

SIDE ONE

Rec'd 20 Mar '98

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### 1997 - The Year That Was

And what a year it was for the Wisconsin branch of the Park family, with three graduations, a wedding, and visits to the Governor's mansion, the White House and the world's largest cave. Here are the chronological highlights:

- Jan.** Mischa performed the flute concerto he'd been preparing for a high school competition.
- Feb.** We held our annual Winter (birthday) Musicales.
- March** Mischa and 3 high school musician friends performed the Madison premier of a movement from Warren Park's Woodwind Quartet No. 3 (Newfoundland) at West High School. The composer attended and took a bow.
- April** Mischa's West High Science Olympiad team took first place in the statewide competition again. Robin's last music composition class concert at the University of Wisconsin included 3 pieces by Robin. Mischa played his flute concerto for the early Sunday service at First Unitarian Society (the Frank Lloyd Wright designed church) where his piano accompanist for the concerto competition is the organist.
- May** Robin graduated with distinction from the University of Wisconsin School of Music. Mischa was named an All State Scholar, then one of 3 Presidential Scholars from Wisconsin. Mischa earned 3rd and 4th place medals to help his Science Olympiad team place 15th at the National competition at North Carolina State University in Raleigh N.C. He also played in a Young Artists Concert with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra with other top high school musicians from around the state, participated in his last regular Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestra concert, and played with the youth orchestra which joined with the Canadian Brass and the Madison Children's Choir in videotaping a concert which is to be broadcast nationally on Public Television in March.
- June** Mischa graduated from West High School at the top of his class and Ian graduated from middle school. Mischa and Robert attended a reception at the Governor's Mansion for All State Scholars at which Mischa spoke. He elicited several gasps from the audience when he concluded his thank yous to teachers with comments on how educational opportunities had been hindered by the Governor's cuts in educational funding (the governor being one of the dignitaries listening). Mischa and Robert went to Washington D.C. for National Recognition Week for Presidential Scholars, and Mischa meet Bill Clinton at the White House. (Photo of him shaking Bill's hand available on request.)
- July** We joined with Warren's family in a visit to Mammoth Cave in Kentucky, which has more miles of connected passages than any other known cave in the world. Mischa's job at the world's largest waterpark in Wisconsin Dells prevented him from joining us. He joined in one final encore performance with the Wis. Youth Symphony Orchestra for the opening weekend celebration at Madison's new Monona Terrace Convention Center on the shore of Lake Monona (based on a concept originally proposed by Frank Lloyd Wright).
- Aug.** Mischa attended his last Young Religious Unitarian Universalists continental congress, at a camp near Ware Massachusetts. Ian began his freshman year at James Madison Memorial High School by joining the cross country team. (They run 3.1 mile races.)
- Sept.** Mischa started at the University of Chicago and was selected as one of 3 flute players for the University of Chicago Symphony Orchestra. (So far this school year, he has also been their principle piccolo player.) Barb's mother Janet joined us and attended Casey's wedding shower.
- Oct.** 10/4/97 Casey married John Koperczak at North Shore Unitarian Church near their home in northeastern Illinois. Barb flew back to Syracuse with her mother, after she had spend 5 weeks with us.  
10/24-26/97 Barb & Bob attended Parent's Weekend at the University of Chicago and heard Mischa play in his first UC Symphony Orchestra concert, a Halloween concert complete with costumes for the performers.
- Dec.** Casey and John celebrated Christmas with us the weekend after Christmas day, and we then traveled to Minneapolis to celebrate it again with Warren, Patty, Daniel, James and his significant other, Rita. We saw New Year's Eve fireworks from Rita's house.

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3/13/98

Wesley,

I've been meaning to write and thank you for your good advice on how to check for a bad U-joint on our 1978 Ford van. By rotating one of the rear wheels I was immediately able to detect the bad joint. It proved to be the cause of both the "clank" upon shifting into reverse and the vibration at highway speeds. I was able to get it fixed in time to use the van on our July trip to Mammoth Cave (over). There I was able to sleep in it with the rear doors wide open all night, because the local bat population does such a great job of controlling the mosquitoes.

Robin recently invested \$500 in his own first car, and with Mischa off to college (we helped him move with the van) and I am too young to drive, and me taking the bus to work, the van doesn't get used much. But I am will be getting his learners permit this fall and is anxious to have a chance to drive. With its shag carpeting on the walls and ceiling he and his friends think it's great.

The worst problem now with the van is that it doesn't like to start in wet, cool weather. A friend says that can be caused by old ignition cables, so I guess that's the next thing to replace.

Thanks again for your help.  
I hope you + Irene are both well.

Robert.