

Victoria, B.C.

aApril 24, 1980

Dear Folks-

Well, this must get some sort of prize for an "overdue letter" because it should have been away to you long before this and I have really no valid excuse for the delay.

First, so much appreciation and thanks for those old letters of Dads. It certainly brought back some old memories of those days. The family tree was also most interesting as it tied in the Stevenson connection ~~in a way~~ and filled in some gaps that used to puzzle me. I occasionally wondered where the name "Matthew" had come from as there did not appear to be any in early Scarth records but it was of Stevenson origin, apparently. Oddly enough, in some of that material I secured in Regina a few years ago re W.B. Scarth, there appeared an observation by someone that "Pillans was a "Scarth" name"

I don't know whether this was in response to someone who was trying to pilfer the name or not-possibly thereby hangs a tale.

Like you, I got a great kick out of Dad's vivid description of

Bob Rannie Tat Boulton Manor. I can recall Daisy escorting us through its vast upper regions on one occasion. One rather expected to see the ghost of some early character dodge into a cupboard while we passed.

And then our highlight in visits was from your young people- Bob & Ivy and boys with Jim, Bev & Christie. We certainly got caught up on all the news and were so impressed with how well Ivy looked-- it was just like visiting with her old self. We will have to make a stab at getting over to Jims if we can catch him at home. Christie quite stole our hearts away.

We are enjoying a very fine spring season here. Old timers remark that they seldom have seen a finer show of spring blossoms and the weather has been reasonably salubrious. The fishing enthusiasts are beginning to report highlights in the local paper so that is a sure sign of spring. Another unfailing symptom is the upheaval of street repairs in preparation for the tourist influx. We will likely be getting a flow of our U.S. neighbors shortly as gas prices here are very favorable to them.

Lorna is putting in her news and I am sure it will cover all the gaps. Do hope all is going well with everyone down there and that you both are in good trim. I often think of the old farm at this time of the year and certainly miss the garden activities. Very best to all

Bill

5 a good deal of this chatter may be ~~repetition~~ ^{repetition} of old news.
Sunday p.m.

Dear Grace and Norm,

I just have to say my piece too, and will put it in with Bill's letter when it's ready.

We did enjoy the letters which Norm sent - it was a very thought ful thing, to duplicate such interesting echoes of the past so that more ^{of us can} enjoy them.

And we also thoroughly enjoyed your young people, Bob & Joy, Jim and Bea and of course Christie (y^r). She's a most adaptable youngster.

Since returning from Edmonton, we've had visits from both of Isabelle's daughters (one with husband and daughter) and also from Wallace's daughter and her husband. The husbands were doing business here, & Lois was on her own attending a bridge tournament.

Then we also really appreciated an evening with Eva and Dave while he was here to see Eva's. Tomorrow, she expects Vivian for a couple of weeks.

It's so very interesting to get to know this next generation better. We expect Simone for a few days at the end of May, before she goes back to her job at the clinic, after her leave of absence. Son Rob graduates in engineering June 4th and we're all so pleased about that.

I think Bob & Joy were here on Good Friday - he had ^{previously} suggested that Bob & Jessie come with us to our church service and eat & visit - here as well. However, they were going over to the two ladies across the street for dinner so that didn't work out. We did contact Eva though, and it made quite a family group.

We have just ²one plant more really proc'd just now, an azalea on the porch ^{which is} just a mass of red bloom. Inside, we're enjoying a surprise floral arrangement from Calgary, sent by the librarian who helped me the last year at Ross Shep, and took over for the year following. Her husband (with Sheld) was transferred to Calgary, so she took the chance & had their son Jon. I guess she must have heard about Bob, and there may be a letter for us shortly. Last fall they all dropped in, with also her mother visiting from England.

Hey, I'm very garrulous, but the flowers are so gorgeous and so unexpected.

It has been a lovely day and we drove up the Malahat and back by Shawinigan Lake.

We're been so happy to have had letters from Simone's family in Nova Scotia, since spending some time with them in Edmonton. Her sister Theresa especially, is so warm-hearted, and one of her daughters ^(Corinne) we ^{some years ago} met while she was in Edmonton. They were all so welcoming when I visited a year ago fall.

My hard work for some time was mainly writing thank-you letters to the very kind relatives and friends who sent cards. It was a lovely thing for you people to phone Simone and I'm sorry that the Misses Devise wouldn't likely realize who & where you were. But Simone mentioned it to us and regretted not having a chat with you.

We're looking forward to a visit from Clea and family in later August - they are a most active foursome - will try not to stage another fist fight.

Alia & Irene are another fast foursome. Irene unexpectedly went back to her job, Alia was made city editor of the Leth. Herald and they all travel to & from town each day. The youngsters both are in schools, and seem to be settling down well.

There, I'm still talking, and it's a good thing that the end of the page is in sight.

It's interesting to hear about you & your family and your crafts. Very best wishes to both, Affectionately, Dorcas