

1055 Nightingale Drive
Palatine, IL 60067

June 6, 1983

Dear Judy, Steve, Bruce and Amy,

Having reached a sort of milestone, I feel that I may have earned the right to pontificate a bit, perhaps more than I usually do. I can't fully describe the warm, proud, intensely parental feeling that has all but overcome me during this period. To realize that each of you, in your chosen fields of activity, has reached a significant plateau of achievement, and that all of you have done so virtually on your own, is rewarding beyond description. Besides that, you have all grown up to become models of responsible adult members of society, at least the part of society that we would like to believe is the correct one. Furthermore, and perhaps as important as anything else, you all appreciate and like each other and, I hope, us.

I could go on. Whether or not you are formally religious, you all cling to the principal virtues. You take care of yourselves, you respect honesty and the rights of others, you aren't promiscuous and you don't indulge in excesses. The sense of humor and the charm of being worldly-wise and yet openly naive about certain things are traits that all of you, and I, share. The traits of practicality, of valuing one's time and of accepting reality without remorse are ones that you share with Jane Ann. These have in no small way been responsible for your progress so far.

Oh, yes -- there is the family ethic of achievement, the motivation for which comes from inside, not from threats or concern about disapproval. To know that one has the ability and therefore strives to excel -- that's reason enough. And we have all been blessed with that motivation.

Good health, an adequate income, attaining one's goals, meriting approval of one's family and peers, and satisfaction with one's own personal life, should bring happiness. The evidence is there that you all have the elements of full, rewarding lives that can bring happiness to yourselves and to those close to you. We can't ask for much else, except the will to continue along these paths. Self-satisfaction and smugness can lead just as surely to the opposite conclusion.

So, keep working toward the next plateau, and then the next. You have the greatest control over your own future. Luck, certainly, enters into it, but surprisingly, some of the best luck is created by one's self.

continued.....

Jane Ann and I have much to thank you all for. To say "rewarding" would be only a limited attempt to tell the whole. "Justifying our lives completely" is closer. Whatever we may have thought and done during your childhoods, the good and the bad times, the right and the wrong actions, have resulted in you four individuals. And that ain't bad.

With much love,

Herb

While it may have been somewhat easier for you because of your field of interest and your inherent mathematical talent, that in no way diminishes your achievements. It may, moreover, raise the level of ultimate accomplishment. I hope so. (Management of people - your peers and superiors - is now the key.)

Jane Ann and I are delighted with Barbara Ann and know that you will be happy. Children would be a real plus, although I don't think I'm ready yet to be called "Grandpa". There would be someone, down the line, to write future chronicles of the family.

You've made the right moves so far. Keep it up!

H.