

August 23, 1999

Dear Family,

It's not that I have been too busy to write, it's that not much is happening.

Now we have 2 reasons to visit Deb and Jerry: new house and new pet calf.

We've had quite a lot of rain here. The yard is doing better than it did in May. I've been cleaning and waterproofing my deck, and now the rain is keeping me from completing the waterproofing. I haven't kept up with it over the years - it must be 20 years old - and the boards are rotting and splitting. I replaced a few boards. The hardest part is removing the old ones. I have to cut them out piece by piece. I'm afraid I burned out the motor in my Skil saw.

We got our 4th grandchild a couple weeks ago. Another girl for Doug and Becky.

The National Folk Festival was held in E. Lansing two weekends ago. It was on Friday, Saturday and Sunday and the acts performed each day so you could go back and see one day what you missed the day before. The festival was free and well-organized. Plenty of porta-potties and a shuttle service so you didn't have to deal with parking. No big names, but good music on 5 stages. Bluegrass, U.P. Finnish harmonica, Finnish Reggae (no kidding), gospel, Zydeco, 2 lady fiddlers - one from Riverdance, the other from Nova Scotia (celtic rock)- polish polka, New Orleans boogie-woogie piano, "dieselbilly" (the guy said he came up with the term, so it is whatever he wanted to play). And the weather was beautiful. The annual festival will remain in E. Lansing for 2 more years.

At work, I am designing a Web page for the company. I don't know anything about it except what I have picked up in the last 3 weeks, but I've got a start on it. I am using Microsoft FrontPage software, which makes it unnecessary to know how to write code (hypertext?). But I've got to get a good book or get into some training. They don't provide good manuals with the software anymore. Some day I'll be able to create my own Web page.

Steve