

New Zealand 1991

3 January 1991

Last day at home in Edmonton. A busy day, though most things are done. Quick lunch with Henk Van Andel to discuss the Delwin Vriend situation. He seems to have things in hand but feels nervous about it. I am glad I don't need to be involved directly.

We went out for a nice dinner with Mark and Debbie, Andy and Joan, and Mom. We were late because the Ohalas arrived, tired, at 6:45 and we spent nearly an hour with them. When we came back from dinner there was still more to do but finally, by about 3:00^{am}, the place was clean, our bags were packed, and we went to bed for a couple of hours.

4 January

We had to be up early again, at 5:45 am, to leave for Andy and Joan's place by 7. Traffic was slow, including a train on a railway crossing, and we arrived at the airport just 25 minutes before flight time. No problem, though, and we had a good flight to Los Angeles. A fancy Chrysler New Yorker was ready at Thrifty (good price, nice car), and in an hour we drove to the Baldwin Park Hilton. Promptly went to sleep for a couple of hours – nice room, hotel seems almost deserted. The rest was necessary and good.

Did a reconnaissance trip to the shopping centre nearby, looked at a new suitcase, and after dark got so disoriented that we could hardly find our way back to the hotel. Finally made it, though.

5 January

Went shopping for suitcase, towels, sheets, purse, and finally got through to Sy and Jan Westra in Chino (actually Ontario). Later in the afternoon/evening we drove to Chino, found the church and also located Sy and Jan's house. The day went quite quickly, partly because we did not get up very early. The stopover/rest clearly had been a good idea.

We had to decide what to do with my old suitcase – we'll try to leave it with the Westras, temporarily or permanently.

6 January

Calvary Church (Bruce Ballast, pastor) has two morning services (8:30! and 10 am). I think they had three for a while. Today was the first time for two and we went to the early one. The half-hour drive meant we had to be up early. The service was rather different than we were used to. Attendance was a bit low today, and the singing was poor. Met Sy and Jan after church (we spotted him). Also two Eisenga cousins of Dixie's. Sy and Jan had waited for us at their house (miscommunication) and we did not tell them that we had already found the church last night. We had a nice time there and a good dinner. Address: 2222 Oaks Ave.

Sy is a school psychologist and Jan a teacher. She has applied to go to law school. Interesting challenge. Also met their children: Brent, Todd and Joan, Sheila, Allison. Sy still has his old car and now also has acquired an old rusty tractor that he hopes to restore. We left about 3:15, stopped along the way at Penney's to buy another small suitcase, and arrived at the airport in good time. Checked in, wrote and sent a card to Pols, and talked

to Mark on the phone for a while. Flight left on time at 8:30 pm, for 12 hours non-stop to Auckland (Air New Zealand super jumbo, 440 people).

7 January

During the night we slept quite a bit, after a nice dinner, and without the distraction of a movie. We crossed the dateline today, so this day did not exist for us. About two hours before reaching Auckland it became light again, and we had breakfast. Felt surprisingly good after the long flight. The sleeping had helped a good deal. Immigration was easy but the luggage took a long time to come. We landed about 6:15 but it took nearly an hour before we were ready to go.

8 January

Elaine and Doug had to get up early to meet us but they were there, and happy to see us. We were glad to see them also, of course, especially since there been some talk about them changing their flight dates after the delay in Vancouver. They were sunburned badly and quite sore, and had already bought two wooden masks in Fiji.

The Avis car we had 'reserved' was much too small for all our luggage so we traded up a bit (still too small) and managed to get it all in, including the items on the laps in the back seat. Then the car wouldn't start – dead battery. Avis soon produced another car, we transferred the luggage, and were on our way. Learned to drive on the left and, with the help of a map, made our way to Remuera House (B&B) where we decided to stay.

Visited One-Tree Hill, Mt. Eden, War Memorial Museum, and had a nice pasta dinner (expensive, \$63) at an Italian place close to our B&B. Driving on the left side seems manageable, though the wipers still go on sometimes when they shouldn't.

9 January

We left part of our luggage at Remuera House, and drove north, to Mahurangi Regional Park (beach, lunch, nice) and on to Whangarei (Clock Museum, Falls, Central Court Motel). Found a Dutch store (cheese, dropjes, peppermint) and a Yugoslav winery. Elaine and Doug nursed their sunburns.

10 January

On to the Bay of Islands, to Russell via a short ferry ride (and back again). Christ Church is the oldest surviving church in New Zealand. We walked around a bit, had lunch at the beach, and then on to Kerikeri and Manganui (Acacia Motel, very nice, and our most expensive). Had some excellent fish and chips for dinner. Tried for some nice pictures of the pretty harbour with sailboats, but the clouds and sun were not very cooperative. We booked a Cape Reinga bus tour for tomorrow, and Elaine and Doug took out the (free) rowboat for a while in the small bay.

11 January

We left early for Kaitai to find the motel we had booked (Wayfarer) and to meet the bus at 9:15. Spent about an hour at the Wagener museum. It was quite nice, though a bit chaotic. Hugh, our Maori bus driver, offered good commentary and tried hard to be funny sometimes. We ate a bag lunch (quite good) on a beach near the Cape and after a further ride wandered about by the lighthouse for a while. The drive through the wet sandy river

bed and then along the Ninety-Mile Beach was interesting at first but soon became monotonous. By 5 pm we were back at Kaitai.

12 January

It was quite a long drive back to Auckland (370 km), including a short ferry ride at the Ravene 'shortcut' (we hit the hourly ferry just at the right time), some stretches of gravel road, and quite a bit of kauri forest. We stopped to see the largest kauri tree, saw some beautiful views, and a lot of winding road. The Matakohu Museum was very nice, with kauri gums and lots of things made out of kauri wood. By 6 we were back at Remuera House. It does not look so attractive anymore but will have to do for now. Met a young couple with two children from Portland. He will be an exchange teacher in Sydney for a year. If Elaine and Doug call them in Sydney, they probably can stay there for a few days (Susan and Dean Wells).

Sun

13 January

Attended Avondale Reformed Church, met Wim Bouman from Bishopdale, one of the Hoek sons (Richard) and Rev. Dirk Van Garderen, who used to be in Bishopdale. Ray King at Remuera House arranged with Russell's for a cheaper car – he came and showed it to us (a Suzuki Swift at \$60 per day vs. \$100 from Avis), and we decided to swap. Visited the De Vries's (retired architect) at a very nice retirement village for tea, went on a brief scenic drive, took Elaine and Doug back to Remuera, and hurried back to church. Later in the evening I returned the Avis car to the airport and took the \$15 shuttle back. In the meantime, Dixie had also tried some driving that went quite well. The drive without navigator to the airport, in the dark, had its moments of insecurity but it all went well. Russell agreed to store two or three of our suitcases for the next 8 days and will meet us with them at the airport at the time we fly to Christchurch.

14 January

All the important things got repacked and we headed for Hamilton and Tauranga in our white Suzuki. Springs are stiffer, steering is heavier, but otherwise the car handles fine. We saw some nice farming country. Elaine and Doug talked to Air New Zealand about flights. At 7 we talked to Andy and Joan (11 in Edmonton) and later we watched motel video 'Honey, I've shrunk the kids'. Very nice.

15 January

We circled back to Hamilton on our way to Otorohanga for the Waitomo Glowworm Caves. Very interesting. The Waitomo Colonial Motel was quite old and not the cleanest but it was a place to stay. The day had been warm and we were all tired. Steve's Restaurant provided good fish and chips for dinner.

16 January

Since the motels all have cooking facilities, we do most of our own cooking. This morning it is French toast. Very good if I do say so myself. We left for Rotorua about 9:30 and got there at 12. Mostly winding road with little traffic. Checked in at Braeside Motel, then spent 2.5 hours at Whakarewarewa Thermal area and Maori Craft Center.

The January 15 deadline for an Iraq pull-out has passed and there are rumours of war on the TV news.

17 January

A quick trip back to see the Kiwi House at the thermal area but unfortunately all we could see was two sleeping birds. The Bathhouse was nice but a bit disappointing in terms of the total amount of art we could see. The trip to Napier across several ranges of hills was slow and winding. We had made a reservation at the Fountain Court Motel ('new' on the picture) but found we were deceived a bit. We are to be in the old part. Complained a bit but decided to stay. Got four 'free' continental breakfasts out of it. Not a great place, but it served the purpose. Some very noisy people interrupted our sleep at 2:30 am, apparently wanted a taxi.

18 January

Napier did not look like a very attractive town. Beach resort, quite old-looking places. Elaine tried her hand at driving on an empty parking lot. It went fine but Doug was a bit worried about it. On the way to Palmerston North, things gradually became a bit greener. In Palmerston North we found the Avatea Park Motel, toured the Massey University campus in the evening (nice, and deserted) and also drove through the DSIR area. Called Shirley Rolston and talked for a while. Phil was out of town. They have five children.

In Napier we had a very interesting tour of Classic Sheepskin 'factory', right from washing the skins as they come in, to the final very nice products. Went away with some small souvenir pieces of sheepskin. Lots of manual work involved in the various steps. Could get really boring. The women in the sewing room had to work standing up – supposedly more productive.

19 January

An easy drive to Wellington today. Found 'reasonable' Apollo Motel (no cooking but some dishes) for \$110 downtown. We saw the 'Beehive', the Botanical Garden, the Museum, complete with a fire alarm and several fire engines responding, and looked at the Wellington Cathedral. Nigel Potts, an organ student, showed us the organ. Quite impressive. There was about to be a wedding, but not with organ. Instead, a 'happy-clappy' one, with guitar. We drove through Lower and Upper Hutt, went around the bay after being lost in Lower Hutt, and made our way back to the motel. In the meantime, Elaine and Doug had booked into a hostel downtown, convenient to sights and transportation.

Played some games of Rook for the last time for a while. We had tried to find the Reformed Church and found the address, but there were no signs, and the place looked abandoned.

20 January

Attended the service at Wellington Cathedral (St. Paul). Nigel played the organ, mostly rather subdued. Sermon was only fair, and paid more attention to the war than to the Bible, it seemed. Elaine and Doug went up for communion. Dixie and I did not. Since it was still 'holiday' time, there was no choir, and no coffee after the service.

Had a nice lunch (treated Elaine and Doug) at a cafeteria downtown, took Elaine and Doug to Rosemere Backpackers and headed north about 1 pm. The road (#1) was good and traffic was light. At Taupo there was a heavy rainstorm but it soon cleared again. The 'desert road' south of Taupo looked pretty desolate. Not nearly as much winding road as on the trip to Napier.

We had hoped to stay at Cambridge (nice quiet town) but could not find what we wanted and drove to Hamilton instead (9:30 pm) – Cedar Park Motel.

21 January

Called Anis Rahman and spent an hour with him after lunch. It's hot again today. He seems to have lots of things going on and seems unduly grateful 'for all I did for him when he was at U of A'. I don't remember doing all that much for him. Dixie looked at the museum in the meantime.

We drove to Cambridge to look at a crafts place but the results were disappointing. Arrived Auckland at 4:30 pm and found a motel (Cedar Court) in Manukau. Very nice and modern, even a bathtub. Called Russell's to confirm plans for Tuesday morning, went for a walk and looked at some used-car lots, did a load of washing, and repacked our luggage.

22 January

[Dixie] Well, today is finally the day we had our first glimpse of Christchurch. We arrived early afternoon and were met by Roger Field. Fortunately his car could accommodate us and all of our luggage. On the way to Lincoln I gathered from the conversation that our accommodation was not exactly going to be grand! Our first impression was a feeling of dismay –very old and dirty living room furniture and a peculiar odor in the place. It had, however, been cleaned up and there were new pillows and also covers for the mattresses. Roger took Bill over to his office and they came back with a letter from Karen and a letter for Elaine from Diane Renema. We took a drive in our car to Christchurch and later to the Fields for dinner. Anne Field is charming and beautiful. Entertained us in bare feet. Their house is gorgeous and in a very nice setting. Later that evening we discovered that we had been driving around in an uninsured car. Insurance had expired January 20. Bought a nice bunch of flowers to take over to the Fields.

[Bill] It was hot and humid in Christchurch when we arrived. Roger drove us straight to the flat which was less than impressive. Enough space alright, but smelly, faded, and very poorly kept. Roger was a bit embarrassed about it all. So, what do we do now? Move in and start looking. Not an auspicious start. Worst for Dixie, who will spend more time here during the day.

23 January

[Dixie] I didn't sleep very well last night and consequently was very tired today. Our flat doesn't look any more appealing today than yesterday. The kitchen, however, is quite well stocked with most everything we need. Very basic in dishes but, nevertheless, everything we need is there. Bill called around regarding car insurance and we now have insurance on our car.

[*Bill*] Unpacked our suitcases, opened a bank account, and got a library card. Most of the items I sent have arrived. The computer has not arrived yet. Freight cost probably astronomical but I won't find out until later.

24 January

[*Dixie*] I went to bed early last night and slept very well so I felt much better today. Called Telecom about a phone and found out it will cost \$85 to install and about \$30 a month rent. We'll wait on that until we know whether or not we'll be staying in this flat. One thing in its favour is the price (\$110 a week) and it takes Bill 5-7 minutes to walk to work.

[*Bill*] Got acquainted with bookstore and library and made some inquiries about housing. There may be some possibilities at about \$300 per week.

From the public phone in the Hilgendorf building we called and talked to Jason Valstar (it may have been another night also – this is written on 27 February).

25 January

[*Dixie*] I picked some pink flowers today. They are now nicely arranged in a white milk pitcher on a shelf in the living room. Flowers always make a place look more inviting.

[*Bill*] Found the grocery store, called about houses (put an ad in *Diary*), checked for TV rentals, and decided to delay both TV and telephone for now.

26 January

We wandered around Christchurch, looked at some stores, and got acquainted with the large, nice public library. They rent out our reproductions/prints that we might look at for our grim abode. Checked out the two Reformed churches and decided to try out the one in Bishopdale—smaller of the two, with newish building, and with a minister. They seem to be about the same distance from Lincoln. Christchurch seems to be a quite a pleasant city, not too difficult to get around in, at least not with a map at this point.

27 January

[*Dixie*] Went to the Reformed Church in Bishopdale on Highsted Road. It was the first sermon by the newly installed preacher in the congregation. Rev. John Haverland grew up in Christchurch, studied in Geelong and at Calvin College, served in Auckland and now in Christchurch. He sounds like he will be a good preacher. The other Reformed Church in Christchurch is without a preacher so we'll continue to worship in Bishopdale. Had coffee with Fred and Marguerite Braam and family. Fred's parents Peter and Dinie Braam from Dunedin were there as well.

Later that afternoon Jason Valstar came by. We had tea and a little bit of chili and then we went back to the 5 pm service. After church we arranged the furniture so it now looks more inviting. Oh, one more thing. I drove the car home from church and we got home in one piece. I don't feel very comfortable driving on the left, and signalling is difficult to remember correctly.

28 January

[*Dixie*] We were very surprised to hear Elaine say that she was calling from Christchurch train station at 7:30 pm tonight. They had a good time in Queenstown and Dunedin but I

think in some ways they are ready to stay in one place for a few days. They didn't think they would have enough to do in Christchurch for two weeks so they have advanced their departure from New Zealand by a week.

[Bill] Had a long and profitable discussion with Roger about research and department things. I decided to drop the idea I had about research and, instead, to get involved with one of his projects. More likely to yield some results in a short period. The computer box has arrived now, fortunately (with a bill from a customs broker a few days later). After lunch we made a phone call to Mother Wierenga (a surprise to her). After supper we received a surprise call via the neighbours, from Elaine and Doug who were at the Christchurch train station (earlier than expected) so we hustled over and picked them up.

29 January

[Dixie] Elaine and Doug took the bus into Christchurch this afternoon—we drove into Christchurch and picked them up at 6 o'clock.

[Bill] I 'worked' today. Did some reading and became acquainted with the new computer. It is certainly different from the Mac but looks like it will work OK. The modem will be less than useful probably.

Elaine is quite disappointed that we won't let her use the car but probably a bit overconfident of her ability to drive it around easily. At night we played some more ROOK. I think Doug is beginning to like the game. Certainly had no trouble catching on to it. It is probably good for future relationships that he is spending some time with us.

30 January

[Dixie] Elaine and Doug had planned to get an early start but it was late morning before they caught the bus into Christchurch. Again we picked them up at the square downtown. We the all went to the Botanic Gardens and the University of Canterbury. It would be nice to live near the park and be able to walk around without having to make an excursion out of it.

After supper Jason Valstar stopped by and Elaine and Doug went along with him to the Lincoln Pub. Jason and his fellow 'trainees' meet at one of the area pubs most Wednesday nights. They meet mostly for the purpose of socializing. Elaine and Doug had fun—it's a good thing Jason stopped by for them because even though I had given them the invitation to join them they were quite reluctant to just go on their own. Maybe on their travels they'll become a little less reserved.

[Bill] didn't accomplish anything special but did meet several people in the department and got myself signed on to the VAX mainframe computer and the PC network as a *bona fide* user. Actual costs seem to be minimal. We will travel around a bit for the next few days with Elaine and Doug. Called Gerry Meijer and drove over to borrow a 'chilly bin' from him. Briefly talked to his wife Leonie also.

31 January

[Dixie] Left around 10:30 for a trip up to Nelson, Abel Tasman Park and the West Coast. Arrived in Nelson after 6:30 pm. Had some supper and walked to the town centre—it was a bit brisk outside. Motel was good but the bathroom was off the bedroom so everyone had to walk through the bedroom to use the bathroom.

[Bill] The driving was quite tiring—it was extremely windy (gale force in Wellington) and the roads were very winding. Scenery was nice here and there but we saw a lot of yellow-dry hillsides.

1 February

[Dixie] All the motels were full in Westport so we had to on to Greymouth. We passed the Pancake Rocks but we'll backtrack 45 minutes tomorrow. Westport was the centre of an earthquake last week. This morning we toured the Nelson cathedral, found out that Nelson was classified as a city because of the presence of this large cathedral. The building is very cold in the winter. Recently, electric heating pads have been installed on the floor to keep people's feet warm. The large pipe organ console is on 'stilts', very unique. Elaine and Doug went to Air New Zealand and tried to arrange a departure from Christchurch instead of Auckland. At first it seemed promising but alas, it was not to be. It seems Auckland has a monopoly on flights from New Zealand.

[Bill] At lunch time (near Pancake Rocks) saw some ritzy-looking US young couple—do we look like that to the New Zealanders? [the lunch event really took place Saturday]. For a good part of the trip today it was quite rainy, after we hit the west coast. Until then, through the fruit area, and for lunch at the beach in Kaiteriteri, the weather was beautiful. Too bad we had to miss the boat trip along the Abel Tasman Park coast, but we need more days to do all that.

2 February

[Dixie] Got up to rain and rain but by the time we got to the Pancake Rocks the sun was shining. We were there 2 hours before high tide, took a walk around, then perused the craft shop, had some lunch, and went back to see the Rocks and blow holes at high tide. The blowholes do have a much higher spray at high tide. Had a bit of a shower while we were having lunch but it cleared away before we walked back to the rocks. On the way out of Greymouth I had said the rain would stop, just like the parting of the water of the Red Sea and I guess it parted at least. Drove down the coast as far as Hokitika, stopped at a few jade stores and craft stores. Very nice wood products plus some good watercolours by R. Trolle in one wood craft store. The one jade place was especially garish and very much a tourist place. Took the Arthur's Pass route back to Christchurch. Some one-lane sections and one-lane bridges on the road and also 'railway and car' bridges. I wasn't really overwhelmed by the scenery although it was nice. Arrived in Christchurch around 9 pm. Elaine and Doug treated us to pizza and lasagna at the Pizza Hut. Very nice!

[Bill] I had not gone back for petrol into Hokitika and it became touch and go re reaching Christchurch. Fortunately there was an emergency place near Arthur's Pass that opened up for us. I think the operator was bored anyway. Another lesson—there aren't many petrol stations open after 5 or 6 pm.

3 February

[Dixie] Slept in this morning, until 10 am! Went with Doug and Elaine to the 5 pm service. Sermon on Q&A 1 of the catechism. Elaine thought the preacher a little conservative when he used as example of individualism a wife going off to work and not giving all her attention to her husband, and putting the children in a daycare. Bill and I agreed that it was not a very good example. Played Rook with Doug and Elaine.

[Bill] Yesterday Elaine tried driving again for a while, around Hokitika. Doug felt most insecure, I think. It went fine but Elaine decided it was not as easy as he had thought, and apologized to Dixie for her response when Dixie a few days ago did not feel comfortable driving them to Christchurch. After church we stopped at a payphone and Elaine called Mark and Debbie. Her phone card expired fairly abruptly so we called again on our calling card and probably talked for a half hour.

4 February

[Dixie] Decided to do the Banks Peninsula drive today. Took some lunch along in the chilly bin. It was a nice drive to Akaroa. Spent some time walking around the town, which has a beautiful setting on the water. Saw an ad for a B&B from G & A ten Hove at Le Bons Bay. Walked through a herb farm and saw some New Age type of propaganda. I think that some of these herb people have made the growing of herbs especially medicinal herbs a kind of religion. Got back in time to stop in Lincoln to buy ingredients to make taco salad. I have adapted the recipe slightly since Elaine doesn't like chili or kidney beans. More meat and some chopped raw cauliflower. The cauliflower gives it a nice crunch.

The lettuce here (iceberg) is really "lovely", very fresh and crunchy. 'Lovely' is a word one hears often in New Zealand. It really sounds "lovely" as it's said with a lilt in one's voice. Oh, on our way home we stopped at a small cheese factory but it was no longer working that day. Bought some New Zealand Gouda cheese. Played our last Rook game with Doug and Elaine.

[Bill] Aside from some street names and some French business names there is not much French left in Akaroa. I suppose we should check out the history a bit but somehow it does not seem that important.

5 February

[Dixie] Got up very early to have Doug and Elaine at the airport by 5:30 am for their 5:50 flight to Auckland. It was sad to see them go (a little teary as well). Went home but couldn't sleep, and felt a little draggy all day. Our official library cards came in the mail so we went to the Hornby branch of the library after supper. I got out a bunch of biographies and Bill an assortment – some big books on New Zealand and also a book on Abel Tasman. Got another letter from Karen and also one for Elaine from Diane Renema.

[Bill] I spent most of the day reading Rosalind Buick's thesis (she is now PDF at VPISU, with Foy?).

6 February

[Dixie] Today was a holiday—Waitangi day—the weather was not nice in the morning—rain showers—in the afternoon decided to wash the sheets, clean and vacuum the place—it was a big improvement. We seem to gather lots of papers etc. as usual—we'll have to sort them out soon. I usually hang my washing out on the line—it'll be nice to have clean smelling sheets to sleep in. Hung the blankets on the line too. When we shook them out they were very dusty. When I make the bed I make sure that the sheets cover the blankets so that the blankets don't touch our faces.

[*Bill*] We read some books and played some cards, and we before we knew it the day was over. Not much of a celebration for the counterpart to Canada Day, July 1, but I suppose that's OK for a couple of semi-immigrants.

7 February

[*Dixie*] Enrolled in some evening classes; they begin on February 11. I am taking Bread and Yeast-Baked Goods Monday, and typing on Wednesday. Bill is taking woodworking on Tuesday nights. Typing and woodworking for 26 weeks at \$45 each. Breadbaking is 10 weeks at \$25. They are all at the Hornby School which is a 10-15 minute drive from here. Went downtown to the library and rented four pictures for the living room walls at \$5 each for three months. Total \$20. Decided we should have taken some 'before-and-after' pictures. When we were in Christchurch we found Verkerk's Meat (Queen City on a smaller scale) and bought some meat there. This afternoon I picked two glads from the garden of No. 68, a house down the road. Found a glass milk bottle (600 ml) in the cupboard—it makes a nice vase for a few flowers.

[*Bill*] Got the e-mail system working and sent off a long memo to Keith Briggs, via Sue Heathcote.

8 February

[*Dixie*] Bill called Ron Fleming re the flat. It seems that duvets have been ordered to replace the blankets. It seems that the flats are to be re-done this year. Bill told Ron Fleming that we are planning to be away March 26 to April 13. We'll stay here for the present and see what will develop further.

Went to see *Presumed Innocent* in the evening. Very surprising ending, good acting. Discovered that it is possible to reserve seats for movies. It was good to go out for a change.

[*Bill*] Russell Englefield seemed sympathetic to my list of concerns about the flat and promised to have his assistant work at it. It's probably best not to hold our breath waiting for action. In the meantime we'll get a phone hooked up (to be done February 13) and to acquire a second-hand TV. Learned a good deal about WordPerfect, including the Tables format. Looks like it will be useful for some bookkeeping, almost like a spreadsheet.

9 February

[*Dixie*] Slept late and drove into Christchurch in the early afternoon. I did the driving and even parallel-parked, with lots of guidance from the person sitting in the passenger seat and also lots of space into which to maneuver the car. Picked up some groceries on the way home and made some "hot" chili for supper. Before we went home we spent time in an art gallery. Found a couple of things we quite liked. One by Annie Baird (a Dunedin painter), one by Pat Unger (she is the art critic for the Press), and a few by a gentleman who went to art school years ago, then went farming, and now is retired and has taken up his art again. Also went to the Arts Centre, saw some nice handcrafted rugs at very reasonable prices, and handmade (not factory-produced) furniture. Also met an artist and his wife. He does mainly watercolours. His father was an artist and this fellow (the son) taught at a Teachers' College until he was 50, then retired and has been painting since then. He had mainly smaller paintings for sale, the size that tourists could either take with

them or mail home at reasonable cost. We have his card so we'll probably go and see what paintings he has at his home. [Don McAra, 17 Dyers Pass Road., Tel. 332-6081] [Bill] Played a very one-sided game of Sets and Runs that left Dixie discouraged. We'll have learn some new games. Dixie's driving is much better now, so that bodes well.

10 February

[Dixie] Went to church in Bishopdale and decided that we would make this church our official church home while in New Zealand. Met Paul and Nancy Recker from the US. Paul is in the navy and has something to do with Operation Deepfreeze in the Antarctic. They arrived in September and are scheduled to be here three years, even though he retires in two years. He said that he will then have 20 years in the navy. Spent the afternoon reading. Bill sat outside (even had a slight sunburn on the top of his head later). Went to the evening service at 5 pm, made a delicious supper (pork chops), played some cards, decided we were not doing it right. Must get a book from the library regarding card rules. Before we had supper, we called Karen. After two or three tries we finally found her plus Andy and Joan at home. This was 7:30 pm Sunday here and 11:30 pm Saturday in Calgary. Had a nice chat with them (30 minutes).

[Bill] It was good to hear our children's voices and to be able to wish Joan a happy birthday, albeit a few days early. Told the minister we'd settle in 'his' church for the next while. He'll put something in the bulletin. Must remember to have John Rop send them some money before we go back. Good to be in church to worship, sing, and hear the Word preached.

Had a nice run in the morning also. It has taken a while to get back to it again.

11 February

[Dixie] At the Art Gallery found out that one of our library pictures was done by a woman who is now dead. But reproductions can be purchased. I think that the one we have is a print and not a reproduction. I hate changing ink color on a page.

Went to Bill's office to wait for Elaine's call from Australia, She was supposed to call at noon our time. By 12:30 she had not called yet so I left and took the bus downtown. Apparently she called when Bill was out and she'll try again tomorrow at noon.

My trip downtown was OK. Found a nice antique jewelry store. I think that if we buy any green-stone jewelry that would be a nice place to get it. The tourist places on the West Coast just don't appeal to me as a place to buy jewelry.

Also bought a book all about card games for two people. A real bargain, a hard cover for \$4 at a used-book store. Went to an art gallery—saw some paintings done by the same man we met the Art Centre on Saturday (Don McAra). After a quick chili supper I went off to my first breadmaking class. It promises to be very interesting. Our instructor (a trained baker from Switzerland) demonstrated the making of a loaf of bread. Next week we bring the ingredients and we make our own loaf. We use a special yeast in order to complete a product in 2 hours. We all had a try at kneading and found it's not as easy as it looks. Our instructor said she had spent 2 years in Holland. In Christchurch she is teaching at the Polytech. Later at home Bill and I tried to figure out (using the book) how to play gin rummy. I practiced my driving again today and it's getting easier to remember the signalling.

12 February

Drove into Hornby today and got some food. Walked over to Bill's office and waited for Elaine's call. She sounded good but we didn't talk long as her money ran out. Gave her our own telephone number (253 058). She'll call us collect later.

Bill went to his first woodworking class tonight. He only stayed for part of the time and went instead to the public library for some books on woodworking projects. Had our usual half hour to one hour card game. I'm leaving space for Bill to write but he doesn't seem to be so inclined.

[Bill] First woodworking class was mostly intro. The toughest part will be deciding on a project that will be achievable, attractive, and can be taken back to Canada. Very well equipped shop. Got some books from well-stocked library in Christchurch and found lots of nice possibilities. The drive home in drizzly rain in the dark was unpleasant, with very poor visibility.

WordPerfect session (2 hours Monday pm) was very profitable but it was a good thing I knew quite a bit already before starting.

Dixie is driving solo to Hornby now. It did not really take that long, and should help prevent isolation feelings.

13 February

[Dixie] Drove into Hornby today—bought groceries. Actually did this yesterday. This morning our phone was connected so now I am more in touch with the outside world. Called a few people with used TVs to see how much they are asking for them, etc. Actually in Kiwi language I should have written that I 'rang' a few people. Did a load of laundry. Flat No. 3 is being cleaned for the next occupants. Three people are busy cleaning it up and they say it is quite a mess. I guess the two American women who lived there are not wild about cleaning. One of the people doing the cleaning is sympathetic regarding our bed arrangements and in her words "leave it with me a few days". We'll see what happens. Had my first typing class last night—not too bad. Learned a bit about margins and the letters a-g. I should really practice on the computer—we'll see how it goes. Generally a rather cool day today. Found out that tickers for *My Fair Lady* are \$20—we'll probably get some. It would be nice to go with some other people we know. Had a discussion about 'networking' and whether men do this more than women.

[Bill] Had a profitable talk with Roger. He is enthusiastic about some joint work so that makes me feel good about it also. Sent a short message to John Ohala and a long one to Briggs.

Roger was quite involved in the Monsanto-Stauffer court case in New Zealand (glyphosate vs. SC-0224) and also in the 140-day trial of MAF vs. 'nitrozyme' industry in New Zealand. I was phoned about that four years ago.

14 February

[Dixie] Went to market day at the Hornby Mall—bought some nice fresh beans, some baking, and magazines from the Christian School Selling Booth. Also found out that the used 18" Sony TV is the best buy.

Today the weather is warm. I think the weather is more unpredictable in Christchurch than in Edmonton. Last night I put my 'silky' on under my winter nightgown, left on my socks, and was warm under three blankets. Later this pm discovered that the Sony TV had been sold.

[Bill] A reply from John Ohala indicated problems with the programmable thermostat. We decided that he should get someone to repair it. Apparently it is not so cold anymore in Edmonton. Met someone in career counselling and someone in landscape architecture at coffee ('morning tea') in the common room. Good opportunity to meet people from different disciplines. Found out how to search *Current Contents* and get the results on disk. That will save me some typing but may eliminate part of the possibility of Dixie 'working' for me. Talked to John Baird and Paul Hellem about file transfer via e-mail. No reply from Sue or Keith yet to the material I sent. Read some papers towards research project with Roger and bought a copy card. We should phone Peter tonight for Robyn's address. Pleasant surprise was a nice Valentine's card from Dixie. Right now she is practicing typing.

Took a one-hour ride to Selwyn Hutt and Coes Ford. Sheep, deer, gorse, 'baches', and a few fishermen.

15 February

[Dixie] Very hot and muggy today. Tried to wash the car but found there was a lot of tar left—we'll have to get some solvent to remove the tar. Bought a used TV at SouthPower for \$275. According to the salesman we should be able to resell it for \$250 in six months. He offered to take it back for \$225 if we can't sell it privately. Bill also found a radio (battery) in the DEKA store. Had supper at the Pancake House—very good coffee and as much as you like. Bought groceries on the way home. TV picture looks very good on channels 2 and 3 and OK on 1. Nothing to watch so played cards and read. Must buy a notebook to keep in purse, in which to record gallery addresses, different eating places, things to see, etc.

[Bill] Dixie was not impressed when she found I had bought the radio (AM/FM and cassette) but warmed up to it when she heard the quite respectable sound quality. New neighbour Peter Maher (Wool Science) came and knocked on the door, then spent an hour or so with us. Australian, friendly, talkative, fresh Ph.D. on a new job. From a farm in New South Wales.

16 February

[Dixie] Got an early start and were in downtown Christchurch at 10 am. Waited for the official opening ceremonies of the Flower Festival. Ceremonies were opened by the Mayor (a woman), the Town Crier, and the Wizard (who was supposed to cast a spell of good weather). Also watched the 20 contestants for Flower Queen parade across the catwalk or platform. Many dried-flower sellers in the City Mall. Showed Bill the Antique Jewelry store I had found on Monday. After first going the wrong way we found the Storybook characters on the Avon River bank, all made from flowers, many using dried flowers, some even some cheap phony flowers. There had been some vandalism on Friday night so only one Humpty Dumpty was still intact. Found the cathedral and viewed the floral carpet down the centre aisle and the many floral displays in the rest of the cathedral. Tried to find a newspaper from the US or Canada in the library to see if I could find any hockey news. No such luck. Found out Town Hall is a hall for music, opera, etc., and not what we thought (City Hall). Bought tickets for *My Fair Lady* for Thursday evening. Picked up some last minute groceries and arrived home tired – good thing we had some leftover chili to heat up.

Sun

17 February

[Dixie] Went to church, had coffee at church and later at Gary and Carol Milne. They have been attending Bishopdale for five years—previously attended the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Changed churches because there were few young people in the Presbyterian Church. Gary is now studying Hebrew and Greek with the help of a tutor and is planning to study in Geelong, Australia for his B.D. degree.

[Bill] Communion in church was via three and a half 'tables' of about 30 people each at the front of the church. A good experience, with some sense of intimacy or closeness. Gary M. raised the question of hygiene re the shared (heavy!) silver wine 'glasses'. They also had been used to individual cups. At the 5 o'clock service about a dozen people partook. Two good services. Sermons good, easy to listen to, organ playing not spectacular, but the singing is enthusiastic. Met a few people at coffee after morning church (Koole, De Ruiter) and another couple (Van Ameyde) after pm church. It seems quite easy to meet a lot of different people. Reckers may go with us to *My Fair Lady*—should be nice. I have started reading *Portraits of Creation*. Some of the geology history is not the greatest, but in the astronomy section it gets better.

18 February

[Bill] I intended to get some experiment pans ready but got caught up in some reading and some computer connection questions instead. Also Kodachrome film mailings and a library question. Sent off four 36-exp. films to Kodak in Auckland, with \$2.40 postage on a padded envelope. A nice card from Elaine today, letters from Karen and Bertha, and e-mail from Hank Bestman and John Ohala. Also a letter from Mun Kim. Research for him and Alfred is still slow and with pitfalls. Elaine's card is cheerful, perhaps a bit homesick, and indicated that she and Doug had a good time traveling and being with us. Learned more intricacies of WordPerfect—not all of them equally useful, even if interesting.

Sketched out some plans for a jewelry box for tomorrow's woodworking class. Dixie is at 'bread' class, and the phone is quiet tonight. Had three or four kinds of weather again today, from sunny and warm to wind and rain. Seems entirely unpredictable. The rain suddenly started at about 4:50 and I called Dixie to come and pick me up.

[Dixie] It was good to get some letters today, even though Karen was trying to give us a hard time in her letter. Good news about the Oilers, only 4 points behind the Flames. No US or Canadian hockey news here at al. My bread was a bit stiff and should have risen a bit more. Hope it tastes good. The driving home in the rain was very unpleasant—very poor visibility.

19 February

[Bill] Bad weather all day—wind, rain, cold. Wore sweater and topcoat to work, plus umbrella. Spent 1.5 hours with Cal Messersmith (single) from NDSU, who has been on leave at the U. of Queensland at Brisbane. Also a quick lunch with him at the Lodge lunch Club—OK but not spectacular. Cal's seminar was pretty dry, with a lot of classroom-type information. Also sat in on part of e-mail course—helpful. Tried to send some messages—partly successful. Met Mark Whalon, entomologist from MSU who lives in one of the houses. Dixie visited Mary Crause in one of the houses and came home

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quite discouraged about the place we live in. I'll need to see Fleming and Englefield tomorrow about their plans.

Wood course session 2 much better now that I have a plan: jewelry box. The details are very ambitious.

We had the heater on most of the evening.

20 February

[Bill] Paid a visit to Fleming and Englefield and got some sort of promise of furniture, probably including a double bed, in about 3 weeks. I won't hold my breath. Told Englefield that I would check with him in 2 weeks. Fleming is sympathetic but not real helpful (hides behind his boss).

Cold this morning (6-7 C) but mostly sunny during the day. TV on/off switch quit working and needs a toothpick to hold it 'on'. To be fixed on warranty. Dixie has faithfully practiced typing. I walked over to MAF to listen to a couple of Germans talking about 'organic' livestock production, human-animal bonding(?), and composting a third of the household garbage in Witzenhausen. Last part seems OK.

Got a list of treatments together for a first experiment—will meet with Roger and Sue Thompson tomorrow to plan the details. I suppose it is time to get on with it. A letter from Jeanette Fisher says they'll probably not come (war threats). Too bad, though it will simplify things for us.

21 February

[Bill] Elaine called today (collect) and talked to Dixie for a while. I came home for lunch just after the call. I am writing this on 26 February and cannot remember what I did during the day. Went out for dinner with Paul and Nancy Recker at the Park Royal. Very nice, excellent lamb. Nancy likes to complain a bit about church people and about some New Zealand practices. Saw a fine performance of *My Fair Lady* afterwards. It lasted until about 11. Before dinner we stopped at an antique jewelry store and did and ID stop ? at Telecom. To get a different phone would cost us about \$40 so we decided to forego that.

22 February

[Dixie] Weather looked good so off to Dunedin we went. Arrived between 8 and 9 pm. Found most of the medium-priced quality motels fully booked. Ended up in a great motel but I didn't find the bed all that comfortable. It seems there was a marching event plus students returning to university weekend, resulting in a shortage of motel rooms.

[Bill] Dinner at the Abbey (9 o'clock by that time) was a \$25 buffet only, so we ate at the Alglen on St. Andrew St. Half the price and lots to eat. Went there for breakfast again next morning. The drive to Dunedin (350 km) took about 4.5 hours. We left about 4:30 pm, stopped at an AA place, and arrived about 9, while it was still light. Until Oamaru it was all flat and quite easy going, then it became hilly and winding. Very pleasant drive.

23 February

[Bill] After breakfast tried for the \$60 special at the Alglen without success (no space), and found room at the Shoreline (\$70). Recently redecorated but not nearly as nice as the Abbey. Took the 10:45 tour (about an hour) at Olveston House, had lunch at MaCuisine

near the Octagon (pleasant conversation with the owner and her husband), then drove off to Larnack Castle. On the High Cliff road (no barriers) it was nice and sunny, while the city was under a cloud. Did not get to the penguins and albatrosses—perhaps another time. Lots of tansy ragwort (some sheep eating them) and thistle in some pastures. Saw a wedding at the castle, tried unsuccessfully for tea at Glenfalloch ('private function'), and made our way, the hard way, to John and Connie Van Dijk (and Shane and Rachel) at 10 Picardy Street, Mary Hill. Had a nice dinner and visit. Next day Connie 'thanked' us for visiting them. At Olveston and Larnack found 'Doug and Elaine Westra' in the visitors book. Interesting! We drove to Van Dijks the hard way, on a hairpin road almost straight up the hill.

24 February

[Bill] We found our way to church—old building, used to be Methodist. David Bain (wife Linda, six daughters, Westminster grad., both Lincoln grads) was the guest minister. Lord's Supper again, also with a table at the front. Lunch with the congregation in the 'hall' afterwards. Church was cool, with a welcome wall gas heater near our seats. Met a number of people, and had a second lunch with Roland and Yolanda Storm (17 William Street, 466-3039), and Latham and Elgar, and Chad Hiller, Lutheran exchange student (Grade 11) from Strathmore, Alberta. Had a nice visit, then went off to the Art Gallery. Very nice, with a large and broad collection of paintings. There was money in Dunedin in the earlier years. Left for home about 5, had a nice dinner at The Mill House (80-90 km north), and arrived Lincoln 10 pm. Car had been running hot for a while, and we took a roundabout way to Lincoln but it all worked out. It had been a good trip. In Dunedin we also drove around (and I walked) the U. of Otago campus a bit (7000 students). Lots of them in the area, with some dingy-looking quarters. University buildings and grounds are nice, with a river right through the campus.

25 February

[Bill] I must have been tired because I did not hear the alarm and slept till 8. Stayed home and read for a while, took the car in for some oil and water (nothing seemed wrong now) and spent some time in the library. No e-mail replies yet. There seems to be lots of material to read in the library even though it is not nearly as well stocked as the U of A library. There are students around now, and many were lined up for registration. My *Paspalum* seedlings have germinated nicely and Sue can transplant them tomorrow. Jim White's field trip is on for March 7 and my seminar is scheduled for March 14 so I better get on with it. Dixie came home with a batch of buns that were a bit hard but quite tasty. Ex-neighbors Liz and Tine now have a dog, Valentine, from the Hornby pound.

26 February

[Bill] The Northwest Arch is supposed to bring warm 'föhn' winds. It did warm up a bit, with lots of wind, but the evening was cool without the heater. Still no replies to my email. Why don't they respond? Read some of Mitch Andrews' papers and met with him for 45 minutes. Also met with Farhad Dhastgeib (Iran), M.Sc. classmate of Najib Malik! I might do an experiment with Mitch some time during my stay. Started thinking about seminar content!

No wood class tonight—actually OK to have a break. The war news keeps coming—not a good scene. Time to get on with some letter writing. How come we are so busy? Spent a good part of the evening getting this diary updated. It is difficult to fill in the blank pages of several weeks ago. Is our memory getting poorer or is it only certain things that we can remember? We'll have to make an effort to write every day. Dixie started two letters. I probably should work at it also but by 11 my letter inspiration level is low.

[Dixie] Bill didn't have class tonight—nice to have time together. It will be nice when my bread class is over—then we'll have another night together.

27 February

[Bill] Spent a bit of time in the library and read bits in a book *Winning the Games Scientists Play*. Prepared an outline for March 14 seminar, and waited for the Southpower advisor to come and tell us how to keep our power bill down. Sandhya (and Don) and Peter Maher are also interested, especially if it will cost us no money to get the different meters installed.

Finally got at least one reply (from Hank Bestman) to my e-mail. The system is working, and he can receive my messages right at his office at King's. Just before supper the census taker came by. Seems as though we'll be part of the New Zealand nose count this year. At 10 the phone rang—Elaine, collect. They are still at Brisbane and seem to be having a good time.

[Dixie] I went to church this morning—listened to a lady tell about a leprosy mission in India, Nepal, Africa, and Indonesia. It's a problem that doesn't seem to exist in North or South America, Europe, Australia, New Zealand. It seems to be a Third World problem. Now it can be cured with medication—over many years (5). Much reconstruction work for orthopods with the cured patients. It affects 5% of the population, no info or known reason why the 95% are immune. Some research to be done in that area. Had lunch with Paul and Nancy Recker at Southern Comfort. Nancy paid with American dollars. At church talked to Corrie Van Noort who goes miles out of her way to get organic meat, fruit, and vegetables. Claims she ~~are~~ only meat and vegetables for some time and cleaned out her system! She feels much better now!

28 February

[Bill] When I came home for lunch, Dixie was gone, and when I came home at 5:20 she was still gone. Who knows where? She brought home a used wall-mounted scale and some chicken concoction to put in the oven. But the main element in the oven didn't work so we borrowed Peter's oven and promptly burned some of the dish. It still tasted quite good, charcoal and all. Got a nice letter from Andy and Joan today—good to hear from them. I wrote some letters to my students, and spent the afternoon with Graeme Bourdôt. Drove out to see some Scotch thistle, some yarrow, and some nodding thistle infestations. A profitable afternoon.

[Dixie] Went to check out some of the used clothing outlets with Nancy Recker—some were real dumps. No winter clothes available yet. Nancy has lots of small bolts of material for quilting—she is into quilting even more than Margaret Spaan was. It seems I meet all these people who are really into crafts. Makes one feel so talented! Should finish the letter I started last night but don't feel very inspired.

[Bill] I phoned 'works' about the oven not working and someone showed up to fix it in the afternoon. Said it was a loose wire. It seemed to work OK then but a week or so later (I am writing this page on March 17) it was back to not working—the bottom element won't get hot. My memory fails me regarding the rest of what took place today.

2 March

[Dixie] Got up in time to get to the garage sale at Lincoln Baptist Church. Found a table for our TV for \$4 and a small chilly bin for \$3. Also bought some apricot jam. They were also selling old church benches made out of kauri wood for \$50-100 each. Very good buy as kauri is very hard to find these days. Returned the chilly bin we had borrowed from Gerry Meijer. Had a cup of coffee there—they are Dutch immigrants to New Zealand, Catholic religion. Invited us to come for supper once the wedding of their daughter has taken place. Mrs. Meijer is busy sewing the wedding dress as well as doing her preserving. Drove into Christchurch later in the day, took a brief tour of the Art Gallery and the Museum. Stopped at Recker's to borrow some warm clothes for Bill for his field trip coming up on Thursday. We had a supper invitation from Reg and Joyce Smith from Kingston, Ontario. We met them at a B&B in Auckland and exchanged names and Christchurch contact numbers. They detoured to Australia before arriving in Christchurch a few weeks ago.

3 March

[Bill] We went to church twice today but two weeks later (March 17) I cannot remember anything special about the services. In the afternoon I think we both caught up on sleep for a while. I may even have written a letter to Mark and Debbie. Obviously we have to take this diary writing more seriously on a regular basis.

4 March

[Bill] The plants Sue is growing for me are not doing very well so far. Perhaps the heat shock they had was hard on them. More importantly perhaps, they had a very poor root system when they were transplanted. I walked around the campus for a while and took some photographs. I was able to get out on top of the Hilgendorf and Burns wings and looked out an open window on the 7th floor of the Forbes building also. The sunny day was good for this purpose.

5 March

[Dixie] Since my Swedish coffee bread turned out OK I invited Mary Krause and Sherre Whalon over for coffee and coffee bread. I was nice for them as they had not met each other before. In the afternoon I drove Sherre over to the Salvation Army store—she was very pleased to find some hangers, a mirror, cheese cutter, and loaf pan for her use. Mary Krause is a special needs teacher on a paid sabbatical—she is doing some work at Lincoln Primary as well as taking a course either at U of Canterbury or the Polytech.

6 March

I have been reading Thomas Kuhn's *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. A much more readable book than I had expected, except for a few parts, and very instructive with respect to the ways of scientific research and thinking. If I can only remember now what

the relevant bits were. I copied some pages and should underline parts of the material for future reference.

The letter and VISA ^{bill} list I had sent to Andy and Joan has come back because I had mistakenly addressed it to 102 St. and Canada Post staff did not go to the trouble of finding the right place for it. Must be more careful next time.

7 March

[Dixie] Walked into Lincoln with Sherre Whalon—checked out the bakery. They don't sell bread, only muffins, scones, and pies, quiches, and savouries. Lots of steak and tomato, steak and mushroom, vegetarian cottage, ground beef and mashed potato pies. Looks like a good bet for a meal if you don't feel like cooking or want to try something different. Spend a lot of time practicing my typing. I would like to get the alphabet lessons pretty well covered before we go to Australia as I'll miss three lessons at that time and then later another lesson at the end or April.

[Bill] This morning I spent 4 hours on a field trip to Murray Stephens' farm (with 25 students and Jim White plus three other faculty members). Very profitable opportunity to see a top-notch 'mixed-cropping' farmer and a bit of how he does it all. I took more notes than I ever do at a staff or student seminar. Weather was great.

The borrowed jacket and cap from Paul Recker were nice at first but not needed when the sun warmed things up.

8 March

[Dixie] Checked out the department stores in downtown Christchurch. Very small compared to North American stores. Shopping is very much geared to specialized stores rather than department stores. When we got back to the car or rather when we got home we noticed that we had a present under the windshield wipers. A \$10 ticket. Must check the meters more carefully. They must be in effect for late-night shopping. Met Peter Verkerk in a sporting goods and hiking supply store. He extolled the virtues of his polypropylene jacket. Before we went shopping we sampled a few pies from the bakery in Lincoln—tasted good. When I called at 2 pm my selection choice was limited. Found out they are closed on Saturday.

[Bill] I spent time preparing for the seminar next week and also talked to Anis Rahman to firm up the dates and tie for my visit to Hamilton and Rotorua in April. He wants to put me on the program for the August meeting of the New Zealand weed and pest control people. I agreed. It means we have to extend our stay until about August 16 at least.

9 March

[Dixie] After a late start we went into Christchurch, did the grocery shopping, went to Noah's Hotel to the antique jewelry show and sale. Some interesting things to see but not much greenstone. It's hard to say what the prices were like as to whether they were higher or comparable to other shops. At 3:30 we called Roger Field to see if it would be alright to come over. He was just taking something to the dump so Ann said to come 4:30-5 for drinks. Had a pleasant visit.

Had a late supper of pancakes, blackberries, and applesauce. Then watched the movie *Missing* on TV. It's incredible that something like that really happened.