

October 29, 2001

Deb and Jerry,

I took our thistle feeder down a couple weeks ago because some low-hanging branches were blocking our view, and I couldn't reach them to cut them off. I was going to give up on bird feeding until I figured out how to trim those branches. But now that the leaves are gone, there is no problem. I'll put it up again. I also need to get a sunflower seed feeder.

We went to see Mom and Dad yesterday. Took them to Cousin's for lunch, then toured the north side beach. It is a mess. The wind has apparently been blowing hard from the west, because there are big drifts of sand along the drive, in the drive (not enough to keep us from driving through), covering lawns, and drifted against cottages a block away from the beach. On the south beach, there were no piles of sand on the beach, but it had drifted against the buildings and there was even traces of sand up above, 2 blocks east on Superior street.

We stopped at Laura's and played with their new batch of kittens. Apparently Carol is still allergic to them, because her eyes have been itching. I got some pictures of the kittens and of Mark and the dog bouncing on the trampoline. Laura and Rich are going to Las Vegas in a couple weeks.

On the way home, we stopped to see Aunts Nina and Shirley. Billy and Faye were there. We all had dinner in the cafeteria. Carol thought Billy was pretty quiet and somber. And she thought Faye needed to have her medication adjusted. Nina told us the story of her first marriage. She said it was just before we got into World War II. He was joining the army and she wanted to join the Navy as a nurse, but they weren't taking married women, so they got a divorce. Later, the media got ahold of it and - against her wishes - broadcast a story about the patriotic nurse who got a divorce so she could join the Navy.

Shirley and Nina seemed to be doing very well, although Nina is desperate for someone to talk to of the Liberal persuasion. They are pretty scarce there at the home. She sends me articles all the time.

Steve