

April 21, 1999

Dear Deb,

"Everything's alright here" - do you call that the news?

Nothing much is happening here, either. So many TV sitcoms, so little time.

We babysitted 2 grandchildren last weekend, which took care of all but Sunday afternoon. Alick is 7 and Ashtyn is 4. Good kids. They took a hike with me in the woods across Waverly on Saturday morning, so I was pleased. And later we all visited an insect museum.

Carol quit another social work job on Monday. It lasted 2 weeks. It was for Volunteers of America, working at a homeless shelter. She thought at first it was going to be OK, but her supervisor turned out to be an autocratic jerk. She has given up on finding a job in social work.

The week before she started the new job, we took some time off and drove to South Carolina, just to see if it would be a good place to retire. We took highway 77 south of Cleveland, through West Virginia, Virginia, and North Carolina. Saw a lot of mountains. We ended up in Columbia and paid Jim and Jan Buck a visit. I got their e-mail address - Jan@netside.com - but they did not come right out and say they wanted to hear from us all. I think their life revolves around their church to a large degree.

We tried to visit some of the state parks in the mountains in "upland" South Carolina, but it was a little early in the season. We got a little weary of those switchback roads up and down the mountains. Azaleas and redbuds were in bloom. We toured the Biltmore Estate at Ashville N. Carolina one morning. We passed on lunch at the fancy restaurant in the winery and instead feasted at a Popeye's after we left. We drove back on I-75 through western Kentucky, and as a break, we visited an Audubon nature center somewhere in Ohio. They had a birdwatching room with a big picture window looking out at a bunch of bird feeders. There were lots of birds and there was a microphone to pipe the sound inside - where it was warm. We sat in rocking chairs and watched the birds with a couple other people for about a half hour. The only thing missing was a bar and some snacks. Now there is an idea for a business... Steve