

P.S. When I bought the
enclosed Christmas cards
I didn't notice the colour
of the envelope. It is
quite hectic, I think
B

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Dec 13/1980

Dear Phyllis

Sincere apologies for not writing to you
for such a long time. I really have no excuse except
that the days months & years seem to fly round so quickly.
It is almost impossible to keep up with everything.
Another reason is that I ^{have} become a TV addict. You
will probably laugh at that. I treated myself to a
colour set a couple of years ago & when I am not out at
other things I watch a good deal & enjoy it very much.
I thank very much for the family bulletins. They make
interesting reading & I envy you getting around so much
of the world that I know very little about. However
since coming out here I have travelled into the States
a few times - twice to California & once to Arizona etc.
So glad to hear that Ross is able to get about in spite
of his handicap. He certainly has terrific willpower.
I still get a good deal of correspondence so I am kept busy
in that direction. I also do a little part-time work.
I meet lots of people & like being out in the business
world. Fortunately I have been very lucky with the
health so far & am very thankful for that.
Sorry to hear about your Mum. 97 was a
good age. I'm sure her passing will leave a gap

in your life. I had a ²long letter from Swynn the other day. you remember I met her, Bill + Michael for a couple of hours in Dublin in 1976. I also ~~met~~ met Libby when she visited Vancouver a couple of years ago. Libby evidently liked London + went back there for a while from Vancouver. Some members of the Whitten clan seem to have itchy feet, me ~~and~~ included.

I also had a letter recently from Stephanie Connor (Nee Roe). Her mother is the soft spoken Whitten girl you met when you were in Tipperary. I expect you heard that Margorie Whitten of Fancroft died about a year ago. Apparently Margorie left the farm half to her nephew who was running it anyway + $\frac{1}{2}$ to some other relative that I don't know. It doesn't sound like an ideal arrangement. Stephanie mentioned that Mrs Williams (Margorie's sister) had visited Vancouver this summer to see her brother, Robert Whitten. I would like to have seen her here, but she didn't contact me. She may not have had my address. Stephanie is married to a young farmer near Roscrea + has a little girl ~~to~~ Hazel, nearly two + is expecting another around next year. She was teaching before her marriage.

You will probably be interested to learn that I was in Dublin for a holiday last May/June. Had 5 days in London, one of which I spent going to see a first cousin on my mother's side living in Worthing (near Brighton) + then 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ weeks in Dublin linking

up with all the friends. I stayed with my sister for 3 days & then went on to brother's house. Elsie seemed better than when I was there in 1976, but doesn't want to go out much. She has her son & his wife living in what was my part of the house which they bought from me & their son Olive, a little fellow of 6 years old, so the arrangement is working out very well. She only had the one child so he will come in for the whole house some day. It has 10 rooms so would be a bit large for him. However with the Price of Property rising so much now, he should do very well if he decided to sell.

The Treford Guild is getting on quite well here & we have a few new members. There are Guilds in Victoria (2) Kelowna Vernon, all in B.C., one in Calgary & 1 in Ottawa, but we don't seem to be able to get sufficiently organised to be approved for the International Fellowship. We had a visit from Eleanora Quating about 2 years ago. She was on her way to Brussels. She was to see us again on the way back, but we heard nothing further. I have an idea she went off the Council & was asked to do some other job. Guilding in B.C. is flourishing & the numbers are high. A new Headquarters Building was opened some time ago & it is very nice. The Guild uses it sometimes for special meetings.

I kept my membership in the Dublin Guild so when I was there in May last I was able to go to their A.G.M. I was asked to give a little talk "off the cuff" about Treford Guilding in Vancouver.

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Vancouver is beautifully decorated for the Christmas season, lit up with coloured lights everywhere. It gets dark here about 4 o'clock in the afternoon & we are rapidly approaching the shortest day. I understand in Australia most of the people spend Christmas Day at the various beaches. I can't imagine what Christmas would be like without the coloured lights everywhere & the dark evenings. However I'm sure you are used to it & would feel strange here.

I am having a few days away over the Christmas. A friend & I are going on a motor coach tour to Rosaro on Orcas Island. It is just over the border into the States & is a house party. We leave on Dec 23. - have the 24th for shopping then Christmas Day & return on 26th.

We had a fall of snow last week-end, but it has rained since & cleared it all away. I suppose if you want to see snow you have to go to Tredbo in the Snowy Mountains. Isn't that the name of the Alpine village?

I have more letters to write so will close now. My regards to Ross & wishing you both & family a Very Happy Christmas & all the Best in the New Year.

Love
Mabel