

KEEP.
FAMILY HISTORY.

7 James St Rotorua
17th Oct 1973

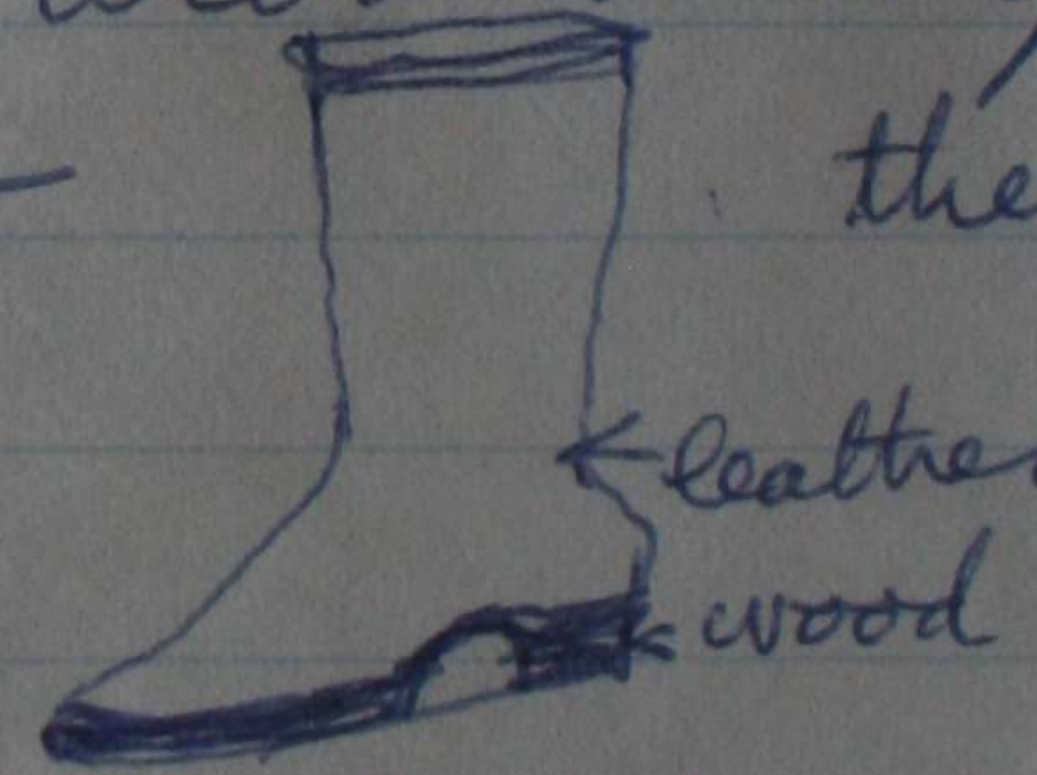
My Dear Cuff,

What a delight it was to get a letter from you today, probably you got one from me also. However, I will try & give you the data re Tina. What ruddy garbled imaginations some folks get ahold of. Do you have a copy of the pamphlet which Mabel & Ally compiled?

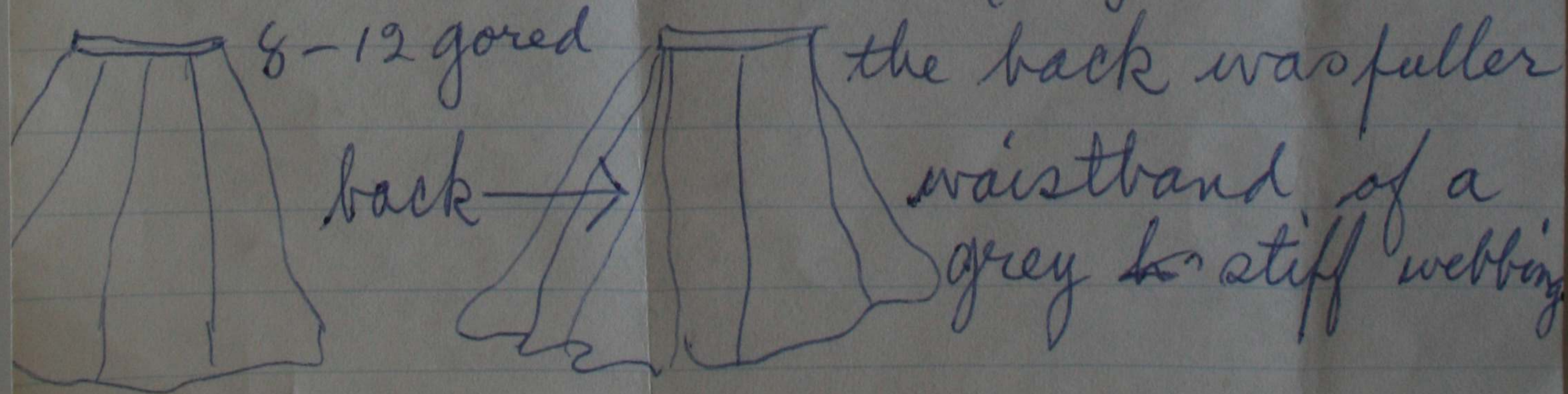
1). Was Granny ever a good sewer & produced beautiful garments? Hell No, never Not ever. She was a No. 1 plus, crocheter, & knitter. In the very early early times she told me she would be up till midnight, hand sewing clothes for the children & very baby aged little girls, this was a hit & a miss affair, & you can be sure it was a must at that time, especially after a day's hard work, & then late with helping to do the "books" of the sale of timber, the mill was at Whiteman's Valley, she told me of this as I mentioned to her of my helping Trevor with the timber tallies from the mill & all the lengths, widths, etc, an arduous^(?) job &

difficult in the price lists ² making up of accounts, & she said she had served her time at the same job. She had some garments of very good & intricate needlework, this would have been done by Grace Randell (nee McDowde) or Aunt Aggie, I should think, but Granny was never handy with a needle, — mending & darning, yes

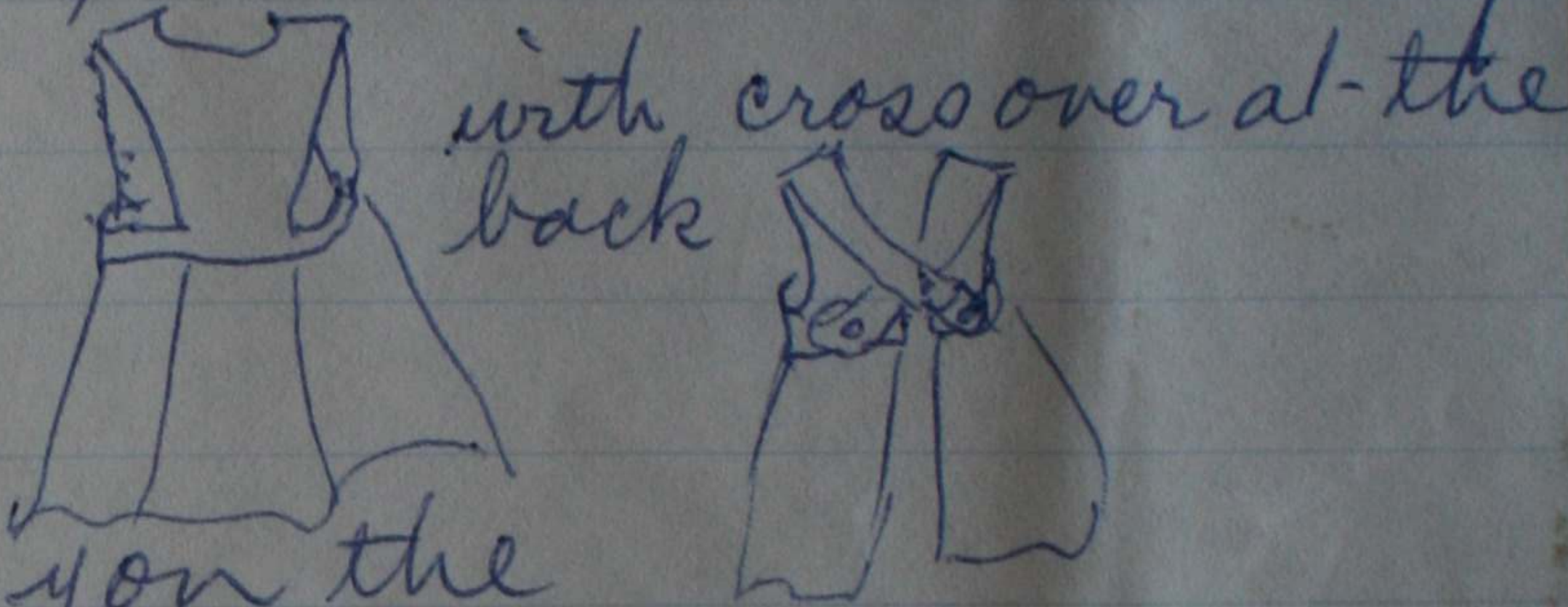
2) Did she ever get around in men's clothing? Christ No — I can hear her snort! never — where ever in the name of goodness did this garbled story come from. She did wear boots for heavy work, garden, cowshed, had gum boots in winter & once had a pair of leather high boots with wooden soles & a metal horse shoe around the ^{wooden} sole a sort of Russian clog — they were very comfortable, & dry.



Her usual ensemble for the day was a serviceable blouse & skirt (serge or tweed

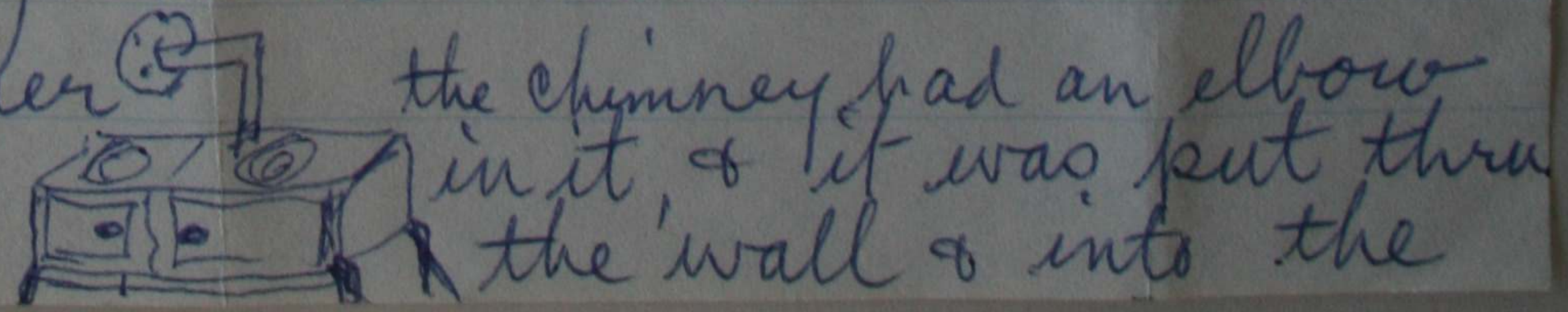


The blouse would be³ union cotton & wool mixture, warm, flannel sort of. Velvet, silk satin — there was material called mervello satin or silk? & referred to as mero silk, a beautiful soft "quality" material. The house or "work" outfit always had an apron, sugar bag for garden & cow yard, & print, linen etc for the house, these latter usually had a bib attached



old photos would give you the best idea. She wore "sensible" shoes, & a pair of "Ward Shoes" as slippers, these had 1 bar over instep & flat soles & $\frac{1}{2}$ " heel "very comfortable"

3). Cook house. there was NEVER a cook house attached to the mill — at Weraroa Oh Jesus what a muck up —. The cook house was the centre room, in the building, at the side of the residence, Weraroa House & Wash house in front, cook house in the middle, & Dad's office at the south end, when I was a kid Granny always did the summer cooking here, (to keep the house cool) there was a Dover stove in the N. corner



wash house chimney, Granny did marvellous cooking on that stove. It stood on a 3" platform covered in tin & painted black. In this cook house, the gadgets were arrayed on shelves, about 3 shelves I think, Cake mixer (I have it) a bread mixer - ? - , an apple corer & all the paraphanalia pertaining to the art of Cordor Bleu. Also a couple of evaporators, imported from Chicago, as the other gadgets were also.

The mill packed up around 1911-1912
4) What Rich died of? A stroke, this is the M.D. report.

things are

5. Re Tina carrying the mail from Whitemans Valley. Oh Heavens, the poor horse can you imagine it. The old homestead in Wainuiomata was the P.O. I am sure of this, & Tina did the mail run over the hill to Petone (for the Hutt) her horse was named "Donald". This in her teens - she was 19 $\frac{1}{4}$ when married.

6) Re a loaded gun,? I have heard tell of a gun behind the door, but not loaded unless, it was held whilst loaded. Dad was very careful & never ran a risk especially with firearms, If attack had been feared, the gun or guns could have

been loaded, but they would have been minded by 2 or 3 men, at the ready to meet trouble. otherwise the gun kept handy would have not been where small children could have touched it. If it was kept loaded this would have been at night I should think & only on very rare occasions. Tina always had an excellent relationship with the Maoris, especially the women your knowledge is correct re their honesty. As a child, Tina played with a Maori boy, he was her companion.

Yes the winds have done havoc here, reduced my flowering peach to disaster, blew the petals away like confetti. 5 weeks to Gisborne, that's the end of November. I believe Acacia Lodge is tops & easy walking distance to James St. That drifting-dreaming is of the occult enjoy it that's what it's for. Yes Dick & family have settled in O.K., Flat 6

Give him a ring some time. I am sure he would be delighted, Well child I must to my virtuous coach, no opportunity for otherwise. my love to you & master Phil + + + +

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I think this still is the
Ph. no.