

# The Refior News Bulletin

Paul, Pam, Nikki & Laura

August 10, 1988

The Refiors send their greetings.

(This issue is being written by Nikki)

This last month held many exciting events for our family. One of the more notable times was the week of family vacation in Michigan. We left from Indiana on Saturday, July 30, with no real schedule and set out to see some sights and to have some genuine relaxation time. We began our trip driving up the center of Michigan, planning to later head east to Greenfield Village. However, part way up the state we changed our minds and decided instead to go up along the western shore of Lake Michigan and stop in Muskegon. Once there we walked around a bit of the shore looking at some of the huge boats tied up on the pier. After that we went back to the hotel and enjoyed the time in the pool and room. Sunday morning, after our worship service, we packed up our bags and left for a water park named Pleasure Island. We all had a grand time racing down the different slides and water rides. Mom especially enjoyed one corkscrew ride which allowed her to go down the slide very slowly and enjoy the scenery around her. The rest of us preferred the faster rides.

From there we set off again to travel up along the coast. After a couple of hours of driving we came upon the Silver Lake sand dunes that looked like fun. So we stopped the car, changed back into our swim suits and started climbing the sand. And climb we did. At the top of the first dune we could see Lake Michigan and decided that we would climb all the way over there. We enthusiastically set off thinking that we would climb four or five dunes and then hop into the water for a quick refresher. After over an hour of climbing dunes, we realized that it was certainly more than five dunes we had to get over. In fact, we ended up climbing between fifteen and twenty dunes before we reached the lake. But we finally got there and were very grateful to cool down in the cool, clean water of the lake. There and throughout the vacation we were astonished at the clearness of the water. It was like looking at the bottom of the lake in a glass. We were able to happen upon a shorter way back to the car and once again resumed our drive up to Petoskey.

Monday morning Laura and I enjoyed a long swim in the beautiful pool of the hotel. We were told of a short drive that we should take and we were able to get a breathtaking view of the lake and some Michigan countryside. On the way back we came upon another beautiful beach that we had to stop at. This was different from the sandy beach of the day before, being very rocky. Nonetheless, we had great fun diving off one particularly large rock into the water. We stayed in the same hotel that night and relaxed in the pool and room in the evening and Tuesday morning. Then we took off for Mackinaw City and arrived there late Tuesday

afternoon. We enjoyed touring some of the shops in the area and sampled some of the fudge the city is famous for. Then early Wednesday morning we set sail for Macinac Island. The carriage ride around the island, touring the Grand Hotel, eating on the terrace overlooking the lake and exploring the old fort were all delightful. After returning to our hotel we all went out back and took a dip in Lake Huron. Thursday morning we started back down to Traverse City. There we found another beautiful beach on the bay where the water was very warm and quite pleasant. That evening we all got spruced up and made our way to the Bowery. This was a restaurant out in the middle of nowhere with the most delicious barbecued ribs we had ever tasted. We had had some lovely meals before this, but this was by far the best meal of the trip. Finally on Friday morning we packed up and headed toward home. But, of course, we couldn't pass up a beach we noticed on the way. There had been a storm earlier so the waves on Lake Michigan were huge. Dad, Laura and I spent a couple of hours body surfing while Mom stood on the shore and watched. At last we decided we needed to get on our way again. When we reached home that evening, it was to the pleasant surprise of Mom's parents and her brother's family at our house. What a perfect way to end a perfect vacation.

As I said, Grandma and Grandpa Petro have arrived from California to take up residence in the Warsaw area. E.J. and Shirley Petro are living in our basement while they look for a house and we are enjoying very much being able to again have them as a large part of our lives. Within the next week or so Grandpa will be starting up a business as a court reporter for this area of northern Indiana.

Things continue to go along well at the office. In July Dad won a very big jury trial which we were all excited about. Jerry Yeager, the law clerk, will be leaving soon for law school, but he will continue to do some research for Dad when he is not in classes.

Just before leaving for vacation, Laura entered a delicious oatmeal cake in the 4-H fair. The judge loved it and awarded her a blue ribbon. We are all very proud of Laura's accomplishment.

It was only in the last letter that Dad spoke of Laura and me finishing the year of school. But now it is time again for Laura to be gearing up and getting ready for seventh grade. It is now merely two weeks before her classes begin. She is looking forward to this new phase of her life with excitement and a bit of apprehension. I have a little bit longer before I have to head out to Cedarville College. Freshman orientation does not begin until September 23.

Sincerely,



Nikki, for the entire Refior family.