

From Evelyn Henderson, sister of Catherine E. Park (Robert, James and Warren's mother), 1980
This is an interesting snapshot of life for this family at that time. – Warren

Dear Warren and Patty,

Family news: Eric, retired on his birthday in Dec. 1974, and well-suited to the life of a retiree. In excellent health, keeps active on his rural place (*their country cabin*) and trail skis in the winter. He had an operation on his nose last week to improve the breathing passages which have always blocked too easily. Seems to have been successful.

Evelyn, too busy with church and community affairs, but perhaps best so, because this leaves no time to moan over chronic back trouble. It makes for an interesting life, and Eric is most supportive, but he himself is not a joiner or activist. We still find lots we both can do together, especially travelling.

Jay, (I guess chronologically I should start with Alastaire who is older) still in Thunder Bay and has recently changed from part-time to full-time teaching at the tech college—on motor mechanics. So, although he has only a year's contract, he likes what he is doing so far, and it's a switch from working in a garage. His wife Joanne still has not produced a child, but she's working on it....one of these cases that were 'too long on the pill.'

Alastaire, currently without a boy-friend, off the therapy sessions which kept her afloat for so many years, seems to be happier and much more 'her own woman' than she has for a long time. She may have gone into feminism a bit gung-ho, but I guess the stimulation is a good thing. She likes her co-feminists. She has been home frequently this year, and we've enjoyed it. She's taking English courses and doing a little tutoring, moving into a nice airy apartment—these are all positive things.

Hildegard right now is visiting Alastaire. She started off Thursday so she could stay over one night with my sister Alice, in Cobourg, before going on to Toronto. Alice is just freshly home from China, where, lucky woman, her itinerary took her to Chungtu where we were born, and which wasn't even on the tourist route when I was there in 1978. She'll come here to Ottawa soon and we can have a really intense bit of traveloguing (sp?). Hildegard is still "self-employed" doing baby-sitting, cat and dog sitting. Her interests run very strongly to Science Fiction, so she was the prime instigator of an excursion to the 'World Con' in Boston over Labour Day weekend. Eric and Alastaire and she all drove down together and had a great time.

Mark and his lovely Ellen have "set the date"—July 17—although they have been sharing an apartment since last summer (1979). It seems that some of his less-attractive tendencies (like selfishness and extravagance) have tended to diminish! He works at the mail-room in the Dept. of National Defense, and Ellen for a photographic company.

Our poor old cat, age 19 and a half, died this afternoon, and we were given another, age about 6, who was in need of a home. Her name is Jasmine and she's beautiful but dumb.

Away back last January-February, Eric and I went to Africa to "chase the eclipse" of the sun. And this we did, with great enjoyment. We had a week in Egypt first, and then to Tanzania to join the tour "on safari"—saw the incredible concentrations of wild game—and the eclipse formed the climax to it all. Even (*Tanzanian president*) Julius Nyerere came to the viewing!

So, for summer vacation we only went as far as Manitoulin Island and Sault Ste. Marie—beautiful country. We still have Minneapolis planned on some future trip—stand by!

Love, and all the best, Evelyn