

5/21/90

Dear Robert and Barbara,

Well, at long last, after weeks and months and years of off and on work, I have finally completed Dad's book. It took a long time to read through it carefully and correct the errors (there's probably a few I missed) and redo a few sections to make them more readable and understandable. There were at least 93,000 extra commas to excise and a few spots that needed to be taken out all together since they were superfluous in the extreme. Anyway, the editing is done, the paste-ups and retyping, as needed, has been done and the printing is done (with the help of a new copier that I had to get when the old one just wouldn't go any farther--this one is a nice ten-year-old reconditioned Minolta which cost \$700). I had the cover printed at a print shop nearby, and the binding is something I can do myself with a punch and bind machine I got at an auction (I had to order the plastic binders). The book is entirely about his professional career in Minnesota and not a word of it refers to anything else. Too bad, it would have been a lot more interesting if he had included some little stories and personal accounts that spiced up the first volume a bit. As a result this volume two is astoundingly and stunningly dull and will be readable to only the most dedicated. Good luck to you.

I talked with James this morning and broached the subject of this Summer's visit by all of you to Minneapolis. I explained to him the tentative idea of extending the time that the boys could be together by spending some time camping out at a nearby state park (either Mn. or Wisc.). He liked the ~~idea~~ idea a lot and has no plans that would interfere. He is perfectly willing to serve as one of the adults on this proposed campout, even if Robert is the only other adult along. I explained to him that both Patty and I would not be able to take the time to go camping. He suggested that Rita may like to go along for the fun--but she may be taking some classes this summer that would prevent her from participating. James will find out before long what she thinks of the idea. We have a tent you could use in conjunction with your own bigger tent (and maybe your camper if you bring it). James thinks two nights camping would be fine, but avoiding the weekend would be a good idea. Thus Monday and Tuesday just before the 4th of July would work out. You could all arrive on Saturday late afternoon, spend Saturday and Sunday here, take off camping for Monday and Tuesday, return here by Wednesday noon (to avoid the traffic jam and closed off streets that take place later in the day), and stay here through the following Sunday early afternoon. Both Patty and I will probably need to work a bit during Thursday and Friday that week but maybe some outings could be arranged--we could participate for part of the days. Incidentally, we hear that this year's fireworks celebration should be better than usual because this year is Powderhorn Park's 100th anniversary! James thinks there are a lot of parks to choose from within a couple of hours of here. I will have sent to you a state parks guide for Minnesota, and you probably ^{already} have the same for Wisconsin. Choose whatever park you want. The Wisc. parks would be a little cheaper if you have a state parks sticker for your vehicle. There are some great parks on the Wisc. side near, Taylors Fall, Stillwater and Hudson. If there is a way you, Barb, can get that much time off, you could come with for the whole time, maybe even join the campout if you like. Otherwise you're certainly welcome to stay here while the others are gone--it might be just the thing you need. It seems to me that another alternative you were considering was to have Barb arrive on a different day closer to the 4th of July. That would be fine with us too--whatever works out the best.

Jonathan and Daniel are especially anxious to have your boys come and visit, and they're already looking forward to it. Patty says to mention that she has taken off Saturday, Aug. 11 from her Bloomington Lake clinic job to enable the

Chicago trip plans to go forth. I guess the plan is to be gone all week to your place and to include a couple of nights camping near Zion, with one full day in Chicago. It would be helpful to our budget if I could spend some of the time tuning pianos while I'm there in Wisc. If some thing could be done to publicize the tunings with the Prairie Society, that would be great. I wouldn't mind working on the day you plan to spend at Noah's Ark. We can figure out the details about the August trip later, but at least this gets us started. If reservations are needed at the state park where we'll be camping near Zion, Ill. go ahead and pick a couple of good days during the week and do the reservations.

Jonathan will be graduating from 6th grade this June (just three weeks away). He's anxious to be finished with this school anyway. He has already been registered at the new school we all wanted him to go to for 7th grade. The school's not too far and it is a much better set-up than the neighborhood junior high that he would be sent to normally. He had his name on the waiting list for this school for a while but we got notified a couple of weeks ago that the transfer was approved. It is getting Jonathan into a program that will suit him, we think—it's called the Open Program where kids don't have quite as much structured classroom stuff. Catherine was in this same program for her Junior High and High School days. Jonathan will still have the usual six or seven class periods with different teachers in different rooms but things will not be as rigid as with regular school. There's opportunity for independent learning and special projects which sometimes are very successful educational vehicles.

Well, we'd like to hear from you whenever you have a chance to write or call. Jonathan is in the middle of preparing a letter to Robin, Mischa and Ian that he'll mail separately soon.

Regards,



P.S. I forgot to mention that Evelyn and Errki's plans have changed and they will not be able to come to Minneapolis just before the 4th as planned. Their tour group for the Canadian Rockies was cancelled so they'll be taking a little later one and arriving in Minneapolis for a day sometime a little later in July. So sorry to say you'll miss intersecting with them here. But maybe you will all be able to pay them a visit in Duluth sometime over the summer.