

[Typed by Bill and handwritten by Marilyn on folded typing paper]

Stanwood, Iowa

September 13, 1970

Dear Folks,

The churches here are putting me up in the motel this weekend. There is a rooming house here where I will stay when the owner gets back to town.

We had some excitement last week. I think it was Wednesday. There was a thunderstorm-tornado alert all afternoon. I was at the seminary library until about 4. Then the wind came up and I decided I'd better get home. The alert was until 6:30. We ate at 5:30 and I had just about decided to go to the shopping center to get a shop apron for Neal. I asked him how soon he would need it and he didn't think it would be for a few days yet so I decided to stay home. About 6:30 Yvonne asked whether there would be a tornado and I told her no, the alert was over at 6:30. It was only a couple of minutes until a fellow came into say a tree had fallen on his car. We headed for the basement and listened to reports on the storm. It wa a real one They think there was at least one funnel and maybe two. Anyhow the roofs of several stores and warehouses were peeled back so that the rain got a lot of merchandise wet. A roof was taken off a new house. Several cars were turned over at new car dealers. Several mobile homes were damaged. A lot of trees went down and some places were still without power on Saturday. I walked to school next morning with the girls to steer them around down trees and possible live wires. There sure was a lot of damage. They figure the tornado must have gone through at roof level because that's where most of the damage was.

[continues in Marilyn's handwriting (green ink)]

Wonder what stopped him here. Maybe I'd better check into why he's enjoying his weekends so much.

Yes it was quite a storm. The wind came up so suddenly and while I was closing windows the lights went out. They were out here until nearly 11. After the storm was over, about 7:15, we spend our time listening to the radio reports and I popped corn. We have a gas stove. The kids thought the radio reports were great entertainment. Nobody wa really scared, but if there is a next one, I wouldn't bet on it. I might be a little worried myself. Our house wasn't damaged at all. We had lots of sticks from dead trees across the street all over the yard.

The girls ate with a friend a week or so ago, so tonight Diane is coming to eat with them. We're having Kraft dinner. Hope she's like our kids.

Bill is all started in his classes and is really enthused. Said yesterday that he thought he was going to get more out of these classes than any he'd ever had. He started his non-credit German class yesterday. It sounds like fun. There are 4 of them in the class taught by the wife of a professor. She is from Germany, but has been in the U.S. for a long time. She sounds like an interesting person. She spent the summer in Mississippi working in a program sponsored partly by Mary Holmes Junior College and a Catholic group for the black people of the area. Bill brought up the subject of tuition and she said \$20 for the semester if "you can afford it, nothing if you can't." Then, she told them that anything she gets will go to her black friends in Mississippi.

I just finished a 9 day stretch of working days. Now, I have 4 days off. I was really happy to get done work today. It is a beautiful day, and all 9 days that I worked the weather was icky. Hope I'm real lucky and it stays nice. The kids and I are afoot weekends, so ti helps if it is nice.

Everything is going find. I found a part-time "baby sitter" last week. One of the student nurses. She had supper with us on Saturday and stayed with the kids Sunday afternoon. She is a real nice girl, engaged to a Wartburg Seminary student.

Guess I'll see if I can get somebody to take this to a mailbox.

Love,
Marilyn