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

Tuesday, March 01, 2011 c:/Outlk11, 11wc08 (2011 letter/story/poem/card #5)

**The Bluebird.**

*“The Beggar Man and the Mighty King*

*are only different in name,*

*for they are treated just the same by fate..”*

 Not quite sure, … have we written re *“The Bluebird”* before? After 15 years of letters sometimes we can’t remember. Maybe we’ll get halfway through and, … the light goes on! If so, it’ll be tossed.

 We’ve long had a soft spot for Bluebirds and have seen only one. Was in North Hero. What a beautiful, distinctive shade of blue! Perched in a birch, … it was observing the activity at the old, crooked, but very busy birdfeeder. Didn’t stay around long, but made our day.

 The love affair with Bluebirds began in college. Suites adjoined. The guys in the next suite had a record[[1]](#footnote-1)[1] player and apparently a record collection of one. Night & day it was Jan Pierce in Las Vegas singing *“The Bluebird of Happiness”.* Good Grief, sixty-seven years ago, … and we can still sing all the words! Needless to say, when Velma & Ken got their first record player in the early 50’s, one of their first records was, *“The Bluebird of Happiness.”* In retrospect, that player was not one of the kids favorite household items in early morn, first Sousa Marches then Jan Pierce, and we’re talking **LOUD..**

 In later life, daughter Sara made Ken a present of a poster, instantly his favorite. This was a smug looking Pussycat with a wry and satisfied grin. Caption: *“I just ate the Bluebird of Happiness”.* This treasured gem has not appeared since the last move. Maybe we’ll go ‘Googling’ for a replacement.

 Moving on to the recent past, daughter-in-law Carol’s Christmas card a few years back was a picture of a Bluebird. It was a UNESCO card, UNESCO being her employer. Hmmmn, *“That would make a nice watercolor”*, thought the onsite dauber. The deed was done and the painting hung on the fireplace wall in the living room where it attracted its share of attention. i.e.: *“Oh, … love that painting, will you do one for me?”* The usual M.O. at this point is to answer, “*Check the back of the painting to see if anyone’s name is on it. If not, write yours. When we are gone the painting is yours.”* Now the subject matter in this case was really not that difficult to paint. In a weak moment, painter agreed to replicate the Bluebird. Afraid this opened a can of worms, … and not for the bluebird.

 Here is the roll call of present *“Bluebird”* owners; Carol, Etta, Linda, Lucile, Michelle, & Nancy. It’s getting like Charles Schultz drawing Snoopy, … wind Ken up and he paints Bluebirds. Nancy reported that her Bluebird, also by a fireplace in their original 1706 kitchen’ kept Dave company in his last days. Two more *“Bluebirds”* have been started. They are targeted for the southern branch of the family, Sue & Sara, to start to even things up between the North & South factions. Oops, … late update. Beth, another Southerner has raised her hand. Good Grief, hers will be signed 1 of 9! (And counting?) Maybe it’s about time to think of something for the males. Right up front we’ll say, *“We don’t do Marilyn Monroe’s.”*

 Well, … we opened with the first lines of “*The* *Bluebird of Happiness*” … and we shall close with the last.

*“And so remember this, life is no abyss.*

*Somewhere there’s a Bluebird of Happiness.*”

Till next month,

Lucile, Ken & Bailey.

Ottawa..

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The message was checked by ESET NOD32 Antivirus.

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1. [1] Records were thin, flat, vinyl discs about the size of a medium pizza with one song on each side. Originally they had only one side with song. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)