

6 Aug. '97

Dear Frances,

We are having an electrical storm with lots of fierce lightning & just now have had a loud clap of thunder & then deluge.

People here can get (loud clap No. 2 here!) struck by lightning. I do know one should unplug the TV in this sort of storm, & for safety's sake I've also unplugged other electrical outlets. The storm & rain looks to me as though it must be right overhead for Marion. Marion had a lovely 3-day break up-island with Maxine, & Ed is still in hospital. I'm going to join her tomorrow for a further attack on the rusty tools, & then she is going to take grandson Jeremy & a week-long Eldersholkel trip to Strathcone Park Lodge which is specially geared for Granmas & grand children (only one grandchild). On Sunday morning the Aboriginal

people for all over North America (& some even to Australia) have their own weeks of Games. They had a ceremonial arrival of canoes in the inner Harbour in all their ceremonial garb, & I got a good spot to see all that. But I didn't attempt to go to U-Vic stadium where they held the official opening in the afternoon. Instead I saved myself for the evening when Maria & I took our supper, rugs, & lawn chairs & found a good spot on the Parliament Building lawns for the 8th "Symphony Splash", which I think was the best ever. It was such a beautiful evening and there were the usual crowds of people & families all in festive mood. (I thought the storm had passed off elsewhere but it seems to be rumbling ominously back). Yesterday, a boiling hot day, I made my way to the B.C. Tel. office downtown & after a very nice woman there interviewed me, it has been arranged that a repair man will

God, daughter, & the new to and take taking visibility *

Come this afternoon & exchange
a rotary dial phone for a touch
phone. We have always had 2
phones here (both on the same line)
& one of them has a deaf aid
attached. I'm keeping that one, as it
may be useful for me soon!, but
the other one will ~~go~~ ^{be exchanged}. I learn that
in BC Tel's eyes they are both
obsolete, & this will be treated
as a repair visit at no extra
charge. Nowadays one really
has to have a touch phone, as
so many business calls cannot
be made successfully on the old
rotary method. Clearly, I am
now a dodo. Flaming walked to
the BC Tel office & back here I
collapsed exhausted - I hope largely
because of the heat - before
thinking of getting a meal. (It
is still deluging rain which is
probably much needed).

I've just been to the library & have
got a book by Virginia Woolf
"Orlando". I've never read

anything of her before. I think she was regarded as, very, avant garde in the '20s & '30s, but in the '90s I'm sure we can take her in stride.

The Gaelic group are now trying to form a choir & we think we shall be enlisting the help of a church choir master. He probably won't know Gaelic, but we have Sue & Anne Ralley (of South Wisk) to coach us there. It really does sound promising & with luck we could aim at competing in the '99 Vancouver Mod.

I'm glad you are drinking pints of water & doing your exercises. It is tedious work, but well worth trying, to keep muscles going.

Lots of love B

Jane