

11 Lincoln Street
Gorham, ME 04038
October 15, 1986

Dear Phyll and Ross,

We enjoyed your letter so much. Time seems to have a way of flying by. That really isn't much of an excuse for not writing, is it?

It was great to see Wes and Beth again and we're looking forward to seeing them again sometime in Nov. We've also had visits from my younger brother and his wife and a couple of weeks ago Harvey and Fran Steere visited from R.I. We went to an agricultural fair with Harvey and Fran but it turned out to be too much honky-tonky and too little agriculture to suit us!

Maurice is teaching his one course this semester as usual. I hear mutterings that this will probably be his last semester of teaching--just maybe a summer session now and then. It gets to be a chore after awhile and the students don't seem to be getting any smarter! Next summer we hope to be in Alaska and that will be a good change from teaching. We haven't had time to do too much planning as yet but we're thinking of flying to Seattle or Vancouver and then taking a cruise ship up the coast. We don't want to go with a tour group because we like to go our own way and not have someone telling us what to do! We may take a series of ferries on the way home. They go thru the channels and nearer land than the ship does. It's fun planning.

We will be leaving for Florida on Feb. 1st and plan to be gone just about one month. We had planned to stay home this winter and write the second book that M. wants to write but Mary Beth (our youngest) has been living in Orlando, Florida ever since last spring and she plans to be married on Feb. 14th. She is the nurse in our family and had no problem finding a good position down there. On our way down, we'll spend a couple of days with our oldest son, Alan who moved his family to Raleigh, N.C. last summer to get out of the long cold winters in Burlington, VT. He is in financial planning and so had no trouble finding his niche down there. Also in Florida is our oldest granddaughter, Diana, who is a freshman in college there. It's a long way from Maine but she loves it--especially the weather!

We enjoyed our trip thru Oklahoma, Texas, etc. last winter but arrived back in Maine a little earlier than we expected to. The Texas cities were unbelievably huge with the main street in Houston over 34 miles long! That was too much for two people right from the wilds of Maine! It was beautiful country, tho, and we particularly enjoyed Galveston and Corpus Christi.

My secretary is more efficient than I am. Ten days have elapsed since she started this letter. Wes + Beth will arrive here Nov. 3. We have had several heavy frosts; most of the leaves are off the trees. Gardens did not do very well this year. July broke a 93 year record for lack of sunshine in the Portland area. June, July, + August had the lowest ave. temp. in 46 years. Oct. 23 was the 39th anniversary of my folks being burned out in Newfield. Love + best wishes, Don + Phyllis