

# SALOON

EST. in  
1903



## WATSIKEY

Hurn,

You are the first to receive communications from me on our new stationery. I was sitting here having a really good cup of instant coffee and I was reminded once again that I don't know what you are up to. So... what are you up to?

The band is doing pretty well. We worked pretty hard during July and August getting together forty tunes. We got our first job about the middle of August, then Jeff went off to the Black Hills for two weeks to get married, then we came back and started working every week. I'm not sure where the jobs all came from but since the first of Sept we have worked every weekend. Sometimes one night stands (high school homecomings, wedding parties, other parties), and sometimes clubs for three to five nights; we haven't been making much money but at least we aren't on food stamps anymore and we can pay the rent. I am really happy with the sound: Gary is getting good on bass and we have a good drummer. We still have some more equipment to buy but we're mostly pretty well set; we bought a pedal steel a couple of weeks ago and it's really fun to play with.

The summer was hard on my skin and hard on me. It was so humid it seemed like the equator had been rerouted. As soon as we started practicing some neighbors called the police so we ended up playing with all the windows and doors shut

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tight with the temp 95° outside- it must have been at least 100° and 95% humidity inside. But those days are over. Now it's fall, the weather is cool and the leaves are turning. They say that it gets to be 40 below here in the winter but I am looking forward to that- I don't believe it can get that cold.

Gary and Dan and I are living in a fine old house near the Univ. of Minn. There's a lot of natural woodwork, stained glass windows, hardwood floors, two porches, and a feeling much like Orange Grove used to have. It's really warm and comfortable.

Gary and I had an amazing time getting here. First of all Gary was a week late getting off the trail (I guess Dave told you that); I could just picture him with his head in a snow drift somewhere. When we finally got going we ended up listening to an allnight radio talk show out of Denver as we drove through the desert of Nevada and Utah. They talked all night long about fringe topics- pyramid power, UFO's, meditation, and some guy named Nikola Tesla who was supposed to be some forgotten super scientist. Gary got a book on him later and he really was a superscientist that no one has ever heard of. You should try to find a book on this guy; you'd really enjoy it. So, anyway, we finally made it to Boulder stoned out on this talk show (with a little help from the herb); we hung out there for a week and then rented a big ol U\*Haul. By this time the Stormobile was using a quart of oil every 50 miles and we had to push start it a lot. One time we stalled way out in the middle of nowhere and had to unhook the goddamn trailer, push the car up a hill, push it back down the hill, and put the trailer back on (I think we actually did that a couple of times). We finally made it to the twin cities as soon as we arrived the front suspension gave out-whew) only to find Jeff hadn't been able to find us a house in six weeks of looking. So Gary, Jeff, Betty (Jeff's wife) and I lived in her one bedroom apartment for a month. I can claim I have had ghetto living experiences now.

We have run across ~~amazing~~ pot great pot since our arrival- the best I have ever had. Unfortunately the guy who got us that was just busted. Two tokes and you were flying, two more and you were gone. The women have been a different story. I have been meeting a lot of people but no women that I can get excited about. When I find an exciting one it turns out I get no respect because I am a hippie musician. I have to admit that there are a lot of interesting women around- if I could just run into the right one. Like Jesse Winchester says, "You don't have to lift a finger love will come the easy way." I hope it comes soon.

I haven't been reading very much mostly because most books I have been picking up seem to say something I've already read somewhere else. I did read the Lives of a Cell; I liked that a lot. The life of Tesla was another good book ("Lightning in His Hands" was the name of it). The book I have been most impressed with is Marshall McLuhan's "Understanding Media: the Extensions of Man". I haven't encountered a book with such new ideas (new to me, that is) since Feynman Physics; and I have to read it like that too- about three pages a day. If you haven't already read it, I'll bet you'd really like it. It took me a couple of weeks before his definitions and concepts began to sink into my head, but once that happened McLuhan's ideas blew my mind more than any thing since running into eastern thought and Don Juan and acid, etc.

I can't think of anything else to say. As always I wish I could spend some time with you.

Peace,  
Steve