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DisplayDate: 05/20/1997

DisplayDate_Time: 11:00:47 AM

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Subject: No doghouse here...

It was lovely hearing from you! I'm glad the shower went well -- the quilt from your great-grandmother is extremely cool! She must have been a very special person to think that far ahead and understand how important it would be to you. Also, congratulations on the running numbers -- very impressive! Building up a reserve for the potentially slow (mileage-total-wise) post-wedding weeks, I assume! (I forget where you and Jon-the luckiest-guy-I-know are going for your honeymoon... good running territory, or not?) Thanks for letting me know of your inquiries with David about a possible trip back east for me; I had wondered where the idea disappeared to. My guess is that -- given the relative expense involved for the agency -- the utility of such a visit dropped in direct proportion to the likelihood of another year's extension. It's one thing to spend the money in the context of time rapidly running out and lots left to do; it's another thing if the Board has another year and the ability to hire new analysts that don't need to be flown in/out and put up at fancy hotels. In any case, it's only a reprieve for all of you, not a revocation of sentence: I'm sure to get back there at some point on my own steam and insist on a lunch or happy hour! Things here are fine and actually fairly busy: I'm presently spreading ten tons of gravel/decorative stone around the property in the 100 degree heat, calling contractors about one household project or another, etc. A friend of ours, Todd (an old highschool friend of Carolyn's), has moved in with us for probably 6-9 months. He's trying to finish two plays he's been working on for years and, once he does, he's going to go to Broadway, get rich and buy us a cottage in Ireland. Todd has a dalmatian and two cats, so the animals are all going through a bit of an adjustment period (his and ours), but I think it's going to be OK. In addition to working on his musical, Todd cooks, cleans and gardens, so the quality of life is already picking up here. In terms of our Newfoundland, we had another setback recently: the second potential mom our breeder was trying to get pregnant has turned out not to be, so we're now looking at August or September for the next litter (and eight wks. after that before we could get a puppy). Though with Todd's animals, maybe it's just as well that things will be delayed for awhile. I have jury duty next week -- it didn't take Maricopa County long to figure out I've moved in! The weekend of 5/30-6/2 Carolyn and I are going to Seattle and Vancouver to sightsee, etc. Carolyn has a work meeting in Seattle on 6/3, so we're going up early (Friday) and going up to Vancouver Sat. morning on an AMTRAK train that's supposed to be really beautiful (coastal route) and coming back on Monday via ferries. Should be a good trip! And then, before you know it, the beach vacation with my siblings (6/20-29), which Carolyn will be a part of, followed by another week + in PA/Ligonier w/ my family. I'll be staying through the 4th. My father's small home town (company coal town) is having a centennial celebration over the weekend of the 4th, and all of my dad's siblings are

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