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*North Hero News and World Review ….*

*……. Mostly stuff no one else would print.*

Sunday, February 15, 2009 c:/wklylt9.9wc04                                                                                                         (2009 NHN&WR letter/story/poem/card #03

**Jefferson Oil / Hand me Downs.**

Boy oh boy, … don’t know if we should lodge formal complaints or just silently suffer with the objects of our concern. What do you think?

A little background. Ken has not bought any clothes for years. He wears ‘hand-me-downs’ from son-in-law Norm. Shirts, sweaters, pants, jackets, … more than he’ll ever wear out. So many in fact that he can color coordinate his ensembles very fashionably. Always interesting when Norm drops by, we get to see what Ken will be wearing in a couple years. The one problem, … the pockets on most shirts have neither flaps nor buttons. Reading glasses are put in pocket, wearer bends over, glasses fall out. Now, … nephew Bill has an oil delivery business, ‘Jefferson Oil, Glastonbury, Connecticut’. Several years ago Bill gave Ken a ball point pen, nice dark blue, good round radius and heft, replaceable cartridge and JEFFERSON OIL in gold lettering. This is a very impressive item and the best pen Ken ever had.

Okay now, after only three year’s daily use, mind you, the pocket clip on the pen fell off! Now it is bend over and glasses *and* pen fall out on the floor. Or worse yet, in the middle of a field. Good Grief! We know what you are thinking. *“Don’t bend over.”* However, with a dog, one is always seeming to be bending. Example scenario: Walking dog. -22 degrees C. Crossing snowy field. Dog does nine figure eights and poops. Take off mitts and put in jacket pocket. Put leash control between knees. (Can’t put this down, the ‘Ottawa Dog Gestapo’ is sure to pop out the nearby woods and write a $100 ticket.) Get poop bag out of jacket pocket. Bend over. Scoop poop. Oh Oh! Did we remember to take glasses and pen out of the shirt pocket before departure? Better do a ‘pat down’ check before moving. Would be hard to come back to this exact spot. Suppose could mark it with the poop in some decorative fashion, but no, unzip parka. Yup, still -22 degrees C. Reach up under sweater (Yup, one of the freebies) and check for possible loose pocket items. Wonder if anyone is watching this performance from their cozy living room. So much for the pleasures of dog ownership and gratis gifts

Not only dropsies, the pocket clip on the pen acted as a sort of brake. Doing cross-word puzzle, finished, glasses into pocket, puzzle put down, pen put on top of it. No pocket clip, pen rolls off and onto the floor. Bend down to pick up pen, … glasses fall out. Good Grief! Reminiscent of Charles Lindberg’s pet tool gripe, …. a round tool which when put down, rolls out of reach. Lucky Lindy’s comment, *“Punk Engineering”.*

Well, what are our options here? Buy our own shirts? Tell Bill his wonderful pen has developed a maintenance problem? No, think we’ll just try a behavioral change. A quick clutch of the breast pocket prior to bending ought to do the trick.. Hope am not bending over too much, folks will think this a case of chronic indigestion.

From Ottawa.

Lucile, Bailey (the pooper) and Ken

P.S. : Hey Bill, if you think I’m worth another pen, any color but maroon would be neat. Lucile’s is maroon.

P.P.S.: Whoa, … belay that last P.S. We’ve used epoxy and glued the clip back on! Should have tried that in the first place before writing this letter. Oh well, … as long as it’s written ……..