Dear Esther or Josh,

The conference at Ames went OK. Alas, Slough had been called to Washington so I was scheduled to talk sometime in July. He had not turned in an outline so I can send you nothing but a conference agenda for Bruce. I’ll have to wait for a year to read what Slough will say.

Volume 5 of Heladio was being bound at Ames so I’ll have to wait till Sept. to find out what Lewis had found. I did get a chance to read Case’s paper on whale blood and I must agree. If his work can be confirmed, the N_r fixation is to be attributed to bacterial contaminants. I introduce the qualification because Case’s finding that sterile blood fixes no N_r is in direct contradiction with the claim of Laurie that fixation is not a function of bacterial presence.
Now that Ames is passed we can really feel that our vacation has begun. The first night out we camped on a point extending into one of Minnesota's thousands of unimhibited lakes. An uninhibited swim before supper, a hearty wood-fire-cooked meal & a sleep afterwards quickly removed the grime of the weariness of the day's drive. Among the wildlife we enjoyed seeing a sporting otter & a loon who laughed for us during the night.

Betty & I very much enjoyed our visit with you last week. We only wish it had been longer so that we had been able to see more of Bruce as well, & not only under conditions of evening fatigue. Hope we can see you on the way back, either in Jackson again or in New York. Best regards, Sincerely,

Betty o'Francis.