

8/3/97.

Dear Phyll,

I had a visit yesterday from an Oswald Whitten, a 60 year-old retired school teacher from Winnipeg. He is spending a month touring NZ, but not going on to Australia this time. He is the eldest son of John Whitten whom I think you met years ago. His mother died recently at 98. Following her death a daughter of the Irish John wrote to him giving him my address & that is how he got in touch. He and another chap travelling with him came & had a meal with us and a long chat. He said he would send me some facts on the family tree. He had two sisters and two brothers one of the latter is spastic & is in a sheltered work shop. His letter to him came just a few days before he set off for NZ.

Lexie Prince of Tamworth was another address given to him.

Bentley is up in Auckland at the moment looking after the kids while Jimmy is in London to a Conference. Judy & family are spending the weekend at Arthur's Pass so I am here alone.

I have recovered completely from my brush with gout & am feeling quite well. All the best Floed

10 Parka Tee
Chch 1.

23. 9. 97.

Dear Phyll & Ross.

Ph (03) 379 0207

As you can see we have at last moved house. This is a 3-bed roomed unit in a block of 16 about 3 blocks from Cathedral Square but on the edge of Hagley Park - of 600 acres. It is comfortable with a manageable garden and good neighbours.

I had a letter from Joe Whitten of Bray to say his wife Joyce had died suddenly some weeks back. I also had a note from Oswald Whitten of Winnipeg with a Whitten Crest: described in heraldic terms as. An arm erect habited sable cuffed argent holding in the hand a sword between two branches of oak all proper.

2
2
Mary arrives in Auckland today for surgery on her hernions. Something which should have been attended to years ago but she was too timid. She expects to be here about a month before she goes back to Bruni.

Worm a Betty one on the train to Penton & will contact Stuart when they get there. They will go to Margaret River & stay in Stuart's cottage for a few days after a 4-day wildflower safari north of Penton.

Nick flew down and helped us with the move and is coming down again about the time Bente goes off to Mali. I will probably drive back with him for a week or two at Mannisville and Auckland.

We helped Frances buy a house close to Jenny's which I have not seen yet. She has had some alterations made & done a lot of painting.

inside she converted the outside
washhouse into a workshop in
which she is working. It is better
than driving to one across town for
a few hours. Her little boy is now
three and a real chaser

On the trip to Mali there will
be Jenny & her husband and the
two children plus Bentha and her
nephew who is a builder now
stationed in Monee. It is a
complicated business. They fly to
London then from Brussels direct
to Bamako in Mali. Then back to
London again. Bentha will be
in Mali for a month. They have
arranged to rent a house in
the capital and drive out to the
village for them.

All the best

Lloyd

11 August 1979

Dear Phyll,

Thanks for your letter and all the news and also the birthday greetings. I was sorry to hear about Allan. I hope it turns out all right. It must have been a mild one to pass unnoticed. I was glad to hear too that the wedding went off well.

Nick seems to have settled in quite well. Barry and I drove up and spent a week with him before the rush of the season started. He has a 4 roomed house to himself but will have to share it when others need a roof. The place is Paeroa up near Rotorua. It is actually Ferndale Bob's old town. Nick said he would try to find something about him in the archives. He left a property which when he died all went into paying back rates. Both his daughters are dead now. The older one, Iris, died a week or so before Sue did. Mother met her when she was over here.

I gave your address to Margaret McEldowney who was going to Canberra soon. She is Bertha's sister and her husband Jock is Dunedin librarian. I am not sure whether it is University or town library. She is very sweet.

Good to have Michael back again. I hope he and Jan enjoyed their stay in Hawaii.

I have been busy the last week or so writing a couple of short articles. I come in for obituaries too now. My old chief Dr Filmer died a week or two ago. I did one for each of the papers which they fouled up. Also a modified one for the vet. journal and one for the J. Agriculture.

The Melbourne came in yesterday. I can see her moored at the wharf from my window. Her choppers have been shattering the sky every now and again. Some of the crew set off on bicycles to ride to Auckland and to meet her there. It is sponsored by other members of the crew for some NZ charity.

You did not mention how Ross was. How is he?

I sent an NZ spinning wheel over to Pene. It should have arrived by about now unless the posties are on strike again.

I spoke to Mary the other night on the phone. She likes the West Coast. I am buying the boys a trampoline for their birthdays -- on the condition that I can use it when I come down.

Thanks for your concern about my financial state. No, empty bottles would not be any use. They have promised to release some of the frozen funds soon but have not said what percentage. What has gone in since the freeze is available so I am getting by on that.

In Dunedin they have just had a terrible mud slide. I suppose it was in your news. About 50 houses went into it. I did not see the TV coverage on it but those who did said it was terrific. It went late at night but most of the folk had good warning to evacuate and there were no casualties though one family was cut off for a while.

Well that is about all the news for the moment.

Give my love to all especially the little islanders.

Floyd.