

In My Opinion...

Dean Says:

Finally, A Minnesota Long Goodbye



Comedian/broadcaster Garrison Keillor has a monolog concerning the way native Minnesotans end an evening of visiting their friends. He calls it the Minnesota Long Good-bye.

It begins about a half hour before the evening draws to a close. The visiting Minnesotan turns to the evening's host and says, "Well now, well now."

This prompts the host to launch into yet another series of stories relating to hunting, fishing, bowling, skiing, hiking, rock face climbing, vegetable gardening, gourmet cooking, woodworking, welding, auto mechanics, or whatever topic they had been discussing for the last hour or two.

After another fifteen minutes of storytelling, the visitor will comment, "Yup, yup." And then the visitor will place his hands upon the tops of his own knees.

Again, this prompts the host to change position slightly, lean forward, and resume storytelling.

This continues for ten more minutes, at which point the visitor will shift forward slightly, put more pressure on

his knees as if to stand.

The host will lean forward himself and rise out of his chair. He will also raise his voice slightly while he continues the dialog.

In response, the visitor will rise to his feet and look about for the location of his coat and hat. Remembering that the host placed them in the hall closet, he will feint in that direction.

This will cause the host to block the forward motion of the visitor and move toward the closet.

The visitor will usually utter another, "Well now."

The getting of the coat and hat will take another five minutes or so. Likewise the opening of the door and moving out onto the front porch will take from five to ten minutes.

The host and the visitor will then move to the visitor's car. They will linger outside five to ten minutes before the visitor will open the door. Getting into the car will take another five minutes.

The visitor will roll down the window of his car and conversation will continue for as many as twenty more minutes with the host leaning on the side of the visitor's car.

Finally, the visitor will start the car. Conversation usually continues for yet another five or ten minutes, at which point the visitor will put the car in reverse. After at least five more minutes the host and visitor will exchange final farewells. The visitor will roll up the window of the car, back out of the drive-

way, wave several times and drive away.

All this time, the host will stand in the driveway, waving enthusiastically.

Thus, the Minnesota Long Good-bye. It reinforces the line from Shakespeare: "Parting is such sweet sorrow, I could say good-bye until the morrow."

Well, it has taken me just about that long to realize that I must bid farewell to the duties of publishing *The Moore-Wilson Signaling Report*. I have finally put the car in gear and am just now backing my "car" out of the driveway.

As I turn and wave longingly, I know that I am turning the publisher's duties over to a very competent partner. Essentially, Wayne Moore and I will switch roles. He will assume the additional responsibilities of publisher. I will continue my role of co-editor.

You the reader will benefit by receiving *TM-WSR* in a much more timely manner. Be sure to address any correspondence or subscription concerns to Wayne at this address:

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I am certain that Wayne will take *TM-WSR* to even new heights of achievement, as he continues the tradition of answering the really tough questions concerning fire alarm systems, as well as those nagging simpler questions.

I also know that you will give Wayne the same kind, gracious cooperation and support you have given me as we have interacted regarding the business side of *TM-WSR*. □

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We've got answers!