while en route to a family reunion in Glastonbury, CT. Unfortunately, this set *was* forwarded, unbeknownst to cardholders or VISA. Creditless wanderers upon arriving in Glastonbury request a third set be mailed to North Hero. Post reunion overnight stop in North Hero reveals no third set at PO. Phone rings. Daughter Linda. Set # two has arrived in Ottawa. Is this confusing or what? Three sets of cards floating around and none in the cardholders possession. We leave VISA temporally for, .....

F150 EXPIRY. The registration for our truck expires the last day of April. Not being in Vermont or using the truck one might think so what? Not so. F150 is an integral part of a winter *"One Hand Washes the Other Deal".* Vermont friends, the Barbers, use F150 over the winter and check/plow our property in return. Now, in the last forwarded mail comes its renewal. Once again daughter Linda to the rescue. Renewal is done on line.

Finally, North Hero residency is resumed on Friday, April 25th. Being held in the PO: An F150 registration and VISA set #2. Hooray! EXPIRY case closed.

Lucile, Ken & Bailey.

North Hero, VT 05474

PS: Recent check of the North Hero email group list revealed two addresses which we guess we must say had ... EXPIRED.