

Tammy sends love
to Thomas. The dear
Boys - er er Mam.

53 Wmara Ave,
Waikanae,

My dear Phyll,

29-12-79.

Well, now the circus is
over & the hardy guards have ground
to a stop. I'll try & get your last
letter answered, something I've been
trying to get round to for days.
With this appalling weather (&
no doubt it's the same up with
you) the only thing to do is sit over
the fire, drink tea, nurse the cat,
& the opportunity offers itself to
write letters.

Thank you so much for your
Xmas gift & lovely card - yes I
did enjoy the Strawberry card &
found it very mouth watering
besides so pleasing to look at.
The enclosure I shall use as &
when something takes my fancy.
Already I have bought a

2-
Cooling thermometer - something
I've wanted for a long time, for
one is necessary in making some
sweets, so I have that to play
with. Thank you too for your
joyous phone call on 24th - how
very nice to have a ditto sung
to me so early & to hear your
voice made my day - which
otherwise was a very dull one.
I had to take to bed for awhile in
the P.M. as the humidity was so high
I felt knocked flat. Anyhow cat is
always eager for a cuddle up in bed
& never needs a second invitation.

Yes, I'm still disappointed we
were out when you called & you
missed your muddle of potterd.
Anyhow, I'll have another awaiting
you if you manage to get
down for the Levin school "do".
Beryl said in her card that
she may bring you down in

Feb. to Levin³, so I presume that's
when it may be. If you'd both
like to be bedded & mealed here
while you're down I'd be only too
happy to oblige tho' it would
mean travelling up & down
for you. However, I leave that to
you. You know the welcome &
roof are here, should you so wish.
I must find out when the "do" is
for I didn't know about it till
you mentioned it.

Well, I declare, you have thoughts
of going south in Autumn - &
why not & do what you left
undone last time? I'd still like to
see you get to Takaka, Collingwood
& then a day trip to the Pataarau
& out to the end of Farewell Spit.
There's enough in that area to
keep you going for a week
or more, & that Takaka Hill
isn't as fearsome as it looks. I

4:
thinks it now is completely tar sealed.
And as for the marble outcrops
— just don't think of limestones
but of the fascination of a mountain
of marble. Our fire place surround
came from there. You'd love an old
Museum of old bits & pieces out of
Takaka, & the beautiful brick work
of the derelict iron ore foundary &
the derelict old ~~too~~ wharf ruins
here & there. What a hell of a come
down Rapahoe was after the write up
you sent me — I was deflated,
nothing to what you must have
felt. There is a coast road from
Greymouth to Westport & scenically
wonderful — in fine weather.
I wouldn't like to do it in
torrential rain — very windy
beside high cliffs for some of
the time & a usually roaring
sea on the off side.

We had a very quiet Thursday

at home & went out to beach for an evening dinner. Superb meal. I was very amused by the meat course. (This was the same place where one year we had sucking pig - served with a garland of flowers round its head & I was very off-put). Well this year the girls had done something most original. A turkey, & inside it was a duck & inside the duck was a chicken. There were layers of stuffing between each bird. To do it the birds have to be boned except ^{for} the drumsticks. Apparently its a very ancient way of cooking poultry & in those days the birds got smaller & you ended up with a lark in the centre. What a lark!!

In my last letter from Higgins he sent me a photocopy of the

6.
marriage entry of Rich. Prouse &
Dorothy Wills & I was interested to
see two names on it - I suppose
they were the witnesses - they were
William Wills & Humphrey Wills.

I wonder if the name Humphrey
has ever turned up in the current
Wills family, & W^m. also, for that matter.

Had a quick visit from Lou & Jessie
before Xmas. So nice to see them.

In a note from Julie she said
She's pregnant & they hoped they'd be
home for Xmas. I haven't heard that
they did make it. Selling their van
seemed to be holding them up &
mid winter isn't the best time to
try & sell it. She's due in April
so I guess Pam'll be anxious to
see them home.

wonder if you're at Whitianga & if
it's raining there too. How ah can
rain in those parts too.

All the best to you all for 1980.
Peace & Good Health. Best love to all loveh -