

April 7, 1980

Dear Ma and Pa,

Just a short note to say "Hello" and "How are you this spring?" How are you getting along with

the Turntable Dog Kennel, Ma? I expect you have lots of company on your walks every day. We

have decided on the name of Arab for our Aunt, 5' m not sure what he's been called up to now, besides "Runt."

I guess you will have all your garden seed ordered by now... maybe even seedlings started? I

am hoping that we will find a house with a little bit of garden, as I would like to grow a few tomatoes, radish, lettuce and green onions, at least. We are

going to start house-hunting this week, as Pat gets ready to start house-hunting. We decided we want a house

his first pay check. We decided we felt too "unfurnished" rather than an apartment because we felt like a garage to work

in an apartment. Besides, Pat would like a garage to work in and I would like a yard, as hopefully we will find something suitable. There seem to be lots of houses available, as there has been a steady migration out of Winnipeg, and with mortgage rates such as they are, not too many people are buying. (We will rent, not buy)

We are both working hard at our jobs and enjoying them so far. I think Pat is building himself quite a

reputation as a reliable, hard-working, and organized person. He is always the first one on the job in the morning and the

last one to leave. He is always the first one on the job in the morning and the

2//
way. (Nothing like a ~~wife~~ wife bragging about her husband, eh?!)
He delivers a lot of equipment to construction sites, such as

jack hammers, compressors, propane heaters and torches, scaffolding, ladders, as well as various other items such as letters, books, frozen food, medical goods, water heaters, etc. You name it . . . he'll deliver it!

My job is very diversified and I always have more work than I can do in one day. So far I am finding it

challenging and the people I work with are friendly. I was called in for a "review" last week and was told that the 4 men I work for have been very impressed with my manner, hard work and capabilities for self-motivation. This was a very nice compliment which became even nicer when expressed in the form of a \$100 raise which I will receive per month. It is easy to become disillusioned in the business world, but I can see that personal integrity is still a big factor in any successful venture.

Rob and I are both going to start taking courses 2 nights a week at Red River Community College. Rob is going to take arc welding and I am taking accounting. We think these courses will be beneficial to our work as well as our private life.

I have just gotten into that book, "The Light of Asia," and after slogging through the Preface I was delightfully surprised by the flowing beauty of the poem itself. It is a story of the type you might tell children gathered around you. Not only does it engage the imagination, but the senses

as well. I found myself unwilling to put the book down at the end of my lunch hour today. Even though many of the words or word groups are unfamiliar, through context the meaning is clear. I find myself enjoying the intricate passages and the poetic cadences after some of the stark and simplistic modern prose I have been

reading. (This may account for my liking for the King James version of the Bible as opposed to the "Good News for Modern Man") (To me, something is lost in the simplification) This is not to say that all modern writing is less than adequate, just that I am enjoying Edwin Arnold's style.

done of my co-workers were quite interested in the

"historical air" of a book initialed with an ancestor's (great-grandmother's) initials and a grandfather's signature. It seems that

although many people share family ties, the fascination of ancestral ties is still very strong. Although our ties may not be as close and strong as they might be... sometimes when I hear of the "rootless" and alienated of some people I am thankful for my family and the heritage that has been passed down through each person.

Anyway, I had better cut this meandering thought that or I will be here all night and Sillymore finish washing clothes.

We had a restful Easter week-end culminating in a big family supper at Rob's aunt's house on Sunday. Rob's grandfather will be 85 on May 11, so his grandmother is planning a surprise birthday party for him.

Well, that seems to be all the news for now. We will probably be out before long to load up our furniture and still as yet unused wedding gifts. You will be pleased to know that we are going to take the sum of the wedding money we received from everyone (yourselves included), which we spent on necessities at first, and put it towards buying a vacuum cleaner, a freezer, a ~~can~~ canoe, a tea pot, and a set of bathroom scales. Hopefully some of these items will ~~be~~ endure longer than our first \$50 worth of groceries did!

By the way, we had a very enjoyable dinner and visit with Leslie + Dennis + kids last time they were in Winnipeg. They took us out to the Tchi Ban which was a very nice treat. Hopefully soon, we will be able to reciprocate with a home-cooked meal for all comers!

Take care of yourselves and see you soon. Rob says "Hi" . . . he is busy making me a cup of tea.

Love,
Rhonda + Rob

