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

Thursday, September 01, 2011 c:/outlk11, 11wc19 (2011 Letter # 11)

**Senior Driver**

Gone are the days. What days? The *“Cross Country Driving”* days. Friday night, … leave Phoenix, sleep Saturday night in St. Louis. Arrive North Hero, Vermont on Sunday. Yes gone. Lucille is not driving (eyes), Ken doesn’t drive after dark. Where are we going with this? The Ontario senior drivers program.

 In Ontario, Canada, drivers 80 years and over are required to show up every two years, attend a class and pass driving knowledge and eye exams. The writer has no problem with the program and has been through it once already. (Senior drivers themselves will be the last to realize they should not drive anymore.) The ‘Official” handbook is 199 pages long and one is forewarned as to which chapters to concentrate on.

 Now, this June we received a notice that we were to come in on August 8th to undergo this testing. The seniors’ in residence here, come in two types. Type 1, put it off as long as you can. i.e.: ‘The Last Minute Louie’ type. Type 2, do it, … **NOW!** Anyone at all familiar with the writers knows who’s who here. Eighty year old “Last Minute Louie’s’ do have a point though. To wit: come late July a phone call.

 *“Mr. Jefferson, we are notifying you that your senior driving appointment has been changed to August 18th.”*

 Wow! When we are dealing with about a ten-day retentive span for the potential test taker, that was close. Hadn’t studied yet and now glad we hadn’t. Well come August 5th, we picked up the Handbook and read chapter 1. Guess what? Another phone call.

 *“Mr. Jefferson, your appointment on August 18th has been cancelled, we will call you next week with a new date.”*

 Hmmmn, … What’s going on here. Do they know I’m a Last Minute Louie? What’s to keep them from calling and saying*, “Come in Tomorrow”?* Hmmmn, … better start reviewing.

 Last day of “Next Week,” … a phone call.

*“Mr. Jefferson, your class has been re-scheduled for September 20th.”*

*“Oh, Oh, … my temporary permit expires on August 28th.
”I’ll put another in the mail for you today.”*

*“Good Grief, this is awful. I’ve got plans for the holidays, want to get this over with.”*

*“So do we, … just have too many people out.”*

*“Will this be on Walkley Road or Albion North?”*

*“We’ll let you know.”*

*“Okay, thanks.”*

 Oh boy, think this whole farce is a diabolical plot so that I end up reading the 199 pages three times. Will I end up in the 90 year old class before I attend the 80 version?

 There are saving graces to this whole scenario. One does not need a license to ride a bicycle in Ottawa. All necessities are within easy biking distance. Plus, … gas is well over a dollar a litre. Should the present schedule be adhered to, we will provide an update on September 21st,. Will the autumnal equinox spell the end of Lucille and Ken’s driven mileage? Stay tuned.

 From Ottawa, Lucille, Ken & Bailey.

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