

Dear folks

August 2

This morning I went fishing
with grandpa in Beeton Lake
and caught ~~a~~ two bass 1 sunfish
a bullhead and a perch grandpa
caught a bass and a perch and
we both threw our perch away
stayed to days in Minneapolis
cause aunt Margaret was tired
and fine

Love Latus

P. S. Daddy please send the with
with the places where you
want me to go on it

[April 4, 1950]



Datus C. Proper
Phillips Exeter Academy
Exeter, New Hampshire

Dear Everyone,

I think I write you that I got both ~~packages~~ ~~books~~ you sent me at the Inn. The cookies and fudge were swell. I got a little bird book out of the library here in Exeter (it is by Roger Tory Peterson - he has written one about western birds too) ~~it~~ and have been looking at birds. It would be almost impossible to identify most species without ~~the~~ binoculars. Daddy's ~~binoculars~~ seem to work very well. I want to get the western bird book by Roger Tory Peterson next summer.

I don't need any shoes, as the ones I have are standing up very well. I ~~was~~ wear my army shoes when it is wet outside. Please don't buy any shoes. If you get the fly rod, you had better send it to Yellowstone. I have caked with ~~Scott~~ Scotty's rod of the same make, and so I know what they are like. It might get broken when I was

carrying it in a train. I will be happy if I know
you have it there. ~~I can get the~~ You can
have the reel sent here if you get it. I wrote
you the price and you have some Beans'
order blanks in old catalogs. I have ~~just~~ just
torn up your \$25 check to get it out of
temptations reach; you can order the reel
from Denver. I'm almost sure ~~you~~ you
can get a reel case in Livingston for my
old reel, but if you don't get one there you can
get one from either Sears or Wards. ~~The~~ One
made out of fiber is good enough; the aluminum
ones aren't much stronger and they will wreck a
reel if the reel isn't perfectly dry when it ~~is~~ is
put inside.

You said you were sorry I didn't visit Skaper-
lin sorry too, but I thought it would take too
much money to go down without the ride to New
York that was offered me. If I had gotten your
telegram one day sooner I would have gone.

It sounds like you folks in Mammoth
are pretty busy lately. But if you made
150 lunches at the carnival you did all right.
Will mama play the organ Easter?

I am not so sure we should get an
aluminum canoe. People who have used both seem
to like the canvas best. However, I suppose we
had better get the aluminum on account of
its ~~longer~~ supposedly longer life. For gosh

salsa, though, please ~~advice~~ ~~advice~~ advertise
for a second hand ~~water~~ ~~canoe~~ canoe.
Canoe. I am sending a clipping about canoes.
It is from outdoor Life's boating department.
I can't see ~~how~~ how we can use anything
smaller than a 15 footer at all, especially
on Yellowstone Lake. I have seen the
15 foot ~~gramma~~ ~~the~~ Grumman canoe,
and it is very definitely what the article
calls a "laker". I think we'd better get
it if we can't get about a 17 foot canoe.
The bigger canoes canoe would
probably paddle easier especially with a load.

I've been walking around quite
a bit, and have actually located a
stream which has a little bit of white
water and ~~was~~ a very little rapid
in one place. I don't know whether there
are trout in it, but intend to find out
May 1st, when the season opens. ~~It is~~ the
stream is in about the biggest woods
I've seen around here. I had to follow it
several miles through thick brush before
~~I~~ I ran across the white water. However,
the stream doubles back and is quite
near the road at that point. I saw some
robins, fox sparrows, a song sparrow, ~~and~~ a flicker,
and some warblers which I couldn't ~~be~~ identify
because I didn't have the books.

Love, Datus



The Exeter Inn
Exeter New Hampshire

April 18 [1950]



Datus C. Proper
Phillips Exeter Academy
Exeter, New Hampshire

Dear Everyone;

This won't be long, although it should be. Please don't expect letters too regularly this term, as this is the hardest term I've had yet. I'm busy every ~~morning~~ day from 7 in the morning to about 11 at night. Every afternoon now we are rowing 8 miles. I've never been so darn busy in my life.

I should write the folks a separate letter, but I can't. Thank them a lot for sending me so much money. Thank Daddy and Mama for the fly-rod money. I just got a big bargain on a line, which will help, although I may need another one. I have wads of money. The cake and cookies arrived ~~such~~ in good condition. Everything is swell, as usual. I've had the linoculars case fixed.

Please send the Levi jacket. I need it for mountain climbing. Wool shirts and sweaters are no good to use with ropes and they get all scuffed up. If you haven't got, please try to exchange the De-Liar for the smaller size. I am wondering whether or not to ~~go~~ ^{come} straight home this summer. I would like to visit the folks and Grandpa Carver, but this would cost extra and we get out of school awfully late anyhow. I could not fish in Minnesota unless I bought a

* 4 fishing license. wed better decide what I'm to do quickly, because it will ~~be~~ soon be time to leave - I hope. 58 more days.

I've got to write thank you letters to Grandpa Carver and Uncle Haddon, but don't have time. I'd swap my right arm for ~~a good~~ one good sleep. I would like to write a separate letter to the folks also.

I'm sure sorry I have to send you an awful letter like this, especially when you've ~~been~~ been so swell about money for the fly rod. Seems like all I ever say is "send me".

Got to go to bed now; I can hardly keep my eyes open. Will have some fruitcake first.

Love,

Datus.

Just got Rosemary's card as I was mailing this. Thanks, Rosemary.

Datus Proper
PCA
Gaithers, N. H.

VIA AIR MAIL
Special Delivery



W. H. Proper

Box 957

Yellowstone Park,
Wyo.

AIR MAIL
Special Delivery



If you cannot get the
permission letter off on Thursday,
you will have to telegraph. All you
have to say is "you have permission to
visit the Headless".

Dear Everyone,

[MAY 15, 1951]

This is important: I'm going to visit the Hoadley's (parents of my future room-mate) the 19th and 20th of May instead of the 26th and 27th, as I said earlier. Just write and say that I'll O.K. to go with the Hoadley's on the 19th. You can write it in your regular letter, but it has to get here by Saturday. I guess Air Mail both ways will do it but if not ~~the~~ try an mail special delivery or telegraph.

Bill Hoadley and I are figuring to go to Maine right after school, on a fishing trip. We're going to try to get someone's car and go up by ourselves. Of course, we may not be able to get a car but I think we can. We going up to the Manaquogus River and fish for real, genuine Atlantic Salmon. They fight like a Rainbow and weigh ten or twelve pounds, but they're hard to catch. Of course, if you get me a job and think I ought to come home right away I will; but otherwise I think you will be willing for me to go to Maine. Please send my license as soon as you can. We'll get in some trout fishing, too. I have some money and will try to make some more, so it won't cost you much. It won't cost me very much, either - not more than about 15 or 20 bucks. We will camp, of course; Bill has a tent we can set up fairly permanently. Boys here are taking this kind of trip all the time and I sure sounds like fun.

I guess I'm about a week late in wishing Mama a happy Mother's Day.

Got the pants and socks. I don't need the pants at all but can use the socks. I'll just put the pants aside for a while, I guess.

Thanks for the Weekly News with the fishing regulations. It's sure a good thing that they're tearing down that Old Faithful swimming pool, finally.

Rosemary would like, I think (I talked to her about it in Springfield) to come home right away rather than wait two or three weeks for me at Aunt Hilda's.

It's no harder going dear home than it would be taking a bus or train down to Illinois. She only has to change once to get home, you know - at Chicago. You'd better have her get reservations on the New England State soon, though. I guess I can take a bus home. It will be lots cheaper.

Love,

Dads

AIR MAIL

W. G. Proper
Box 95
Yellowstone Park,
Wyoming



AIR MAIL



Datus C. Proper
Phillips Exeter Academy
Exeter, New Hampshire

miss
I'll never forgive you if you haven't already
~~sent~~ sent my fishing rod and Levi jacket.

[MARCH 22, 1950]



Datus C. Proper
Phillips Exeter Academy
Exeter, New Hampshire

Dear Everyone,

Just got my grades and also got a good letter from Daddy. Told ^{Aspinwall} ~~the boys~~ everything you said (Schlaides is already on vacation) and gave him an application blank. I realized all along that ~~neither~~ neither of them, especially Schlaides, who is 17, had a very large chance for employment. Of course you can't recommend ~~them~~ ^{them} without knowing them, but I think ~~Aspinwall~~ Aspinwall would do well - he is small, but seems strong ~~for~~ for his size and is more "grown up" than some. I have mountain climbed and camped and gone through some really tough ~~and~~ weather with him, but he never complained. Everyone likes him. He carried a pack which was pretty big on our trip up Mt. Lafayette and I think he would work well - he wouldn't stop working when he wasn't being watched.

Thanks for very interesting clipping.

Received the \$16 which should be plenty.
I don't think we can plan to buy a new
canoe, but a second hand one would be a lot
cheaper. Better put advertisements in the
Livingston and Billings Newspapers every one
in a while. \$5 spent that way could save
\$75 on a canoe. I would really love to
canoe up the upper Yellowstone River and
am sure you would too. If we put
in somewhere along the Lakeshore
near ~~Cut~~^{Cub} Creek a a little farther north
we could stay right ~~at~~ next to the shore ~~for~~
for the whole trip. You'd better advertise
soon or will never get the canoe in time.
I don't get home until July so we can
start right out camping. I'm glad to
hear Rosemary is doing well on skiing. That's
about the nicest competitive sport.

This is for Daddy - Mr. Buell thinks
he's got something up his sleeve that will
get four Exonian jobs in Yellowstone. I hope so, but
he didn't do so well last summer and his opponent
may get upset again. He seemed to think he was
pretty sly - "Don't tell your Dad or Ed Rogers,
heh, heh."

I made honors for the term with a little
bit to spare. The grades are: Math - B - ~~English - B~~
English - B, French - C, Phy. Sci - C, German - B+.
Love
Darius



Monday # Night

[JAN 4, 1955]

[L]

Dear All -

Just got back from vacation and
thought it high time to drop you a
line. Had a real good time. For a couple of
days right at the last we went up to see
uncle Bob & family. We spent Thursday night
with them and then came back to
Minneapolis for New Year's Eve. It was
very nice to visit with them. He has a
high fidelity amplifier and a real
collection of records. Jimmy was home from
school and we all had quite a bull
session. Apparently the trapping business
and all are still holding up well for him.

So sorry we didn't get out to see
you folks. We were all set to start driving
the day after Christmas when some
intercepted your two letters warning

us against it. That sort of jinxed the
plans. I tried to convince her that you
really wanted to see us and were just
worried about our safety, but about the
passenger (who had gotten the same letter)
showed while I was away and left a
message that you did not want us to
make the trip. Mrs. Wavel got the
message and that really did it. Was
really sorry as we would have had a
week to travel and both of us would
have enjoyed it a lot more than
Devatoma. But that's water under the
bridge now - when your two phone calls
came later in the week everyone got the
correct picture but of course by then it
was too late.

I do want you especially to say hello
to grandma and grandpa and Aunt
Mary for me. This is about the only time
of year I get to see them and I missed
it this year. Uncle Bob had a lot



(2)

I old family pictures of the lake and
such and Aunt Jean showed us a
copy of the People's Popular Monthly
and some silverware and a couple of
old railroad watches and such. I was
was ~~so~~ surprised to find out that I
really did have a family. I travel around
so much that I believe most people sort
of think of me as having been created out of
thin air by a magician's wand or
something. We looked at the
summer cabin and all - it's pretty
cold in the winter but still nice.

I must write Uncle Datus a
note as soon as possible. I really
didn't know what to do earlier as
I had never received any correspondence

from him. Still haven't gotten that telegram he sent me and haven't as yet received your letter with ~~all the~~ the invitation and pictures he sent. Guess I had better get those before I write. Wonder how long he is going to be in London?

I thought I ought to tell you that I have pretty much definitely settled on Hawaii for next summer. It may seem to you folks that I have a lot of time left to travel but I really have an idea that if I am ever going to see Hawaii I will have to be in my school years. You know how much travelling young people out of college and trying to earn a living usually do. But I think I can make enough money over time to cover travel

(3)



expenses with no more to ~~the~~ spare. I will have to borrow trip fare from you ~~and~~ in the spring ~~but~~ till I get paid but I want to make the trip very much. I will ~~also~~ go for jobs here in the U.S. ~~also~~, of course. Will you do two things for me? Please send:

① My filled out copy of the form 5'7. I will copy it to send to Hawaii, Yosemite, and Rocky Mtn. Nat'l. Parks and send it back.

② Please send all possible scoop on the Monroes. Samson is pretty near Hawaii, ~~is~~ isn't it? I may try writing John to the Yale Divinity School and ~~get~~ his address and information on his father will help a lot.

I would really appreciate it if
you folks would rush this information back
by return mail so I'll have it this week.
Really - if you haven't time to write a
letter please send the dope off the next
mail anyhow. I'll try to send you
a return envelope. I am going to write the
superintendent at Victor about this
too.

You had just as well send the gun
back too, I guess. I'm going to be working
at Precision Tool & Gun Co. as much as
possible in the next few weeks. This
year has turned out to be fairly expensive
but I guess I will be in good luck when
my ~~tax~~ tax refund comes. What about
that, anyhow? When will I get it? Well
if it comes, I believe I will get a short
term student loan that should take me
over till the beginning of next term all right.



(4)

The weather is nice down here now: nice after Minnesota, at least. I can work in anyway it would be nice to go to Florida and get a short job one of these vacations.

Must end this now - I lost 15 pounds over vacation and now I need some sleep. Hitch-hiking is no good in this weather. Let me hear from you on those two things as soon as possible?

Love,

Dale

I have a picture to send you (taken New Year's Eve) but can't seem to find any envelopes - let alone a return envelope.

(over)

On my plans for the future: Right now
I think I will finish as an English major
at Cornell and then perhaps go abroad for
a year to study (Oxford) and then take
another year at Georgetown. How does
that sound? Any ideas on foreign
study? Read the article in the latest
Holiday.

September 1, 1977

Following data supplied by Mrs. Datus E. Proper(Alice) of San Antonio, Texas

Wm. Sedgwick (1585-1630) Born and died at Woburn, England.

Robert Sedgwick (1590-1656) Born in Woburn, England; was the first to come to New England as an Officer in the British Army. Served as a Major General under Oliver Cromwell, and later as Governor of Jamaica, where he died. He had one son,

William Sedgwick, born 1633; educated at Boston; married Elizabeth Stone of Hartford, Conn. He died at sea returning to America from Jamaica, leaving a son

Samuel Sedgwick (1667-1735), who married Mary Hopkins. They had eleven children, one of whom was

Joseph Sedgwick, born 1697, who married Ruth Smith. They had seven children, one of whom was

Samuel Sedgwick II (1725-1793) who married Deborah Higgins. They had fourteen children, one of whom was

Samuel Sedgwick III (1754-1828) who married Anna Steele. They had five children, one of whom was

Hiram Sedgwick (1789-1833), who married Polly Beckwith. They had four children: Datus E. Sedgwick (1812-1898); Wm. Sedgwick (1815-1905); Mary (1829-1898); and Caroline*(1831-1878)*

Mary Sedgwick (1829-1898) married Lewis Proper (1820-1907). One son was Datus D. Proper, D.D. a leading clergyman of the Northern Baptist Church. (Baptist minister and missionary)

Datus D. Proper/(1844-1922) married Ellen Dodds and they had five children of whom one was

Edwin Sedgwick Proper (1868-1932) who married Elizabeth Burton. They had one son

Datus Edwin Proper (1896-1965) who married Alice Althea Agee. They had no children.

* All the following notations were added by William G. Proper as of Sept. 1, 1977

* Caroline Sedgwick married Obadiah Proper (1826-28? to 1880?) and they had nine? children, the youngest Carlton Chase Proper (1871-1956)

*Caroline and Mary Sedgwick who were sisters, married Lewis and Obadiah Proper who were first cousins.

Carlton Chase Proper (1871-1956) married Emily Glisan and they had four children all still living: Carlton Chase Proper 1900 - , Margaret Ann Proper (1902 - , William Glisan (1905 - , and Robert Norway (1909 - .

William Glisan Proper married Marjorie Carryer (1909 - and they had five children: Datus Carryer Proper (1934 - , Rosemary Glisan Proper (1937 - , Caroline Chase Proper (1941 - , William Everett Galbraith Proper (1944 - , Carl Lockridge Proper (1945 - .

(see over)

Datus Carryer Proper (1934 - married Irene Wencil and they had one son
Datus Lockridge Proper (1963 - . By a second marriage to Anna Collins
Datus Carryer Proper had a son Scott Collins Proper (1976 - .

Tuesday September 6, 1977

Dear Anna and Datus(DCP) We are enclosing this with a note to DIP. Had a good letter from him. He doesn't waste any words but says what needs saying or what is on his mind that he thinks would interest his readers.

We enjoyed having him. He was much more mature this year than last and more responsible in every way. He is still a young man in a hurry, as is his Dad, so not too surprised about that. Hurry, it seems to us, is an American vice that some of us are more addicted to than is wise. With DIP his haste often makes waste, as the saying goes, because he so often has to redo something. But we think he will outgrow that or at least we hope he will as hurry can be a relentless tyrant. Reading an article a couple days ago about the frustrations of an American working in Africa where the culture is "event" oriented rather than clock oriented. Also recall reading an article years ago about the difference between the French and the German temperaments. The author was saying that the Germans accomplish little that the French could not accomplish as well by getting up an hour or so earlier and being more industrious. So there must be a happy medium. The old Yankee motto of "all things in moderation" is a wise one.

You asked us on the phone the other day whether you owed us anything. To which we answered "no" but which, on second thought, I should have modified by adding that while there is no economic debt we think there is an intangible but very real debt we would like you to repay to him rather than to us. We gave him our love and attention and tried to adjust to his wants and needs, especially the emotional and spiritual needs, rather than expecting him to adjust to ours most or all of the time. We think our investment pays off in a better adjusted and more responsive young man and ask that you show him the love and consideration any growing person especially needs, as do we all. Children are especially sensitive and intuitive about many things that we tend to become insensitive to as we grow older and develop barriers to protect our own egos. I often flubbed my responsibilities as a parent I'm sure but we think we did better as the years passed so that Carl and Bill may have benefitted. Impatience is a Proper trait that needs curbing. I am one of the worst offenders on that score.

and We had a nice long visit with Alice Proper over the phone recently. She said she hears from you occasionally and had a note from Anna while she was in Ireland. She is quite well. Sent us some geneology data recently and says that when the weather moderates she plans to send us some papers of cousin Datus's family that we might like to have. If you could drop her a card or a letter from time to time we think she would relish hearing from you and that it would benefit you and DIP indirectly. She has important friends and is interested in your career and in DIP. The enclosed geneology data sheet was added to by us and should be of some interest to you and young D. You will note that there was a Datus Sedgwick one generation prior to D. D. Proper. As I recall there was also a General Sedgwick killed in action at the battle of Gettysburg in the Civil War. My Dad's mother was Caroline Sedgwick. Directly

We hope to get up north sometime this month but may not come through Arlington. This week we hope to catch up on our paper work, quarterly tax estimates, bills, yard, and all sorts of things that have been neglected somewhat during the summer months. We have not been on the Parkway much this summer but hope to get out more this autumn season. Come down when you have time to stay a couple days at least.

Love Dad & Mom.

I think DeWitt was middle name of D.D.P.
(Datus DeWitt Proper, D.D.)

from Kate Wright Hill, Minn.

Dear Chas + Helen, Dec. 1946

One of the high points of the summer was our visit from you. We did very much appreciate your taking the time to come over, and it was gratifying to see you both so unchanged and your children - almost as for the first time. Wish we could have seen you more so that we might have felt we knew the children.

We were glad to get a little acquainted with Glich & Marjorie's children. But we were more than glad to have them leave camp. It seemed such an impossible place for them to

be for the winter - Right now, camp is ^{so} snow bound that I wonder if the man in there can possibly get out. We're having a terrible blizzard right now - everything blocked until the snow plow comes through - and it doesn't go into camp at all. Glich's set up at Yellowstone sounds like heaven compared to what he had here -

Hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year and we wish that he may see you again before so many years have passed -
Kate



December 20, 1944

Dear Folks:

In five days we shall again celebrate the birthday of the Prince of Peace. In the meantime the great nations are killing or wounding about 15,000 human beings each day.

Under such circumstances ordinary Christmas greetings seem futile.

What can be said?

For YOU I wish a Christmas of peace. And in the year ahead may you get understanding that will bring lasting peace to you and to many others.

In the spirit of Christmas

Carl C. Proper
Carl C. Proper

This letter with same copies are being mailed to your Dad and all 5 of your children. If I waited until Christmas, I would lose it ^{over} somewhere or forget. Margaret

Can't remember
any recent happen-
ings - like what's
happened today - but
talks often about
her family.

Aunt Kathryn

Monday, 12-23 -46

Dear Folks,

This is a letter we have wanted to get written to you for several days but the days fill up too fast, and by night time I am too sleepy. So I am going to borrow Kathryn's scheme and make carbons of this and send it around. Glisan has just gone to work, and Billy and Carl are helping me plenty. The other children are asleep, this being vacation. I have to get this to the mail box, or rather the post office, about 3 blocks away by 9:30 to get it out on today's mail. One collection a day, and none on Sunday. We have a box so we can get mail on Sunday, but not large packages. The large box from Dad and Nana came Saturday, so I think all are here now. Judging from the collection under our tree it looks as though they were. Last evening after the little ones were tucked in bed, Datus and Rosemary helped us to wrap the family packages. They got a big kick out of it and helped a lot. Each had to go out of the kitchen while we wrapped his.

Here is Carl with a butter spreader. "Here, Mommy, I got the butter." At 90¢ a lb. we wish he wouldn't help himself so much, but I guess that is what I get for leaving everything out for the next breakfast shift. We enjoy our two little boys so much. They are altogether different. Billy is rather like Ferdinand the Bull. He is big and good natured and would much rather play nice and smell the flowers than pick a fight. He is very patient with little Carl who is sweet as can be, but ~~ve-r-y~~ very aggressive, he puts up his little fists and says "Fight". It is never safe to take your eyes off him, he is so quick, but he is getting better and doesn't really mean to get into things. He just can't help it. Billy slips out of bed so quietly when he awakens, shuts the door quietly behind him, and comes downstairs without disturbing anyone-usually. He runs upstairs to the bathroom alone too which saves a lot of steps. Carl seems housebroken now too, ever since we came to this nice house. Maybe he likes the duck and iris mural wall paper above the tiling in our bathroom. So the laundry problem is much simpler. I heard some paper rattling and found that Carl just opened the package of figs the folks sent. It was under the tree by Rosemary's doing, though I know it is tempting fate in the person of Carl to put goodies there. But this is Christmas so I just gave Carl Billy one too and here is Datus in flannel shirt, levis, and boots, so he will have one too and take these to the p.o. for me pretty soon.

We blew a couple of fuses yesterday morning starting the waffle iron, but we, or rather Datus and Glisan, got it fixed so we had a waffle supper instead. In the afternoon we fixed the Christmas tree (we have two lovely ones given us and a third offered,) then G. took Datus and Bill Chapman, Rosemary and Lois Cray and Janice Elliott and Caroline to the ice skating place. C. rode on a sled. I think just 5 had skates. Rose wears D's last year's shoe skates. She wears a 5 shoe now and he an 8 or 8½. Now Glisan will begin wearing sonny's outgrown shoes pretty soon I guess. They skate on a reservoir one end of which is frozen and the other has steaming water.

After the Christmas program Friday eve, D. and R. went to Bill C's birthday party. He invited all the 7th grade and Rosemary. Saturday afternoon there were 10 young folks in our kitchen popping corn (they used butter for the first lot and I told them to use Spry after that). Saturday night Lois had a taffy pull for her birthday party, so things have been lively. As usual we have the gang all here most of the time. Our three older youngsters all have company, Marilyn Elliott is a favorite with our little folks, she is 7. Some are around the piano, some playing house on the bunk beds in the guest room, some in the kitchen, some in Datus's room which is fixed pretty much as a den. His closet is a room with shelves all around. He has his books arranged on the lower one, game boards in there, arrows and rifle and shot gun thoughtfully disposed, and a dozen large Lynn Bogue Hunt prints or lithos arranged as a frieze under the molding. It is his first room to himself and the boys love it.

I was glad to know, Dad, that you will have a nice Christmas. The only thing we miss here is our folks. If you could all just decide to quit work and come live with us, we have room for all and it would be perfect. We do miss each one of you and wish you were here. One of the little folks' favorite games is to play they are coming to visit Aunt Mary. I always have to be so nice and glad to see them.

8-14-88
Dear Datus, Anna and Scott,
Nine years ago yesterday
Chase died and your dad
was here with us to be sup-
portive in our time of need.
He sometimes speaks
as if he should have
spent more time with
his children. This letter
written by Marjorie
nearly 42 yrs ago shows
how caring they were
for all of you and how

hospitable they
were to all the rest
of us. Scott should
know what a wonderful
Grandma Marjorie
was.

Louise is pushing
me to sort my stuff
and get rid of junk.
I love this better.

The program was nice Friday night. Caroline with a group of pre school girls had to sit on the stage in her little rocker and rock her dolly. She sat in the one with red frame and cane seat and loaned the other little maple one (reupholstered the seat in some blue and gold cloth matching the little stool Mother had fixed) to Mary Ann Condon. She wore her little white cross bar dimity with the lace ruffles, all starched and looked like a little doll herself, wore white shoes. They had her in the front rocker in the little circle. We thought you would like for her to have the dolly you fixed for her Christmas to rock, so gave it to her just before the program. She says, 'I just love her'. Caroline really plays with dolls you know. Her name is Mary Emily after the two dears who dressed her. Such doll clothes we never say and the little necklace and bracelet too. I could go on and on about them but have to hurry. She has Mary Emily's bed on the foot of hers and always puts her to bed when she goes.

We haven't invited anyone to dinner yet, but think we may invite one lonely man from the office. It seems he is a vegetarian, so our half turkey will do, but we may ask someone else too, but have hesitated as they all have friends of old standing. We know we'll likely have all the children any way. You should have seen my spice cake melt yesterday noon. Bill got two pieces, Lois and Janice each one. The boys also polished off the cranberry jelly.

It is 9:15. I must go do some marketing too. We feel something is missing when we didn't fix any kind of a box for Glick's folks even if they said not to, so I think we will have to fix a little New Year's box. Don't worry, it won't be much, but we don't like to receive so much and give so little or nothing. Dad's little western saddle was tiny enough.

Datus will have from Dad C. and us a wool shirt, slippers, Leaver cu b scope sight for his .22 and sub. to Outdoor Life.

Rose some special red leather slippers lined with shearling wool, roller skates, interest in a doll house and furniture and sewing machine, a sweater and blouse, some little dishes and a necklace. Part held for birthday.

Caroline a magic skin doll-14 inches, interest in doll house and furniture and sewing machine, a blouse.

Billy a 14 inch teddy bear, 20 inch red truck or substitute which should come today, some rubber farm animals and plastic cars

Carl a big cloth dolly, little red wagon with some blocks, blue overalls, rubber farm animals and plastic cars, a little blue plastic telephone-he loves the big one.

We will have a cookie baking fest tomorrow afternoon, just got my cookbook. It was in G's wardrobe suitcase which came Sat. so couldn't make any sooner.

The time has come to quit writing. We do hope you will all have a lovely Christmas and we will be thinking of you all day. Thanks for sauce recipes, good letters and all the gifts

I forgot to say I have a new green hat for Christmas to match my coat and Bill a new shirt.

With love to each
Mayme



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GENERAL OFFICES
San Antonio, Texas

Dec. 31, 1936

Mr. Ratus Proper
% Mamma & Papa
Window Rock, Arizona.

My dear Namesake:

You are the brightest looking boy I've seen and I'm indeed proud to have you for a namesake. Your fine picture arrived at home while I was in the office and Alice was so happy and enthused over it that she phoned me to hurry home - so you see you already have a way with the ladies. We are both proud of such a nice picture of such a fine cousin and you are on display in our new home.

I want you to tell your father and mother that we sent you a Christmas present addressed to you in care of them at Navajo Agency, Ariz. which was the last address we had. We also sent our greetings to them at the same address and hope everything will reach you.

We know you had a Big Christmas in Des Moines with all your fine grandparents and I'm sure Santa Claus treated you right. tho I hope you're not a spoiled young man. We had a nice but not too lively Christmas because we had spent our money on a new home which we moved into in October and so we didn't do much in the way of gifts to each other.

You must live in a very beautiful spot judging by the nice Copper Card we received from your Mother and Father. but you ought to come and see us sometime for San Antonio really is a wonderful place to live.

Alice joins me in sending our love to all of you together with Best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Your Cousin

Patricia Proctor



Aug. '73 Winchester, Va.
 Datus Proper - 10 yrs
 Jan MacKenzie 8 yrs
 Bonnie MacKenzie 4 yrs.



Margaret, Chase, Susan Proper.
 1628-12th St., Des Moines, Iowa

1339 Redbud Drive
Fairborn, Ohio
45324

Feb. 24 1986

Mr. Datus C. Proper

Dear Datus:

I was quite surprised to see in one of the feature articles of the most recent Field and Stream that it was written by you. Your name has been in the back of my mind for many years, most recently when a San Antonio Bank contacted me to see if I knew of your whereabouts(which I didn't).

If my memory is correct, you with your parents were visiting Datus and Alice Proper in San Antonio, I would guess in the late 30's or early 40's. You were a small youngster at the time and I was a 2nd Lt. stationed out at Randolph Field. I remember the folks made a big event of the fact that you carried Datus's name.

My family history as I know it is that my dad was raised in Bonaparte Iowa by his grandfather after his parents both died shortly after the Civil War. My grandfather and the original Datus Proper were brothers. He often visited us in Calif. when I was a boy as he was a minister engaged in work with the Black Baptist Church.

I have been out to Iowa several times since I retired from the Air Force looking up the area where my dad was raised and finding to my surprise a whole nest of cousins that I didn't know existed. Perhaps you are a descendent from one of the group of Propers who came from New York in the 1840's and settled there, there were several families of them. I have a map showing the various farms owned by different Propers in that part of Iowa back after the Civil War.

I found the little cemetery out among the farms and did find Datus's gravestone along with many many more all bearing the Proper name. I even went to church one Sunday with one of my new-found cousins and there I noticed a stained glass window inscribed to Deacon Louis W. Proper, my great grandfather.

So you see we do have some things in common and I would like to find out just for my own information, just how our relationship does fit together. I have a pretty good genealogical record of my direct line of ancestors, but it doesn't carry any of the adjacent lines of decent.

I certainly hope this letter gets to you from the offices of Field and Stream, and that you will drop me a line telling me something about yourself and how we are related, if you can find out.

Sincerely

Louis W. Proper

DATUS L. PROPER
June 17, 1963 - August 18, 1987

This isn't a retrospective of Datus's life -- I'm taking the loss one step at a time and still don't want to open his file of photos, school prizes and such. But it was important for me to know that he had your support when he needed it, and there are some things you might want to know. I thought it appropriate to write them down on my computer, if only to prove that I can run the thing when he's not around to lend advice.

We buried Datus in one of the world's good places. It's called Meadow View Cemetery and it dates back to 1855, which is ancient history in Montana. If you're coming through and would like to visit, please give me a call or, if I'm not here, ask directions in Bozeman or Belgrade. The cemetery is a few miles west of the Bozeman airport on a rural road. There's a stream where you can see trout rising. Beyond the creek there's the Gallatin Valley and, edging that, the Bridger Range. Datus visited this country often. Now he's between our house and the setting sun.

I suppose that all of us found Datus pretty tough to coach. Like a lot of gifted children, he did things either well or badly, without pausing in the middle. In the years he lived with me, I don't recall that he ever voluntarily washed his face, combed his hair, or put his shoes on -- and then he wondered why he couldn't get a girlfriend. But he would demonstrate that he knew more about a word-processing program than the folks who wrote it. He was, I've just learned, good at landing a VW-engined airplane that had lost power. It was the simple things he couldn't figure out.

But he was starting to get his feet on the ground, and one day soon he'd have remembered to put his shoes on first. Considering what he had managed to do before getting his degree, he might have had a brilliant career. There should be significance in his death -- great events deserve great causes -- but in fact he just made another obvious mistake. It wasted a lot of a valuable life. That can't be helped, but it does help to know that good friends made his life good while he was still with us.

Thanks.

Datus

Datus C. Proper
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