

August 29, 1985

Dear Phyll and Ross,

It was difficult reading the postmark but we believe we have you folks to thank for the lovely poster of Australian parrots, etc. It is just beautiful and we are very happy to have it to show when Maurice speaks on our trip.

Our slides came out great and we have divided them into two carousels dealing with New Zealand and Australia and one carousel of Athens and Rome. Even the four slides of the koala bears look good. We thought we might have to tell people that the little black spot was a koala bear but they show up very well. One of our prize pictures is of us on the same camel at a farm between Alice Springs and Ayers Rock. I never realized what huge beasts they are.

Since we arrived home on June 5th, we have managed to get some more traveling in. Maurice was two students short of having enough to teach this summer so we've had a bonus of some extra free time. We spent most of a week in New York state--Hyde Park, West Point, Corning Glass, Finger Lakes, etc. before spending a weekend with Alan and his family in Burlington, VT. This last week and a half we spent in Nova Scotia visiting friends and then went around the Gaspe Peninsula. Beautiful scenery.

Now M. is getting ready to teach a course in Nurses' Chemistry, starting next Tues. He'll have 50 students so it's back in the harness again. He likes to do it and it's good for him to keep his hand in.

We wrote last week that Ross is in the hospital. We sure hope he is home by now and OK. We often speak of the good times we had with you folks. We also remember the raucous noise the cockatoos made that morning. We also enjoyed our visit with Mike in Bathurst. Didn't see too much of Janet because she was going your way but Mike was a very genial host and went out of his way to entertain us--even cooked dinner for us!

As you might imagine, we were very thankful to arrive home safely. Just two weeks before that hijacking, we were on the same TWA flight from Athens to Rome. I have already told Maurice that I'm going to stay on the ground for a long time. Which reminds me--we have sold our 1981 Escort and bought a very pretty red (I picked out the color!) Ford Tempo. It's heavier than the Escort and has air conditioning. We plan to spend a couple of months next winter in the southern part of the U.S. Thought we'd meander down toward Tennessee where my brother lives, visit friends here and there and end up wandering around in Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico. The children will be happier this time because we can call home every week.

I'm going to leave the rest of the paper for Maurice. Thank you again for the poster. We will treasure it.

Greetings! Yesterday the last two large envelopes of materials sent to ourselves by surface mail in May arrived. We sent a one quart plastic jug of maple syrup

Additional message area

to you about the middle of June. I tried to find out from the postal authorities in Portland if a metal can was a superior container. Non-committal, "6 of one or half dozen of the other."

Gardens in southern Maine have not done well this summer. We had the driest July in 35 years. Most of the lawns turned brown. We have a semi-dwarf plum tree that did very well, about 35 lbs of plums.

I will try to get a Colby Catalog + a Univ. of Southern Maine one off next week; some reading for Ross. Love + best wishes,
Maurice + Voice