

[Handwritten, black ink on folded typing paper]

March 7, 1971

Dear Folks,

Winter is making one last attempt, anyway. We hope it's the last. There's a little snow in the air right now, and we got about 3 inches Friday night. Most of that melted yesterday.

Today was Girl Scout Sunday so the girls wore their uniforms to church. Sure made it easy to get things laid out last night.

Dad left last Tuesday. The train was scheduled to leave East Dubuque at 3:30. I get off at 3:15 and was in charge so was a little later. Bill and Neal took Dad over and then, Bill came back and got me and we got to the station just before the train. It was 7 minutes late. He called from Edith's Thursday night and had reached his destination right on time.

Neal's band concert is next Sunday afternoon. I have the day off and Bill will be coming home in time to go. We have to get him outfitted with black pants, black shoes and white shirt this week. That'll be his Easter outfit. He tried out for his school musical last week and got a part in the chorus. One of his friends got a part in the cast and Neal told me, "Guess I'm going to be like you, Mom." (Notice that "Mom." It's also "Dad.")

Yvonne starts swimming lessons at the Y tomorrow. Neal follows on Tuesday and Karen goes on Saturday. Hope they all learn to swim while they have this great opportunity. We live only a block from the Y.

We are still real busy at work. Last week we heard that the other two hospitals in town, both larger, had lower census than we did. Maybe we should feel proud, but mostly we feel tired. I had Friday and Saturday off and Yvonne suggested I should take Friday for a real day off and work on Saturday (at home). So, I did. Went downtown and had my hair done, then, Bill and I had lunch down there. Nothing very special, but it was nice, anyhow. I really felt better at the end of the day, too.

Wish you could hear our music conservatory. All three are practicing. How did you stand six?? Karen is taking piano lessons again. She does real well, but gets so mad when she had trouble.

I helped fix supper for the Jr. Hi Fellowship last Wednesday. Two of us mothers did it. I got off easy. The other gal fixed the main dish, barbeque, and I baked brownies and fixed celery and carrots.

The kids and I did soap carving yesterday. Karen made a recognizable fish; Yvonne made a tiny boat, car, and baby buggy. That's what she had left after several unsuccessful attempts at other figures. Neal made an armless, one-legged super (?) hero. I wasn't planned that way, but that's how it turned out. I made a rabbit, good enough to draw praise yet today.

Sorry your vacation ended on such a sad note, but so happy you had such a nice trip. Sounded like you did "fun" things.

Love,
Marilyn