

There's another girl up here
named Patricia - had her as a
student year ago. - good friend
but not in your class!

Monday evening
Giant Forest Lodge.
June 21, 1965

Dearest Patricia:

"The moving finger writes; and having
writ, moves on" Each day produces its new
surprises, its special joys and woes, and
none can change them.

The present school at Sequoia, I think, is
making a better impression on registrants
generally. Several last week were unhappy
over some of the features of management -
principally the evenings and especially the sing-
ing. Several complained to me and I'll pass
the comments on to the staff & talk with Harvey
about them. Objections were - The lack of dignity in
presenting staff & other personal too much
flounderedness as if such things didn't matter;
but more than anything else - turning the
song leading over to an inadequately qualified
student & not resuming it when it obviously
was falling flat. A well meaning & friendly
~~the~~ boy, one Joe Stiles, who plays the guitar was
given the job. Instead of leading & getting the
hall filled with song, he assumed that he and a
number of his friends were primarily to enter-
tain the school. Stiles is a good kid but only a
3rd rate singer & entertainer. He gave the school
group little opportunity to sing themselves. Instead
he tried offering pieces in the general "Hootenanny"

style, but sang so poorly he could only be half understood & when he arranged songs from our little books that were to be sung ^{by the entire school}, he could not be heard clearly at the opposite end of the hall, even with a microphone. Anyway, aside from the campers, who knew him around camp, he didn't go over well. Some also objected to the jarring of old familiar religious songs. However, all that is over now & perhaps it will not happen again. By gone standards of music Stiles would not have got a second nod on anything! Also everything was speeded up; Stiles often didn't know what pitch to use; & generally lacked rapport with the audience.

I was asked to repeat my little German poem on The Field Mouse, and on Friday evening to sing the Nature Sunday School song (the verses, that is, with the audience joining in on the choruses. In tribute to this & also to helping in around the corners whenever I could - (as with the folk dancing at night when I shared honors with Mory & Ina Thurst) I was given a quite unexpected standing ovation. I think my talk on "The Esthetics of the Desert" - really helped them - it made a real hit.

Today - quite incidentally - after the groups had all got started on their trails, I had a chat with Dorothy Ellis - in which she said she thought Dr. Harvey was confused

last year as to what ² it took to be director of a
program such as field studies. She felt that
you were given no guidance when you took the
secretaryship, were underpaid, and treated
rather shabbily in being dismissed - the reasons
for which she didn't understand. Neither did
she understand why she was asked to be
secretary again. - All this was voluntary
communication on her part. So, in her
you have a friend. She is really trying to do
what is needed for the school as, she knows,
you also were, but is concerned about several
things: When Byron quits, how can a similarly
devoted person be found to take his place?
When the older staff drop out & new ones - younger
ones - come in by rotation, who will supply the
ongoing spirit of the past. Recognizing Harvey's
good points and - as you know - they are many,
How can he be stimulated to display the
measure of human warmth that such a
school needs, - etc, etc.

Today was a fine day. I listened to
Dr. Ellis in his initial presentation on
insects. He was animated, capable, & enough
of a clown to make his day 'get off to a fine
start. I was glad of the chance to hear him.
Later, I trailed along with Harvey's group for about

an hour and was really impressed by the way
he developed concepts in ecology & stimulated
his group to a sense of individual responsibility.

My picture taking went well. I got 3 good
shots - covering parts of two groups - at lunch
in an area along a beautiful little brook.
Then I got a couple of good shots of Harvey - in
instruction, with most of his group facing
or with only their sides to the camera. Also I
took 3 or 4 pictures across Crescent Meadow
showing good meadow features as well
as big trees along the margin. Haven't got
any animal pictures yet, but they'll be
coming. I'm listing all the things to try for
in close-ups using the tripod - and I'll
put in a full day on them. The park is
really beautiful as always, but there are
lots of people! Our meals are super and our
box lunches are individually enough
for two days. There's an awful lot of
food being wasted. Evenings, I'm teaching
folk dance & this AM I had a group of the
juniors for an hour. I'll probably give
them another hour Thurs. AM.

I guess I've packed my two sheets, but
I've brought you up to date on the School.
Next time I'll write on something else -
maybe of more personal interest. Again, take
care, & let me know what goes on at your
end & with the family. Did I tell you I was charged nothing to
enter the Park? ~~Extremely~~ because of the School. Love Carl.