

May 1, 1986

Mr. Seymour Rosen  
Director, SPACES  
1804 North Van Ness  
Los Angeles, California 90028

Dear Mr. Rosen,

It is with sincere pleasure that I am sending you the enclosed material concerning my father, Dorion Raidel. I consider your interest in his handiwork a tribute to his life long commitment of making beautiful objects from a piece of wood.

Adam Raidel, his father, was born in 1864 in Eaton County, Michigan, son of Jonathan and Lovina (Ritzman) Raidel, who came from Pennsylvania by train and ox cart to claim a Government homestead.

My father, Dorion Raidel, was the only child of Adam and Cordelia (Messenger) Raidel. He and his father shared a farm of 100 acres in Section 9, Walton Township, Eaton County, Michigan. Their long winter evenings were spent in carving and building the bird houses that graced the lawn and fence lines of their property.

In 1920 Dorion married Helen Hoffner and they lived on the southeast section of the farm, a quarter of a mile south of Adam and Cordelia's home, which had been built from lumber cut from the farm wood lot. This house still stands. (1986)

Dorion and Helen sold the farm in 1969 and moved into the nearby town of Charlotte to spend their retirement years.

Dorion pursued his love of woodcraft until his death in 1977. Helen, his widow passed away in 1983. They are buried in the family plot of Bosworth Cemetery where three generations of the Raidel family are interred.

Please keep me informed as to what use this information will be put. "Rainbows in the Sky" is a delightful volume that we treasure in our library and I am looking forward to any future tribute that may be published honoring my father and fellow craftsmen.

Sincerely,

*Mrs. Hollis Patterson*  
Mrs. Hollis Patterson  
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Tavares, FL 32778