

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

1

3.24.1964

"Ero" broke when a ~~young~~ boy was ill and depressed.
questioned he told parents about Fr. and his techniques"
is Ero. in Law, -- therefore has visit to Usg. Medeiros with
Fr. forth on March 20th, at St. Michael's..

2) In March, Dr. F. told Fr. AN unzh. and Looth that these were temples, when actually they were acts, --

4) Another boy, name [redacted] Uncle an S.J., who has gone sour. Father knows of a case or more in Boston, and himself turned sour on clergy.

pred. "

6) F. inter occurs at Rob. 5
Hedberg - Gr. - bed collected by Boy
ewriter - when parents
were out.
③ Imprinted mass + with the Scrub
to or large - big in the section

DIocese of Fall River
Fall River, Massachusetts

BISHOP'S OFFICE

March 26, 1964

The Reverend James Porter,
46 Suffolk Street,
Revere, Mass.

Dear Father Porter,

Since I saw you a week ago, I have been studying the matter and consulting those most likely to give me a full and truthful account of your problem.

My best recommendation to you now is that you make a good retreat of a week or so and bring me some proof that this has been done before thinking of coming down to Fall River to see me. It is possible that they might be able to take you in at the Passionist House in Boston, or in Spencer at the Cistercians. Remember that we are not concerned about trivial matters.

Very sincerely yours,

Bishop of Fall River.



BISHOP'S HOUSE
FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

April 29, 1967

The Reverend James A. Porter,
St. John's Church,
New Bedford, Mass.

Dear Father Porter,

This is to advise you, formally, that you no longer enjoy the privilege of using faculties in the Fall River Diocese. You may not, from now on, preach or hear confessions in the Diocese. The offering of this is not denied you.

Your career, thus far, has been one of persistent involvement in affairs against which you have been counselled, advised, warned and forbidden. If it were only a matter of your own salvation, I could be reconciled. But it affects, as things are, other lives than your own. If you do not recognize this condition, then all the more reason for me to act as I do. You are not far from being completely separated from work in this diocese.

Sincerely, in Christ,

1. Letter from Bishop [Signature] to Mr. Porter
Bishop of Fall River

2. 5.19.67 - Mr. J. E. Channing
- Mr. J. E. Channing - what action taken from [Signature]

Mr. Porter
New Bedford
Mass.

Pro Christo Sacerdote

Cable: PARACLETE - ALBUQUERQUE

PHONE: AREA CODE 505

529-2941

529-2951

Hia Copli

MONASTERY OF THE SERVANTS OF THE PARACLETE

JEMEZ SPRINGS, New Mexico 87025

August 24, 1967

Most Rev. James L. Connolly, D.D.
Bishop of Fall River
Chancery Office
Fall River, Mass.

Most Reverend and dear Bishop Connolly,

I wish herewith to give official notification of the arrival here of Father James Porter. Contact was made with this office last Sunday by Fr. Paul Shanley, diocese of Boston.

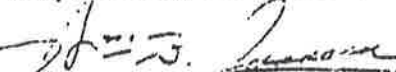
Fr. Shanley indicated that prompt action was necessary, and that he had not cleared the matter with your office. I told Fr. Shanley to send Fr. Porter on and that I would clear the matter with you following his arrival.

Fr. Porter has given me a summary outline of his problem. May we ask, Your Excellency, for an indication of your wishes with regard to Fr. Porter. If he is to remain here, we are prepared to put him into the hands of competent medical authorities to continue the therapy he stands in need of.

old folks!
It will be our hope to help Fr. Porter reach, if that is possible, a cure for his problem. Failing that, we would hope to be given clear outlines of the fields of his safe priestly activity. Armed with this information, we may be of some assistance in finding priestly work for this young priest.

We await your instructions about the disposition of this case.

Respectfully in Christ,



M. E. Evans, S.F. - Sup.

September 1, 1967

Reverend William B. Swanson, S.P.
Via Coeli
Jemez Springs, New Mexico

My Dear Father Swanson:

Thank you for your communication of August 24, 1967, in reference to Reverend James Porter.

I had earlier discouraged Father Porter from going all the way to the Southwest, feeling that he would get therapy in Boston; even though, I ~~was~~ admit, he has worn out his welcome in one of the institutions to which I had assigned him two or more years ago.

Now he is with you. I hope and pray that you may be able to help him, but if my experience means anything, it may not be easy. Above all things, I think he should be shielded from anyone, old or young, troubled with his weakness. He has long expressed an interest in helping old people. Perhaps this may be the key to his cure. He is a highly sympathetic man, kind by nature, who with your help and God's grace might succeed in being all things to old people, at least, for the sake of Christ.

Believe me, with deep appreciation of Father Gerald's work and all the traditions of Via Coeli, I remain,

Devotedly yours in Christ,

(Most Reverend) James L. Connolly
Bishop of Fall River

JLC:tjh

P.S. I make myself responsible for his expenses.



BISHOP'S HOUSE
304 HIGHLAND AVENUE
FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

October 9th., 1968

His Excellency, Most Rev. James F. Davis, D.D.,
Archbishop of Santo Fe,
New Mexico.

Excellency:

Reverend James E. Porter, of the Fall River Diocese has been resident at Via Coeli, and Villa Pius XII for two years or more. He advises me that he wishes to appeal to you for assignment in your jurisdiction. He will no doubt have recommendation from some of the Fathers of the Paraclete.

I ordained Father Porter on April 2nd., 1960. Within six years, he had three appointments. He has a great deal of kindness; was well appreciated by sick and aged people. He was faithful to duties. His trouble was boys. With considerable athletic prowess, he appealed to the young, but it proved his downfall. After warning and transfers felt short of correcting him, I sent him to Via Coeli, where, as far as I can ascertain, he has conducted himself well. As far as I am concerned, it need be no question of an insubordination. We continue to regard him as one of our diocesan priests. However, if he can be helpful to the Archdiocese of Santo Fe, and I believe he might, I cheerfully endorse his application. As far as I can judge he has improved much, since he went to Via Coeli.

Believe me, with every good and kind wish,

Sincerely yours, *[Signature]*

Richard J. Fall River,

St. Christopher Catholic Church

MAILING ADDRESS
P. O. BOX 3073

RECTORY - 1401 FLOWER AVENUE
NORTH LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89000

TELEPHONE
(702) 621-2222

Your Excellency,

I thought I'd better sit down quickly while I have the chance to tell you of my good fortune.

Bishop Joseph Green of the Reno Diocese has accepted me to work under his guidance. He has given me a temporary assignment here at St. Christopher in North Las Vegas. Especially he actually knows of my background I'm not sure but he has accepted me for what I am now. I am at a wonderful parish where there is plenty of work and with a very kind pastor and assistants. All this makes me feel so welcome and helps me starting in anew without worrying who knows what without opinion means a great deal to me. In this way I can now show myself & prove my worth as I am today. I realize I must show he on my good work. Let's work not what I believe.

I want to thank you especially for your greatly & faithfully work in my regards. Your encouragement and patience especially on kindness is what made all this possible. I need not say my voice because I think you realize how grateful I am to you. I'll write again shortly but I wanted you to know my situation my good fortune.

Sincerely in Christ,

DIOCESE OF FALL RIVER
FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

BISHOP'S OFFICE

November 7, 1968

Rev. James R. Porter
St. Christopher Catholic Church
P. O. Box 3075
North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030

Dear Father Porter:

I am delighted to have your letter and hear that you are presently helping Bishop Michael J. Green in his Diocese.

Certainly, there is a wonderful field for a man like yourself full of energy and good will.

I am sure you will do well with an understanding pastor and zealous assistant.

Keep faithful to your spiritual helps-aspirations frequently-to keep yourself in the conscious presence of God. Be sure to emphasize the highest ideals in your preaching and counselling and I am sure this new start will be an opening for you as a great wide door to the service of God and man.

With every best wish, I am

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Bishop of Fall River

THE SERVANTS OF THE PARACLETE

VIA COELI MONASTERY

MONTHLY REPORT

Guest-Priest: Rev. JAMES PORTER

Age: 35 (1/2/35)

Diocese or
Community: Fall River

Date arrived Via Coeli 8/23/67
2/21/69

Length of current
stay at Via Coeli: one week

REPORT MADE IN TERMS OF RESPONSE TO VIA COELI PROGRAM - Please note additional remarks

SPIRITUAL:
(fidelity to the
community exercises)

At this writing Fr. Porter has been at Regina Mundi Retreat only a few days; he is regular at religious exercises and participates in the daily concelebrated Mass, taking his turn as principal concelebrant; it appears he needs a deeper interior life if he is to come to some calm and stable spiritual life.

PHYSICAL:
(well-being; any
current illnesses)

highly nervous and over-active; will have to learn self-control and emotional stability; is out-going (to a fault), thoughtful, and generous with others. Apparently in good physical health.

SOCIAL:
(ability to relate to
brother-priests; use
of leisure time; the
willingness to serve)

Is ready and willing to be service to the community; mixes well, but offends some by his lack of priestly control in regard to choice of language. There is a basic emotional immaturity which accounts for most of his short-comings now and during his previous stay at Regina Mundi.

THERAPY:
(Psychiatric care).
AA; Recovery, Inc.)

attends Recovery, Inc.

ADDITIONAL REMARKS:
(Incidents, favorable or not,
worth reporting; outlook for
this man at this time)

Fr. Porter is a generous and willing priest who suffers from emotional immaturity and possibly an over-active and nervous nature. If he can learn emotional stability and self-control, he could have a fine future ahead of him.

lapsed into former failing on recent assignment
in Houston, Texas; undergoing psychiatric
treatment on out-patient basis here.

(Signature)

Via Coeli

Phone 711 410 (day)
510 (nights)

Rev. Lucian C. Hendren, JCL
Chancellor
Archdiocese of Santa Fe
202 Morningside Drive, SE
Albuquerque, N.M. 87108

2/11/1
June 4, 1969

Dear Lucian:

I had a phone call from Frs. Tom Maher and Doc Miles (Truth or Consequences), and they tell me that the Archbishop has told them to secure replacements for their retreat and vacation absences from us.

It's OK with me, but I want to check in with you first. If you give your approval I'll send Fr. Jim Porter, who has done good work recently in Questa and Mountainair. He's a solid citizen. I sent you his file about three weeks ago, so you can check him out if you wish.

Many thanks and best wishes,

In the Lord,
John Feit, SP
Rev. John B. Feit, SP
Superior

Servants of the Holy Paraclete - Jesus Springs, New Mexico 87023

Via Copli

MONASTERY OF THE SERVANTS OF THE PARACLETE

JENSEN SPRINGS, NEW MEXICO 87025

re: REV. JAMES R. PORTER

Rt. Rev. Reginald M. Barrette
Chancellor
Diocese of Fall River
Fall River, Mass. 02722

Aug. 6, 1969

Right Reverend and Dear Monsignor:

Thank you for yours of Aug. 1, in which you direct a check in the amount of sixty dollars for the professional services of Dr. John F. McCarthy, M.D., psychiatrist, for professional services rendered Fr. James Porter.

To supply you with a recent report on Fr. Porter's activities is relatively simple. He has been a very active young priest. We receive a large number of requests for supply work during the summer, and I have not hesitated to call upon Fr. Porter in each of these instances. As of this writing he has turned in satisfactory work in Alamogordo, N.M., Mountainair, N.M., Questa, N.M. and Truth or Consequences, N.M. When the Superior of our house in Nevis, Minn. called to ask for help for that house (they have a large amount of tourist trade in the area during the summer) I sent Fr. Porter, because he is a willing worker, and gets along well with pastors and people wherever he goes. Thus far there has been no occurrence of the problem which plagued Fr. Porter in the past.

I wish that all of these favorable circumstances could give me leave to write Fr. Porter off as "cured," but that is the domain of the professional, not myself. I can say that he is improved so far as obvious anxiety, nervousness, etc., so apparent when he first came to us. However, even to the casual lay observer it is apparent that Fr. Porter is still a restless young man, and while I cannot give the textbook names for them his nervous symptoms are evident; viz., biting of nails, constant brushing of hair, chain smoking etc. He is better equipped to talk about his problems at this time, and has obviously derived benefit from his therapy with Dr. McCarthy. However, I would not wish to make any long range forecast at this time.

I enclose copy of Fr. Porter's last letter to me, to give you some idea of his present plans and hopes for the future.

With every best wish, I remain

Sincerely in Christ Priest,
Rev. John B. Feit, S.P.
Rev. John B. Feit, S.P.
Superior

CONFIDENTIAL

AUG 23 1969



August 22, 1969

His Excellency
The Most Rev. Laurence A. Glenn, D.D.
Bishop of Crookston
1200 Memorial Drive
Crookston, Minn.

Rev. James Porter

Your Excellency:

Following upon our telephone conversation, I am happy to report favorably in the case of the above priest.

Father Porter is 34 years of age, a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, in good health. He has been stationed here for the past two months. Several years ago he suffered a nervous breakdown, but shows every sign of having recovered remarkably. During the throes of his illness, he did have some moral problems which were from all appearances the result of his illness, something for which he was not really responsible. Now, having recovered, he gives every sign of having former problems under control. Before coming here, he took care of parishes in Santa Fe Diocese while the respective pastors were on vacation, and I am told he did very well.

From my personal experience I note three very worthwhile qualities in Father Porter: He adheres steadfastly to sound theology, he is very obedient, and he is an energetic and zealous worker.

We shall be most grateful to Your Excellency for giving this priest a chance, and we believe he will prove an asset to the Diocese.

With every best regard.

Your Excellency's obedient son in Christ,

Peter C. Durwell
(Rev.) Peter C. Durwell, S.P.
Superior

✓ 28-22-69

Porter, James - Revis. Merion.
Fall River Diocese - Rev. A. Brewster

2 years with Parasitosis
2 mos. ~~was~~ at Kew

nervous breakdown - treatment - OK
 liquor - no

1 incident with boy
thinks isolated instance during psychiatric treat

Doesn't want to return to Fall River.
Bishop has been paying fully for him.

Would be incarnated? - not before 3 years sure

He is willing to take if he will
stay one year - likes him and
he likes him. He takes correction - Sept 2.

Phone - Remer 751-4262 - O.K. indefinite - But left 2
4888

Phone - Brewell S. F., Texas 732 ~~732~~

conservative - not a vault garden
 ground breakdown - treatment successful through - period
 process of this period.

Hard worker

Wes work out. talked to him
he will be happy to go to Bessie
night he will in front of his stop their route.

Q. P. Meritt, E. Grand Forks. - Will talk. Deal

"I suppose there isn't much choice of mine."
"D" "The other assistant who"

August 22, 1969

Reverend James Porter
Our Lady of the Snow Retreat House
Route #2
Nevis, Minnesota 55467

My dear Father Porter:

I understand that you have been assisting Very Reverend W. Francis Lemen, St. Philip's Church, Bemidji, on weekends for several months and he has been pleased with your spirit of helpfulness and cooperation. I understand also you have been happy to work there under him. So I am therefore glad to make your assignment as Father Lemen's assistant full-time and for an indefinite period. I hereby do so, as of September 2, granting you whatever facilities are necessary.

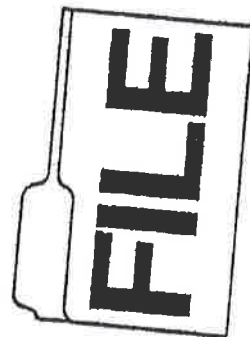
Assuring you of my prayers, I am

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Bishop of Crookston

LAG:vk

cc: Rev. W. F. Lemen



September 21, 1970

Reverend Peter C. Burwell, S.P.
Servants of the Holy Paraclete
13270 Maple Drive
St. Louis, Missouri 63127

My dear Father Burwell:

Very Reverend W. F. Lamen phoned me several days ago that it was necessary for him to tell Father Porter to leave immediately. His old problem recurred and because of complaints from the parishioners, Father Lamen had no choice. Father Porter planned on proceeding to your house and left yesterday, Sunday, September 20th.

I am very sorry that this developed, as Father Porter seemed to be active and interested and friendly with everyone and it appeared that he was doing well. We hope that a period of recollection and retreat will help him orientate himself again. As you probably know, my term of office ceases here on September 29th so I am not in a position to offer to take him again.

I would like to take the occasion to thank yourself and the other Paraclete Fathers who have been so helpful to us during our term of office here. Several of your men made great progress and are doing very well.

Assuring yourself and the Community of my prayers, I am

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Apostolic Administrator

1. SERVANTS



October 12, 1970

The Most Reverend James L. Connolly
Chancery Office
362 Highland Avenue
Fall River, Mass. 02722

Your Excellency,

Four weeks ago Father James Porter arrived here at St. Michael's for what we thought was his annual vacation. A few days ago we were informed by his Pastor, Monsignor Lemon of Bemidji, Minn, that Father Porter had lapsed into his old problem and that the 'heat' was on so Father was directed to seek the help of the Paracletes again.

Father Fred Bennett, S.P. has spoken with Father Porter and you will find his report enclosed. I have personally been aware of Father's problem for a number of years and agree wholeheartedly with Father Bennett's observations. We must not only consider the good of the priest but those he is to serve. Many young men have in some degree or other been hurt by Father's actions. Parents place their complete trust in a priest and this trust so easily gets young people up to be hurt by a priest with such a problem.

We will give all the help possible to Father if he feels he can go along with the program outlined in Father Bennett's report. We would certainly not recommend him for priestly work -- just offers too many occasions to stumble back into his problem.

Enclosed you will find our monthly support statement for Father Porter. When and if Father begins to work at a secular job we hope he will then carry his own support.

With every best wish, I remain,

Sincerely in Spiritu,

Charles Buchanan
Father Claude Buchanan, S.P.
Father Superior

SERVANTS



PARACLETE

October 12, 1970

Fr. James Porter was referred to me for consultation after he had been sent away from his most recent parish when it was discovered that he had been committing sexual acts with young boys. Fr. Porter has been removed from parishes "at least" four times previously for similar actions. In the most recent incident there were "at least" ten to twelve boys involved.

Fr. Porter is a very likeable person. He claims to have much natural athletic ability of the type that young boys always find appealing. He also is a basically immature person. He does not seem to be aware of the psychological harm that he may have caused the youths. Moreover, when he is entangled in these sexual situations, he apparently fails to see the inevitability of discovery with such a large number of youths involved. This could probably be considered another manifestation of his fundamental immaturity.

After interviewing Fr. Porter, I recommended most strongly to him that he find employment in a secular occupation and leave the priesthood. My primary reasons for suggesting this step were as follows:

1. His history of repeated instances of the same problem is evidence of a deeply ingrained habit that would most likely be triggered once more if he were again to enter a parish situation where there would be many cues familiar to him.
2. The priesthood, especially at the parish level, almost invariably involves some work with youth. Moreover, a priest is able to form relationships with youths while parents and other adults have no suspicion that anything is amiss simply because the man involved is a priest.
3. Even if he were to return to the active priesthood in some other capacity such as a hospital chaplain, his interests would most likely bring him back to some type of parish work once again.
4. People often suffer psychological difficulties later in life whose origins seem to be found in sexual approaches made to them during their childhood by adults of the same sex. I have reason to believe that the trauma of such experiences may be further intensified when the adult involved is a priest.

If Fr. Porter agrees to seek secular employment as a prelude to leaving the priesthood, I will be happy to work with him in a professional capacity and give him what help I am able with his psychological problems. I would expect him to remain here at the house in St. Louis for approximately two months of intensive treatment during which time he could be working or at least looking for employment.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Fred Bennett, S.P.
Clinical Psychologist

SERVANTS



of the

PARACLETE

The Right Reverend Reginald M. Barrette
Chancellor
362 Highland Avenue
Fall River, Massachusetts

Dear Monsignor Barrette,

This letter will both bring you up to date in regard to Father Porter's future plans and our present reactions.

Father has agreed to seek work outside the ministry and seems to see the wisdom of this move for now. I have underlined the word now since we feel Father has in the back of his mind to return to the priesthood after a year or so in lay life. He does not want to seek laicization at this time as we thought he should but would rather have a leave of absence. This gives some indication that he hopes to return to the active ministry after a period of time in lay life. We would only look upon the leave of absence as a preparation for complete laicization since in no way do we think Father should be permitted to return to the active ministry. The risks to others are much too great. We do not think Father comprehends the harm he has done in his relations with young boys. Many of them may have suffered harm that will be with them the rest of their lives. I think you could ask Father to seek laicization at this time but this is your decision to make. We have certainly recommended this move. By granting a leave of absence there is always that chance that someone not knowing the full story will again help him back to the ministry and the whole story could be repeated.

We think a letter to Father Porter from the Bishop would be in order at the present time wherein the Bishop can state his mind with no ifs or buts. In the long run it will prove the best for Father and those he comes in contact with. It is so easy for a priest to have someone cover up for him and never get at the heart of the matter.

With every best fraternal wish, I remain,

Gratefully yours in Spirit,

Claude Buchanan
Father Claude Buchanan, S.P.
Father Servant

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

April 12, 1973

Most Reverend Leo C. Byrne
Coadjutor Archbishop of Saint Paul
226 Summit Avenue
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

Dear Archbishop Byrne,

James Robert Porter, born on January 2, 1935, in East Boston, Massachusetts, was ordained to the priesthood of the Fall River Diocese on April 2, 1960.

Please find enclosed herewith a facsimile of the communication which Father Porter has recently had occasion to address to me. As you will note, he is requesting a definitive laicization.

In the confidential archives, I find a copy of the letter of my predecessor, well-known to you, Bishop James L. Connolly, suspending Father Porter a divinis, under date of April 29, 1967. Father Porter experienced difficulty repeatedly in his priestly ministry. For your information, I also enclose herewith a communication from the priest-psychologist at the Paraclete Fathers' institution in Saint Louis, with appended notation from the director of this institution.

Insofar as Father Porter is living now far distant from this Diocese, it will be very helpful to both Father and to me if you will have the goodness to assist him in submitting the indicated petition. Please find enclosed a copy of my letter to Father Porter of this date. Should you be kind enough to agree to process his case, I shall write to him again and provide the proper advice to him.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. With every cordial good wish, I have the pleasure to remain

Faithfully yours in Christ,

TJC

Bishop of Fall River

Enclosures

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/14/89

JAMES ROBERT PORTER, house husband, home address 2137 Hale Avenue North, Oakdale, Minnesota, telephone number 612/770-3692, was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents and the nature of the interview. PORTER then provided the following information:

PORTER was formerly a priest in the Catholic Church. He was ordained as a priest in 1960, but was convinced to renounce his vows by Father BENNETT, Church Psychiatrist, in 1969. Father BENNETT told PORTER that the only way he would cure his sexual problem was to renounce his vows and become a layman. PORTER refrained from any further sexual contact with children, after he renounced his vows, because he no longer had the church's support and was forced to face the responsibility of his actions on his own. Prior to being advised by Father BENNETT to renounce his vows, PORTER had been caught molesting young boys approximately five times. After each incident the Catholic Church would place him through treatment for his problem and transfer him to a new parish. Father PIERRE, with the Archdiocese in St. Paul, now has possession of all of PORTER's records regarding the aforementioned records.

PORTER advised that he began the molestation of young boys approximately two years after becoming ordained. During the period of 1962 to 1969, PORTER had sexual contact with 40 to 50 boys, ranging in age from 10 to 14. The majority of these 40 to 50 sexual acts occurred without the boys ever knowing it. He said he would rub his penis against the boys while wrestling with them. PORTER stated that he had only disrobed about five out of the 40 to 50 boys he molested. There was no anal penetration, but he received and performed oral sex with a few of the boys.

PORTER has been married to

On October 22, 1989, PORTER was at the Little Canada Charity Bingo Hall with his wife. PORTER usually attends bingo with his wife every Sunday night from 9:15 to 11:00 or 11:15 p.m. in Little Canada. PORTER produced a canceled check dated October 22, 1989, to Little Canada Bingo Hall in the amount \$35.

Investigation on 12/7/89 at Oakdale, Minnesota File # 7-MP-29000 Sub C-
by SA C. J. FREIHOFER
SA JOHN P. DOUGHERTY JPD/rf Date dictated 12/12/89

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned

871

Y/C

7-MP-29808 Sub C

Continuation of FD-302 of JAMES ROBERT PORTER , On 12/7/89 , Page 2

PORTER drives a 1981 Plymouth Reliant K car station wagon, tan in color, with Firestone tires, license number 273DPL. He advised he traveled through St. Cloud, Minnesota, many years ago, but has no idea where St. Joseph, Minnesota, is located.