

FEB 1982

Box 325c

Route 3 Poynette, Wisconsin, USA

ZIP 53955

Feb. 13, 1982

Dear Wesley:

I haven't written you in years and I don't know if you're still in Port Rowan, but I hope this reaches you.

"Family + Friends Letters"

I always enjoyed the Christmas letters you used to send, and I regret that I haven't kept up that sort of contact with far away friends and relatives at least once a year. Now that my family life is on a sound footing again, I hope to start sending Christmas cards with that sort of family news letter at the end of this year. At any rate, I thought you might be interested in the family reunion news in the letter James and I put together this past Christmas, which is enclosed. Also enclosed is the family tree chart, from Dad forward in time, which James prepared after the reunion. If you are sufficiently interested to study it, it will bring you up to date on all the divorces (including mine), marriages and births among Dad's descendants. Kathi Renee Park is planning to be married this coming summer and Linda Claire Neilson is thinking about it.

Barbara Steinau (now Barbara S. Park) and I were married July 11, 1981 in a home ceremony we wrote which was witnessed (in accord with Wisconsin law governing weddings officiated by religious groups which have no ministers) by Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society of Madison, to which we both belong. The Park Family Reunion was held the following day at a park in Lodi, a few miles from our rural Lake Wisconsin home.

You are the only family in the Leonard clan to which the reunion ~~mark~~ letter and family tree chart are being sent at this time. Please feel free to send them (or copies) on to anyone else who you think might be interested, or send current addresses to James Park at 1816 Stevens Ave. S., ^{#25}Minneapolis, MN 55403 and ask him to send copies.

Barbara and I and our three children (ages 3, 6 and 14) are planning to drive to Syracuse N.Y. and back (to visit Barb's parents) by way of southern Ontario this coming June and July. We are hoping to stop in London to visit Clifford and Lillian Park, and were wondering if you would like some visitors too. My road atlas shows a park with campsites at Long Point. Is that a place you would recommend, and can campsites be reserved ahead of time? We have to operate on a very limited budget and will be avoiding motels and other fancy places. (I have a joint custody agreement with my first wife and have been working half time in order to have the time to devote to my children which I feel they need.) Barb's daughter, Casey, from her first marriage, turned 14 last month. (I guess Jonathon must be 15 now!)

Feb. 14 '82

Last night I looked over again your Family and Friends Letters from the mid sixties and noticed some interesting parallels between our families, including your interest in bird identification, your wife's height, and your plans to plant a live Christmas tree after using it indoors. We have much enjoyed watching the birds literally flock to our bird feeding shelf next to our living room window this winter. Ours is one of the few houses in our little rural development overlooking Lake Wisconsin (on the Wisconsin River) which has woods on two sides. Barb is 5' 2" tall, when she stretches as high as she can. She is a physical therapist who has a state job working with handicapped children. Our first attempt to plant a live Christmas tree failed because it sat around in its bucket until spring, but this year I dug the hole before the ground froze and we kept the little balsam in the house only a few days. We are quite hopeful that it will survive to help form a windbreak on the north side of our house.

Did you know that my brother Warren has a red headed son named Jonathan? He is the only one of my mother's grandchildren to have red hair like your sisters. It would be nice if we could get together to catch up on family news of the last 15 years.

Robert N. Park