

Rec'd 17/1/55 in Sydney.

Box 3, Delhi, Ontario, Canada.

December 22 /54.

22deg.

3 pm +

Dear Wesley,

I am sitting here alone, your Mother has gone to visit Mrs Cohoe, she is in great sorrow, Mr Cohoe died in Simcoe Hospital, on the 18th, he was buried yesterday 21st. We were there, we went and returned in Bisbee's Taxi. We got your Cable on the 10th, we guess you are now in Sydney. As the Christmas season is approaching close, and you are likely to be in Sydney until the middle of January, I thought I would pound this off to you, as you there breaking the new soil, of a strange country to you, of course there are many wonderful things to see, but you must feel queer in that big country, and the prospect of going to another country not so highly developed as a missionary. Many people that knew you here are glad of this new work you have sought, and of course wish you well.

Fred, got your picture postcard, brought it over to show it to us, Fred, is showing the the most kindly interest in us, he feels that we are isolated here, and he wants to keep in touch for our protection.

Your Mother's eyes have been tested and Mt Clapp of Simcoe has given her a careful examination, found cataract in early stage in both eyes, nothing to be afraid of because of the very slow growth, it may 5, or 20 years to cause alarm. He prescribed a fine pair of spectacles, \$38.00 that are giving her much needed light.

We have been getting a great shower of Christmas Cards, the piano top is covered from end to end. We have been expecting that our Evelyn and family might get here after Christmas, (Mrs H, senior is going to Ottawa for Christmas.) A letter from Evelyn in to -day tells of a secret reason why she will not be here as we expected, she is pregnant and expect her fourth about July 29th. We were very much surprised to learn this, but she is quite cheerful over this new possibility, a brothe for JAY, or a sister for HILDEGARDE....

Catherine & Wilford has sent us a nice R.S.V BIBLE for ~~xxxx~~ christmas gift, a beautiful book we use it every day. Evelyn has sent us a big parcel, with instructions, not to be opened until Christmas, so we dont know yet what is contained. Doris and Hector sent me awee letter. Hector printed his, Doris wrote hers very good letter, she told me if I wanted to surprise her Mother, I was to make her a PALETTE, (Alice is enjoying herself with some of her new friends, by attending a class in OIL PAINTING, so I got busy, got some 1/2" ply-wood from Sandy, made 2 PALETTES and mailed off to surprise ALICE..

Frances Layton, (nee Weekes) and family hope to come to Canada about next March so perhaps we may see them, Anna Weekes, wrote to us recently giving us the news about the girls, Betty (Mrs Charles Watson) has 2 children Girl and Boy, Frances 2 boys, Ruth, 2 boys, Mary, 2 girls, and (another child expected) Miriam has 3 boys, that totals up to 8 plus 3, equals 11. I mentioned to your Mother, the fact, that the grandparents never saw any of these grandchildren.

Referring back to Wilford, he is getting back to normal very slowly, he is very weak, has been practically confined to bed for 6 months the rest of the family are well, Betty & Murray and baby Linda are in Frederiction, where Murray has a job, also doing ~~bookings~~ teaching to help him to get his Ph.D. Douglas is still in the U.S. Army, his wife is working too, to get their home started, they are in Colorado I think.

Your Aunt Evelyn, sent us a news cutting, which told of the passing of Mrs Elson, they lived near Eden, Mrs Elson was a sister of Mrs Rev Homer Brown late of Fairground, Rev A Elson, wife and family were all of West China. You probably remember Mary Jay (now Mrs Kaasin.) Mary's daughter Jeanette, well, Jeanette now 19, has married a Polish Man, and with him become a Roman Catholic, and I think that Ann Merinuk, now has married a Ukrainian, and I think has also turned R.C. Now I guess I have given you all the news of the moment. So I will close here and prayerfully wish you a Joyful Christmas, and a Prosperous New Year in your chosen work, Go right forward, God will never fail you.

Yours as ever,

Your Father.

WML.

William M. Leonard.

9 pm.

P.S. I will try and mail this to go by air mail ~~WML~~