

Dear Ken and Rene,

Thanks for your letter of Dec. 8, 1979. Pleased to hear about the baby and the new house. Your new job Ken as Supervisor of Socio-Economic Studies for Polar Gas sounds interesting although I wonder if the job has an inbuilt bias.

News here besides the beautiful warm weather all year around is gold. Everyone seems to be buying metal detectors and going off to the desert to prospect. Some are actually finding it while most end up with a good suntan relaxing holiday and some old coins. Actually the very hot summer weather, flies, monotonous landscape totally flat with scrub mulga makes the work unromantic. This is particularly true since detectors pick up 'hot rocks' which are worthless but sound like gold. Lots of digging for nothing.

My apologies for having written so infrequently. I find typing with one finger very slow and frustrating. I also make an incredible number of mistakes, not spelling errors I assure you. But I have managed to make this year a full and satisfying one. Besides retaining my job as Curriculum Coordinator at the school five days a week I have been enjoying good restaurants and regularly visiting my girl friends Shirley and Janet. Being in a wheelchair is not very pleasant but has not slowed down my social life. Perhaps on the beneficial side I've given up pursuing further study following my Masters of Education degree and consequently find time to spend with my two main hobbies. These are computer programming and Amateur Radio. I have a 48K Apple with disk drive and am using it for many programmes including word processing. Ham radio is also good for limited mobility. In short life is still exciting and most enjoyable. Here in Australia there is very little Canadian news and few Canadians seem to make it as far afield as Perth. Consequently I've more or less have lost contact with Canadian politics, prices and conditions. Here petrol is 31 cents a litre, a city house about \$35,000., steak 3.00 a kilo and cars \$6,000 or above. There are no heating costs and the biggest complaint seems to be the price of beer at sixty cents a can.

In spite of my very limited mobility I have been healthy most of the year and manage the 24 km car drive to work each day. I've even had a few weekend trips down South. Next year when I receive my insurance compensation I hope to visit Canada and travel more.

My parents are well and are taking a jet trip through Asia in Dec. to visit me for two months. This is their third trip in four years, good for someone who is seventy five. My brother George is practicing medicine in Vancouver and Pat is expecting in Jan. my brother in law Ken and sister Marg continue to happily raise their family in Ridgetown.

I would once again like to extend my wishes for a very Merry Christmas and to thank you for keeping in touch. Best wishes for a happy and prosperous 1981. Cheers: Don Pugh 1 Dec 1-80.

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