

The curtamous page

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December 26, 2010 - *Vesele Vanoce!!!! Jak se maj! To all you non-Bohemians, Merry Christmas! I hope everyone had a great Christmas and got everything they wanted... Well, I actually hope you only got what you needed plus a little extra to enjoy!*

I did pretty well over the Christmas. With the boys getting a little older they are maturing and spend a little extra time tracking down more meaningful gifts. Got a great book, some awesome slippers and some DVDs... Northern Exposure Season 3!!! Too funny! At the Nelson exchange I was able to scam off with a 12're of New Castle, one of which I am enjoying RIGHT NOW!!! Despite being imported from England (so the bottle says) I am a pretty big fan. So things worked out pretty good. I think the rest of the family was pretty pleased as well, so overall it was a pretty nice Christmas!

As far as the holiday itself it kicked off on Christmas Eve with cooking duties. I am responsible for the Nelson shrimp and they turned out pretty awesome! Ma Nelson was a great teacher! My sister the Mayor stopped over with some Tom and Jerry's and that really made the day great! After all the work, we headed off the Mass in Green Bay and then to the in-laws for libations and a really really good spaghetti dinner! Yeah, spaghetti doesn't "sound" like an 'Eve type meal, but it's REALLY good. Had a pretty nice time, but had a few too many libations which made Christmas morning a bit much...

Other than feeling a bit peaked, which walking the dog took care of, it was a quiet morning as compared to years past. Only the Chief was home and he didn't roll out of bed until 10 or something. Then I got ready and headed to church. There was NOTHING like Christmas Eve Mass at our little church in the old days, but Christmas Day Mass there comes in a close second. Very nice and really makes it "Christmas"!

Then it was off to the Sausage Stuffer and Librarian's for the Nelson Christmas Day, and that is ALWAYS a feast and a half. Along with the shrimp we had roast beast, gizzards, meatballs, kraut, and a hundred other goodies. The green beans were especially good! Then we did the annual exchange with everyone bringing gifts that started with your middle name, which was kinda fun and interesting. The New Castle (and a "nudie" book) came from the BBC Comptroller! Nice job! Overall I think everyone had a great time and it was great to see "almost" the whole family together. I think the only two that missed out were the Captain, the Sec-D'Fence and Alicia... With all the kids grown up and spreading out, that's not too bad, but I would certainly like to wish those three a Merry Christmas! We missed you!

With all the hectic rushing and work interfering, I knew I'd forget something, but it turned out to be just one thing... I forgot to make my Salmon dip, which my beautiful bride's niece LOVES! I felt bad, but I'll whip her up a batch for New Years... :-)

I also didn't get to see too much of Christmas Story, which is a yearly staple, but I probably got

to see at least half of it in bits and pieces. Ralph is hilarious, but his dad is excellent!

The highlight of Christmas this year? Jelly Beans! I had forgotten, but luckily my dear sister and hubby did not. Something special about them and the holidays... Made me think of Pa Nelson... and in a good way!

And so that was Christmas! Kinda looking forward to the years ahead as we have more little ones around. Little "George" Thompson made it pretty festive in his own way, and he sure is a cute little guy. Having a few more little ones around will be even more fun... Maybe it won't fly by so quickly with them around...

What else is going on? Well, I survived my trip to Chicago last week and it went pretty well. It was LONG, but I got everything done I needed to plus some, so it was a trip well worth it. Funny, but downtown Chicago was HOPPING with people... Families and stuff EVERYWHERE... Kinda cool and "Christmas-y". Never expected that down there... Lots' more work ahead, but I am hoping we're at the peak and getting better from here...

What a GREAT Packer game today!!! Totally blasting the Giants was pretty cool. I was waiting for the "other shoe" to drop the whole game, cause that's what seems to happen with them so often, but as they pulled away at the end it was pretty fun watching. Now I just HOPE we can do that at least two more weeks... and play the Bares both times! LOL!

Next week is the big Rose Bowl as well! The FDA Chair and his entourage will be heading out for the game, of which I am ENORMOUSLY envious, but I hope they have a great time. Seems to me the SEC-D'Fence and perhaps the Comptroller are in the posse, but I honestly don't remember. But whoever goes, GO BIG RED!!!

I think I'll be with the in-laws again on New Years but I think they are making appropriate plans to be in one spot for the game this year, so I hope that works out... and I hope Big Red rolls!

Well, back to some of the old story lines here... As I mentioned last week, The President is feeling "pretty good" but the FM has warned that he has a little "too" much time on his hands now... Here is a small sample of some of his latest ideas... (Click on the picture for a larger image)



Yep, those are all "Bob Originals!"

And with it being the holiday season, let's see what's on the drink menu for the last few days of the year! And the New Year of course!

26 Henry Miller's Birthday (1891). "Ah yes, yes, once in a while indulge...spree and pee...a look at the girls and a brawl...not too bloody...ring around the rosie...you know...shake the bugs out of the rug." **MGD.**

27 National Fruitcake Day. Fruitcakes survive so long because of the high alcohol content. **Fruit-flavored vodka.**

28 Bairns' Day. Considered the unluckiest day of the year. *Lucky Lager*.

29 Rasputin assassinated (1916). He drank enough cyanide-spiked wine to kill six men, partied until the wee hours, then finally succumbed after being shot three times and drowned in a freezing river. *Fortified wine*.

30 Miracle Day. Order a Pousse Cafe in a sports bar. *Pousse Cafe*.

31 Guinness Brewery was founded (1759). There are 20 different variations of Guinness worldwide. *Guinness by the gallon*.

1 National Day of Resolutions. Can't break 'em unless you make 'em. *Bloody Mary*.

OK... ok... ok... For those of you wondering... "A pousse-café is a style of layered drink prepared by gently adding each ingredient from densest to least dense in order to create colored stripes when the drink is viewed from the side." ~ Wikipedia



I'll stick with the beer and Bloody Marys...

Couple of big birthdays coming up with the Attorney General and FM Jr getting to within one year of legal drinking! Happy Birthday boys!

Speaking of the FM Jr., he was home again over the holidays and they had a surprise party for him. We couldn't make it as we had the Weatherman's future in-laws over (just speculating), but I hear they wanted to give him a send off as he'll be shipping out early in the new year... Take care Joe and keep your head down and mouth shut... :-)

Well, that's about it for my Christmas update... I hope everyone has a Happy New Year! As for some words of wisdom, the Weatherman is somewhat of an Abe Lincoln buff, and I came across this for him... Very smart man!

"I can see how it might be possible for a man to look down upon the earth and be an atheist, but I cannot conceive how he could look up into the heavens and say there is no God." ~ Abraham Lincoln

Stastný Nový Rok!

As Red would say, "Keep your stick on the ice"!

curtamous

December 19, 2010 - Jak se maj!!! Hi everyone! I hope you're all doing well and your Christmas season is progressing and your spirits are high! I've been awful busy, so I've been having a hard time getting into the Christmas spirit, but it's coming around. The Chief Inspector

put up the tree yesterday and my lovely bride decorated it today, so that helps!

Speaking of high spirits, I just talked to The President and he is doing great! In fact, he was enjoying a few Christmas libations and was REALLY doing great! He came out of surgery fine and other than being bored with being off work and can't do much, his health is better than ever. Also, he has proclaimed that the office of the Presidency has been transferred back from the "acting" President to him, so all is good in the world! Can't be happier for him!

Can't say I'm in the same great mood... On my third really long week in a row, and I've found that I just don't like work this much... Go figure... Enough whining for now...

Sad news in Denville this week with the fire... Just want to say that we all send out our thoughts and prayers to the man that was lost in the fire and his family as well as all those that were displaced. I think this community will take good care of them though... The night of the fire we went to the girl's roundball game to watch the Chief's squeeze help demolish the Denville 5, and they raised \$3000 in cash there alone to donate to the cause... Tough thing to go through, but hopefully it helps us all be a little more thankful for all we have and be a little more joyous in this wonderful season!

Big birthday's this week! Pa Nelson would have been 85, and since he always shared his birthday with his eldest daughter, we will still celebrate accordingly. We'll head out to eat (I hope to be in town!) and share in the Librarian's favorite day! Can't wait... Happy Birthday Charlotte!!!

As I mentioned, I'm not really ready for Christmas, but I hope to be soon! I think our schedule is pretty much the same with us spending the Eve at Mass in Green Bay and then sharing a meal with the in-laws. Christmas Day will have us opening presents at home, then heading off to Mass at noon at our "little church in the country". Then we'll head off to the Sausage Stuffers for the traditional Nelson Christmas bash. (Hopefully I get the shrimp cooked sometime this week!!!) That is always a really great time! From there, who knows, but Christmas Day is always a sweet one!

Obviously, a busy week coming up... Not only the holiday, but I have to make room to get to Chicago for at least two days... That should make it interesting... Oh well...

In honor of the holiday, I ran across a really nice little story I'd like to share... I really liked it and I hope you do too!

THE INNKEEPER'S TALE

By Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

They think I'm some kind of cruel, heartless landlord. Someone must have told them that. But they're wrong, just plain wrong, and it's time to set the record straight, once and for all. People say I'm an innkeeper. I suppose you'd call it an inn. To us it's just a big house. My grandfather, Joshua ben-Yahoudi, built it back when his trading business was at a peak. And he built it big enough to fit all fourteen kids.

Well, a few years ago, the missus and I were just rattling around in that big house--kids grown up and all--and we were thinking, maybe we could take in a few travelers. Rachel has always been mighty good in the kitchen, so we just let out word that we'd take people in, and they started to come. Every night we'd have a person or two, sometimes more. People would always come back when they came to town again, intent on another bowl of Rachel's lamb stew.

Then came that census the governor thought up. Taxation, pure and simple! People from all over the province flooded into town that week. Filled us clean up. Rachel and I slept in the main room where we always do, and we started putting guests in the other three rooms. They kept coming. Then we doubled up two or three families to a room. They kept coming. Finally, when we had filled the main room with four families plus Rachel and me, we started turning people away.

I must have gotten in and out of bed ten times that night, stumbling over bodies to get to the door. "No more room, sorry folks. No more room. Come back in the morning. We have a couple of families leaving then." They'd mutter something and head back to their party, and sleep somewhere next to a house under the shelter of a blanket. I just couldn't make any more room. That's the honest truth.

But I did make room for one more couple. Joseph was a burly man with big arms and strong hands, down from Nazareth, I think he said. He wouldn't take "no" for an answer. I would say, "No, I'm sorry," and he'd tell me about his "little Mary." Well, when I saw "little Mary" she wasn't very little. She was just about as pregnant as a woman can get, and awfully pale. While Joseph was pleading, I saw her grab her tummy in pain, and I knew I couldn't let her have that baby outside in the wind and sleet.

The barn. That would just have to do, I told myself, and led them and their donkey out back. Now it was pretty crowded, so I shooed several animals into the pen outside to make room in one dry corner. Joseph said, "We sure are grateful, sir." Then with a serious look, he asked me, "Do you know where I can find a midwife in these parts? We might need her tomorrow or the next day."

That man didn't know much about having babies, it was plain enough to see. I ran to Aunt Sarah's house and pounded on the door until her husband came. "One of the travelers is having a baby," I told him. "I'll wait while Aunt Sarah gets dressed." I stopped a moment to catch my breath. "And tell her to hurry."

By the time we got back to the barn, Joseph had "little Mary" settled on some soft, clean hay, wrapped up in a blanket, wiping the perspiration off her brow, and was speaking softly to her as she fought the waves of pain. Aunt Sarah sent me to get my Rachel, and then pushed Joseph and me out of the barn. "This ain't no place for men," she said.

We waited just outside in the shelter of the barn for hours, it seemed like. Well, all of a sudden, we hear a little cry. "You've got a baby boy," Aunt Sarah was saying as we peeped around the corner. She hands the young-un to Rachel, and she wraps it up in those swaddling bands she had saved. Cute little thing, I tell you.

Well, Joseph goes over to Mary and gives her a big hug, and a kiss on the cheek, and Rachel hands Mary the baby, and then comes over to me and takes my hand. "Remember when our Joshua was born?" she whispers.

The lantern was blowing almost out, the cattle were lowing softly, and baby Jesus was asleep in his mother's arms. That's how I left them as I walked Aunt Sarah home. Chilly wind, though the sleet had stopped.

By the time I got back, Rachel was in bed, and I was about ready to put out the light, step over sleeping bodies, and get under the warm covers, when I heard some murmuring out by the barn.

I'd better check, I told myself. When I peeped in, I saw shepherds. Raggedy, smelly old shepherds were kneeling down on the filthy barn floor as if they were praying. The oldest one was saying something to Joseph about angels and the Messiah. And the rest of them just knelt there with their heads bowed, some with tears running down their faces.

I coughed out loud, and Joseph looked up. I was almost ready to run those thieving shepherds off, when Joseph motioned to me with his hand. "It's okay," he whispered. "They've come to see the Christ-baby."

The Christ-baby? The Messiah? That was when I knelt, too. And watched, and prayed, and listened to the old shepherd recount his story of angels and heavenly glory, and the sign of a holy baby, wrapped in swaddling bands, to be found in a stable-manger.

My Lord, it was my stable where the Christ-baby was born. My manger he rested in. My straw, my lamp, my wife Rachel assisting at his birth.

The shepherds left after a while. Some of them leaned over and kissed the sleeping Christ-child before they departed. I know I did.

I'll always be glad I made room in the barn for that family-- that holy family. You see, I'm not some mean inn-keeper. I was there. I saw him. And, you know, years later that boy came back to Bethlehem, this time telling about the Kingdom of God. Oh, I believe in him, I tell you. I was there. And, mark my words, if you'd seen what I've seen, you'd be a believer, too.

Great little story... I think it kinda helps put you there to experience how it all happened... At least it does for me...

That's about all I have... Instead of some words of wisdom this week, I leave you with this...

Vesele Vanoce!

Merry Christmas to you all!

As Red would say, "Keep your stick on the ice"!

curtamous

December 12, 2010 - Jak se maj!!! Jak se maj!!! How's everyone surviving the big storm this Sunday night? I hope everyone has had as good a time as I have with it. Kinda weird, but I kinda enjoy getting out in the winter and blowing and shoveling snow. At least I enjoy it early in the season... :-)

I'd have to say we got at least 12" of snow here in town, but with the way the wind and blowing piles it up in different places, it's really hard to tell for sure. All I know is that my driveway was pretty darn full of snow... It took me about two hours this morning just to just get a path out the driveway so I could drive my lovely bride to work. I cleaned up a bit more and then decided to finish the rest after the game... Good move, as I was pretty frustrated with "that" game and was able to work that out on the snow...

It probably took another hour and a half, with help from the Chief Inspector, to get the rest done... Now we're just waiting for the snow plow to come through and close the driveway again... From the looks of it, they may be waiting until morning, which is fine by me... But I know

it's going to be DARN cold tomorrow morning, so I doubt I'll be as happy then... :-) Oh well... Winter is here!

Crazy busy week work wise... Again... Traveled to Chicago Monday morning, worked all day, then drove up to Madison for the night. Then put in a 12 hour day in Madison and drove home. But, it was very productive and we got a lot accomplished. There is just SO much left to do. IT a great thing obviously, but it's a tough time of year to be this busy. I had a LOT of work to get done this weekend, and got only 4 or 5 hours of it done... Oh well, I'll just keep plugging along...

Yesterday I spent about 4 hours splitting and piling the last of my wood. I had a pile alongside the driveway, a little over a face cord, and I figured I better get it taken care of before the storm. SURE am glad I did, but it took an awful long time to get that darn elm split and piled. But now the pile is under a VERY large drift behind the garage and hopefully drying well as I covered it with a nice tarp... We'll see...

Let's see, today is the 12th and that leaves 13 whole days until Christmas... I am NOT ready, physically, emotionally, or spiritually... And especially NOT financially! Well, I am hoping for another good week at work and maybe I'll get some time next weekend to get busy on the whole holiday thing... We'll see...

Well, we might as well cover it... Those dang Packers! How in the world can you hold the Lions to a touchdown AND lose?!?!? I think it might be a good thing I'll have to clear out the driveway tomorrow morning because I think I might wake up frustrated again... That was NOT a game I expected them to lose, so I suppose I (we) got what I (we) deserved... After watching the Patriots throttle the Bares, I can't imagine next week will be much better...

I haven't tracked down The President this week, and I feel pretty bad about that, but I'm sure he's doing fine... I'll see what I can do about stopping over there this week...

Can't say I have much more that comes to mind, so here's to another short and sweet update... Sorry folks, but hopefully soon I'll have more time to get back to regular updates... Definitely by the new year... (I hope)

Hope everyone has a great week! As always, before I go, here are a few words of wisdom for our junior members...

"Don't tell God how Big your storm is, tell the Storm how Big your God is." ~ Author Unknown

Seemed like a very appropriate bit of wisdom for today...

As Red would say, "Keep your stick on the ice"!

curtaceous

December 5, 2010 - *Jak se maj!!! Happy Sunday everyone... Been a CRAZY week, so this will be an abbreviated update, but life is good and I have little to complain about... As if anyone would listen anyway... :-)*

Coming to you Sunday night, and I just topped 55 hours logged for work... That's just the client stuff and doesn't include any of the day to day or mundane stuff. Plus tomorrow we head to Chicago for the day and then on to Madison for Tuesday... Should be quite a whirlwind... Wish me luck!!!

Big news on the President! His surgery went well on Thursday and he is recovering nicely. According to the First Lady he was already cracking jokes in the recovery room, so I think all is well. I feel kinda bad I didn't get up to see him, but I hope to get to stop by after I get back from my trip and visit him at home. He may need the company more then... and the First Lady may need a break... lol!

Good weekend for football... Packers won, and the Badgers didn't lose, so they shouldn't slip in the polls... Overall, a pretty good weekend sports-wise...

Speaking of sports, I haven't mentioned that the youngest, the Chief Inspector, has been coaching the 8th grade Denville boys roundballers, and he's doing a pretty good job. He has them undefeated so far and by the looks of a couple games I went to see, he has them playing pretty well. Kinda fun watching him on the "other side" of the coin and how he has to deal not just with the X's and O's, but with personalities and kids in general, not to mention the PARENTS! He's probably learning more about those issues than the kids are about basketball. Nice part time job for him and hopefully something he can stick with going forward.

While I'm on my boys, the Weatherman has another broadcast tomorrow morning. Catch it live or on the link below when they post the taped broadcast somewhere along the line. Just click on the date, and if you want to fast forward, the weather is, as always, about half way through...

PantherVision

No time for libations for "ThereIFixedIt.com", but if you want to see a nice Christmas Light setup, drive past the SEC-Transportation's house some night... Went past tonight, and he's got it rigged up pretty sweet. He was actually still working on it when we drove by so we stopped and said "Hi", and he seemed to be enjoying himself. So that may turn into one of those "Tim the Toolman" installations one day... :-)

On a happy note, Zumbo's eldest daughter just celebrated another birthday... Happy Birthday Laura!

Seems to me there's another birthday in early December, but I messed up my calendar a while back and lost a lot of that stuff... So if I missed someone, let me know... Otherwise, here's to you! Happy Birthday!

And on a sad note, our hunting buddy from up Athelstane way, Tom Anderson (part of the Jack /Ass team), lost his father last Sunday. When he emailed me he was heading down for the funeral in Illinois last Friday. Our condolences from the BBC... Tom, you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Gotta go pack and get ready for tomorrow... No idea if there will be an update next week, and if there is, if it will be any longer, or for a change, any good... But I'll do what I can...

But before I go, I must pass along a few words of wisdom for our junior members...

"Argue for your limitations, and sure enough they're yours." ~ Richard Bach

Ah... Quite true!

Have a great week everyone!

As Red would say, "Keep your stick on the ice"!

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