

# SISTERS OF SAINT JOSEPH OF CARONDELET

## St. Joseph's Provincial House

1880 Randolph Avenue Saint Paul, Minnesota 55105

October 10, 1977

My very dear friends,

As you can see from the date of this letter, I have returned home after five glorious weeks on the rivers, in the cities of Wheeling, Philadelphia, Syracuse and Chicago. Since you played a part in making this venture such a success, I thought you might like to know what happened.

On September 1 I boarded the HUGH C. BLASKE (Captain Bill Snell) and traveled to Cairo, Ill. where on the evening of Sept. 8 via the PHIL B and the WARREN D, I transferred to the WILBUR MILLS (Captain Singleterry) in order to enjoy a night's sleep. The next morning I boarded the D RAY MILLER (Captain Robert Shelton) to go up the Ohio. The familiar news about the towboat turning resulted in my transferring to the CHARLES LEHMAN (Captain Shelie Swisher) until September 13 when we arrived at Jeffersonville, Ind. where I was instructed to call Captain Sonny Ivey. Since no tow was northbound at this point, I elected to stay here in order to visit the American Commercial Barge Lines offices and meet not only Captain Ivey but see the huge barge operation from another angle. While there, I slept aboard the WALLY ROLLER (Captain James Jones). Early on September 15 I was aroused from my sleep to be told I would board the FRANK PHIPPS (Captain Peter Alouise) and we proceeded SOUTH in order to get the barges, then proceeded north until we arrived at Wheeling, W. Va. at 1:00 a.m. September 22. Here the MAX K took me to the river bank and the men helped me with my baggage to get into a state trooper's car which took me to Mt. St. Joseph, headquarters of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Wheeling.

After a short stay at this city with the Sisters, enjoying their cordial hospitality, I traveled via car to Pittsburgh to board a plane for Philadelphia - the objective of my summer's plans.

From September 24 to 30, I stayed with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, again enjoying their hospitality, delving into archives, visiting the city of brotherly love, ETC.

It was now time for me to depart in order to visit my sister and her family in Syracuse, N.Y. and I spent a short but talk-filled weekend with my relatives, meeting the new members of my family whom I had not met before.

On October 5 I flew to Chicago in order to attend and speak at the 1977 Annual International Council of Seamen's Agencies where port chaplains of all denominations met to discuss topics which dealt with the men who go down to the sea in ships. Here I got a "crash course" in seafaring. In return I gave the men a "crash course" about river people.

I returned to St. Paul Wednesday evening via Northwest airlines with my head reeling with all the knowledge, experiences, etc. I had been exposed to for five weeks. I am now sorting out my materials, diary, pictures, etc.

To all the people to whom I am indebted for this very wonderful experience - a very big and grateful thank-you for your generosity, hospitality, sharing of knowledge, the delicious meals, the loving concern for my well-being and the care you showed in so many different ways. I come back a much richer, more thoughtful, concerned Sister of St. Joseph and I keep each one of you in my heart and in my prayers. May God bless each one of you and keep you safe in His protective care.

Gratefully yours,

*Sister Ann Thomazine Sampson, C. S. J.*