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*Ottawa Outlook, nee North Hero News and World Review …. ……. Mostly stuff no one else would print.*

Sunday, February 28, 2010 c:/nhn&wr10, 10wc13 (2010 OO letter/story/poem/card #4)

**Jefferson’s Jiffy Cleaners**

We have formally severed relations with our house ‘Cleaning Crew’. They did an acceptable job while on site, were friendly and pleasant, but a combination of other things en total led to the break.

First off, we were not first on their daily schedule. Bad, … this led to wide variances in the time of their appearance. More recently, even their day of arrival became haphazard. Let’s quickly go through a normal ‘Cleaning Crew’ day.

The crew is expected between 10:30 & 11:00 A.M.. This means that right after breakfast it is time to, … pick up the house. Good Grief, can’t have the crew coming into a messy home! Clear off all the tables so they can dust. Remove gloves, caps, leashes etc from the staircase so they can vacuum. Stash the myriad of junk on the bathroom vanities out of sight. Move an extra chair into the office along with Bailey’s water dish. Make up the beds and take care of the breakfast dishes. Did it snow? Shovel off the walk.

This done, at 10:30 Bailey and the onsite ‘Grouch’ are banned to the office . About 11:30 the crew appears and Lucile after more than a bit of chatting (listening), joins the exiles in the office. OK, … already we’ve impacted the lunch hour and more to the point seriously endangered *“Days of Our Lives”* at 1:00 P.M. Actually, during ‘Abstinence’ period, lunch delay is not that critical, but impacting martini time come Spring? Oh Boy! Along about now Mr. Grouch is thinking,

*“It’s almost noon, we could have cleaned up the whole house ourselves by now.”*

Outside the cave (office), the chatting did not cease with Lucile’s disappearance. It is easily heard over the office P.C. and radio. Not too amazing when you realize that the chat was being carried on by two people who were on different floors in the house.

Time taken to clean, … no complaint here, very efficient. A knock on the cave door summons Mrs. Jefferson. They are handed a check, they leave, and your staff takes re-possession of their house. Two more chores for the householders. Restoring secreted junk to its normal location and straightening photos & paintings. (Ken always wondered if they actually dusted all wall hangings or just knocked a few askew to make it look like they did.) So much for a normal Cleaning Crew day.

Well, … we have turned over a new cleaning leaf. Fridays will be house-cleaning day. Yesterday was our inaugural session. While far from professional efficiency, we didn’t do too badly. Took three and a half hours with the lavatory floor hung over till Saturday, and with time the ‘Old Folks’ will become more adept. As per last month’s letter we now have three new *“lists”,* cleaning lists that is: *“Every Friday’s Cleaning”*, *“Every Other Friday’s Additional Chores”*, and *“Once a Month Specials*”. ‘Additional’ & ‘Special’ even include things like filters, oven cleaning & alarm tests. Well, that’s our plan. Don’t you just love it when a good plan comes together?

There will probably be a *“Jefferson Jiffy Cleaners, part II”* before the year is out, but that’s all for now.

From Ottawa,

B.L.K. (A slight change in our signoff order, … and no, that’s not: bacon, lettuce & kielbasa)

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