*Ottawa Outlook, nee North Hero News and World Review ….……. Mostly stuff no one else would print.*

Saturday, May 28, 2011 c:/outlk11, 11wc13 (2011 Letter #8)

**Imagination vs Vegetation**

Last month we owned up to being ‘Soup People’. This month we own up to not being ‘TV people’. We in this case being Lucille & Ken. Bailey doesn’t watch TV at all, prefers classical music on the radio or the Chopin etudes on the piano demo. Bailey’s got class! Perhaps in L & K’s case this is the outgrowth of not being weaned on TV at an early age. During the depression, radio was the big thing, and we’re definitely ‘Depression Kids’.

This households weekly TV watching totals 7 & 1/2 hours as a general rule, *”Jeopardy”* (both) and *“Days of Our Lives”* (Lucille). Even *“Jeopardy’s”* half hour is questionable. We mute the contestant interviews and leave the program for commercials. Lucille sometimes watches past 9:00 P.M. if a program sounds interesting, Ken by this time is usually asleep. One sporting event is watched en Toto (The Masters) and once in a while a commercial free Turner Classic Movie. It would be easy to say both in-house viewers have ‘Commercialitis’, but we think there is something more involved here. For a person weaned on radio, its ‘Suspense Factor’ was hard to beat.

Picture this: A school night, 1938.

One is supposed to be in bed with light and radio off. One is not. In the totally dark room one is under the covers with the radio and flashlight. The volume is turned way down. The program comes on.

*“Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men. The Shadow Knows[[1]](#footnote-1)****[1]****.”* (Think this was followed by a scream or eerie laugh, can’t remember.) Oh Boy! Chills go up and down the spine, … the imagination runs rampant.

On a following night it’s: *“From out of the west come the masked rider and his faithful Indian companion Tonto”.* WOW, you could vividly see Silver and Scout galloping through your very bedroom as the William Tell Overture flooded the undercovers.. In later life, with a smattering of Spanish, it was a bit deflating to realize The Lone Ranger was really calling his faithful Indian companion *“A Dummy”.* (We ‘Googled’ *“Kemo Sabe*”. Seemed a toss-up between *“Soggy Bush”* & *“Trusty Scout”*.) Never-the-less, radio left a lot to the imagination and we think we benefited greatly.

Today we plop ourselves in front of the tube, mentally close-down and think, *“entertain me”.* No self originated visionary pictures flash through the mind, in a vegetable state we just soak up someone else’s version of a happening. Even the Mayor of New York City’s rendition of the Sunday comics during a newspaper strike would evoke mental images. (Fiorello LaGuardia 1934-1945.) Dick Tracy’s yellow coat, B.O. Plenty, Gravel Gertie, Flat-Top et al, just like you were there. Three times a week from 1939 to 1942 it was Glenn Miller time. Can the ‘Modernaires” still be heard if one closes their eyes? Yes they can. Hoorah for imagination! Radio has been completely over-shadowed by TV, but as far as we are concerned a book today is better than both.

In summation our leisure time is filled more or less by the following: Reading, Crosswords, Music, Drinking, Painting & Dog-walking. We close with apologies to Omar:

*“A Loaf of Bread Good Book, a Jug of Wine and Thou beside me in the Wilderness Capitol of Canada enow[[2]](#footnote-2)****[2]*** *”.*

Lucille, Bailey & Ken

 Addendum:

Mid-year status report.

Letters: 8

Limericks: Odes, Poems: 66.

Exercising: On Target.

Paintings: Not doing well, 8 to finish up.

Wine inventory: 143 bottles, about normal.

Piano: Almost forgotten.

Day to day culinary arts: Grrr..reat! (Weights still OK)

Dandelion war: Definitely losing.

Progress in Squirrels vs Birdfeeders: Absolutely zilch. (Think we’ll stop feeding birds in the summer.)

Gamesters: 6 events completed and a seventh a foregone conclusion. ( NCAA Men,  NCAA Women , Masters, Curling, Jeopardy, Soccer and Stanley Cup.

Crosswords: One doer on 219 of 300, one on 166 of 300. (Bailey does not do crosswords.)

Books on hold at the library: 28.

LJ, KJ, BJ

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\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Information from ESET NOD32 Antivirus, version of virus signature database 6161 (20110528) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
  
The message was checked by ESET NOD32 Antivirus.  
  
<http://www.eset.com>

1. [1] Shakespeare too, Hamlet. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [2] Not quite sure what enow means, Bill Gates doesn’t know either.

   [↑](#footnote-ref-2)