

1958

Dear Donald,

I expect Myra has told you "all the news that's fit to write", as the N.Y. Times says. It was nice to get your letter and hear about your work and all those interesting people you are meeting, but I am glad you have Rabbie Dyer to have a Pie-Island chat with sometimes. Give my regards to Rabbie and tell him we do miss his lissom form from Lang's Beach. Does he remember the day the chicken coop made off into space? What a fright I got! I still think of it with horror. Maybe that is why I am not so disturbed about the sputnik as most are. Fortunately it was past "The Season" at the beach. Did you see the Queen? She was lucky to miss the floods and storms of the Sunny North. I suppose they would not bother mentioning such things in Aussie papers (nothing to theirs!), but we've had an orful month – wind N.E. and then rain, and more rain. But your friend Mr Archie Newitt will be happy – he has been calling out for weeks to get onto our water supply – now he won't need to bother.

Many happy returns of your birthday, dear Donald. I hope you will use all your knowledge for the Peace and happiness of your fellow creatures.

Love from your Aunt Elsie.

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Lang's Beach

Waipu N.Z

2-12-68

Dear Donald,

We all thank you for your kind letter of sympathy, of course we don't realise it yet, Annie was the one who never went away from home until your Father was married, and after a while, when our Mother came home again, Hilda stayed with her the remainder of Ma's life. Altho sudden, Annie's death was not unexpected, we knew she had a bad cardiac condition, altho no one spoke of it – she never wanted to be thought ill. The many years she spent with Danny Finlayson was a very happy time for her. She was always busy around home, and went out in her car almost every day. Many people will miss her.

It was very nice to see Ian and Margaret Ann and their Catherine, who is a beautiful little girl. The new Miss Lang – Heather Florence is also very pretty, we think she is going to have auburn hair – like John Willie's. We will all be glad when you come home and we can see Jean & Jennifer. I am sure they are also very beautiful. Hilda & Hugh are staying with us until after Christmas – Hugh going to & fro 5 days a week.

Love to you & yours from Aunt Elsie.