

Box 3. Delhi, Ontario, Canada, Jan. 26/55.

Dear Wesley, we have your letters of Jan. 13th. and 21st. they came in here on the Jan. 22nd, and 25th, also a nice ~~xxxx~~ letter from Mr. J.W. Harris, in which he tells of receiving a long letter from you. I am not going to answer them at all at the time, having the tragic story of your sister Catherine's disease, and death. Some time away back in '53 CANCER developed, and her right breast had to be removed, About Jan. 13th. she was taken to the Hospital for a further check-up. Another operation revealed that the CANCER GERMS had reached the LIVER. Wilford told us that her condition was kept a secret from us, mercifully saving us the worry about her. From the 13th on, Wilford kept us all posted as to her condition, sent us several letters, each one telling us the dreadful news that she was sinking. We kept praying, hoping, Wilford, told us that she was failing fast, and that she was growing so weak that she could only speak in a whisper, then the end came on Friday Jan. 21st. in the morning.

Wilford was here to-day and told us that when he read our letters to her, she would lapse into a coma, then he would continue when she revived enough to hear. He asked her if she knew she was going to die, she said she did, and said she did not like to go and leave so many nice people.

So preparation for her funeral in Tillsonburg Cemetery was arranged with the Ostrander Funeral Home. Alice went to Minneapolis, was at the Memorial service there, and returned back home to Winnipeg. Evelyn and Eric arrived here 4pm on Jan 23rd. Leaving the children in care of a woman at home in Ottawa. Some

news man called us up from Ostrander's asked for a list of the family history, and we gave him all we knew in answer to his questions. It transpired that he was of the London Free Press, then people came to us to convey their sympathy, food gifts, etc. etc. our church people Rev. G. E. Morrow, was most kind, we did not go to church, we were so ~~broken~~ broken up. Eric, drove us in Dodge to the Funeral Home, about nine people of our church were there, Rev. G. E. M. & Mrs. Morrow, Mrs. M. P. M. Smith, Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. Alberta White, Mrs. Coyle (nee Bonnie Gagen) Mr. & Mrs. R. J. Quance, Mr. Marshall, about 9 in all from our church at Tillsonburg, then Murray Finch, and a lot of old time friends that knew us long ago. Sympathy Cards such a lot. After the Service at which Rev. Clifford Park spoke, he paid a wonderful tribute to her, as a christian, a mother, and quoted some poetry which Catherine wrote, very nice. Catherine in her coffin looked well Watson Park, said, "You would think she was asleep," ~~xxxx~~ so calm and at peace, but it tore us to pieces, we broke down, we could not control our feelings.

After the graveside service, all the relatives went to Hugh McDonald's farm home out II concession Dereham,

Such a crowd, there, Evelyn, Eric, and us, left, got home about 5-30pm. in the snowstorm, nasty driving. Betty & Murray all the way from Fredericton, Douglas Park from Colorado, Mr & Mrs Burkah from Warren, Michigan, ( Mrs M ) is Wilford's sister. and there was a great number of the Parks we did not know, as indeed a good number we had to ask their names.

Evelyn and Eric, left here this morning 8.55am for home in Ottawa. Wilford, Douglas, Betty, & Murray, all here this pm. Rev. G. E. Morrow, came to comfort us too this pm Now I must stop here.

As ever, Your Father,

*William M. Leonard*

P.S. You will note Catherine's funeral was on Jan 25

Dear Wesley - After the 1st operation Wilford knew it would recur with little prospect of recovery, it came even sooner than Wilford anticipated and her strength was soon gone - The people of the church Hennepin Ave. had taken her to their hearts very quickly - They were such a nice lot of people, she and the wife of the minister Dr. Rove became fast friends, and lots of people we met when there in 1952, she said "I am sorry to leave so many nice people" Alice went as soon as she could, "I am the nearest of the family" she said, but it took her till Saturday to get there, in time for the 3 p.m. Memorial service in Hennepin church, then on Sun. she went home, and Wilford went by train to Stillsonburg, Ill. with his wife Ruth from Colorado. Ruth stayed with the children - Betty's little byr old girl and the 3 Park boys. Betty looks quite mature and womanly, Doug too has improved and Murray enjoyed being around our home & listening to father talk - his Chinese bledg and listening to your taped record from Auckland He gets on fine with people - It is dark & snowing we hope Ed & Eric have reached home - See: Pg. 30:5, A card came from Hazel Sommers from Scotland Love from mother -

So bad you did not buy all they said it will be too hot to go bare-backed & take legged - Better to take advice if those who "kiss the ropes" Murray & Betty took 2 1/2 days to come from N. Br. too bad you are delayed a week but it will soon pass. Wilford has such a lot of stuff concerns also Mary Ann's - He looks thin but is leaning up well, he hopes to go to work in a week - Ed & S.



8/3/55

MR. WESLEY M. LEONARD.  
 METHODIST MISSION.  
 BARAKOMO AIRFIELD.  
 VELLA LA VELLA,  
 BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS

SECOND FOLD HERE — PLIEZ ENSUITE ICI  
 SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS — NOM ET ADRESSE DE L'ENVOYEUR

W. M. LEONARD.  
 BOX #3.  
 DELHI,  
 ONTARIO,  
 CANADA.

JAN 26 1955.

NO ENCLOSURE PERMITTED — NE RIEN INSÉRER

FIRST FOLD HERE — PLIEZ D'ABORD ICI

NO OPEN CLOSURE HERE — POUR OUVRIRE, COUPEZ ICI