



The Night Before a Trial

'Twas the night before a trial and all through the house,
Not a creature was sleeping, not even a mouse.

The car was packed to its roof with our gear,
And I hoped for a good spot when we got there.

My dog and I were all snug in my bed,
While visions of course maps danced in my head.
Tossing and turning, moving this way and that,
I could not settle down for even a nap!
When out in the driveway there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the driveway I flew in a flash,
Tripped over my cooler and fell with a crash!

The light from the garage on the new-fallen snow
Gave the luster of mid-day to the objects below,
Then what the heck – I shouted Golly
It was a tricked out camper with eight boarder collies
With a lively young driver, so fit and cute too,
I knew in a moment it must be Saint Q.

More rapid than eagles his doggies they came,
And he smiled and clicked and called them by name:
"Come Dasher! Come Dancer! Come Prancer and Vixen!
Come Comet! Come Cupid! Come Donder and Blitzen!
To the doorway we go! To the entryway hall!
"Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!"

So into the condo – up my stairs they all bounded,
With such grace and such speed - I was quite astounded.
Over my laundry basket, which I had left in the hall,
Each doggie jumped, without taking a fall.

And then, in a twinkling, without indecision,
They weaved through my clutter with perfect precision.
As I drew back my head, and was turning around,
In came Saint Q with a twirl and a bound.
He was dressed all in Spandex from ankles to neck,
It was hard not to stare at his abs and his pecs!
A bundle of jumps he had strapped to his back,
And a tire and tunnel peeked out of his pack.
His eyes – how intense! His expression – so stern!
His nose covered in sunscreen and his cheeks so wind burned!

With a bait bag, water bottle and stop watch in hand,
He paused for a moment to consider his plan.
He looked serious, yet silly, as most of us do,
And I laughed when I saw him, as you would do too!

A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
He left me some weave poles, then turned with a jerk.
Eyes sweeping the room, all the dogs sat up tall,
He got their attention with no words at all!
Out of the door, to the camper they raced,
I followed behind, barely matching their pace!

But I heard him exclaim, while he still could be seen:
"Have FUN with your dogs, run FAST and run CLEAN"

