

August 2, 1992

Dear Wesley and Irene,

I have located where I filed my 1991 Park Family Reunion envelope and found that it contained some extra 1991 family trees, one of which is enclosed.

I have the Family Tree Maker installed on a 3.5" disk with the Weekes family tree information you provided, and plan to add Park family data over time. I have filled the disk I am returning to you with a sampling of other programs you or visitors to your house may find interesting. Entering M at the A: prompt will bring up a menu. The WP50 directory has the WordPerfect file from which our family tree was printed out on a laser printer at work. (I will be glad to answer questions about any of the programs if and when you find time to explore them, at your leisure.)

In London we found Clifford in good health for 92, but he is slower in getting around and suffers from hearing loss. Until his birthday in February of this year he was still driving, but his license was not renewed this year after his annual driver's exam. Lillian (82) now does all the driving. She is hoping that they will fly to Florida this winter rather than driving down as they usually do. (Someone else would drive their car down.)

Clifford is also experiencing loss of short-term memory, and Lillian finds it necessary to remind him several times of some things she has told him earlier in the day. In early July he had a period of several hours when he was confused, but the condition soon passed. The two of them participate regularly in shuffleboard and bridge, and Clifford still assists occasionally with marriages and funerals.

We spent most of the day with Clifford and Lillian, sharing two meals with them at their apartment. I had recently read over the brief autobiography Clifford wrote after his 80th birthday, and was impressed by how much more warm and human it was than Dad's. I had hoped to tape record some of Clifford's recollections to fill in some of the family information missing from Dad's autobiography, but did not suggest it after finding Clifford less able to recall and expound than I had hoped. He did comment on how different all of Dad's 3 wives were. He described his first wife Lila as someone who made visitors to her and Dad's home feel they should come back to visit again, and commented on her courageously coping with Dad's rheumatic fever only a few months after they were married. He and Dad shared a 3rd floor room on Grosvenor Street near the University of Toronto until Dad's marriage in the fall of 1926, but he couldn't recall whether Lila moved in there after he moved out (he thought she probably did) or whether she and Dad got a different place. He said that after Lila's death Dad said something to him to the effect that he didn't feel a widower should "shop around", so he chose to court Catherine (who he knew from church) and married her. He seems to have taken the same approach in his 3rd marriage.

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After supper Clifford closed his eyes at the table to listen to Robin playing their little piano in the living room. We soon moved to the living room and listened to Robin play more David Lanz and a piece of his own composition. Clifford was lavish in his praise of Robin's musical abilities, and also praised Mischa when he played a long piece from Robin's piano book.

At the Sand Hills Park we found there is virtually no beach left. The 3 boys had a great time chasing each other along narrow sand ledges on the steep slopes above the water, and did get in a little swimming. At one spot a small spring had made a little clay cave about 7 ft. high in the shore side bank. While Ian was in it a slab of clay fell off the roof and hit him on the head. Robin was next to him. They both got out just before about 50 pounds more of clay fell from the roof. They found it all very exciting. There was a strong breeze, and one hang glider took off as we watched and flew back and forth until he had had enough. At sunset on our second (and last) night there, while the rest of the family returned to camp, I hiked west from the west pass to the lake, and discovered about a quarter of a mile up the shore a beautiful stretch of red & black sand beach with many springs and colorful stones. (The bank above there is stabilized with vegetation and the bluff is not topped with a sand hill.) It looked like a great place for those more interested in hiking along the shore than climbing. I hope to visit there again next time we are out your way.

(This section from Barbara) What a wonderful time we all had at your place. Thanks for all your fine food and company! I haven't had a chance to try the muffin recipes yet, but I did try grilling vegetables today at my Ski Patrol picnic and found that that is very tasty.

We just heard from Casey that she is planning to get married in a very small ceremony at the end of the month. She is marrying a fellow to whom she was engaged last year. She had broken off the engagement because she just didn't feel ready for that kind of commitment, but apparently she feels ready at last, and he had just been waiting patiently for her to come around.

I hope you will take our invitation to come to Wisconsin seriously and visit us in the near future. By that time, I'll have tried the muffin recipe and possibly mastered making bread with the bread hook on my mixer. At any rate, we appreciated your hospitality to us and hope we will see you again soon.

Thanks again from all of us. *Your hospitality came at just the right time to prevent the wet weather from dampening enjoyment of our trips.*

Robert
Barbara

Park Family Tree for 1991 Family Reunion

Field
 19.8.91
 of "PARKS"
 INCLUDING
 1991 APPEANCES

