

If I did not give you my
phone number, it is
938.1980

90 Brown Rd
Harbord 2096
30/8/73

Dear Phyll

I received your letter and I too thanks
I did not expect you to send any back, when
you are going to give me a few days holiday.
My gas bill came in yesterday. The highest it
has ever been, ^{11 dollars} I use a lot of gas during the
winter months, (apart from prices up) as I air
a lot of clothes on the rack over stove, and at
times have both jets going, very low, (not 3rd or grill)
for helping to air Laura's small things, after I iron
them, and that also applies to radiator on
larger clothes, you can't iron them, & send them
back damp, packed in a box. But Laura is
exceptionally kind to me, pays me the same, even
if it is quite small. And takes me a trip in
car, for a picnic ^{during} every school holidays, & won't
let me put anything to-wards it. So I am
quite happy. And as Laura is a school teacher
(3rd or 4th primary) she has every moment taken up,
& not as strong, as she looks, and it is a
great relief to ^{her to} be able to just know they are dry
ready to put away.

On sunny days, ~~the~~ the sun beams in the front of
my house, & does not go, before 3 o'clock. It is
better than a fire, & warms your back too,

from the rays on the wall.
 Moavis told me, she won't know until she comes back, if she can go to Canberra with me, or not. She will be another week in Coffs Harbour. She will be coming home on 9th Sept & going away on 10th ^{to somewhere else} but will phone me in the meantime, while she is home.

I had dry ice treatment on my jaw, on Monday at North Shore Hospital. It has to come into a lump, blister & break out, then dry & fall off. On 2nd Friday in Sept, I have to have a lower eye tooth out, & one added on to my plate. I hope it does not break like most of mine, & have to be chizzled, & hammered out. It is bare of gum right down to the root at back, so may come out alright, especially with me so much older. Gordon Whitten used to have the same trouble. Our jaw bones are so strong, that the tooth will break off rather than come out, I have had to have 6^{or 7} out that way, & stitched etc.

Well now I'll answer your letter, & get it posted before 7. in a hope you will get it ~~the~~ Sat, Well I am very sorry you were upset about my letter, I realize I should not have mentioned Richards faults at all. yes, I quite understand what you say in your letter & allow a lot for that

but, I did not really finish the real story.
 Now, there are 2 ways to look at it.

One is, you have had wonderful children,
 studious, & right up to the mark, & refined.
 I have a slight strain of Grandma Whitten
 such as (Do what you are told immediately)
 With her 13 children, If she said a thing,
 she meant it, and the family (even all the
 men) obeyed her orders to the last.

We see in the case of Auntie Lottie, that the
 parentage was far too strict, Uncle Tony
 never saw, even Wallabadah, until he was 19.

There was no psychology in those days.

But now, there is too much, & too much
 of being lax with children, & they just run
 the show.

Marcia's families are not the same type of
 breed as we are, And although she is
 more loving to wards the children than Res
 is, ^{she is not} ~~she is~~ ^{of Auntie's} ~~of Auntie's~~ An uncontrollable child, is a great worry.

Now, I did not tell you why I was a bit cranky
 on him, ^{I did not} ~~not~~ ^{let him} ~~know~~ And Marcia, & Res, would both
 be wild, if they knew, I told you this. So
 please keep it to yourself.

Now with the awful set up with Res & Marcia,
 It is a wonder the children are as sane as
 they are.

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Rex is always telling them, he is leaving Marcia.
The boys. I am not worrying about, as they
are grown up (as it were) but worry about the girls.

Rex has not slept with her ^{Marcia} for nearly a
year. They don't speak, unless they have to,
and, when it is necessary, they are like a
pair of snarling cats.

Now Marcia has a ~~habit~~ habit of being
lazy. Richard used to help her wonder-
fully. but in a sense, ^{she} imposed on him, to
a certain degree. Now he doesn't want to
do anything for her. And calls her all the
names about the place. & ^{he} flies into real
Whitten Tempers such as my father, & at times
yours, ^{but} in a different way.

Richard hates Rex, & always has done, but he
pretends to be nice to Rex, to get money
out of him. I never tell Marcia what Rex
says, & I don't tell Rex what Marcia says.

What I am annoyed with Richard is, Firstly
he wanted to be a vet, through mucking
up at school, & not trying. He will be even
lucky to pass the leaving at all. ^{Teachers} say he could ^{be} be
The teacher sent for Marcia, a couple of times ^{he} he
through the year, she begged of him to keep ^{he} he
Richard, till he went for the leaving, this ^{he} he
year. ^{So} teacher gave him another chance ^{but} not ^{pay}.

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Just recently, the teacher sent for Rex. He did not have time, with urgent work, on a chronometer or two, Marcia went.

The teacher has expelled him from the school. & Rex is paying for him to study at Decks, to see if he will pass. As he was cheeky to the teacher, & wagging school, now my idea of a boy going on like that when nearly 18 ~~is~~ (Dec) going on these lines, when he really wants to go for the exams, I'll never know.

He told Marcia not to tell his Father but it had to come out. Rex was annoyed with the teacher, & told him off.

Rex pays money each week, for pocket money for him, so he is not penniless.

Richard never gives me any trouble, & I give equal to the 4 of them. I sometimes send a dollar each for them.

There are faults on both sides, with Rex & Marcia. Marcia nags him, the moment he walks in the door.

The girl friend in England is not out here yet. I told him, nobody could blame him wanting to leave Marcia, but I said, "The 2 little girls were his responsibility, above any

girl (woman) or even the unsettled condition of the home.

I told him, I would never have left him for anybody, or anything, & that is my idea. If you own them, stick to them."

He is 50 & the girl about 28 or less.

So I don't know what the next move would be, So I have told them all what I thought (& that's it) I am not a nagger.

In the times gone by, Marcia treated me very badly. But since her mother died, she comes to me, as though I was her mother.

I feel sorry for both of them, such as her to ~~be~~ left with the two girls,

& I feel sorry for him to be nagged at all the time. He would not listen to me when marrying her. My sisters, (except Lou) & brothers do not know a thing about the "set up."

Marcia went to a fortune teller, & she mentioned the 3rd party, ^{to Marcia} & she told Marcia, not to worry as it will never come off. And that she would be a widow very early, in about 2 years.

That would not surprise me, as he does not get enough sleep, too much work, & worry on both sides. He won't come home till 10-30 or 11 & buys his tea in town, & goes back to work, rather than come home. Please don't mention it to me that I told you. & we won't mention anything in front of her. ^{she has} ^{well} ^{prayer} in St Andrew's Cathedral for him.

Love
never
alter
marriage
but
you'll
never
for
him
in
St
Andrew's
Cathedral
for
him
she
has
well
prayer

another page.

no I have never had much to give them financially
but very fond of them

They are used to the fact that I am on the pension
the amount I have at present is \$100-00 dollars
& things needing repair at any time
& have to see eye specialist at any time
He does not work in a hospital, & in that
case I have to pay for everything.

What I grizzled about the money etc I spent on
them, you don't get thanks for anything
for children that you don't know, these days.
Everything is taken for granted,
& it kind of spoiled 3 days in my week.
as I am the busiest thing on 2 legs But I
have to go terribly slow.

Even though Richard I know, is my very
own grandson. I can't stick up entirely for him
when he is in the wrong, but I still
blame the ~~so~~ environment, of a type of
broken home. for most of it.

Kathy is very spiteful to Rebecca. But I told
her "Even though she is naughty, nan
still loves her" & when she plays up
here. I say. Even though & she finishes
it & bursts into tears, must thy. G.D.