

Keep - history

May 22<sup>nd</sup> Rich & Tina  
Wedding Day. 94<sup>th</sup>  
7 James St Rotorua

My Dear Cuff

Delighted to get your letter today, I am still in my nest of virtue, it's too blasted cold to get mobile & I don't feel up to entering into the spirit of winter sports. My flu has gone, more or less, tho' much toothache, neuralgia & starbles still pestering the old girl. Beryl is full to overflowing, but improving, Averil all also full up. We had a really good run home, Halden no trouble at all, Beryl said the stiff steering was due to the lack of oil which had not been checked up for sometime after you left for Wellington, Wint took Beryl for a driving & to a garage for a fill up, while there the attendant - a lady - asked Wint wasn't it the car Mr Prouse owned,? Wint said yes, a member of the family, is now the owner & the car is going to Rotorua. Yes the Camera no doubt will settle down in its new home, appreciated & used, these situations are not without their own particular brand of humour "Oh that lens may see a little clearer" etc. Likewise Tina's Austin and "whisper quietly (Phyllis's knitting machine) well surely

Cuff, you realise that as these treasures came to  
 & thru' your hands was no chance, it was intended  
 d. Whether <sup>Alley</sup> is endeavouring to make amends  
 heaven knows, but you & I will not tend to stop  
 him. It is much to our credit, we do not grab  
 covet or get snitchy, even the good book tells  
 us, The meek shall inherit the earth, some  
 way or another, neither did we inflict sorrow  
 tho' we received much. And what does come  
 our way, we are thankful for it — & willing  
 to receive' more. Just ponder a bit, when Alley  
 was ill, we were willing to help, this was to  
 us the normal thing to do as far as we were concerned.  
 Also be mindful that these situations could have  
 given open sesame to us helping the needy  
 (said needy being ourselves) you ask me about  
 Chakune, I do not know it at all, I was there  
 about 4-~~5~~ years ago, had a fizzy drink & bought  
 some bread, repeated this about 3 years ago.  
 but was never in the villiage & no idea at  
 all whereabouts Grace lived. I kept a good look  
 out at Taihape & manganeke but can't add it  
 up at all. If you write to the Town Clerk etc  
 at any of these places we think it might be

and mention the 3 names of Silk Smith & Sombody  
Stables I think you might be successful, its  
a real thrill to get answers. The silk that we  
knew, Mr S. was a little gnome like man, he  
was a cellist, maybe violin also, the chello was  
as big as ~~him~~ <sup>he was</sup> called himself your Uncle Dadda  
he was very nice to little kids & a well mannered  
gentleman, Christian name Arthur. His wife <sup>sometimes</sup>  
buxom aimed at refinement, she it was who  
complained to Jess & Grace that the ~~servant~~ girl  
had pushed the pram up her back passage, which  
she had polished only that morning (Bland  
expressions were held under great pressure)  
many questions to ~~ask~~ answer yet, so will stick  
with Aunt Liz awhile. Father Le Croix was at  
Tahape & mangaroka, I think it was one  
parish. The relationship was Housekeeper and  
no doubt a holy relationship included. Owing  
to certain things etc (plenty etc apparently) Father  
L.C. was banished to 9 months' penance, retreat? I  
can't get the correct word, (you know same as Father  
Lynch Levin got into when Mrs Lowery <sup>spelt</sup> the beans)  
The result of this housekeeping was Felice.  
(Father L.C. Christian name Felix) I never saw this  
child, tho' I heard Ally say she was the image of Father  
L.C.. As this scandal was manoeuvred under a vow  
of silence. Tina reckoned that the Catholics

tendered their<sup>4</sup> account, for Lij's lapse, that Lij  
repay in a like manner, that when Lij got  
safely married, she take a mistake of some  
men and priest - hence Henemoa. Who I  
believe now lives at Taupo, Hazel kept in ~~the~~  
~~with her~~ touch with her. The picture certainly  
features a church, that is what made me  
think it was to do with Father & Lij. You  
could take the photo to the Marist Brothers in  
Wellington. Father was of this order, and  
when Mabel distributed the loot from the old  
Prouse house, she sent Father L.C.'s photo to the  
Marist stronghold in Wgtn. Probably worth a try  
I'm not sure but I think Khetahuna was also a  
place where Father L.C. practised.

Violin, our old Violin, Dad (Rich) bought  
it in a pop shop, Pawn shop, or 2nd Hand in Wgtn  
£2 I think. It was a Migini 17<sup>54</sup>? 17 some  
thing anyway, a gorgeous tone <sup>a 44?</sup>  
visiting Violinist played it, <sup>Chairnanski</sup> ~~Chairnanski~~ Leo  
I think. I may have not spelt the name right but it  
sounds right. I believe Kate had it & I have  
not heard of its return to rightful owners put  
your nips in & lets hope you are successful. I  
asked ness about it after Kate died, she was  
very vague & said they had given an old one

to ?? <sup>5</sup> some member of their family. ~~she didn't~~  
~~think~~ she said that it belonged to their  
family - this one -. Kate got one from Austria  
the case was lined in velvet satin & embroidered  
simply beautiful, in a light emerald green.  
I don't think any importance at all was  
attached to the magini (by the Williamsons)  
I understood that there was an old broken one  
around somewhere. The magini was dull &  
uninteresting i.e., without polish or fancy trim.  
I guess the Tuakan family got the Austrian one

Rich's watch. Can't throw much light on  
the works, I seem to remember Ally saying he  
had one of older vintage, Grandfather Proas  
Rich's father maybe. But there is a watch I  
~~would~~ like, not for me, but it always  
intrigued me. Tina gave it to Ally for his  
birthday (21)? possibly. Just an ordinary  
silver watch, it had a little lever (concealed  
at the side, ~~with~~ <sup>which</sup> ~~which~~ you pushed back with  
thumb nail, it then chimed the hours, &  
the Qr hrs, 2 bells sounds. It was a honey  
I asked Ally about it - at the time of the Parker  
wedding, & he said "Yes Phil I've still got it  
It's around in one of the drawers" & he

was really pleased I could remember it, so  
see if you can get it, to see, if not to possess  
I do hope your cold is better by now it  
is a bad one, my poor bones didn't feel  
capable of supporting body knees especially  
quivery. Anne gave me the picture & I could  
see she was genuinely pleased & happy to do so  
there is a definitely sympathetic attitude from  
Wint & Anne towards me & mine, I could  
feel I was welcome, its the first time that  
house has ever offered me warmth & affection  
I think Wint was really happy for Beryl  
to have the car. Anne said we would have  
to look after that car or Ally would haunt  
me us, Beryl says he'll never do any haunting  
as she will treat it better than ever he did.  
He allowed others & others to drive it, &  
it was starved for a grease in the steering  
box, Oh Well, Good loving homes to  
the Car & the Camera — what say you?  
Much love to You & John & hope you  
both are well. a X between snivles

P. S. June is well, thanks B. X + Phil  
writing a bit uncontrolled — had a double starkle  
whilst writing it. Bed, warm, soft, lovely