

Shooting season  
May 1st 1979  
James St  
Rotorua

My Dear Cuff

What a super thrill to get a letter from you this day. I am perched on the couch — Resting — so reckoned I may as well save my stones, & do in the 2 birds at one go — of course being shooting season gives one a few ideas, the ducks have been flying over continuously, to reach sanctuary water, don't ask me how they know but they do. I did enjoy your letter. Those Quill chrysanthemums are gorgeous, they really "get" a body, I don't grow them, as they can give growths, & poisoning (already been bitten) The building sounds fantastic must come down & inspect some time I don't like the thought of lions being too close, but am surprised there has not been snakes — well not as far as we know, even so, some



2  
silly idiot in Wellington breeds  
weasles & thinks he's clever.  
Don't worry about the Patarau, we  
know Rich was there alright, and  
after I had written last time, I remem-  
bered, that there had been a wharf  
burned down, Rich felt this loss  
very much & I can remember Tina  
nagging, it would seem that Rich  
was to go to Patarau, & something <sup>cropped</sup> <sup>up</sup>  
he put it off for a week, during  
this time the wharf got burned. No  
doubt there was at times, funny  
business & unexpected happenings.  
There was always something under  
hand, or off key, Clara was a  
wavering influence more or less  
& I think Tina felt it an uphill  
tack to keep the peace at times  
I think Bert may have remarked  
a few remarks, which would have  
been better left unsaid, I remember  
Alley speaking of Bert's continued



meanness, Go <sup>3</sup> into restaurant, have  
a feed, Bert Alley & Powell (I suppose)  
Bert would hang back, in the  
hope the others would pay, this  
was an all time joke with the others  
Tight, mean & near. One time I  
was in Levin & met up with Bert  
& Nellie, Bert gave me a huge  
bunch of gladiolas, Alley & Tina  
said they wondered if he was  
going to die — most unheard of  
procedure. I have always found  
Jessie & Lou most generous, very  
much so, but Lou's father Percy  
was always a nice fellow & so was  
his mother Nellie. Well you could  
be right, Bert probably put it across  
Percy. I think Rich & Tina wanted  
Alley to go to ~~Paturan~~ Paturan to  
keep his eyes open, it was a position  
which was not looked upon favorably.  
I remember Dad's description of St Paul's  
now that you remind me



the piece of land<sup>4</sup> offered to Alley was  
I suppose a useless bit the other  
boys didn't want, however  
who owns it now - can you  
& I afford it - ? (is it still in  
Rich's name) I have always had  
a yen to get gold, 'if only enough  
to make a ring. I wonder if  
we could get this bit of dirt it  
should not be very costly (tell  
me to shut up Cuff & I won't).

I could be quite wrong, & it would  
be in order etc, if Jim were older  
than Dad, my belief in this  
was that as time<sup>\$55</sup> moved on  
th. earthquakes became so severe  
that Rich was born in calf house  
(house was unsafe?) I never, heard  
any mention of Jim during their  
infancy & accepted the fact that  
Rich was the first. No I don't  
think you would be wrong Cuff.



I just believed what I thought was correct. I believe there was a brother named Tom also, but he could have been a cousin. Jim's birthday was Oct 2nd I believe, I can't tell you anything re the v. sneys paid by Rich & Jim to avert a scandal, I know this is a fact, but anything further I do not know. I do believe it was caused by Lena's extravagance however, Tina was bitter about it, but very very tight lipped too. Least said is soonest mended. You can lay to it "my son" could have made use of it. But that is the way of life. I don't think any of us blamed Tina for her feelings in this business, and some small time later, John & Willie called - nice to see them too - John wanted to borrow, & offered



"good" security, <sup>6</sup> even Tina admitted  
this, but (in view of previous  
performances) his plea fell on very  
deaf ears — I don't think he approa-  
ched Jim, but it may have been  
that he saw Rich on B  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Prouse <sup>Bros.</sup> Bros.  
/ we, save & the B. Government  
will pluck you to the last feather.

Well, as the line coming down from  
the last child of the family, I am  
afraid you must see this as I do  
there are no sons to carry on  
the name. I often think of my  
family, June does most all my  
work, as well as her own &  
Beryl runs a good second, One time  
I had 4 months ahead & Errol did  
all the housework & cooking &  
washing as good as a woman.  
I have been truly blessed — and  
I know it. Do you require some  
more money for Higgins, you



7  
have not said so, will poke in  
a note to help with the good  
work.

Yes old Father Time is getting a  
hurry on & I, Frost, is lurking  
mightily close, its rather chilly  
here too. I hope I have  
answered all questions & looking  
forward to <sup>your</sup> next letter.

Love to John & your Dear Self  
Phil

Thomas sends mousecent kiss