

23 July '97

Dear Frances,

I do hope the birthday lunch with David went well - he would never even have heard of Chez Gaston!

My own news is all good, but Marion's is not. Yes, the operation for Ed was a success, but he is very frail, & this morning she told me he is back in hospital (on the expensive care home) having broken his hip. I may hear more tonight, or tomorrow as I'm going over to help her with those rusty tools. Poor Marion, & poor old Ed.

On Monday I had lunch with Mary Strong who is just back to 5 weeks in England, & her beats are Lincolnshire & Northumberland, & she was full of news. She had the bright idea that I should get a university student to help me with some odd jobs around my apartment. I rang the Student Employment Office at U-Vic where they have a card index & a bulletin board - & my request for casual help was up on the board. I took



I have had at least five responses.

The young man fixed up one TV in its new position, also a VCR (which I didn't know about) & dismantled the older TV which is to go to the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Shop (they will come & collect it). He was horrified to hear that the fate of the Console (a radio-gram/tape player with speakers) was to be sent to the dump as being quite obsolete, so he said he would come to have it! So it is now sitting down in the boiler room till he can get a truck to haul it away, either for himself or his friend. Our jaistor man George was going to break it up with an axe!

So now I have installed the Hope Chest in its rightful place & it looks lovely & is both useful & eyeable. And it is on casters & has a good space under it for me to get at the dust. I also learned from George that he thinks my apartment is in line for repainting throughout. That is something that I really wanted, but they wouldn't do it then.



On Saturday night, at 5.30 p ~~pm~~  
we had the church Salma Barbecue  
with the Nishga'a Tribal Council in  
the Nass Valley (way up north). It  
was a beautiful evening & we fore-  
gathered in the church garden &  
courtyard, & the food stuffs were  
sumptuous. We all made a point of  
fraternizing. After the meal we all  
repaired to the Church Hall & had  
a winding of a Church Army sort  
of evangelical service performed by  
the Nishga'a elders, with drums &  
guitar & lots of very folksy hymns.  
This went on for at least 2½ hrs. till  
our Rector stepped politely & suggested  
they wind it down. They could go on  
all night, & once they get going their  
custom is to go on into the wee hours.

They had come down on their annual  
visit to Vancouver to a Summer  
School (week-long) & then they came  
on to us. On the next day they would  
all be in church at all the services  
wearing their Butter Blanket vestments



I forgot to mention that the  
university student was Hungarian & it  
came out that he used to go out  
with Sylvia's daughter! He knew  
that the parents did go back to  
Hungary, but that is all, I thought  
that was an interesting piece of news.

Have just been talking to Marion.

Apparently Ed didn't break his hip,  
it was the upper part of the femur, &  
they will probably put a pin in it.

Sandy told me that Bill Watson had  
suffered the same fate, & what the  
ramifications may be I don't know.

Be very careful with your old  
specs, mind you don't go crashing  
down! We are having a beautiful  
spell of weather & I hope you are  
having it too.

Very much love to Jane