

Paul B. Van Nostrand
3725 Lifford Circle
Tallahassee, FL 32309
Email - jeannpaulvn@wmconnect.com
Phone (850)893-4309

May 25, 2011

Dear Brother Haeder,

I saw in the Chenango Sig your request for memories of Roy Anderson so I felt I should write you. The chapter rented an apartment at the rear of Dr. Lawson's house two doors south of the old Sigma Chi house. For the Fall of 1947 and Spring of 1948 Roy Anderson, Stan Caple, Roger Halley and I were assigned to live in the apartment. As winter arrived in Hamilton Roy and I decided to hitchhike to Florida between semesters (there was no Spring Break). We had ten days, leaving on Thursday after exams and returning on a Sunday. The enclosed letters show it was a great adventure for both of us while at Colgate. While in Miami we took a cruise on the Miami River, went to the greyhound races and swam in the ocean at Miami Beach.

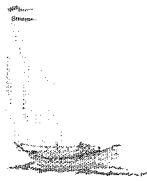
Roy and I corresponded but we only saw each other once after we left Colgate. In May 1985 my wife Jean and I were in Chicago and had dinner with Roy and his wife Nancy at their home. I hope you will find our letters and Governor Chiles reply to Roy fifty years after our trip interesting.

I did send copies of my letter to the Governor and his reply to Roy to the Chapter house. I still have black and white negatives of chapter activities, teams and parties that I took in 1948-49 if anyone is interested. They include a shaved Syracuse student caught on the Colgate campus in football season. I remember on the Sunday of party weekends a punch was served in the chapter house made of a fifth of rum and four quarts of melted vanilla ice cream and called the "Velvet Hammer".

Roy was the Chenango Sig editor and I provided some photographs in the late 1940s. I hope this gives you something to share about Roy with the brothers.

In hoc,

Paul '49



Paul B. Van Nostrand
3725 Lifford Circle
Tallahassee, FL 32308-2637
E-Mail - vannostr@freenet.tlh.fl.us

February 7, 1998

Dear Roy and Nancy,

Weather has been cool here the last few weeks with some rain but should get up to the 60 next week. Jean and I are both getting over colds and hope to go to Orlando by the middle of the week. There is an amateur radio "hamfest" there. Hope your winter hasn't been bad. The West Coast sure is catching hell.

Roy, I just wanted to remind you that it was fifty years ago this month that we hitchhiked to Miami from Colgate. That was a big adventure for me at the time. I still have the negatives I took with my Baby Brownie but not enough energy to make any prints to enclose. Besides who cares what we looked like 50 years ago? There are a number of things I still remember, how about you?

- Finally getting a ride with an auto-carrier outside a diner in York, PA in the early morning hours.
- Riding with some not too sober youths from Baltimore to Washington.
- Riding in separate cars with 2 men driving used cars down south.
- Getting a bed and breakfast at the Sigma Chi house in Raleigh.
- Spending the day trying to get a ride after an ice storm and finally taking the train to Savannah.
- The train stopped in the middle of nowhere and some one got off. I slept through part of that but you may remember.
- Warm weather in Savannah and a ride to St. Augustine where we had breakfast.
- The policeman who picked us up in south Florida and drove us to the city line without saying a word.
- The room we got in Miami for 87 1/2 cents a night each (I think), and the lady may have given us breakfast too.
- Getting a ride from Miami to West Palm Beach and then the next ride was all the way to Penn Station in NYC. How lucky can you get?

I think there was a couple of feet of snow when we got back to Dr. Lawson's. Ah, the life of the carefree youth. I don't think I would want my kids or grandchildren to hitchhike these days but it served me well while at Colgate.

The old body is showing signs of wear and tear but we keep going while we can. We would like to see you both again if you get down this way. I don't know where we will head this summer. Hope to get away from the heat and humidity of Tallahassee for at least a couple of months.

Paul B. Van Nostrand
3725 Lifford Circle
Tallahassee, FL 32308-2637
E-Mail - vannostr@freenet.tlh.fl.us

February 24, 1998

Gov. Lawton Chiles
The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Governor Chiles,

Fifty years ago this month my college roommate at Colgate University, Roy Anderson and I decided to get away from the snow and hitchhiked from upstate New York to Miami Beach during the 10 day break between fall semester finals and the start of the spring semester. If you will read the attached letter from Roy, you will see he believes we pioneered the influx of college students to Florida during class breaks.

Colleges during the war and until July 1946 went year round with three trimesters. so there were no class breaks. It is possible some students may have come to Florida during the 1946-7 winter break but Roy and I believe we were early pioneers among students going to Florida on break. We hitchhiked (mostly) 2800 miles from Hamilton, NY to Miami Beach and back during our ten-day break. We do not know of any other students that went that far in Feb. 1948 to go to Florida.

I would greatly appreciate it if you could send a letter to Roy thanking him for starting the student movement to Florida for a break in the sun. You might remind him the legislature allocates the alcoholic beverage tax receipts.

The year following our trip to Florida two fraternity brothers came to Florida and more followed. I liked what I saw on my trip and moved to Orlando in 1959 and have lived here ever since.

Roy's address is : Roy Anderson, W379S4790 Pretty Lake Rd., Dousman, WI 53118. I would appreciate it if you could return Roy's letter to me.

Respectfully,

Paul B Van Nostrand



STATE OF FLORIDA

MAR 20 1998

Office of the Governor

THE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001

LAWTON CHILES
GOVERNOR

March 20, 1998

Mr. Roy Anderson
W379S4790 Pretty Lake Road
Dousman, WI 53118

Dear Roy:

A short time ago your good friend from Florida, Paul Van Nostrand, wrote to me about your trailblazing the student exodus to Florida during Spring Break. He sent me a copy of your letter to him where you listed the details of your first trip, along with the photographs.

Those must have been exciting times and we appreciate your spreading the word about the trip so as to inspire others to follow, for they surely did. Florida has always been a mecca for those who wanted to shed the cold and snow for a sandy beach. I thought your memory of this wonderful trip south quite remarkable after all of this time. Of course Paul is a resident of Florida and can enjoy our sunshine all the time (it has been raining an awful lot this Winter), and I hope you can come visit often.

In the movie "Field of Dreams" it was said if the ball field was built, "They would come." You started something and "They did come."

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lawton Chiles".

LAWTON CHILES

LC/hbc

cc: Paul Van Nostrand
3725 Lifford Circle
Tallahassee, FL 32308-2637

3/28/98

Dear Paul-

WOW!

You really are cozy with the governor - it pays to live in a capitol city. I did appreciate his letter, altho I detected a bit of prodding on your part. Next time you see him - remind him about the check - he evidently forgot to slip it in with the letter.

Try to make it up north this summer. We can rehash our adventure over a traditional Wisconsin "seven course" dinner - a bratwurst and a 6-PAK.

In hoc.
Ry

P.S. When Nancy read the governor's letter she was curious as to what I said in ~~my~~ letter, and in my usual efficiency I had no copy. Could you squeeze out ~~a~~ copy for her?