

Jacren-Dovil, Shallow Adit, Redruth. TR16 5AE
Kernow: Cornwall. U.K. Phone (0209) 313770
7th December 1992.

Dear *Phyll and Ross,*

I returned recently to the cottage at Shallow Adit. The owner, who lives in Canada, offered to reduce the cost to a peppercorn rental, which certainly suits my current financial situation!! She'll be in Cornwall on holiday at the end of March for a month and I shall have to move out during that time. Beatrice Curnow has offered me the use of one of her holiday cottages at Porthleven for the month, so that's where I'll plan to be unless she is overwhelmed with Easter bookings from holidaymakers.

I am still awaiting the decision on finance for my research on pauper emigration. It will now be late February before I hear anything, so I have extended my leave-without-pay until July 1993, and just have to hope it all works out, and that there's enough supply teaching to keep me going in the meantime. I'm working on the Caroline Kemp research on selected emigrants who told lies to secure their assisted passages to NSW. I'm also very much enjoying transcribing about 100 pages of nineteenth century letters which belong to Howard. Most were written by his ancestor Stephen Curnow from the Victorian goldfields, and then others were written by his brothers and his friends to Stephen after his return to St Hilary. I'm still doing supply teaching in west Cornwall, and at Clare's school in Plymouth. The school-based management which is well under way here means that they don't employ supply teachers if they can possibly cover a class in some other way. Even Clare has over-run her supply budget for the year because of some unexpected long-term absences and will not be able to employ anyone between Christmas and Easter until the new financial year begins. The economic situation here is dreadful, with news of more U.K-wide redundancies every day. Cornwall is said to have the second greatest number of homeless people after London and Camborne-Redruth is the second highest unemployment area in Britain.

Christmas decorations are up in all the Cornish towns. The Advent season is being observed in churches and chapels. I have begun attending Truro chapel with Peggy Morris (from Cam Kernewek & Conference on Cornwall.) They light an Advent candle at each Sunday service. Chris & Vicky Fuge are coming from Altarnun to stay this weekend, because it is the turning on of the Christmas lights at Mousehole on Saturday. The ceremony at Porthleven is on Friday. Last Friday night I (and about 30 others) went to a 200th birthday party at Zennor for Henry Quick the Zennor (doggerel) poet.

Charmayne Tinkler who is coming from Wanniasa to exchange (with a Cornishwoman!!) to Sheffield, is coming to spend Christmas with me. I'm hoping to get to the carol singing and other Christmas activities at Altarnun and Withiel. I'm also looking forward to having Sonya McNamee to stay over the Christmas holidays.

This has been the wettest November for 50 years. It is also getting very cold, and it's dark by 4.30pm until 8am. I'm doing battle with the ancient coal-burning Rayburn in the kitchen which warms the room, heats the water but does not cook properly, while exuding constant and messy black dust. So far it's still winning!! Just when I think I'm ahead, it inexplicably goes out.

A Cornish friend from Hayle, Sonia Clark-Voller, is exchanging to Canberra next year. She'll make a great exchangee and if you feel like contacting her, she's at 40 Lachlanvale, Newman-Morris Circt, Oxley. 2903. Phone (06) 2961838

I had 2 days supply at Madron last week - a delightful 2 teacher village school above Penzance, with an incredible view from classrooms and playground across Mounts Bay and St Michaels Mount. Wonderful!!

Happy Christmas and all good wishes for 1993.

Pat.

EXCITING P.S.

I had just finished photocopying this, when Catherine phoned from America to say she and Marcus Boatman are engaged. At that time they hadn't set a date, and were deciding between the end of January, or some time in June or July 1993. I decided to delay sending this for a few days until the date was decided, but will have to send it now or it will be too late for Christmas. Catherine met Marcus at the Lutheran summer camp in Indiana where they were both working as camp counsellors. He is at University in Wisconsin, doing a Youth Work degree which will be completed in May. He intends to continue with more study, to become a Lutheran pastor. Since camp ended in September, he has been back at University in Kenosha, Wisconsin, and Catherine has been working in a child-care centre there. Her address is: Apartment 2, 2115 Fifty Second Street, Kenosha, 53140, Wisconsin, U.S.A. Phone 414-6523659. She plans to spend Christmas with Marcus' parents, Roger and Shirley Boatman, 2201 Walnut Way, Noblesville, Indiana, 46060. Phone 317-7736231.

On a much less happy note, I have also heard since photocopying the letter that Kay arranged for Mum to move to Maranatha Lodge, Colton Road, Batehaven, Bateman's Bay. It apparently happened very quickly, within the space of two of Mum's weekly letters. Mum has a direct phone line there (044) 727724, and although she will not be able to afford frequent outgoing calls, I know she will be delighted to receive phone calls there.

* It's to be 30th Jan'y in Indiana.

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Sorry to hear of all the worries you've had and hope 1993 will be a better year.