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

Wednesday, May 02, 2012 c:/outlk11, 12wc08 (2012 Letter # 7)

**Interesting April.**

April has drawn to a close, … May is upon us. Mild as the weather has been this Winter & Spring, we are ready to greet May flowers*. “Spring has sprung, the grass has ris.”* Among family & friends we have experienced an inordinate amount of health problems. These have varied from minor to serious, but fortunately prospects for all appear to be brightening as far as the future is concerned. Now, … for some *“Farewell to April”* notes.

*“Old Age Bits’n Pieces”.*

Made three batches of wine. For one, think is was the Chianti, Lucille lined up the newly filled bottles neatly on the cellar table. Ken checked out the corking machine and inserted a cork. Looking at Lucille he says, *“Well, … here we go.”* Then, raising up on tip-toe and giving out a loud *“GERONIMO”* he jams the big lever on the corking machine down. Donnybrook, … lever encounters no resistance and Ken nearly ends up on the floor. Never put a bottle in place to receive the cork. *“Good Grief”!*

From corking machine to coffee machine. We know one is supposed to use cold water when filling the coffee pot, … however. After thousands of early morning pots of coffee, one April A.M. we are making a pot full. Pouring the water in with one hand, arm gets tired. Second hand is placed under the pot for support. Oh, Oh, … the pot is hot. We filled it with hot water*? “Good Grief”.* What to do? We stop pouring. Can you turn these coffee makers upside down? Hmmmn. No, we’ll replace the water left to be poured with ice water, dump it in, then wait about an hour before turning the coffee maker on. Should we have a nurse maid or what?

Ken’s growing aversion to ‘*new’* clothes has just about reached the stage of a fixation. A good example being his current running shoes, which we are told are hiking boots. Hiking boots - running shoes, *“Good Grief”,* don’t even know the names of things anymore. Anyway, current above whatever’s should have been tossed months ago. The left one is on it’s 4th duct tape re-wrapping. Lucille’s feeling? *“You’ve got to get some new shoes, I’m embarrassed to be seen with you.”*  Then, one April P.M. they are walking from parked car to drug store. Ken senses a man walking up behind them. Ken goes to open the door for Lucille. Man behind walks right into him! *“Oh, Sorry, … wasn’t paying attention, was admiring your footwear.”* Once inside, our fashion commenter said, “*I think we’re two of a kind, how do like my belt?”*  His belt was a pretty well-frayed piece of rope. Ken said, *“Great”,* Ken thought, *“Guess I do need new shoes.”*

*“Jury Duty”.*

Friday, April 6, Daughter-in-law Heidi emails from Pittsford, VT. *“Ken. you just got a letter from the Rutland judicial. You must go online at www.vermontjudiciary.org and fill out a jury questionnaire.* ***“ YOU HAVE ONLY 10 DAYS!”*** Even had a badge #, 000161212. Background: Used a Pittsford, VT address on an interim basis while relocating from North Hero to Ottawa. That this was making me eligible for jury duty never entered my mind. Checked out the questionnaire. Wow! Children, names, ages, jobs held & dates, and on and on, … no place to say was now a resident of Canada. First inclination: *“Ha! I’m up in Canada, if you want me, come and get me”.* Saner realization: *“Yes, and you’d be picked up at customs if you ever tried to visit the U.S.”* Submitted the questionnaire. Its one saving grace, a phone # to call if you felt you should be excused from duty. Spent the weekend envisioning commuting to Rutland, VT for a lengthy trial, and wondering how long we’d be Monday on the phone before we got to talk to a real person. Surprise, surprise, 9:00 A.M. Monday, a real person picks right up!!! Ken says three short sentences. Person says, *“I understand your situation. Give me your badge # and I’ll take care of it right away” “Just like that?”. “Just like that./” “Wow, that’s wonderful.”*

*“Crosswords”*

Crosswords are a very fine workout for the mind. Lucille & Ken do them every day. Good for the mind yes, but also exasperating at times. The clue is read. Darn, … I know that author’s name as well as my own and I can’t bring it into focus. Darn, … what was that St. Louis Cardinals name, I can’t think of it. Crossword puzzle is tossed aside. Next morning, first thing, it is picked up again. Immediately written out, … Poe & Enos. Good Grief!

*“Snow Tires”.*

April ended on a very familiar note. Over the weekend of the 21st. we decided it was time to take our snow tires off and put the summer ones on. Neighbors and family had been asking when we were going to do this, facetiously adding that they like to wait a week after us to swap theirs. Saturday was sunny & warm, almost 80 F. We swapped. Monday A.M. the 23rd, you guessed it, woke up to snow! Good Grief!

And now, … it is on to May.

Lucille & Ken

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