Saturday, May 31, 2008. c:/wklylt8.8wc042008 NHN&WR letter/story #09

**Batteries: Small to Teeny-Tiny**.

We can handle normal size flashlight batteries like C’s & D’s. Re-chargeable batteries are dealt with somewhat competently. Small, smaller & smallest ones are *a "horse of a different color"* posing problems like, … how do you:

1. Get the darn thing out of the unit?

2. Read the fine print on the battery?

3. Find it after dropping it before executing #2?

4. Remember what was done the last time it died?

Thankfully we are past the toy *"Batteries not included"* life stage, but a 2007 Christmas gift has brought the subject into focus. Ken’s 30 year old Swiss Army knife was on its last legs. i.e.:beyond even Shoo Goo. Lucile presented him with a new one this Christmas. Namely: Model Huntsman Lite, 1.79 15T. This beauty has two knife blades, 19 other assorted appliances, is much heftier and will no doubt wear out jeans pockets twice as fast as its predecessor. Between the pressurized ballpoint pen and the mini-screwdriver for eyeglass repair was a LED White Light.

*"Hmmmn, … bright little thing, wonder where the battery is?"*

5 minutes later, two were found. (One dropped on the floor and rolled under the chair.) 10 minutes more, indicative of the intelligence and dexterity of knife’s owner, LED White Light was again operational. We began thinking our small battery situation was getting out of hand. An inventory resulting in a household ‘Small Battery Manual’ was called for. Why don’t we kill two birds with one stone and make a NHN&WR report out of it? It would take care of NHN&WR for one month and could be referenced in future battery failures. Good plan.

A. Our first mini-battery gadget was a **Hewlett-Packard HP12c** hand calculator, courtesy Coastal States/Sun Life/ SunAmerica. (Can’t remember which. Maybe shouldn’t provide this background, AIG will want it back.) This model is an actuarial gem, allowing one to calculate the current value of a future series of payments. These were expensive little hummers. Turn it over and there is a compartment with slotted door upper left. Inside are three # 8718 batteries each about the size of a pencil erasure. See? We will be all set to replace them now, … if we remember the file/data name of this letter. Historically, 8718’s have a propensity to die early evening April 15th.

B. Lucile had been using the above to balance the checkbook. However, come Christmas she received a Twin Power **Sharp EL-330M** from daughter Linda. WOW! This has a Solar Cell and an LR44X1 battery, probably head and shoulders above our technical capabilities. We’ll keep our fingers crossed, but there are 4 ominous little screws on the backside.

C. The **Swiss Army** knife above takes two # 1225 batteries behind a gray plastic door held shut by two friction catches.

D. **Golfing Aid** courtesy the Pittsford Jeffersons. One points this toward the flag on the green, squints thru a hole in the back and it tells you how many yards you are from the flag. Pretty sure this has a battery in it, but haven’t opened it to date. As long as it works we will not be too aggressive. Actually, knowing the yardage is not the current problem. We don’t have the faintest idea how far any of our shots go anymore.

E. **Smoke/CO2** alarms: Piece’a cake, # mn2123. (The ladder part of this replacing gig is no longer a Piece’a cake.) Mr. Smoke alarm is our most annoying small battery user. 6:30 A.M., toast gets stuck in the toaster, doesn’t pop up, burns, alarm goes off, loud enough to wake the neighbors, Bailey goes ape.

F. Being Crossword Fanatics we have a **Franklin Crosswords Puzzle Solver cwp-100.** Example: It’s a seven letter something. You have the second, third and sixth letters. You have no idea what the other letters are. Punch in the three letters you have with correct spacing and Voila, … a bunch of words are returned, one of which might make sense. There are two tiny Phillips screws on the back. Hey, Swiss Army knife chore. Inside, is one battery about the size of a nickel, # cr2032.

G. **Wall Clocks**, we’ve two. When running out of juice the second hand sort of marks time in the same place. Just your run of the mill AA batteries.

H. **Hearing Aid**, replacement is about a weekly chore. Battery: Zinc Air Extras #312, definitely the smallest with which we do business and we buy them by the sheet. When on their last gasp, these guys give out a subtle, beepy warning which takes a little getting used to.

I. **Dog Leash Light**. 2007 Christmas stocking again, courtesy Michelle & Marc. This helpmate is attached to the leash controller with Velcro. If one is planning an encounter with a *"Leash Eating Tree"* we strongly recommend removal of the dog leash light. Undo the round knob with the standard screw driver slot in it. Takes two # cr2032 batteries. Hmmmn, … same as the cwp-100 Crossword Solver. Didn’t know dogs did crossword puzzles.

J. **Door Chime**. Our Ottawa back door bonks out something like *"My Dog Has Fleas".* Least that’s what it sound like to an old ukulele player. The front door adds *"It’s Time to Shine"* to this. Since it plays twice as many notes the front door battery dies twice as fast as the back door battery. Figures. The battery? MN21/23 12V. We de-activated our N.H. door chime back in the 90’s. Bombers taking off from the Plattsburg AFB at 3:00 A.M., and bristling with electronic gear would set off the chime. AFB is now closed, maybe we’ll put the battery back in. If we can find it.

K. **Camera.** Fuji 350 Zoom. 6 volt 223 lithium battery, … and good grief! It’s $17.98.

L. **B.P & Pulse monitor**. Omron HEM-704C. Used mainly prior to annual physicals which are quite imminent. One of our June delights so to speak. 4 "AA’s".

Golly,’L’ is the twelfth letter in the alphabet and we wonder what we’ve forgotten.

Well, there we have it. Small battery instructions and NHN&WR letter. Don’t you love it when a good plan comes together? And now: like the front door; *"It’s Time to Close".*

Take care,

Lucile, Bailey and Ken.

North Hero, VT