

Ans. 26-1-82

FAMILY DATES (all not correct)

many many thanks <sup>V James & Rotorua</sup>  
for the beautiful <sup>17th Dec 1981</sup>

my Dear Cuff <sup>Wish Delight</sup>

I reckon I'd better write you first before I get snowed under with the usual Xmas pen & paper & card ritual, as usual it always catches up. And I get lanky or can't cope etc & put it on to June. However, Oh yes arm paralysis, I forgot that one. I do have a wicked looking eye tho' burst 1 or 2 (probably more) blood vessels & the blue & white part is surrounded in thick blood, I can see alright, yes I've been to Dr & have drops. Possibly helps with the lanky business. Well how Cuff you say you don't know why male can stay rosy & youthful while female becomes as a wizened potato, even to the melon (white hair). Don't spare a thought, she, looks after him, &

he reclines at ease <sup>2</sup> & basks in the sun  
& eats ~~at~~ delectable meals over which  
she has slaved — well that's what  
the book says —. Ever so many  
Thanks for gorgeous Turkish petting  
it's not keeping very well — a case  
of vandalism I fear, I told <sup>you</sup> not  
to but it makes me weak mentally  
Thank you also for beaut toadstool  
cloth, what a honey, it's lovely.  
Trouble is, with the vandalism in  
Prouse's bush. All those houses  
clustered close about & an over  
dose of blasted kids who have  
to have somewhere to wreck Oh  
why wasn't the pill discovered  
50 years earlier. A tragedy Rich  
& Tina didn't settle away from  
civilization, yet 70 years ago it was  
a bit remote, but life is ever  
like this, what one builds, the next  
destroys, I still well remember how

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bitter Tina was towards the B's who bought her old home, Post Office, in Wacumomata they cut down the holly hedge, all save the corner trees, why, I don't think anybody ever knew. This generation regrets what the next one does & it has never been any different, the only solution is we die — & then the rampant ~~take-over~~ <sup>take-over</sup> takes over and we are not in a position to rebel, & nature sees to it we are not. Hell what can we do but grizzle. Well I can only tell you where Gert had his garden, the primrose, an old fashioned pinkish color with fancy edge — commonest of common — but delightfully cheerful, I have seen it in flower — ~~16~~ ~~17~~ ~~18~~ & during before that — 1916 — 1917 — 1918, 1910, 1907. At the back of the bush, N.E. corner, was a belt of very high &

4.  
big pine trees. inside of this belt  
the ground was terribly poor as is  
usual - about 10-15 ft I suppose  
then bush scrub, whitey-wood <sup>pampus</sup>  
cop rosma, punga, bramble native  
orchids, you know the stuff, some  
pseudo acacia had been planted  
never much good, it was in this  
scrubby stuff on the corner where  
Gert had her garden, a punga  
at one side. I've no idea where the  
others had theirs, as they were big  
girls when I was born. Better to rip  
out your persimmon & start again  
seems it doesn't intend to listen to reason.  
Quince jam - I think there were about  
4 Quinces all told, no crop, foal brood  
and heavy winds wrecked what was left, they  
were a write off. no love, the East Coast  
became non est, all the time somebody else  
needs our (Jane's) time, then Beryl said  
throw sleeping bags etc etc in car, & get

except my children

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so we thought we would get to Blayes  
out of it - Saturday - ~~Saturday~~? did I  
say - Kath had to go to Auckland  
on a week's course. Beryl stayed there  
at night as she understands the diabetic  
procedures of insulin measures, June  
looked after kids by bits & pieces also  
Kath came home Friday night - so  
that said good bye farewell to the  
week away, there being our urgent  
need of Beryl to look after Thomas &  
no of James St. Some time later on  
maybe. Anne Vitin's age is 70, will  
be 71 in Jan, she told us this. I can't  
see Whitianga in my glasses or much  
else really. Well I hope Godfrey Bowen  
will enjoy the professor's property, one  
Broose property he bought Rich had  
promised to me, but made no note  
of it & Tina wanted it for my son Allan  
it's funny Cuff isn't it, no first prize  
ever comes to the last one in the family  
except my children, those I consider

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