

**Just so you know! . . . . March 20, 2017**

. . . Several folks informed me that I didn't explain the picture below very well. I'll try to do better this time:



The lady in the red coat, on the left, is carrying a small clock. The time shown on the clock is 'two minutes to five.' That would be '2 to 5,' i.e., '25.' The couple is a Dept. 56 exclusive for the upcoming National Council of Clubs Silver Rush 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gathering.

The tall stand-alone clock on the right is the other Dept. 56 exclusive for the Gathering. The time is 'five minutes to six,' '5 to 6,' i.e. '56,' for Dept. 56. That is the time shown on all other Village clocks (to the best of my knowledge).

I think the '25' is a clever way of recognizing the anniversary of the NCC. Plus the couple will fit in well with our Dept. 56/NCC 'umbrella people.'

. . . I didn't even know the words. Now we have the '[Plein Air Painter](#)' from Dept. 56 Alpine and soon, the 'Plein Air Portrait' from Lemax. I was happy Dept. 56 told me "Plein Air is a French expression used to describe painting in the open air. Popularized in the mid- 19th century . . . ." We have eight or artists now – probably need an art show next. Do you think the North Pole 'Leonardo & Vincent' or 'Snowboard Artist' will fit in with the Dickens' Village 'Welcome to Lund's Art Show?'

. . . We bought \$30 worth of 'little stuff' at *Michael's*. That was at 50% off. Some of the items are for summer display use. That means Linda's fairy garden (or my gnome 'village'). I hope fairies ride bicycles and Gnomes drink soda. Among the other buys was a set of three small, colorful trees - 2 ½ inches tall, shades of red. Have no idea what we'll do with them, but they are lovely. The store has a whole row of small things on sale. They're called 'Tiny Treasures by Celebrate It.'



The Big Top was very well received as an addition to our carnival this year. Inside four creatures/clowns are going around. Two in the middle are stationary. Above are swinging trapeze artists. The lights on the tent flash and it provides music. Not as overdone as I make it sound. We liked it when it came out a couple years ago. We waited too long, each time, hoping to get a deal. It is one of the few 'houses' we've paid full price for in quite a while. Official name, 'Barry Brothers Big Top' from Lemax.

... 50 degrees in Duluth today – just so you know!