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

Thursday, June 21, 2012 c:/outlk11, 12wc10 (2012 Letter # 9) last was 8)

**Books on Hold, …Revisited.**

We had a recent phone chat with sister Beth. She mentioned she was reading a book which she thought I’d enjoy, *“The Time Between the Wars”,* by Jonathan Daniels. (1918 Armistice -1941 Pearl Harbor). Sounded as if it was something I’d like. Easiest way to get a copy? Put a hold on it at the library. We did. Result: First in line for two copies. This is the norm for books your writer is interested in reading and in stark contrast to the last *“Hold”* experience.

 We subscribe to Maclean’s., a weekly Canadian news magazine, and always peruse the book section. Current *“Most Popular”* books are listed under two sections, Fiction and Non-fiction. Lucille and Linda McD. peruse only the Fiction list, Crime & Bloodshed preferred. Seeing a book by one of their favorite authors, they immediately pl ace a *“Hold”* on it. Now, in this category, as soon as the library hears a James Patterson say, is writing a book, they place an order for about 15 copies. Back in March, *“Religion for Atheists”* was pretty high up on the non-fiction chart. Ken thought, *“Hmmmn, … might like to read that.”* A hold was placed. GOOD GRIEF! 129th on 2 copies. The requester was stunned’

 A book can be on hold for a week and then kept for three weeks. Possibly out of circulation for a month. Let’s see. 129th on two, 64th on 1. 64 x 4 = 256 months, 265 months divided by 12 = 21 years. Possible age when getting the book, 107. Drastic action was called for. Go buy the book? No, not that drastic. Complain? Well, almost as drastic, but might be worth a try. In retrospect, they should have named the book something like, *“ ‘A’ is for Atheism”* so libraries would order more copies. Maybe a good tack would to be to kind of subtly hint they seemed prejudiced toward Atheism. We recently read a comment referring to a survey run in the U.S. to see who was considered most despicable by the populous. In the ordering, Atheist came out right after Rapist. Unbelievable.

 Anyhow, … next time we visited the library we spoke to the person behind the desk.. He listened very intently and replied,
*”You definitely have a point and I will pass it on.”*

Lo and Behold, a month or so later the situation had improved. The library had 25 copies. As of today we are 67th. Might see the book by Labor Day’

 From Ottawa, Lucille & Ken.

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