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

Monday, October 15, 2012 c:/outlk11, 12wc17 (2012 Letter # 17)

**Poems.**

 This may be one of those letters which are written and never sent. We’ll see how it goes.

 There is no denying that your *“Ottawa Outlook”*  writers are in their dotage: memory dims, paintbrush fingers lose their deftness, and hand/eye coordination does not suffice for playing the piano. Also, think we’ve strummed *“Maid in a trolley\**” on the old Uke for the last time. However, with the help of spell-check and an astute censor/editor, writing still seems to flow outward bound from the *“Outlook”* home base*.* Flow, and even in the last few years, … flourish.

 Somewhere around six years ago, more or less, we were reading along and came across a simple limerick. Still remember it.

*“There was a young man named Perkins,*

*Who loved to eat little gherkins.*

*He went to a tea*

*where he ate 23,*

*and they pickled his internal workings.”*

Hmmmn we thought, … short, simple, humorous, we could write one of those. Nine kids, each with 3 names, just come up with two words which rhyme with one of the names and you’re over halfway done. And think of the convenience. Come Birthdays / anniversaries, no trip to the card store and no cash outlay. Limericks have sort of a lewd reputation, but with our astute censor, … no problem. Next family birthday, off went limerick #1.

 We’ve averaged around 100 limericks the last few years and lately have added Couplets & Odes. If you want to commemorate (praise) someone/something, you write an Ode, 10 lines to a limerick’s 5 and kind of low key on humor.

 We’ve recent, close family losses to cancer. For the Ottawa loss, a dozen or so beautiful flower arrangements poured in. In the interest of efficiency we decided to send the same 'thank you' to all senders in the format of an Ode. The format & Title, … *“Ode to Flowers\*”.*  In no time at all, from mind to paper, it flowed right out. We read it back, were just about moved to tears and thought, *“I can’t believe I just wrote this.”*

Bored? Feeling at loose ends? Troubled? Write a poem. We highly recommend it, and yes, … think we will send this letter.

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 Lucille & Ken

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 Ottawa, \* Lyrics and Ode available upon request.

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