THE OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE GYRO CLUB OF SHERWOOD PARK

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I WAS JUST THINKING: With the removal of decomposing pumpkins from the front porch, my Christmas decorating is done!

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The Club's Grand Poobahs:

President: **Ken Lesniak**

Vice President: **Rick Craddock**

Past President: **Art Merrick**

Treasurer: **Erik Braun**

Secretary: **John Williams**

Registrar: **Dorne Hunt**

Directors: **Herb Zmurchuk, Garry Jones, George Ward, Paul West**

EDITOR'S RANT:

Well, November, "the month of no Hope" as I like to call it, is history for another year and even though the nights are as long as they're going to be for the next twelve months, my spirits are buoyed by thoughts of long winter's naps; children's screams of joy; family gathering around a tree sagging from the weight of memorabilia from the past 3 generations; pets destroying the tree; the smell of cookies burning in the oven; the singing of carols for which we actually know most of the words; over-tired children whining at the Christmas Concert and the Christmas Eve Service; kids complaining about the vegetables served with the Christmas dinner; fleeting memories of yesteryear's long winter's naps. I do miss November!

What ever happened to the joys of the season? Even the commercialism of my youth was part of the fun – a real outdoor Santa Claus Parade, pressing our noses against Eaton's and Sears and the Bay Department Store windows downtown to wonder at the pre-computerized animatronics of the displays. Our Christmas season was short, exciting and something to be savoured and it didn't begin in August! It didn't even begin when the snow flew! Mind you, our snow flew earlier and deeper too. We all got one main present from Santa and one from Mum and Dad. The rest were "supplementary" gifts from the rest of our family and friends. Today our grandkids can't keep track of their loot unless someone is recording it as they tear off the gift wrap

RANT continued:

from their pile of “OMG!” presents. I remember traditions like sitting on the living room floor after Christmas dinner to watch at least a dozen home movies of past Christmas Days at the farm and loving every minute of it. Today, when not opening presents, everybody seems glued to their hand-held device, with no thoughts of the “good old days”.

I know this reads like the ranting of an old curmudgeon. Of course things never stay the same! Maybe my parents and Grandparents felt the same way when I was a lad. I’m sure they had traditions that did not survive my generation. But that is small comfort now. I started this rant with no plan other than to write a little something about the Holiday Season. I didn’t expect it to turn out like this. I don’t hate Christmas. I miss Christmas.

SHARE THIS INFORMATION AND APPEAR ODD

Perfect Christmas party conversation starters for the socially inept.

*Glue on Israeli postage is certified kosher.

*The Guinness Book of Records holds the record for being the book most often stolen from public libraries.

*Astronauts are not allowed to eat beans before they go into space because passing wind in a spacesuit damages them (the spacesuit, not the astronaut).

*Bats always turn left when exiting a cave!

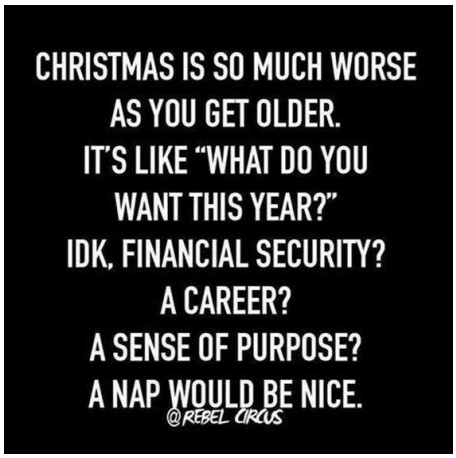
AGING GYROS:

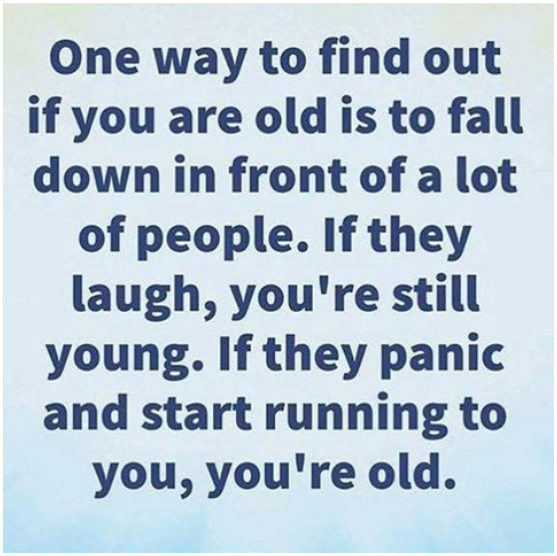
There are a lot of Gyros who have to compete with Christmas for attention to their birthdays. This may not be as traumatic as it was in their pre-teens but we will put the spotlight on you all here. You are just as special as those born in less chaotic months. You heard us ...you really are special ! (this month).

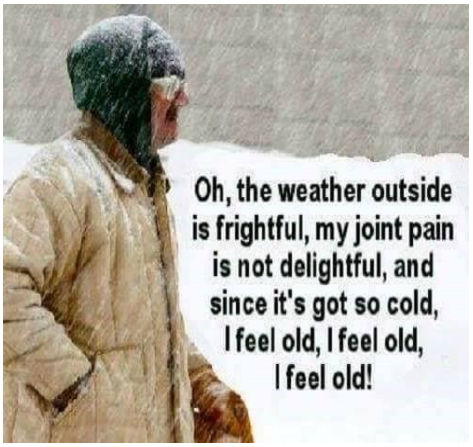
Many happy returns to : **Herb Zmurchuk** (3rd); **Allan Bleiken** (5th),**Art Merrick** (13th);

Bill Carter (15th); **Ray Davis** (17th);

Erik Braun (21st); **Ted Ewanchuk** (27th).







LAST MEETING : Poker Night December 6th

Twenty two Gyro wannabe poker players gathered at the GCCC for another fine buffet dinner, beverages and friendship. Nineteen proceeded to test their luck (skill was only in the mind of the player) in a two hour session of Texas Hold'em.

The chips were down and the cards were dealt and after an hour the boys were reshuffled into an "A side" (those who still had chips) and a "B Side" (those who had "busted" and were chipless). Chips were then evenly divided amongst all players and with the announcement "Shuffle up and deal", another hour of Flops, Turns and Rivers ensued. When the dust settled, the winner was the one who dressed for the occasion, looking like a true pro even though his skill was far surpassed by his luck...yours truly. Coming in second on the A side was **Ray Davis** and third was **Dorne Hunt**. Taking the B side big money was Dick Caddey followed by **Garry Jones** and then **Terry Bajer.**

Lawence Zelasky was both pit boss and player, but even though he created the house rules, he finished out of the money. "Thank you's" were heaped on him by his fellow losers and winners alike. Well done, Lawrence!

"A Side" winner , Scott Brisbin

"B Side" winner, Dick Caddey

PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS PARTY: Sunday, Dec. 17th

Fifty- eight of us converged on the Belvedere Golf and Country Club around 6 PM on Sunday. Unfortunately it was dark so we couldn't get a tee time. However, we did help our hosts, **President Ken and First Lady Carol Lesniak**, celebrate the season with beverages, fine food, some very enjoyable business conversations and of course, more beverages.

The serious part of the evening began with the passing of the "Fine Box" around the room, collecting donations to top up our contribution to the Christmas Bureau. When Keith Bradley had his name drawn, he was charged with the responsibility of delivering the money to the Bureau. Such a responsibility came with benefits. Bernie Kropp announced he that would be unable to attend the January game between the Oilers and Saint Lewis Blues. Bernie then offered his tickets up for auction with the proceeds going to the club treasury. Member nominee, Rick O'Donnell, got a bargain with his $200 winning bid. Thanks to our club's auctioneer, Bill Carter, for another fine job with the gavel.

President Ken then turned the microphone over to Bernie Kropp to oversee the installation of our newest member,**Ted Ewanchuk** and to welcome Ted and his wife **Judi Stratichuk** to our Gyro family.

Judi pins husband, Ted, with his new Gyro jewelry

Bernie educates new member, Ted, on the history of Gyro

PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS PARTY cont'd.

The evening wrapped up much earlier that it would have when the club began in the 1970's. There was no rowdiness, no naked swimming, not even a single over-imbiber. They just don't make party Gyros like they used to! But the consensus at the end of the evening and repeatedly since, was that it was a fine, fun evening suitable for responsible folks of a certain age. Kudos to the support committee and to the staff at the Belvedere Club. Thanks from all of us to Ken and Carol for throwing such a festive feast. We are looking forward to next year already so we can prove that, like fine wine, we improve with age...up to a point !

NEXT MEETING: Billiards, THURSDAY, January 18th

Step back in time to your “yout” and hang out with the boys for an evening of shootin’ pool. The scene will be a t**Caffrey’s** on Wye Road again this year. As in the past you can order a meal from the menu and get a $15 credit toward your dinner and bar tab. **Dick Caddey** is the all-important cue ball for this one. **Glenn Hillier** is his cue stick. (just linger on that image for a moment!)

AND THE MEETING AFTER THAT: DARTS, January 31st

The GCCC will be a danger zone when pointy little feathery things start flying around on the 31st. It is hopesd that most will stick in the wall but if you have a suit of armor hanging around in your attic, it might be best to haul it down and try it on for size. Better safe than holey.

IT’S NEVER TOO EARLY TO AVOID DISASTER.

On February 17th there will be some dancin’ goin’ on. There will be some singin’ goin’ on. There will be some drinkin’ goin’on. There may even be some cuddlin’ going on. There will NOT be any fightin’ goin’ on. Join the dancin’ , singin’, drinkin’ and cuddlin at the Sawmill in Sherwood Park. **Garry Jones** chipsgj@shaw.ca wants to hear from you. Make your first New Years Resolution a “No more procrastination” one. If you don’t do it today, at least do it next week or the week after.

NEW MEMBER NOMINATION—FIRST NOTICE

Allan Bleiken has nominated **RICK O’DONNAL** for Gyro membership. Rick and his wife, **Angela,** live Sherwood Park. Rick 63, is self employed and of specific interest to your editor, he coached my son Dave’s hockey team almost 40 years ago.

NEW MEMBER NOMINATION—SECOND NOTICE

LES BALLAN was nominated by Milt Lanes. Les and his wife, **Pat**, live on Norwich Cres. In Sherwood Park. Les is retired from ATB Financial.

HEALTH AND WELFARE:

Here are the News (more like Olds, now perhaps):

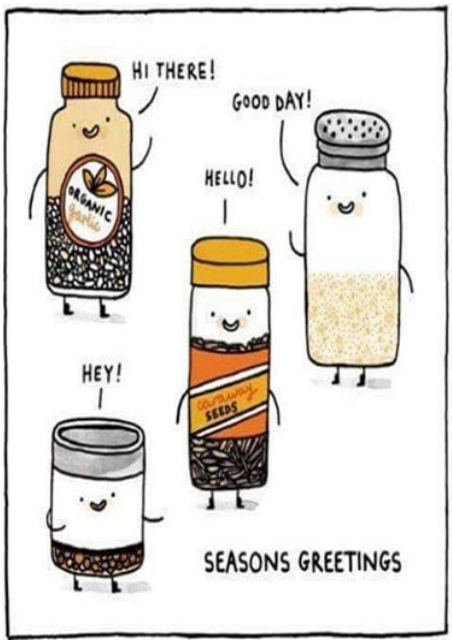
06/12/17 Brenda Evans was in a nasty car accident and is recovering from severe whiplash.

06/12/17 Don Grieg was laid low by a virus for 2 weeks but is now on the road to recovery. (In fact, he looked very good for a Flu Fella at the Christmas party.)

YOUR HEALTH TIP OF THE MONTH: (Food for thought)

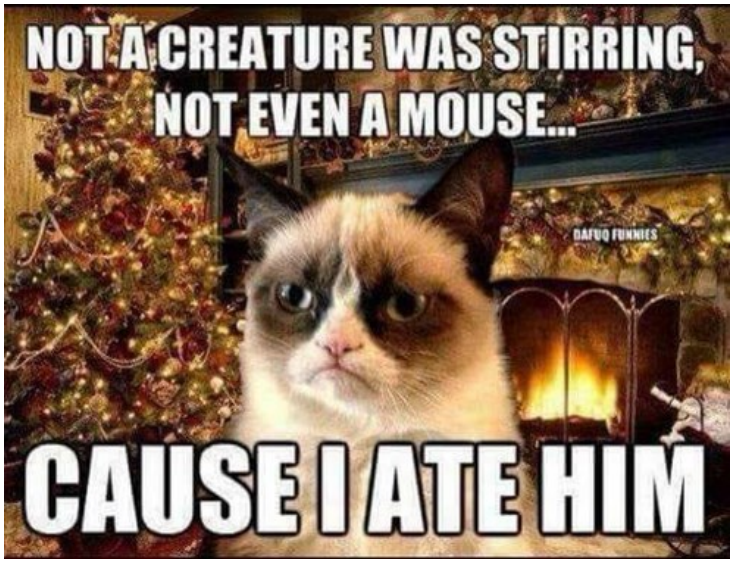
"TIS THE SEASON

Merry Christmas, Snowbirds



Fa La La La La

CAN REBUILD AN ENGINE, SWAP A TRANSMISSION AND WELD
BUT STILL WRAPS A PRESENT LIKE THIS...

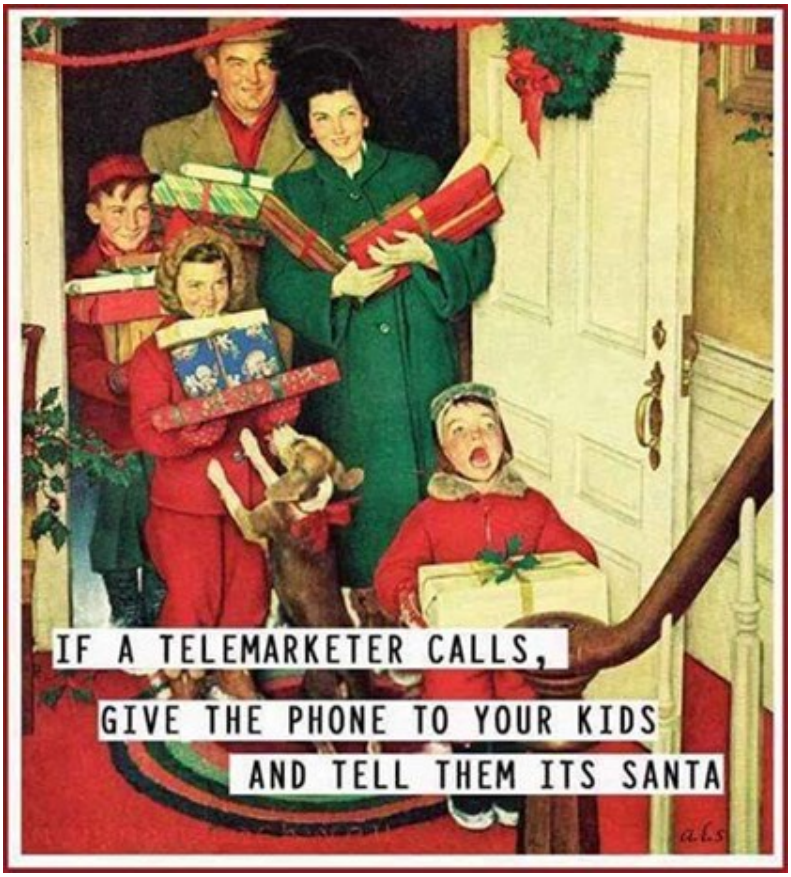

NOT A CREATURE WAS STIRRING, NOT EVEN A MOUSE...
CAUSE I ATE HIM

SAW IT
LIKED IT
ASKED GRANDMA
GOT IT

DECEMBER 22ND
ONLY TWO DAYS TIL THE MEN START SHOPPING

This Christmas, I'm wrapping batteries for my kids with a note that reads...
"Toys Not Included".

HMMMM….


IF A TELEMARKETER CALLS,
GIVE THE PHONE TO YOUR KIDS
AND TELL THEM ITS SANTA

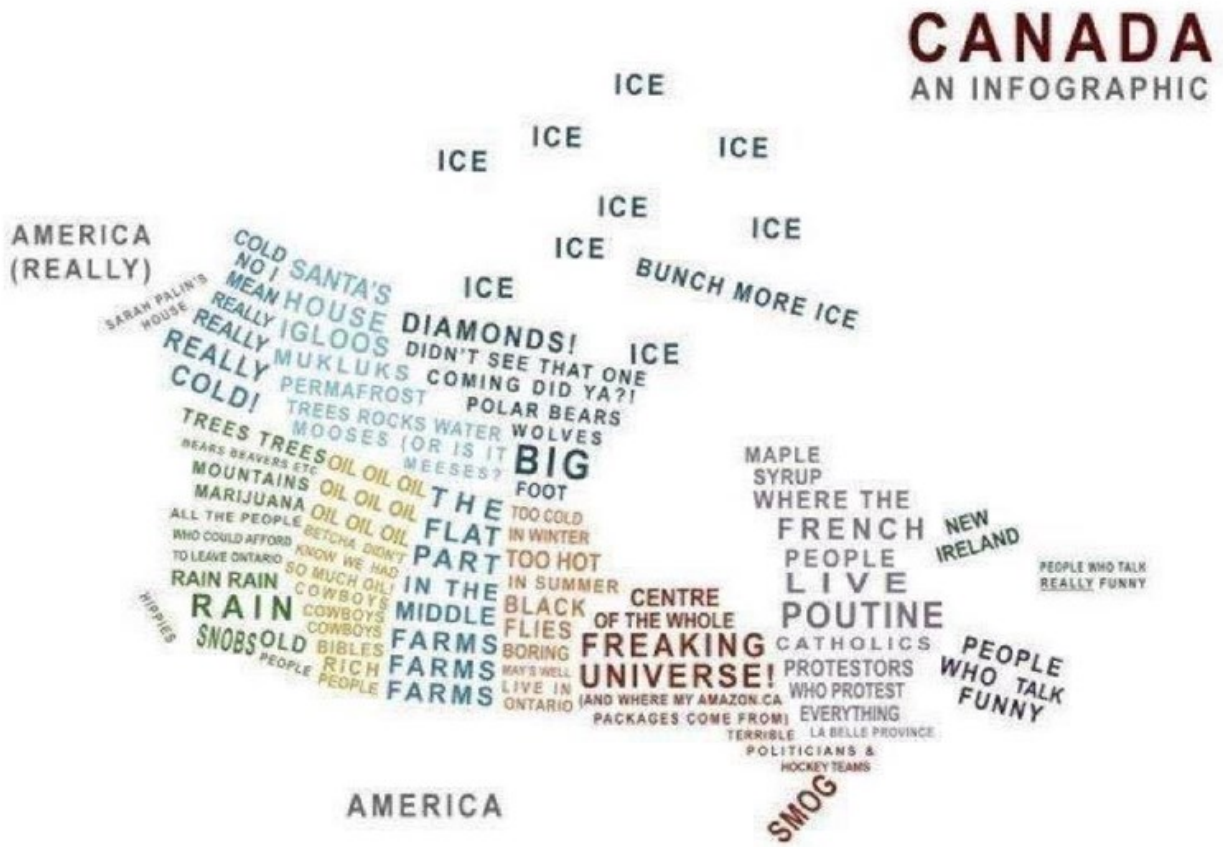
Let's see how long it takes for Mom to notice
I rearranged her Xmas blocks
CREAMY
SHITS

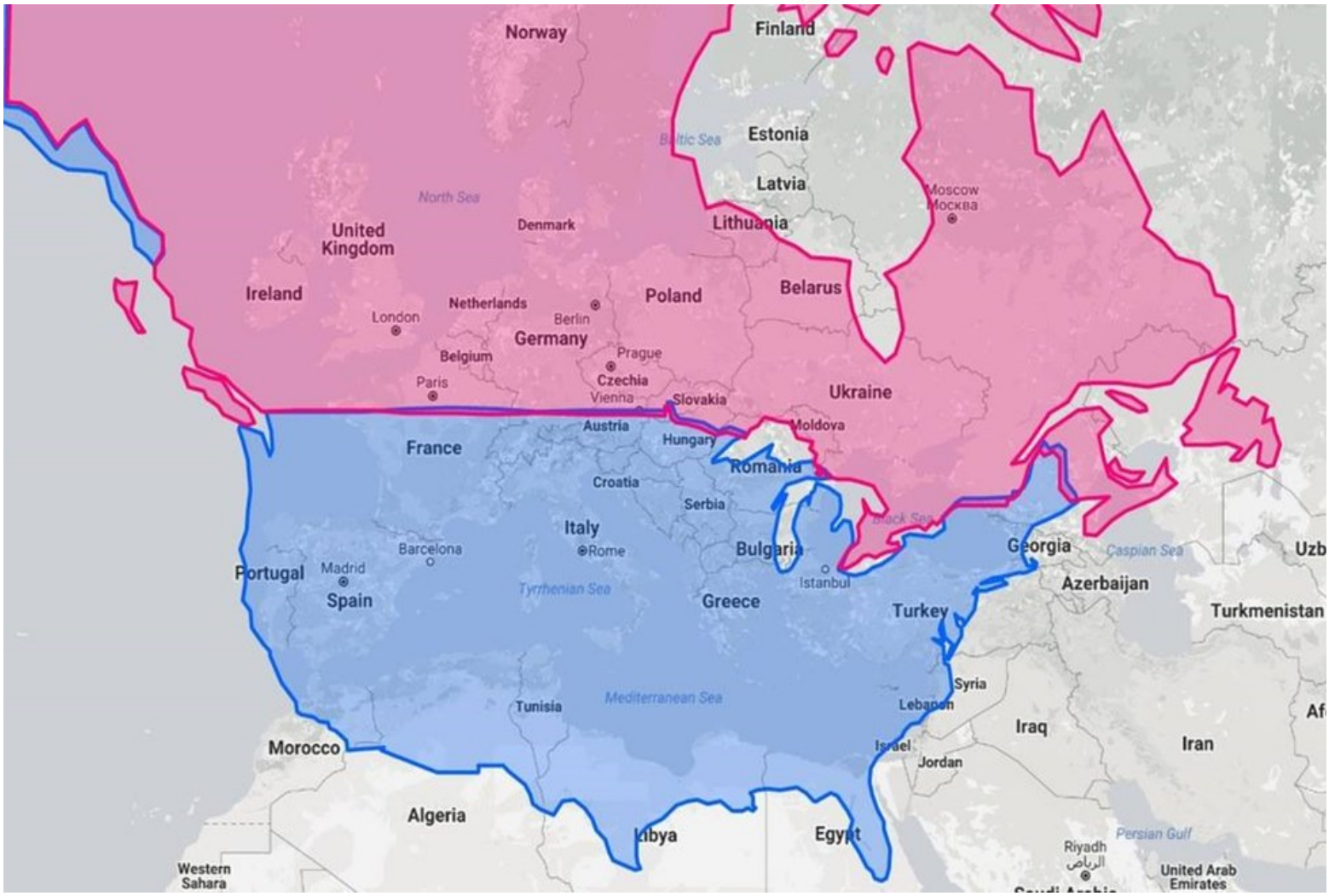
IN THE NEWS:

We will be debating the pros and cons of the upcoming legalization of “weed” long after the legislation comes into effect next summer. To be sure, there are going to be some very serious and sober discussions, but that will never preclude some humour wafting around.

To be continued …….. (so much material—so little space!)

MEANWHILE IN CANADA (geography lesson):





Meanwhile NOT in Canada

WHERE TO RETIRE IN AMERICA: (Sixth chapter in a series this winter)

You can retire to **The Deep South** where …

1. You can rent a movie and buy bait in the same store.

2 "Y'all" is singular and "all y'all" is plural.

3. "He needed killin" is a valid defense.

4. Everyone has two first names: Billy Bob, Jimmy Bob, Joe Bob, Betty Jean, Mary Beth, etc.

5. Everything is either: "in yonder," "over yonder" or "out yonder."

6. You can say anything about anyone, as long as you say "Bless his heart" at the end!

RESTROOM SIGNS AROUND THE WORLD

DO YOU REMEMBER? (THOSE WERE THE DAYS, I GUESS)

Nancy Regan smooching Mr. T

Santa school. Final exams. "Excuse me, teacher. I have to go to the bathroom."

BEFORE MY TIME Wonderful images from Christmas's the past

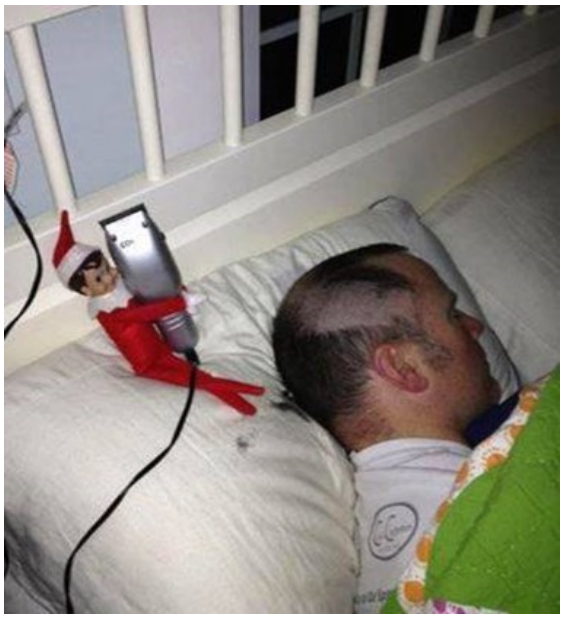
Christmas 1909, Buffalo, NY. Real candles on the tree!

Frontier Christmas: c. 1900, taken in a small western mining town around the turn of the century.

Woman returns home from the market with a Christmas tree, 1895.

ANIMAL INSTINKS

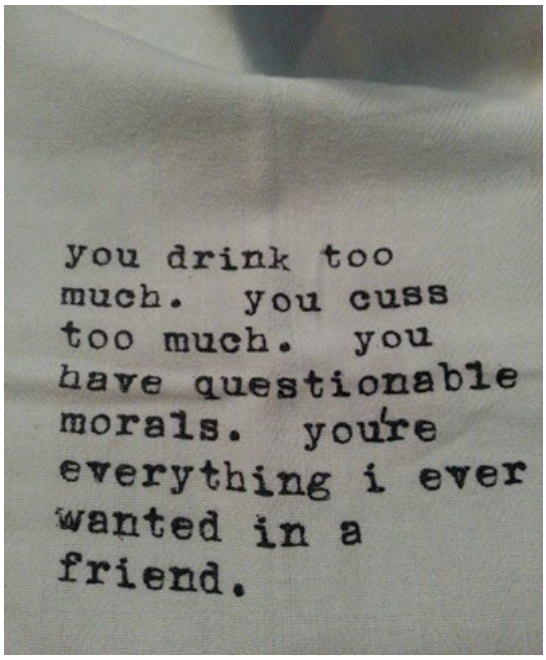
SNICKERS AND GUFFAWS



Friends - please be careful
Yesterday I went to a Christmas party. I had a few beers, followed by a few cocktails, followed by a few shots....
I still had the sense to know that I was over the limit. That's when I decided to do what I have never done before: I took a cab home.
Sure enough, there was a police road block on the way home, and since it was a cab, they waved it past. I arrived home safely without incident. This was both a great relief and a surprise because I had never driven a cab before. I don't even know where I got it from and, now that it is in my garage, I don't know what to do with it.

A POTPOURRI OF PICS

GYRO FRIENDSHIP THOUGHT OF THE WEEK



AND THE LAST WORD….

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!

SB