

May 28, 1999

Dear Family,

About the family reunion - sounds like fun. I will be happy to come the day before and help clean and do whatever. Mom thinks we should do it Fourth of July weekend. Doesn't matter to me. All I've got planned this summer is attending the national folk festival in E. Lansing, which is in the middle of August.

Carol and I visited Mom and Dad 2 weekends ago. I came away feeling very good after seeing how well they are doing. We did the farm tour on the golf cart - Dad driving and Mom, Laura, Mark, Carol and I as passengers. Dad has had the help do a bunch of brush trimming around the pond and it looks real nice.

Carol and I will put the canoe on the car and head for Wellston tonight. We will be staying at the Black Bear Inn on M-55 Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. We will take what used to be our favorite trip - a 1.5 hour ride from Tippy Dam to Highbridge. The river is beautiful and full of fish and the banks are high and dry and good for picnicking. However, on my last trip last summer (alone) I found that some astute government agency had come in with heavy equipment and dumped tons of boulders along the banks, presumably to stop erosion. As if the Big Manistee had not been able to take care of itself for the last few thousand years. The boulders make it very difficult to park the canoe and climb up the banks, and the heavy equipment mangled the vegetation. It broke my heart. Have a good Memorial Day weekend!

Steve