*Ottawa Outlook, nee North Hero News and World Review ….*

*Mostly stuff no one else would print.*

Friday, May 13, 2011 c:/outlk11, 11wc16 (2011 Letter #7)

TROUBLES?

A recent *“Keep in Touch”* phone call from an old, old friend, created a bit of a flashback. Although perhaps only a handful of readers might know the one who phoned, the caller shall remain anonymous. Their recent experiences were hard to believe: Companion’s heart attack in super drug store, multiple family heart problems, surgical operation, South American trip with person in questionable health. Wow! The only thing which came to mind immediately was, *“Well, … other than that Mrs. Lincoln, how did you enjoy the Play?”*

The subsequent thought, *“Boy, … and we think we have troubles.”,* brought the flashback into focus*.* Ken’s father, George S. Jefferson, always seemed calm, collected and in control. Ken asked him once how he managed to do this. His answer.

*“I think of a father on a train.”*

*“Father? Train?”*

The continued conversation follows as near as can be remembered from say 60 years ago.

*“Yes. A little family is traveling on a train. A seat back is reversed and 3 of the 4 spaces are taken up by them. A stop. A stranger comes in and takes up the empty seat. A salesman, he immediately begins a tale of woe. Tough selling much, car conked out, sales manager will be furious, … on and on and on. The father finally holds up his hand and says, Hold it, hold it, … you think you got problems?*

*You are sitting next to my idiot son. By me is my unmarried teen-age daughter holding her baby child, my dead wife is in a casket up in the baggage car, I don’t have any money, I forgot the tickets and we are on the wrong train.”*

Hey, works for us. Have a nice Spring all.

Lucille, Bailey & Ken.

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