

Friday 7 December 1984

16 Enfield Road
WAINUIOMATA

Dear Chris and John

I was sorry to receive your last letter, although that of 18 November was exciting, especially the information on Hugh Sinclair's origins. Just in time to be included in our material being sent for inclusion in the to-be-published Dictionary of New Zealand Biography, to be published in conjunction with NZ's 150th celebrations in 1990 - or so they are hoping. Isn't it a dag how they never used to list birth dates, just Baptism. Your friend has done a great job. I wonder whether she can turn anything more up?

It was curious about the lack of marriage cert for Agnes (Spiers) Sinclair. I suppose that would mean a whole new search to track her down, wouldn't it?

The house sounds lovely and I am dying to pop up for coffee and admiring comments. I actually spent Tuesday and Wednesday at Otaki, but came up by train and back by bus, so was pretty restricted. We will be at Otaki for Christmas, though for how long is uncertain, and I should imagine things would be pretty hectic at your place at that time of the year - as at anyones. However, if we are there for more than a couple of days, I might give you a ring just to see whether I can cheer you up a little.

Richard Collier and his wife also rang me up and invited themselves for a visit - aren't they a lovely couple. I did mention your name in connection with some information I had obtained (through you) and he was very interested to hear that you were still around. I'm glad he called in on you because he certainly expressed an interest in visiting, so it just goes to show he must be a man of his word. I hadn't thought about him being your Mum's cousin but of course he would be. Isn't it funny what happens between the beginning of a large family and the end and all the marriages, births and offshoots.

Well, a pussy didn't turn up for my birthday, and Ken is quite happy to take your advice re Siamese. However, that doesn't mean all is forgotten - I just have to wait and see which celebration or anniversary the little furry thing is meant for! Meanwhile our domestic 'Mac' is exerting himself in his usual 'cat-who-walks-by-himself' manner so he is riding for a fall. A new kitten could be just the thing.

I am sorry to hear about the health upsets and problems at 53 Winara Ave. Fate does seem to intervene whenever life looks exciting for you, doesn't it?

However, you can be sure that photos galore will be taken on your behalf.

How is your carving of begging bowls going? Lange has pulled a few fast foul tricks in an incredibly short period, hasn't he? I read Mum the part of your letter on dolls, repairing dressing etc, and she pulled out a newsletter with some details which she thought might be of interest to you. I have reproduced them here:

BETSY LOU DOLLS
"Avonside"
11 Avon Terrace
NELSON Phone 80 590

Imported Satin Ribbons

3mm double faced 55c per metre

5mm double faced 65c per metre
5mm feather edged 75c per metre
5mm 2-tone satin (combination black/grey plus others for fashion dolls)
\$1.25 per metre
3mm Cross Grain 55c per metre
5mm velvet in dark colours
\$1.50 per metre
Moire Taffeta \$1.25 per metre

Plastic Buttons at 6c each

Special Tiny 0000 Domes at 4c each

Mother of Pearl Buttons 32c each

Laces - wide range of specially imported Doll laces

I don't know whether you already knew of the above, but I hope it is of some interest. Mum is on the mailing list, and their catalogue had the dolls in a lovely old 3-wheeled cane pram - you know, one wheel out the front. Their catalogue has all sorts and is lovely just to purr over, even though the stuff is mostly reproduction and not quite of your vintage.

Re your genealogist's work in Edinburgh, via England. I found it interesting that the Hugh wasn't named after his father Duncan - I wonder whether there might have been another son, older, who took that name? Going by my own assumptions, I would say that Isabella (Aunty Belle) was older than Christina (your Great great Grandmother) because usually Mum was honoured first, then other members of the family. However, who is to say that the name Christina didn't come from one of the grandparents, in which case it could well be used first, and Mum's name of Isabel(la) used nearer the end of the line. You could tie yourself up in knots over that sort of thing, but it is fun musing. Best of luck for further searching over there, your friend's friend is doing an invaluable job and it has taken until now to do it!

Well, guess I had better close. I have had a couple of weeks research and an interview waiting to be typed up for a couple of weeks now, and I hate leaving them that long - you tend to lose the thread of thought and little important facts when you don't type them up straight away. Brett has gone down for an hour or so (right on lunch time of course) but fortunately no Kindy today so we'll make the most of it and keep typing.

Lots of Love and sorry I couldn't make it at the beginning of this month. I will probably be in touch around Christmas though - even a quick yak on the phone would be nice.

Vicky

