

Dear Esther + Josh,

August 7, 1958

Am now at home recuperating - for Department of Genetics a few hours at least - from a 3 day visit by my University of Wisconsin family, who came unexpectedly early. Will try to fit Madison 6, Wisconsin the local non-scientific happenings in one paragraph: Luca's car has proved most convenient, and I use it more than I had predicted - especially helpful with the parking tag. The med school librarian - forgot her name - says all cats are doing fine. The hernia has been successfully fixed and your cats + hers rough it up a bit but are otherwise congenial + entertaining (a "3 ring circus" in her words). Millie is still waiting for an uncooperative baby - we've had 3 "last" picnics so far. Dr. Willard will have to give Jack's paper in N. H. I watered your lawn for 2 hours Tuesday evening (of course we had a thunder storm Wednesday morning, but were still badly behind in rain). Our landlord says the dove must go.

Now for lab news: Although the air conditioner has been moved, I'm still working in our lab, feeling most elegant by myself. Hirota has been practicing his paper with us - I believe he will do well.

Jane has been making good progress on the events list inbetween other jobs. We have 7 independent Gal-'s in W3120, with more on the way. Gal 1, 6, and 7 have been put into 4265 (= Gal 2). No luck so far making HFT's (one run of 80+ in 1.12). The ara story is puzzling: 3 of Luca's cultures are not Ara 2-5, while the other doesn't recombine with 2, 3, or 4 but with 5. Supplementing the testing medium (EM-Ara-Bi) makes a difference in rate of transfer for the H- strain, but only quantitatively. The others are unaffected. The haploid-diploid cross recombinants have not segregated the 3 ara's put in. Of the 300 or so -'s tested, nearly all were Ara 3, a few were neither 2, 3, nor 4 (!), and some were + in stroke and turned out to be V in streak. The problem may lie in the first step, i.e., detecting Gal V, which are either not there or much more difficult to spot than Ara V. I was forced into streaking possible Gal V's on both B Ara and Gal so that I could see which segregated on gal to make sure they were V. Nearly 100% are Ara V, and rather stable as such. Several are stored in minimal liquid. The results of entry of late markers (sugars) in 1417C and 24C are peculiar. In 17C (2750×3064 c chloramphen.), Lac^t was about 50% at all times (?), Gal was 0, and there were a few erratic Mal + Xyl +'s. In 24C (3752×2761 c pulsed @ 10') Gal increases c time, all Mals were + and Xyl was erratic. Among the 40 Xyl + in both sets, 15 were prototrophic and 21 Br⁻. These are unreliable results because the replicas were poor and readings were tantamount to guesses - colonies were crowded and background was heavy. The originals are in reasonably good shape & refrigerated if you think it's worth while to pick, stroke, & replicate. Running out of space - I hope the "jaded" travellers are having an exciting time. Jacky