

BOX 89, QUEENSTON
ONTARIO, CANADA, LOSILO.
MARCH 26/85.

Dear Bill:

It sure was a pleasure getting your letter and the pictures, it seems like only yesterday that I was seeing all those young faces and I was able to name each one except Al Rae. I have always been able to visualize Al Rae's face but could never remember his name. You know Bill I must have had one of the class pictures originally but it had been lost over the years and then I began to doubt that there ever had been a class picture. But I was talking to Earl Johnson and he had his class picture and he said he was sure that our class also had one taken. So when I was talking to Bill Anderson one day on twenty meters and he said he knew you I asked him to say hello to you for me and make the enquiry about the picture. I really would appreciate it Bill if you could have a photo shop make up a proper copy and send it to me I believe they will have to make a negative and it will cost a bit but I would like to have the negative and a real picture and will send you whatever the cost might be Bill. Anyway so much for the pictures.

Well that was a really nice and very informative letter Bill, you certainly have a fine family, and I'm sure you and your wife enjoy your grandchildren. Wonder if there is still time or the chance that you may still get that grand-daughter your wife would like. Grandmothers have a great time dressing their grand-daughters much more than grandsons so I understand how your wife feels about that. Margaret use to have a ball going and getting things for Jennifer our grand-daughter when she was younger. Bows in her hair and all that sort of thing.

Well a little info on me and my family Bill, April 3 will be our 42 anniversary so you see I really am an old married man, I believe that I was the original boy bridegroom. We had three children 2 girls and a boy, but our boy had muscular dystrophy and was in a wheel chair for the last twelve years of his life. He passed away when he was twenty one years old. He was a wonderful boy, a very gifted artist and left us much of his work that we prize.

My oldest girl Carolynne is 40 and has her degree and is a primary school teacher in Niagara Falls, her husband Bob is a vice principal at a high school in St. Catharines. They have two children David 20 years old and attending Waterloo University. Jennifer 15 years old and in grade 10 in high school.

My youngest daughter Barbara 36 years old also has her degree and is also a primary school teacher in Niagara Falls. Her husband Don is a maintenance superintendent in Chateau Gai winery here. Barbara and Don have no children and will not be having any. As you see by my address Bill I live on the river road between Niagara Falls and Niagara on the Lake, just below the Brocks monument or the Queenston hill, Carolynne lives on the same road about half a mile down the road from us. Barbara built a new house about three years ago down in Niagara on the Lake which is a really nice little town.

Well I guess that covers my family pretty well, I am now retired for two years January 1/83. and am really enjoying the freedom of it Bill. Don't seem to do anything very important or productive but I guess that's what it is all about. I was a control room operator with Ontario Hydro for thirty three years, marvellous outfit to work for but had the opportunity to take early pension so I grabbed it. My wife never worked so now we can do as we like whenever we like. We are both in pretty good health I guess for a couple of old people. We have a one acre lot here so it keeps me pretty busy during the

summer and I enjoy being out in the fresh air as much as I can because it seems that the winters are quite long. We tried going to Florida two or three times and I really don't enjoy it all that much down there, I seem to get bored down there whereas at home I always have something to putter around with.

We have done quite a bit of travelling in the last 15 years. We get out to the west coast usually about every five years or thereabouts, Margaret comes from Calgary originally and still has brother and sister in Calgary, also a brother at White Rock so we stop in & Calgary for awhile then on to the coast and visit with my brother in law for a few days then over to the island for a bit to see our old stamping grounds and reminisce a bit. Boy what children we were. Victoria sure is changing, we were last out in 1980, took our Grand-daughter with us as far as Calgary and she stayed with us in Calgary for a week then she flew back home and we rented a car and continued out to coast. Am a pretty active amateur operator Bill and have lots of ham friends all over the world, have been over to Europe five times in last 10 years and met a lot of the guys I talk to in these various places.

You didn't mention it in your letter Bill so perhaps you have forgotten that one time we were out west we or at least I stopped in to see you in Langley my brother in law had bought five acres in Langley with the intentions of building a house there so he took us out to see the place and as we were passing right past your garage I stopped and ran in to see you. It was a pretty short visit as I recall and I believe you gave me your qsl card at the time and I think you had a ten meter beam up beside your house.

Well Bill I guess it would take a book to catch you up on all the water that has gone under the bridge since you and I last saw each other especially during our navy days, I think I last saw you in the barracks in Halifax I guess I was waiting for the Huron which I picked up at that time, I think there were two or three other guys in there at that time waiting for something or other, guys we knew from the west coast that is, I often think of Naden with very fond memories, those were really pretty good times sometimes a little wild in our young lives, I often wonder where some of those people have gotten to. I have heard of some and know of them, Earl Johnson of course is here in Niagara Falls and I see Earl often in fact when I got your letter and pictures I phoned Earl and he is coming down today I will give him one of these copies as he said he would really like to have one and of course Earl knows all the gang as you remember our class started out with all of RCN 7 and RCN7A together. Boy do you remember Bill when we joined up in Hamilton and stayed there for a week or so and were given those white uniforms and then had to travel on those damned old coal burning trains to the west coast, God the uniforms looked like they were black when we arrived, I also remember putting our hammocks up in Hamilton for the first time, and little Frank Goring who was killed in a hunting accident on the west coast still only a boy. Well Bill many things going through my mind that I guess I could sit here and write all day but had better quit for now or you will be wondering if this guy is never going to quit. This is a little unusual for me because I normally get on the air to do my corresponding and I will get some one to put through a phone patch to you at the first opportunity Bill, really would be great to get some of the old gang together again for a real good natter. Oh yes about chief Ethel I always used to visit him and also Syd Norman and his wife in Victoria when ever we went out we still always exchange Xmas cards with ~~chief~~ Syd Normans wife she is still in Victoria. We also stop and say hello to Fergy, he is doing really well now as he has his travel company quite large as a matter of fact so he is doing fine.

That was really a nice thing you did for Noel Ethel Bill, oddly enough the chief and his wife stopped in here on his way back from Europe and stayed over night with us. It was really good to see them but the chief was not in very good condition because he had either had a stroke before his trip had one during the trip, I can't remember which it was, you know Bill my damned memory is getting so poor I sometimes think I'm getting Alzheimer's disease or else I'm getting senile maybe ha ha. My wife says don't laugh. I talk to Doug Hyslop on the ham bands, he was in RCN5, you may remember him, he lives in Bedford just outside of Halifax. He has passed on some info on various ones, he even called Shorty Palmerston and we exchanged all the latest news we had, great to hear from him, last time I had heard anything about Shorty had been about twenty years ago when we had been down east and went to Cornwallis and saw Shorty and wife he was still in Navy at that time I think just about ready to retire. Bill Amos also down in that area Doug sent me a clipping from a paper about Bill and his wife starting a little tea shop, so I dropped a line of to Bill but never heard anything from him. Last I heard of Gerry Patrick he was in diplomatic service and in Washington D.C. Must be retired by now I expect. I hear Beatty is over in Victoria you probably know that. Also heard that E. Penney had passed away quite along time ago.

Earl Johnson was just here and we had a good natter hashing over old times, Earl has had some serious illness, he had a triple by-pass a couple of years ago and last month he was over to Toronto and had an operation on his leg to replace the artery, they stripped a vein from his leg and used it to replace the artery I guess, but the operation was not a success and Earl has to go back in May and have it done again this time they will have to use plastic I believe.

If Earl is able he and I may go to Halifax in June to reunion for navy communication people. By the way Earl had quite a large family 8 children, pretty busy guy I would say.

Well Bill I must end this or I will have to send this by parcel post, my wife has drawn my attention to some of my spelling mistakes and I have tried to correct them, hope its not too obvious.

Really good to hear from you Bill, and the picture is much appreciated, if you have the time drop me a line again and give me whatever news you can. I'm sure there are some things I have forgotten to tell you but maybe next time, by the way Earl took your address so he may drop you a line also.

All the best Bill.

