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POYNETTE WI 53955

FOR CLEAN AIR

Rec'd in due course
after this date

May 22, 1982

Dear Wesley,

(The black half of this ribbon is shot, so I'm using up the red.)

I was delighted to hear from you. Many thanks for the invitation to stay with you and the more than adequate directions to your place. Barbara, Casey and I would like to take you up on your invitation, and spend a couple of nights at your "bush lot" the last week in July, on our way back from the east coast to Wisconsin. Unfortunately Robin and Mischa will not be with us as they will be returning to Wisconsin from Massachusetts with their mother. I'm sure they would have enjoyed meeting you, and seeing your place and the nearby sand hills, etc.

I don't recall what I wrote in my last letter, though I'm sure I mentioned the Park Family Reunion and my marriage to Barbara last July. More recently I have rediscovered, in my file of correspondence from non-Minneapolis relatives, your letter of Feb. 5, 1976 after Robin was born. It bears a note that I finally got around to ~~xxxx~~ replying to it in March of 1978. How little I realized at that time what lay ahead for me before the end of the year, including Debbie deciding to insist on a separation during her first hospitalization for emotional problems and then filing for divorce while pregnant with our second child, and later meeting Barbara at our fall church retreat and finding her a supportive friend who could draw on her own experience of rebuilding after a similar divorce, where she had wanted to try to save the marriage but her spouse did not.

Here is how our summer travel plans stack up at present:

In late June Casey will take a bus from Chicago (where she will have just finished middle school) to a Unitarian/Universalist youth conference in Maine. Robin, Mischa, Barbara and I will head for Minneapolis to spend the 4th of July weekend with Warren and Patty Park. (They always have a big fireworks display in the park just across the street from ~~xx~~ their home on the 4th.) On July 5th we will set out for Betty's place in Fredericton, N.B., via Sault Ste Marie, Deep River and Ottawa. Do Evelyn and Eric still live at the same place in Ottawa? I've asked Warren to send me their address, but if they have moved since we last came through about a decade ago could you send me their ^{new} address? I thought I would write to see if they'd like us to stop in on the way through. Having read some of the poetry, etc., that my mother wrote, I think Barbara would be especially interested in meeting one of her sisters, and Evelyn might enjoy meeting two of Catherine's grandchildren.

We will probably reach Ottawa about July 7th. We are aiming to reach Fredericton by late on Friday, July 8th so that we can spend the weekend with Betty and Charlie (her second husband).

Since we will have driven almost 2000 miles by the time we reach Fredericton, it is possible that problems such as car trouble or one of the boys getting sick, will persuade us to shorten our trip. If this occurs before we leave the Ottawa area we may turn south to Syracuse, N. Y., where Barb's parents live, rather than continuing on to Fredericton.

If all goes as planned, however, we will spend several days in New Brunswick before heading south to meet Casey at her grandparent's place near New Haven, Connecticut. About July 19 I will take the boys to Debbie at her uncle's place west of Boston. Barb, Casey and I will then head west to Syracuse, where we will spend the better part of a week with Barb's mother and stepfather. Our most likely departure date from Syracuse is July 25th, though this could be changed a bit as things develop. After a brief stop at Niagara Falls, we could arrive at Port Rowan late on the 25th, if that is a good date for you. We have also been invited to stay with Clifford and Lillian Park in London, however, and could spend a couple of nights there first and then come to your place if that would work out better. We are very much open to suggestions for the last week in July, as long as we are back in Wisconsin by the end of it.

Is your father's old house in Delhi still standing? I have fond memories of it from childhood, and if it is still there I'd like to take Barbara there to see it standing next to the railroad tracks. We also plan to visit Brownsville (where I was born) and Fair Ground, and the nearby sand hills. Would you be interested or able to get together with Clifford and Lillian for a picnic at the sand hills on a weekday? The Backus Mill Conservation Area also sounds like something Barb and I would be interested in visiting, since we enjoy wildflowers and wildlife. And I'd like to try out your jogging track, though it has been some years since I did any regular running.

Here is one possible schedule for our time in southern Ontario, which can be adjusted or replaced as needed to fit your family's and Cliffords' schedules.

1. Late Sun., July 25 arrive at your place.
2. Spend day of July 26 in the area and that night at your place.
3. July 27 picnic at sand hills with Clifford and Lillian.
4. Spend the nights of July 27 and 28 at Clifford and Lillian's.
5. ~~Early July 29 leave for Chicago.~~

Let us know how this sounds to you.

I noted another coincidence in your last letter. I, too, sprouted my first permanent chin whiskers in 1967, and have had a full beard since not long after that. My brothers Warren and James have had full beards since around then too. Perhaps it's the Leonard blood.

Please be assured we aren't fancy folk who require anything special. We'll be glad to help with washing dishes and cooking and preparing food. Barbara is an avid gardener.

Almost all the vegetables we've eaten since last fall were canned or frozen from the garden, and we are still working on the parsnips I dug up this spring.

In case it is of some passing interest to Jonathon, Casey (who is a bit taller than her mother and quite a bit heavier, and who is unusually mature and well traveled for her 14 years) likes rock music too.

I was just looking at the "record book" prepared for and about my mother by your mother, with numerous photographs, and occasional narrative written by your mother. I can bring that along on our trip if you like. We look forward to seeing you and meeting your wife and son soon.

Sincerely yours,

Robert W. Park