

## Jim Aaron

Canoe trip – boundary lands of Minnesota 2 weeks – prime rib, 4 dozen eggs, case of strohs, 50 lbs of potatoes. Each night they would make camp and prepare dinner. At the appropriate hour they would dress for dinner, make cocktails with lake water and powdered orange juice, and Nick would begin the Opera review at sunset. The meals were as good as any I've ever had. The prime rib was saved for the acme of the trip – the furthest distance from civilization before they had to turn around and head back.

Peter Lenz buying two houses in Newburyport in the 70's – a 17<sup>th</sup> century house fully intact was easy to get and for cheap. Peter bought one house virtually sight unseen and started poking around the same day after closing, poking the walls and peeling back layers to see what he had. Unbricking a closed up fireplace, he found ancient cook pots and a headstone (firestone?) with a date on it. In his elation he burst forth from the house, eager to simply tell anyone how excited he was. Two old timers were unloading coal and misunderstood his excitement, replying “well at least you're lucky enough to have a roof over your head” assuming he hated the awful building he had bought. Jim confirms the house I remember was very very narrow.

After working a job with Nick and (?) Lombardi in Hadley they were passing the catholic church where they noticed activity. Workmen carrying things out and loading them, and there on the sidewalk was the three part statue (of Jesus, Joseph and Mary?). They all knew instantly they were going to take it. Not knowing or caring if it was up for grabs or just being moved, they pulled their pickup over as closely as possible, ran to the statue, tied it against the headboard of the pickup standing up and then having nothing else, put a paper bag over each head to disguise them and drove off. Without remorse but with some concern he could be discovered, father incorporated the statue into the chimney at Leyden which was only a few feet off the ground, permanently bricking it into an inaccessible (true?) chamber where it presumably remains today.