Monday
Aug. 25. 1980

Dear Ruth, Clarence, Betty, Elaine & all,

Just wanted to let you know that we survived our Scandinavian trip very well. Everything was just great - enjoyed the Norwegian scenic beauty on our fjord tour. It was constant beauty all the way. all the homes, land, buildings and historical place are so well kept up as well as the streets, roadways & highways & we sure enjoyed all that delicious smorgasbord food of which we consumed plenty. The last part of that was that I lost 2 pounds. I took 260 pictures (snapshots). about 10 were spoiled. The SAS plane rides were very smooth & pleasant. Seemed strange to find snow in Trying Norway and also have only one hour of darkness during the night. We took an all day excursion tour by boat & bus our last day in Oslo which was most delightful. Early next morning Sun. July 6th we left by train for Malmö Sweden which took about 10 hours. We had to change trains at Göteborg but there was no time at all to even try phoning axel Bjurk. My cousins anita, Inga and their husbands were at the Malmö train station to meet us. Then we all went to arlöv to the home of Helge & Anita and had a very good baked salmon dinner with all their best linens, dishes & silver. They made us feel like we belonged to the royalty. We stayed

with them for one week during which time we were constantly going various places sightseeing, feasting and visiting our other relatives in that territory. Then Helge & Anita drove us to our next stop which was Ebba & David's home in Sölvesborg. Ebba is an old friend of ours who had lived in St. Charles for many years so we did have a lot of fun staying with her for a week. My cousin Lars & his wife Ella were invited to a roast beef dinner when they came to get us the following Sunday & to bring us to their home in Kalmar. There for the first time I met my Aunt Asta, cousin Gurdon, his family and my Uncle Hjalmar, whom I haven't seen for 48 years. He lives in Öland & we went to his home the following day and it was great to see the sights, the churches they had attended and at Ottenby where my dad lived as a boy. My grand father was foreman ~~of the~~ in charge of the King's horses at that place. It was a thrill to ride over that long new bridge which connects the mainland with Öland. Lars & Ella took us to the Arrefors & Boda famous glass companys. We also saw the Domkyrka and Kalmar's Slott. I was sorry I didn't get to meet any relatives on my mother's side. We did find my cousin Margareta's home but no one was home. Phone calls were unanswered. We were fortunate that Mildreds' niece Britta & husband Gösta came to Kalmar and drove us to Tidaholm where they live in the outskirts. Again we were treated most graciously and they certainly outdid themselves to entertain and feed us. We had their whole upstairs apt. to ourselves.

we had the most ideal summer weather there. Previously we had some rain but they were just short showers. Britta took us many places which were so very lovely and beautiful flower gardens everywhere. We especially enjoyed our 4 hour boat trip on Lake Vättern and up Göta canal. Had coffee + lunch aboard the boat. Then for our last stay in Stockholm Britta drove us to Södertälje where we caught our train which went direct to Stockholm. She even made seat reservations for us. At the Central Railway Station in Stockholm we found my Uncle John and his daughter my cousin Gudrun to welcome us and Gudrun drove us to my Aunt Ellen's apt. home just outside of Stockholm (in Hägersten) She had prepared a most delicious meal for us. Gudrun's man Stig was there too. Neither John nor Ellen are too well but they bore up well during our week's stay with them. Ellen is another very good cook. We sure got to see a lot of Stockholm and also Skansen, which was a delightful place. We also were at Stig & Gudruns apt. home. He is a special baker by trade & cooked the entire meal. Very yummy. I phoned Eric & Birgit Karlsson (Carls cousin) from Aunt Ellens home. They were living in their summer home in Huddinge, not far from Hagersten. They came to get us so we could spend an afternoon with them. They

treated us to lunch at a nearby restaurant and later we had coffee and goodies at their home. We ate a lot of raspberries from their garden. I even got to talk to Teakla, the nurse on the phone. She is grandpa Swanson's youngest sister (85) and sounds real good. She lives alone. Then they took us to their son John's home and met his pretty wife and 2 sweet little daughters. He is an EE engineer and has a very nice home. Didn't get to meet his brother who is a pilot on large aircraft. I did take pictures of them & plan to send you prints later. Before I close this letter I must tell you the big news. Dan called the night of August 13th and said that he and Laura McIntosh got married that day. Dan is now 30 and she is 25. She is also a scientologist. Dan says she's beautiful 5 ft 9 in tall, artistic, musical and even left handed like he is. She sounded like a very fine person. She wrote me a very nice letter and I'm hoping to get one from Dan soon. He assured me that I could trust his judgment as to her being the right one for him & they were married in Mexico and plan to have a regular wedding at her parents home in Indiana in the spring when they both can have leave. Well that's it for now, Hope all is well with you folks

Love,
Elsa