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

Tuesday, November 01, 2011 c:/outlk11, 11wc23 (2011 Letter #16)

**Peanut Butter Cookies.**

 Ah November, … getting toward the end of 2011! Two more letters to write and running out of inspiration. We have started 22 letters this year & sent 15. 4 didn’t make it much past the title. 3 were written, but in the cold light of their following day, … we decided not to send them. Let’s see, … there was:

 *“An Immigrants opinion of Canada & Canadians”*.

 Oh boy! This studied epistle’s conclusion was that Canadians weren’t much different than Americans. With most Canadians busy re-fighting the War of 1812, this could be a very unpopular stance for a new resident from the U.S. to take.

 *“My 2012 U.S. Presidential election campaign platform”*.

 Almost everyone I know in the U.S. is either a Democrat or Republican. Should we go public with our views on: Abortion, Budgets, Drugs, Environment, Foreign Involvement. Health Care, Religion, Taxation, ... they’d all think I should be committed.

 *“Male Old Age”.*

 (Probably of interest only to grouchy old men like me, … and don’t think we have any readers like this.)

 But wait! There is one 2011 fiasco which has gone unreported and is definitely ‘Fair Game’. Our last batch of Peanut Butter Cookies! This will take care of November and December is slotted to report on a big family Thanksgiving reunion in Glastonbury Ct. Good plan.

 We can not remember a time in life when there were no Peanut Butter Cookies. Mother used to make them and would let me mash the double fork imprint on the tops. Oh Boy! Distinctive peanut flavor, rich & crunchy. We’ve nothing against Choc. Chip, Hermits or Danish Butter Cookies, but PBC’s are definitely the favorite. Must have made a gadzillion for the kids. Even with non-dairy margarine they were good.

 Awaiting a visit from Gweth, the newest Grandchild, we thought, *“Let’s make a batch of Peanut Butter Cookies”.* Our recipe makes about 50 cookies. Ought to be able to spare maybe 5 or so for her. Okay, let’s go.

 Get out the ingredients, nine.

 Page 658 Joy of Cooking. This book is excellent documentation of all recipes ever made in the Jefferson household. The soiled, dog-eared pages are a give-away.

 Turn on the oven. Do we need the cookbook? No, it’s 375.[[1]](#footnote-1)[1]

 On with the mixing, shaping, imprinting, then into the oven with the first batch. Takes about 15 minutes.

 Hmmmn, funny smell. Take a peek. Good grief, burnt around the edges already!.

 What’s going on?

 Oh well, put in the second batch, we’ll check it sooner.

 Eight minutes later. Edges turning dark brown,

 Take them out before they’re too burned..

 Turn off the oven.

 Goodness, the fan came on. Thought that came on only at the end of an oven cleaning.

 Finally, at long last, the temperature setting is looked at. Holy moly, … 475 degrees. Hope we don’t lose our ‘kitchen privileges’.

 Lucile managed to isolate a few not so burned ones for the visiting guest of honor.. Far from rich and crunchy, they were more like Peanut Butter Hardtack. Most of the rest were eventually eaten with much less than the usual enjoyment.

 Well, … we did get a letter out of the oven boo-boo. And you know, … maybe no one will ever ask for another of our Peanut Butter Cookies. We can eat all 50.

From Ottawa, Lucille, Bailey & Ken.

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\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Information from ESET NOD32 Antivirus, version of virus signature database 6593 (20111101) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. [1] The critical moment as far as this letter is concerned. Dum-dum set it to 475. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)