

well I am afraid  
day or two, are  
back but never the less

Saturday 5-1-80  
7 James St-  
Rotorua

My Dear Cuff

So delighted to get your letter today  
I have written to the Secretary  
Levin School & District High School Levin  
June has just been in & taken it to  
post it Thomas receives love from  
Fanny, he is a rooky boy & slaps  
all day, just tired out with resting.  
Weather here has been frightful we  
had 25 here with usual stuffing  
& cramming & bellies were worn  
very forward, waist-lines were  
~~were~~ a strain too. However we all  
went to Whitianga for a while June  
& I came home on the Saturday  
Beryl & Co, still there, it rained  
all the time really miserable &  
one night it was mighty close to a  
frost. Cardigans being worn  
3 day & I even slept in mine

well I am afraid <sup>2</sup> my ditty Birth  
day greetings, are flat + tune  
less but never the less, sincere  
& hoped the day was sunny & happy  
Rachelle sang Silent night for  
us & it was lovely even a bit  
off key at times. The Levin "do"

is Friday Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>  
Thanks for the kind invitation  
of bed & food, I don't know what  
I am doing but it sounds very  
comforting. I will let you know in  
plenty of time however.

The 16<sup>th</sup> a get together at School  
roll, call, afternoon tea & photos  
(dinner at night \$12 — I won't be  
going to that) and Church on  
Sunday Indenominational at  
Presbyterian church. There's  
going on on the Friday but I guess  
I'll be on the road, getting past  
these "do's". Winton brought in my  
programme on his way to Auckland

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well I dunno about getting up  
steam for South Island during  
Autumn, it doesn't seem to be  
as easy as it sounds, might  
have to by pass it. I do notice it  
is darned cold & not much like  
Summer at all, probably a bloom  
ing early winter, also the careless  
day fairly giggered up our <sup>menu</sup>  
itinerary. yes I know I would  
love to see Takaka & Collingwood  
etc, but hills are not for me  
I have a high places phobia &  
that puts the lid on the doings.

Well Rapahoe certainly was a  
flop, I should have known better  
than to expect handfulls of green  
stone & diamonds & rubies & all  
the rest of ~~the~~ the precious? stones  
just for the pecking up, sometime  
as I think I must be a bit silly in  
the head. Well the stones will last

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for many centuries so there's no  
hurry to get back. What is this  
coast road from Westport to Grey-  
mouth, is it the usual road?  
We have been on that & saw Pancake  
rocks etc & Shanty town it was  
a very interesting road too.

Your evening dinner Xmas Day,  
must have been very tasty. Did  
they use a recipe book or was it  
from Ancient cooking? When I  
was about 12 I read a story of  
the catering etc, & serving up of  
meats for hungry (starving) men.  
The feast was held in the Castle  
Hall? a long table, & forms I  
think however I remember one item  
which was described as a Battag-  
lio pie, this pie was cooked  
in a huge dish maybe bigger  
than a milk dish — (for the  
skimming off of cream —) the bird

in centre - probably 2 birds, were  
big geese or turkeys, around  
these a circle of pheasants then  
ducks, grouse, quail & many  
more birds finishing up with  
larks, gravy & a crust on  
top. This intrigued me & I have  
never forgotten it. So I wonder  
if your friends had read of this  
I believe drinking from horns  
was also in fashion. Well blow  
me down, it does look like we  
are related to the Wills. I have  
never heard of a Humphrey or William  
pity Brian wasn't here, I don't  
think the rest of the family could  
be worried about their ancestors  
my pen has died. they have  
a habit of doing this. By the  
way we bring sleeping bags  
if you come. I must to bed  
Love to you & John & Tammie  
Phil