

June 30/93

Dear Pat,

at the last minute, I grabbed a notebook, as we left for the plane. In the airport, I wrote a brief about what we have done up in Idaho.

We've explored the area - going up to Coeur d'Alene + Pond ~~&~~ Orielle, Lewiston, the Snake River + also Spokane. This year, I want to go to McCall. We have some friends from La Mesa, who have a place exactly 100 miles north of us. And we do things with them on occasion.

It is a very different world up there. Sometimes, as I drive into Moscow, there are just a few cars on the road (Hiway 95). So no traffic to speak of.

Also, we can't see another house from our place - 2 or 3 barns are in sight. Just rolling hills + trees + fields. Each window frames a beautiful picture.

Hiway 95 - cuts our farm ^{into} ~~in~~ 2 pieces - 136 acres on the west + 110 on the east. ^{acres} ¹ of the east part is wooded. We have a herd of elk that come out ^{of} the woods above our farm to graze on the blue grass planted up there.

It's very quiet + peaceful. And you are close to nature. Once we had a lightening storm so bright - the farm lights (on a light sensitive switch) went out.

We have a basement, main floor + upstairs. And created 2 apts, which we rent to Univ. students. We like young people there.

[We are taxi-ing for take off in a Brand new 737-400 Boeing via Alaska Airlines to the Moscow/Pullman airport.]

Our west window looks into Washington State at the farm. We are in the Panhandle. [Moscow, Id. - N. of Moscow, We fly to L.A., Portland + then take Horizon to Pullman. Sometimes, we go non-stop to Seattle - then take Horizon over to Pullman, which takes 1 hr + 10-20 min from either Seattle or Portland. This plane feels solid!

We took Aero buses to + from Tucson + thought they were noisy + vibrated too much - via America West.

They are interesting & enjoyable.

It was good to see you, Pat. You look so well!! in spite of your foot.

So - we expect to be up North until Oct.

In the summer, the U. of I has 4 plays, done by their repertory theater. And W.S.U. does 3 musicals. I can't think of a better spot to be!! Then in Sept., we have the harvest & the County Fairs, which are such fun.

We had students from W.S.U., who were visiting from Vladivostok; visit with us. Had a group of 3 boys, 3 girls & a sponsor come over. Such great young people - going back to such turmoil. Well, they had a big peek at the West.

So - I will call Irene, when we arrive & see if they can use us through the summer. They were over several times. And Oksana came for weekends & we introduced her to students in Moscow & she stayed with them one weekend. They wrote lovely & loving letters to us.

Also, we've employed a lot of students, so, besides our tenants, we have made friends with them, too. And I joined a P.E.O. group & they are dear friends. I supposed I should get involved with Alpha Phi - but don't know how to begin. They have a big house on sashinity row here.

Our daughter's 2 children want to go to the Univ. of Idaho. We think that would be just great!! It's a small school - Martha's husband got his training here in ^{chemical} electrical engineering.

So - that's the story - we're up here for a busy summer, as we'll have 4 house guests

in July - a houseparty.

There are old apple + cherry trees on the farm - and plum trees, too!

The house had been empty for 17 years + we had to cart off 34 boxes of ~~rubble~~ right away, no doors or windows intact - it wasn't on the tax rolls. It is now,

Just landed in L.A. The plane was shaking a little.

We had a neighbor make our kitchen + bathroom ~~cupboards~~. They are oak. One chap worked for us for 5 years in the remodeling stages - + he lives in Hawaii now. The airplane is jiggling, as we take in. Next stop, Portland. Grey skies here.

One winter we stayed up there + it went on for 5 months. We thought it would never end. Lots of snow then. Then, we've had some winters with hardly any snow - Contrasts between years, just like in S.D. The average rainfall is 21"-22". And so it is dry farming.

The house has locust trees, elm + Douglas Fir on the N.E + S.E. sides. In summer, the sun goes down behind a big hill on the West. In winter, the storms come out of the N.W.

We arranged it - so that the N. side has no windows. Then the So.-E. + W. - all have huge windows for lots of light in the house. And Ralph put double insulation in - so it is rated at R-38. And we put in triple pane windows. We listened to the Chamber of Commerce, who said it was too cold 77% of the time, and too hot 12% of the time + 11% of the time - just right.

The 1st winter, I wore 4 layers of clothing - 2 layers were wool pants + thermals + flannel p.j.'s pants.

Ralph & Jean (Stoake) Thompson, '47 + '43, have spent the last 10 years developing a farm in Idaho, 12 miles north of Moscow, Id. The house, now remodeled, was built in 1897. The barn got a face lift, with red paint, a new shingled roof and it's 20 supports leveled & supported with cement. This area is called "The Palouse". It is famous for it's loess soil, where soft wheat, lentils and peas are the main crops.

In fact, Moscow is the Dried Pea & Lentil Capital of the U.S. It is also the home of the University of Idaho.

[The soft wheat is shipped to the Orient for noodles] ^{could be} _{left out}

Besides the crops, Ralph experimented with 4 different breeds of sheep; Columbia, Polypays, Targhee and Karakuls. He also raises guinea hens.

"We've been grateful for the veterinary School at W. S. U. in Pullman, Washington, 14 miles away.

They have solved some unusual conditions in our animals. We have learned a lot about sheep and agriculture from our association with both universities," Ralph said. Jean felt that they have had an in depth look at the Pacific Northwest.

Their friends in ^{Moscow} consider it a perfect hometown, just like we feel San Diego ^{is} for us, Jean remarked.