

10 March

[Dixie] Just came home from brunch at the home of Paul and Mary Krause (from Chico, California). Also met Derek and Sue Newman and Murray and Jan Clark who are New Zealanders

Bill now knows why I went into a day of depression after I had seen the home of the Krauses. Had a very nice discussion about art with one of the women. Tonight after church we are invited to the Boumans so today will have been a very busy day.

[Bill] The day was not exactly restful, and we were home for only about an hour in the afternoon. The Clarks spent six months in Guelph in 1989 and know all about GST in Canada vs. New Zealand. The Newmans have been in Chico, California for several years. He seems a bit hard, and an entrepreneur. Murray Clark is very pleasant. It was good to meet all the people—from quite a different discipline, accounting.

Dinner and visit with Wim and Trudy Bouman and their three children (Marissa, Reuben, Michael) were very pleasant. They are fine people to visit. At dinner we played an animal guessing game and sang a song together as closing prayer, with a very competent Marissa on the flute as accompanist.

11 March

[Dixie] Had a very interesting time at the Boumans last night. Wim and his parents came to New Zealand from Indonesia. Both his parents were in POW camps in Indonesia in WW II.

Got a perm today (\$54)—it's a bit tight but hopefully it will relax in a week or two. My breadmaking class was a bit disappointing—for some reason my stollen didn't rise properly so I took it home to let it rise longer. Still no luck. Decided to put it in the oven—later discovered that the bottom element was not working so I transferred the loaves to the neighbor's oven. That resulted in the bottom being burnt. The taste is OK so we can at least eat them.

[Bill] I had intended to write in the diary and perhaps write some letters as well but I was not very inspired and nothing came of it. Instead, after the dishes, I watched some TV and read. Perhaps there are too many books in the house to get serious about writing things.

12 March

[Bill] A welcome long letter from Mark came today, with information about a lot of things, including details about the house they have happily bought. The bit about sleeping only about an hour the night after the final decision seemed familiar. When we bought in 1963, I also needed time to get used to the idea of having taken on a large financial responsibility.

The woodworking class shows some progress each time. The box sides are cut to size now. I think it will be slow for a while still, but each week should mark a visible change. So far it has been satisfying. I took the 'new' TV table along and cut the legs back by 20 cm. Ron wouldn't do it on the table saw so I did it by hand with mitre saw. The table sander helped to square the cut surface and to make all four legs the same length.

I spent a couple of hours at the U of Canterbury library this afternoon—a busy place, with lots more books than at Lincoln. Heavy student traffic on the campus between classes. We also spent time at Air New Zealand to get our Australia trip tickets changed. It seems

we should trade our Cook Island stopover for a Hawaii stopover on the way back to Canada. No decision made yet, though.

13 March

[Bill] Spent several hours with Roger and Sue in the lab, finding things and getting geared up for the first experiment on Friday. Roger has not spent much time in the lab in recent years either, it seems, so it takes a while to gain a bit of momentum.

Also, of course, more thinking and preparation for tomorrow's seminar. As usual, there is far more material, mostly unorganized, that needs to be shaped into something that can be presented effectively.

Dixie cut her typing class short so we could go to the district fellowship discussion at the Haverlands. Attendance was very light (total 8, including John and Harriet). But discussion was lively and pleasant—about the 'welcoming church'.

At morning tea had an interesting discussion with Mark Whalon about creation and evolution and about some things he does in the classroom. He did most of the talking.

14 March

[Bill] Today finally I'll get serious about doing an experiment with plants. They grew slowly at first (poor root system) but now they are fine. It feels good to actually work in the lab again. It is too easy to be glued to the desk, and the lab procedures give a feeling of accomplishment. I finished making up the treatment solutions so they'll be ready to go tomorrow. Today is also the day for my seminar. It went quite well, I think, with something for almost everyone. The attendance was not great, and I may have crowded a bit too much material in, but it seemed OK. One responsibility discharged.

Diane Morton picked up the census papers and then Jason Valstar turned up and stayed to talk the rest of the evening. He is getting anxious to go home. He also warned us about some new visitor visa rules (NZ) that would discourage quick repeat visits. We decided not to worry about it and take our chances.

15 March

[Bill] First actual experiment completed. Sue Thompson was a good helper. I don't know how long it has been since I actually treated a plant with a tiny droplet of radio-labelled herbicide, but it is probably at least 15 years. We treated the plants and harvested/washed the leaves by 1 pm and took care of the rest of the sampling procedure steps in the afternoon. Roger came and looked in a few times but we did not need his help this time. Aldo Fautrier complimented me on yesterday's seminar—that felt good.

In the evening we had coffee with Simon and Julie Hedley, our neighbours, and had a nice time talking about many things. We thought that Elaine might call but we did not hear from her. I picked up some apples and pears at the Field Services Centre, and told Jim White that Dixie would like to go along on the North Island trip in May.

Simon offered us the use of an electric typewriter—we'll probably take him up on that after our Australia trip.

16 March

[Bill] Drove to Sumner today. We did not leave very early (about 10:15)—it was cloudy but looked promising for sun later. Picked up my shoes with re-glued soles, and a couple

of books at the Christchurch library. Talked to the owner of Nova Galleries about expensive Persian carpets and to the owner of Sumner Galleries about paintings. Nice lunch at Scarborough Fare, and sunny drive around Lyttletown and Governor's Bay. Past 'The Sign of the Kiwi' at 332 m in the Port Hills, back to Lincoln about 4:30. The place was full of cars, for a Sri Lanka vs New Zealand cricket game. I had not slept well last night, woke up early, read in *Mosaic Madness*, went for a run, and felt tired in the afternoon. Tonight we set the clock back an hour to return to standard time. Watched *Fall of the Roman Empire* on TV. Quite well done, but I wonder if it really happened that way. In the library I picked up Simon Schama's *Embarrassment of Riches*—looks like an interesting book. Elaine phoned from Sydney about 11. They have their departure flight changed to April 5 now, and seem to be stepping up the pace of their sightseeing—trying to get it all in.

17 March

[Bill] Jos Bosma read a sermon this morning and did a fine job. After church coffee we visited Henry and Corrie Vannoort. Harriet Haverland and Dirk Loef (Trudy Bouman's father) were also there. Henry reminded both of us of Henry Uitvlugt in speech and manner. He has sold real estate for most of his career and has recently retired. Interesting discussion about lots of issues. At 7 we went to Hornby Presbyterian Church but instead of a service found part 4 of a 'seminar' on motivational gifts. Not very inspiring, and when a coffee break turned, we left. A woman followed us out—presumably wanted to make sure we felt welcomed.

Today was a beautiful day, really too nice to spend all of it indoors. But that's what we did. Dixie is doing some typing practice, even on Sunday, because other days she is too busy now!

18 March

[Bill] Dixie brought some Danish and other pastry home from her class, a nice fringe benefit from the course.

The new batch of plants Sue is growing for me is still quite small. They may not be big enough to use before we go away.

[Dixie] Had a manicure today, including a hot wax treatment. The wax has some other ingredients as well, so it's not intended to rip the hairs off your hands. Also had some hairs removed from my chin and upper lip. Also washed the bedroom closet and wall with the hope that the smell would be lessened. Hung all our clothes out on the lines outside.

[Bill] I was gone all day to Mesopotamia (left 7:30 am, returned 7 pm) on a field trip with White, Lucas et al., to look at some lupine and clover plots in the high country, about a 3-hour drive from here (south and west). It was a good day and I saw a lot of country side and heard a lot of stories from Jim White.

19 March

[Bill] Cutting the mitered corners for the jewelry box will not be so easy. The mitre saw did not go very straight but a sharp plane may take care of the problem

Spent some time with Ngari of A.P. Travel to get our Australia trip and the one to Hamilton and Rotorua sorted out. As it stands right now, Anis Rahman will provide a ticket for Dixie and I will pay my own.

I cut about 20 cm off the TV table legs, and with the table sander was able to square them off quite easily. A big improvement.

We tried to arrange a visit with the De Vries's in Lincoln but that did not materialize.

[Dixie] Bill is writing this on Sunday which explains his memory lapse—he cut the table legs last week Tuesday. I went to Lincoln in the AM to a coffee organized by a few local Lincoln people for women who are new to Lincoln to meet some of the local people.

Very good idea, especially for student wives, some of whom are learning English and trying to cope with small children in a new country. Next month we'll visit a Maori spinner and weaver.

20 March

[Bill] I spent a good part of the afternoon at the South Island Agricultural field Days—mostly a machinery show. Watched some demonstrations and talked to spray equipment people.

Finally got some letters started to friends and relatives in Edmonton and also to Jack and Avlyn.

Travel plans for Australia are beginning to come together—we'll probably rent a car in Adelaide and drop it off in Melbourne. That way we can take Elaine and Doug to Melbourne also. They now are scheduled to leave April 5.

I got all the samples from experiment 1 ready for counting so we can find out what actually happened. A few samples got counted overnight but then the machine jammed (printer) and the rest will have to wait until Saturday.

[Dixie] Went to see Dr. Taylor, got some diuretic pills to take when we travel by plane. Hopefully that will help for swollen ankles. On the way home stopped and did a little grocery shopping. In the morning I wrote a letter to Ann—it went very well.

21 March

[Bill] Heard a seminar by John Reganold (WSU) on comparison of an organic farm in Washington (the only one in the palouse area) with a conventional farm. Looked quite good re productivity, soil quality, and soil erodability.

Formulated a letter to Fleming that was not very friendly (Dixie's assessment) and decided to redo it tomorrow. Got an overdue haircut from Jan today. She did a nice job. Her husband was a redundancy victim in Christchurch glass factory that closed down 3 years ago.

[Dixie] Drove into Christchurch this morning, met Nancy Recker at her house and we then went to Maria's house and met a few more American women. Trudy Bouman was there too. Nancy and Trudy followed me home and we had lunch here, walked to *the* campus—weather was gorgeous.

The women I met in the AM get together to do cross-stitch twice a month. Nancy is willing to teach me when we get back from Australia. Elaine called from Melbourne in the afternoon. They are at Robyn's house—will leave Friday evening for Ayers Rock. Invited Don and Sandhya for coffee after 9 pm. Had a nice visit—he invited us for a Sri Lanka meal on Sunday night.

22 March

I have been reading Simon Schama's *Embarrassment of Riches*, and more or less finished it today. A huge amount of information about Dutch society in the 17th century. At night Jason Valstar dropped by for a 'yak'. He is getting quite anxious to return to Canada. Tried to phone Robyn and got Elaine on the phone. They can't leave for Ayers Rock until tomorrow. We told her we'd take Robyn up on her offer of a ride to Adeaide. Wrote a letter to Fleming and Englefield about the flat and delivered them after lunch. Received the happy news that the flat will be repainted, carpets and curtains and living room furniture replaced, hopefully all of it while we are away. Finally some action. [Dixie] Weather was considerably cooler today. Spent some time washing clothes in preparation for our trip next week. Found out that going stand-by to Adelaide is not as cheap as we thought and also that all economy seats are sold for March 26. Air Australia had a waiting list of 10 people. Painter came by this morning, wanted me to choose the paint color.

23 March

[Bill] At 7:30 am went to the lab to check on the scintillation counter. It had stopped after two samples! After a few trials I got it going again. We left for Hanmer Springs about 8:30, and after a pleasant drive arrived there about 11. Wandered about a bit, had morning tea, and watched part of the half marathon that was being run. Some runners looked pretty tired. We walked the '1-hour' woodland walk. Very pleasant, with nice trees and some songbirds. After some lunch in the picnic area we headed back again. We skipped the thermal pools (had not taken any swimsuits). It was a bit early for nice fall colours (in March?) so we'll probably have to go back again in April. By 10 pm all my experiment samples were counted. A little too soon to tell what the conclusions will be. In the evening we were going to write some cards—then Peter came over and we had some tea and fruit salad and talked for quite a while.

24 March

[Dixie] Cool weather again today—it would be great to have a few nice days follow each other.

[Bill] Heard a good sermon on 'Hosanna, the Son of David' on Palm Sunday. Talked a bit to Richard and Mieke Cannemeyers. After evening church had a Sri Lankan dinner with Don and Sandhya and Peter. Talked about Australia and Lincoln University politics and Sri Lankan history. Good meal and good company (especially us, of course). Don and Sandhya's place looks quite bare compared to ours, with no pictures on the wall. This afternoon seemed to be the first Sunday afternoon we had spent 'at home' for some time. Tried calling Robyn Liebich several times without success.

25 March

[Bill] Time to get organized for our Aussie trip now. I collected my scintillation data and vials and had a look at the results. Not bad but not quite what we had expected. Now I have to decide what to do next. I had hoped to see Roger today to talk about that but he was home sick. Perhaps tomorrow. New batch of plants is almost ready to go for a second experiment. Picked up the car-hire voucher for Adelaide from Ngari.

Called Steve Powles in Adelaide re a possible visit. He seemed quite interested. At night, after about six tries, got Robyn on the phone. We'll stay with her and ride with her to Adelaide. Then, of course, we had to work at getting the place ready for the painter and decide what to take along on our trip. The flat looks very bare again after we take the pictures and the books down.

26 March

Plants look good enough to do a quick second experiment with them. A bit of a last-minute job—Oh well—hopefully Sue can do the follow-up leaf washing and sampling. Roger is still sick. No word from Fleming on our possible week's absence so we'll wait and see. A letter from Karen suggests that we should write her once again ('it's been five weeks!').

I got home again about 11:30 am but we managed to get packed and get the flat organized by 12:45 and were on our way. Parked the car by church, and John Haverland took us to the airport in his van (actually the church's van). Very nice of him to do that for us. We were at the airport in good time, checked into a full flight and sat 3:45 hours to Melbourne. Customs allowed our 'sultane bread' in, we took a bus downtown and Robyn picked us up about 20 minutes later. She gave us the grand city tour which was very nice, and let us sleep in her double bed.

27 March

Dixie did not feel well and we did not start very early. Walked over and got a MET day ticket and took the bus/tram downtown. Picked up maps at RAC and money at AMEX and Royal Bank. The bank offered a better rate than AMEX! At the National Gallery of Victoria we had an excellent 'private' guided tour of the Australian art section that helped a lot to understand the paintings. The gallery has a fine collection of Australian and European art but very little North American. We spent all afternoon there, and then looked for a sweater for Dixie for a while in some stores that were keeping late-night Easter hours. No purchases, though. We made our way back to Robyn's place by about 7:30, ate supper and talked, and got ourselves organized for 7 am departure next day. Fortunately Dixie felt better again—after effects of seafood pasta? Who knows.

28 March

We were on our way by 7:05, picked up Sheryl, and departed. The sky was blue and it promised to be a good day for the 730-km trip to Adelaide. Stopped for coffee and scones in Ballarat, a nice-looking town. The scenery looked like some of the paintings we saw yesterday except for the large wheat stubble fields, some already cultivated. It was warm and sunny, the road mostly quite straight, with light but steady traffic. At 5 (half-hour time change) we were at the outskirts of Adelaide, phoned about our rented car, and picked it up at 5:30, then to Liebichs by about 6. It had been quite a long day, but we felt quite good and were happy to see Peter and Anne et al. Again. After an elaborate dinner at Liebichs we went to Peter and Anne's place, talked and drank some more, and bedded down.

29 March

Off to church (Uniting Church of Tea Tree Gully) at 9 am for Good Friday service. The minister sang *O Sacred Head Now Wounded* beautifully (tenor voice) and the other minister had a good, triumphant kind of sermon about 'It is finished' by Jesus the conquering hero. It was good to be in church. Met David, Director of Curriculum at Pedare College, a 7-12 Christian school with 400 students after 2 years. He seemed like a good type, with good ideas about Christian education. After lunch some of us wandered around town, including casino, convention centre, and U of Adelaide, for a while, and talked about many things. Then an excellent supper (Weber-cooked leg of lamb), some games of cards, including Rook, and the day was done. It was a good day.

30 March

The day was a bit slow getting started. I went for a run, to keep that part of the program going, and found that running up a gentle slope is a lot harder than running down the same slope. Found some interesting plants, some kind of palm, with grape-like orange fruits, a new lawn with clumps of 'Santa Ana couch', and some interesting-looking weeds in a 'reserve' area. With Robyn and Morna Liebich and Anne, spent several hours at the Art Gallery, and heard more interesting commentary on Australian painters. Gives a good feeling for parts of Australian history and culture.

The rest of the gang went to the 'footie', were Adelaide (or South Australia?) apparently lost badly. After a late 'tea' we had a lesson in canasta, a card game that seems worth learning. Tomorrow is Easter! In the morning we helped Peter map out a possible route and schedule for their July-August trip through the US and parts of Canada.

31 March

We went to the 'early' church service, at 8:30 am, complete with communion. A good, inspiring, and challenging sermon again, calling us to living out our Christianity, and comparing the resurrection of Jesus ('one event', with his ascension) as described in the different gospels.

After a clothes change we headed for the Cleland Conservation Area, saw koalas, kangaroos, wombats, dingoes, and assorted birds, all of that just before the rains started, fortunately. We were going to stop for ice cream but never found it until we reached home again. We wound around through Hahndorf and the Adelaide hills for a while but clouds and rain kept us from enjoying the scenery. The Liebichs brought a pot of soup over and we had a nice quiche-and-soup dinner, followed by a game of canasta, won by Peter and Frank, at 1 am. This time we played it as partners, which works quite well.

1 April

I had a nice run yesterday morning but this morning, even though I woke up early enough, my legs did not seem all that mobile (or rested?) and I walked more than I ran. But then again, that's also exercise. Anne went off to work a bit before nine. No one else up except Lauren and Todd (watching TV). I probably should write a letter to Karen while there is an opportunity.

Later today: I wrote a letter to Karen, and around 10 am (5:30 pm Sunday) Mark called, and Peter, Dixie, and I talked to him. Herman is trying to arrange a family thing in Wisconsin in late July. Spent the afternoon at the Maritime Museum and the Lighthouse and checking out a few of the beaches. In between I helped Peter fix a shelf in the kitchen

and we toured their own house, rented out for the last 10 years or so. A nice place. We had a very nice chicken dinner at night, played a bit of Rook, and went to bed early. I had called Steve Powles earlier and arranged to meet him at 8:30.

2 April

It's back to school and work for the Wierengas. I left at 7:40 for the Waite Institute (35-40 minute drive, all in Adelaide). And spent a profitable morning with Steve and his associates, all on herbicide resistance. Met Dixie, Elaine, and Doug a bit later than intended (1:10 pm), had some lunch, and did some shopping at Tea Tree Plaza and downtown. Dixie found a sweater for herself, to help stay warm, and we cashed in a few more travelers cheques. It took longer than expected to get the wiper blades changed, and we did not get back to Peter and Anne's until after 6. We went to a pizza and pasta place for dinner, with Frank and Morna Liebich also, collected Robyn's spare keys, and began to think about tomorrow's departure.

3 April

Time to leave again! We said our good-byes to Peter and Anne and Todd and Lauren and were on our way shortly after 9:15. The coast route to Melbourne is about 910 km and we'll probably go about halfway today. It took a bit of doing to fit all the luggage in but it will work. We did not really get out of Adelaide until about 10:30, the sky was blue, the car ran well, and we could use our A/C. The Prince's Highway after Murray Bridge/Tailem Bend was a bit rough but it got better as we went east. Not a lot to see until we came closer to Mt. Gambier. Got there about 4:30, checked in at Avaln Motel and, after we ate, saw Crocodile Dundee and Clara's Heart on TV, both enjoyable. [Dixie] Actually we saw the movies on video.

4 April

[Bill] After a sparse motel breakfast we left again, about 9. I had gone for a brief run but the legs were not very mobile and it was drizzly. Near noon we bought some things for lunch and then found the Port Campbell coastline area with all the spectacular cliffs and eroded outposts ('martyrs', 'Twelve Apostles', 'London Bridge'). Also Loch Ard Gorge where two people survived from a ship that went down on the rocks in 1878 (the Loch area, with 54 people on board). Clouds and wind and occasional drizzle made it less spectacular than it would have been in the sun. After a couple of milkshakes in Geelong it was almost dark already but the drive into Melbourne went fine. The winding roads along the coast, with many stops, had made it tiring, though.

We checked out the St. Kilda Motor Inn but did not like it, located Robyn's place and, after a bit of looking, stayed at fairly expensive City Park Motel, close to the Arts Centre. Large, nice room. We had a nice dinner, with Robyn, at a restaurant nearby, played a couple of games of Rook until I almost fell asleep, and settled in for the night.

[Dixie] Robyn looked and sounded very tired. Discovered that she is having a difficult time at work. I wonder if she is in the right type of work for her personality.

5 April

[Bill] Today Elaine and Doug leave. They rearranged all their belongings, gave us a nice pottery vase, and we dropped our bags off at Robyn's place. Very convenient. We

checked out the Queen Victoria Market where I bought a jacket. I tried to get a VISA cash advance but did not succeed. Our cash is getting low so we'll need it. Even though we were getting hungry we decided to drive to the airport and eat there. Checking in for Elaine and Doug was a slow process but it got done and we had a fairly nice lunch. We said our good-byes and were on our respective ways. We'll not see them for about four months now—it was good to be with them for a while again.

We were both tired, stopped in a park for a nap, looked at the Shrine of Remembrance and the floral clock, turned down an offer to park downtown for \$5 an hour, and made our way back to Robyn's place, where we had a very nice dinner. Sheryl Mapp came also and told us about her recent discovery that her aunt was actually her grandmother.

6 April

We slept late and, in any case, could not get up too early with Robyn sleeping in her living room. After toast and baked beans and a taste of vegemite, looking at some photo albums and packing up, it was about 1 o'clock and time to leave. Except for a quick drive along the beach the sightseeing time was up and we headed for the airport, filled the car with petrol and deposited the keys. Met some people from Perth who had been quite intimidated by Melbourne traffic.

The 1-hour flight to Hobart was good, with a few cloudy bumps during the descent, and we found good weekend accommodation at the Hobart Macquarrie Inn. Dinner at the hotel restaurant was only fair, and we had to ask them to redo both of our orders. The room on the 9th floor was nice, with a view in two directions.

7 April

Sun The Reformed Church in Hobart was quite a distance from our hotel so we opted for the Presbyterian Church a block away. Met some Dutchmen there, Tillema, Pinkster (née Bouwman), and were invited to lunch by Melba, wife of the lawyer-minister, Dr. David Mitchell. Other guests were Allan Welsh, teacher, and Peter Booth, consulting engineer from Perth. Sermon was on Joseph being reunited with his brothers in Egypt, with the text 'Never mind about your belongings, the best of Egypt will be yours'.

We had an interesting discussion about Australian education, politics, and church history, and did not get back to our hotel until 3:30. We had a walk about town, had a bit to eat, and watched *The Godfather* on TV, 3 hours with commercial breaks. It was quite cool and windy during our walk, and it was good to have a warm jacket on.

8 April

This morning the sun shone into our room by 7 am and the blue sky, with a bit of mist hanging over the water, promises a nice day ahead for seeing the sights. We hired a car from Hertz at their discount rate and got a big car for the price of a small one, now that we don't need a big one. We had a big breakfast at the Sheraton, checked out the Salamanca Place shops, went to the Art Gallery and antique jewelry shop (Paul Thomson), and bought a Kit Hiller print at Freeman Gallery.

We did not leave for the north until about 5, reached Launceston well after dark, and had to scout around for place to stay for a while. The place was comfortable but with quite a bit of traffic noise. The in-room meal was fair but overpriced. The scenery (when it was still light) was not particularly exciting along the way. We tried a few games of canasta

but with two players it tends to become a one-sided game quite soon so that's a bit disappointing. Perhaps we need to change the rules.

9 April

We got up late, so much so that the hot water supply had about run out for us. That's not supposed to happen in a motel. We looked around town, went to the gorge, looked over the nice Reformed Church, and drove to Roelf Vos' Grindelwald Village where, to my surprise, Dixie booked us into a room for Wednesday night. The place looks a bit unreal but it probably will get business. We saw Roelf Vos, 'Mr. Roelf', but did not talk to him. For dinner we bought a very nice pizza, to eat in our motel room, with the leftover wine from last night. Decided to get an early start tomorrow, to Devonport and Burnie.

10 April

We were on our way by 8:30. The sun was up by 7 (it is dark by 6:30) and it promised to be a good day. We mailed a letter to Elaine (she should like that) and headed west. At first it looked bad because we drove into clouds, so 'no scenery'. They soon cleared, however, and the scenery was beautiful. At the Devonport Gallery Dixie got Kit Hiller's phone number and address, so we phoned her and arranged a visit after lunch. She lives in a farm area south of Wynyard. We had a very nice visit for 1.5 hours and bought two more prints, this time for \$100 each. Good thing we had cash with us. The house was full of art work and books and old furniture and looked totally chaotic, but the visit was pleasant and informative. After a nice supper at the Alpenrose restaurant we visited Ric Kuipers in their big new house, and delivered her sister's package. The Grindelwald room was large and well-equipped, including washer and drier and iron, was totally quiet as well as pitch-dark, and we had a comfortable night. Earlier on we shot a game of pool in the new recreational area.

11 April

At 7:30 am we went for a quick swim in the indoor pool, washed and dried some clothes, and were ready to go again by 9:30. There are some very large houses on large lots in the development, some with fine views of the Tamar Valley.

Dixie bought some shoes, we replenished our cash (good old VISA), checked the Richie Gallery (Kit Hiller prints there also), and took a quick cruise in the harbour and gorge on the 'Lady Stelfox'. At Perth we tried to find a red flowering gum, unsuccessfully, and from traffic-noisy phone booth at Campbelltown we wished Mother Wierenga a happy 75th birthday, just before she was ready to go to bed. Beautiful weather again today.

Couldn't be any nicer for us. At Ross we checked out the old church (1836) and the convict-built very nice stone bridge across the Macquarrie River, and had tea and scones and chocolate cake at the Village Tea House, while listening to the garrulous proprietor/craft salesman. We learned some things, saw some nice woodwork and got a recipe for scones but the talk without stopping got quite tiresome. We found a moderate motel at New Norfolk just before an unexpected busload from Queensland descended. From Mother we heard that Elaine and Doug arrived home safely so that was good news also.

[Dixie] Ikebana address in Christchurch from the wife of the talkative teashop man: Mrs. Vaala Knight, 20 St. Clio St., Ilam, Christchurch 4, ph. 583-020.

12 April

[Bill] The breakfast was good, and we headed for historic Richmond, via Hobart. Partway to Port Arthur, then north a bit. We looked at the old jail—awful solitary cells and gruesome bits of history, including the flogging yard. Also saw the convict-built bridge. Nearby a teacher was running with her young students.

Back in Hobart we stopped at the Freeman Gallery to take some pictures, wandered about the wharf and Salamanca Place and local casino (blackjack, roulette, slot machines), and drove to Kingston to look at the Reformed Church there. It looked nice and quite new. The Macquarrie Inn welcomed us again, we did some shopping, and ate Italian for supper. It had been a good week in Tasmania.

13 April

After reorganizing our luggage and a quick breakfast in a department store and some more shopping, we headed out to the airport, turned in the car (990 km this week) and, with a fairly full flight, actually left 20 minutes early. The sky was clear, and the Southern Alps with Mt. Cook and its glaciers looked magnificent in the low sun. Immigration concerns were minimal and we were given a 3-month permit immediately. A bad thing was that we left the two Hiller prints in their package in the customs area where someone evidently picked them up and made off with them. All searching and asking proved fruitless—a very frustrating experience. We picked up the car and drove to Lincoln where the bright spot was a partly finished paint job, a better stove, and new living room furniture. No double bed yet. Peter Maher joined us for fish and chips and we spent the rest of the night talking to him. Our mail was inaccessible, unfortunately, in the Plant Science office. In the meantime our phone had gone dead, for unknown reasons.

14 April

Sam After morning church (we were early this time) we went over to Cees and Joke De Ruiter and spent all afternoon talking about church things, (Gary Milne's sermon, the Art. 31 problems, David Bain and the Oamaru mission congregation) and family and immigrant stories, and also bridge, at which Cees apparently is very good. Evening sermon, on abortion, I found a bit disappointing (I was also sleepy), and our return visit to the airport for the lost prints brought us no cheer. Back home we tried canasta for two once again, until it was quite late. It was not quite as one-sided this time.

15 April

I had not run for over a week so it was time to pick it up again. The painter was back bright and early, and Dixie consigned him to the spare room rather than the living room. He can do that next week when we are gone.

Sue had finished experiment 2 so all the vials could go into the counter right away.

Weather here last week was bad apparently but yesterday and today were fine again. A letter from Karen, a bunch of church bulletins, some slides, a card from Bertha, and eight e-mail messages from Edmonton, made up most of the correspondence. Also some bills, of course. The Telecom man showed up early and quickly fixed the outside wiring that had caused the phone problem. Fortunately, nothing to do with my phone wiring efforts.

16 April

[Dixie] Today was a very educational day. I went with some of the university women to visit a Maori place. The woman who met us there is a Maori who used to be head of the Art Department with the College of Education. We heard that one must wait to be invited into the property. One is not invited until all wishing to enter are facing the person who is doing the greeting invitation. Children must not enter before adults.

Phone company called to check if the phone was fixed. I told them that it had an annoying loud ring when we hang up the phone. They'll check it out. Unfortunately the painter is still here and working in the living room.

17 April

[Bill] I spent some time with Roger today talking about research. Good discussion, with several ideas emerging, partly from some thinking I had been doing. The phone at home was acting up (ringing all the time while dialing) and the Telecom man who came quickly agreed to supply us with nice new pushbutton phone.

[Dixie] Went to the airport to check every conceivable place our prints might have been left but no success! Very disappointing. Then went on to church to take part in the craft morning. Made a braided wall decoration with some dried flower on it. Had a lot of help from Trudi as I arrived very late.

18 April

[Bill] I picked up my plane ticket for the Hamilton trip—Dixie's had come already from Anis Rahman. In the afternoon (12:15 pm) I went to a hill farm on the Banks peninsula (900 ha, 2200 sheep, 150 cows) with Peter Fleming, Michael Smetham, Ron McLaren, and Alastair Dixon (Animal Science). Gerald Harper was the farmer. This was an organizational trip for next Tuesday's field day. Very informative re temperature and moisture zones and sheep grazing management.

At supper time Jason Valstar dropped in to say good-bye. He's off to Canada tomorrow and is looking forward to it. We had a nice visit for a while.

19 April

I spent most of the day in the lab, working on experiment 3. In the morning I had to take time out for Jim White's 60th birthday celebration (actually the 21st). Dixie couldn't call me with the exciting news that the missing prints had been located through her persistent sleuthing. At the airport bank where I had changed some money. No one remembers how they got there but we were just happy to get them back.

At night we saw the movie *The Russian House*, with Paul and Nancy Recker. Not spectacular, especially with the wrong projector lens. It was cheap, though (US \$3 total). Afterwards to the Commons (Gordon and Phyllis) for 'supper'. Big house. School teacher who wants to retire and become a nashi grower (organic mostly). They are active Christians, apparently, and invited us to come again. Perhaps.

[Dixie] The drapery man came with the new drapes. They don't drape all that well because they have insulating properties and are a bit stiff but they are a light color and make this place look a lot brighter and upstairs it's a big improvement over the tattered curtains.

20 April

[Bill] A beautiful day again. I spent a bit of time at the lab to get samples ready for counting (what Sue was unable to finish yesterday). By evening they were all counted. In the afternoon we drove to Mt. Hutt to check out the ski facilities. About 100 km, a good hour's drive. The road up was rough and very poor, and after a few km past the 'No access' sign it seemed prudent to turn around and go back. The Rakaia gorge area was very beautiful.

21 April

Sun We made a call to Andy and Joan and found only Andy home. Joan had gone skiing with a friend. In the afternoon Peter Maher came over and talked for quite a while. I think he's a bit lonely.

We went to church twice (communion in the morning) but did not stick around very long to talk to people this time. Fred Braam gave us two issues of *Trowel and Sword*. Comes to all church members courtesy of the church budget.

22 April

The data from the experiment are not terribly exciting but I don't have time to look at them carefully—time to get organized for the trip to Hamilton. The painter still is not finished—hopefully he'll be done when we come back.

We got it all together, drove to Van Ameyde's farm. Fo had a migraine; Bert was not home yet but came home soon and drove us to the airport where we had checked in and left our luggage earlier, and we were on our way. Anis and Qumer met us at the Hamilton airport and, after meeting son and daughter, we settled in for a few days. We had quite private space, comfortable and warm, so that was nice. The Muslim atmosphere and Indian food smells were compensated by excellent hospitality. With the two flights and the meal at Rahman's, we ate dinner three times. Children's names are Anjum (married to Anwar Ghani), Nadim, and Shadia. Address: 69 Carrington ave.

[Dixie] Anjum is married to her first cousin. This marriage was arranged by the parents, although the couple did have some say in the matter. Discovered that the towels we are to use have a **very musty** smell. I don't think I'll be washing too much. Fortunately the hand towel is not too bad.

23 April

[Bill] Quite rainy today as I was wandering around Ruakura in my 'good' seminar clothes. David Wardle, my initial guide, mumbled fast and was hard to understand, and talking with Patrick Holland's group was a bit disjointed. I'll have to talk a bit more to Denis Lauren later. The seminar went quite well, with quite a large audience (30-35). Met Pottinger, Anis' boss, and also Rod East, Assistant Director. The station is a big place, with about 900 or so total staff.

In the evening we went out to dinner at a nice place in Hamilton (with Anis and Qumer). [Afterwards had a bridge lesson from them. I don't think we did particularly well.] – This bridge game belonged to Wednesday night at Hakei, I just remembered.

[Dixie] I accompanied Qumer to her American Literature class—the discussion was about *The Scarlet Letter* (which was A). Also started my cross stitch. Had lunch at the

university cafeteria—discovered that Muslims cannot have animal fat in their food (that is not prepared in a special Muslim way).

24 April

[Bill] Today I met with the horticulture physiologists (Garth Scott, Leader). Very impressive. Saw an excellent computer model demo simulating a kiwifruit vine with fruits, showing color-coded distribution by weight, size, sugar content. Kiwifruit roots are shallow, mostly fibrous, and very sensitive to anoxia in waterlogged soil. They work on mineral nutrition and on growth regulators to stimulate bud break. One of them works on grapes. Also met John Clayton and Paul Champion, in aquatics. Aquatic weeds (*Salvinia*, water hyacinth) and also use of aquatic plants to clean up sewage or contaminated soil. More rain today. At lunch (Dixie came also) we watched two good videos in their 'public' building, one on New Zealand agriculture and one on the Ruakura station. Well done.

After 3:30 we got organized to drive 2-3 hours to Patrick Holland's 'bach' at Hakei in the Coromandel (east coast). The last 1.5 hours were dark, and we drove an extra 48 km because we missed a turn. After we arrived we heated up the precooked pizzas for supper, tried to play bridge for a while, and bedded down. As cottages go, it was a very nice place.

[Dixie] Did some cross stitch until I was picked up by Anis.

25 April

[Bill] Beautiful sunny day. I went for a walk on the beach nearby, took some pictures, and thought I would get caught in a shower. Most of it blew over, and it became a fine day. After a slow breakfast we closed the place down and began the trip back, via a different route. Very nice scenery. At lunch Qumer got the left-over pizza warmed up (lukewarm) in a microwave at a local takeaway place and we ate it in a small-town park. Very pleasant. Near Waihi we visited a US-Indian (Pakistan) engineer in charge of building a new gold mine. Their home is near San Francisco but they live where the job takes them. Got a taste of feijos, very nice, tangy juicy fruits. We wanted to take the Rahmans to dinner but that did not happen, and they cooked up chicken. A friend's mother in India had died, and the local high school principal had died in a car accident. The Rahman parents went away and we taught Nadim and Shadia how to play Rook. I think they enjoyed it. Later, Sayeeda Bano came over and we talked a while. He did an MA at the U of A with Bruce Wilkinson and now teaches at Waikato University.

[Dixie] Were happy to be back in Hamilton in one piece. Anis takes some chances that I don't like and he also follows too close to the vehicle in front of him. It was crowded in the back seat with three people.

26 April

[Dixie] By 8 am we picked up a rented car to take to Rotorua. Anis wanted to pay for it but insurance complications made it better for me to pay. The rate seemed good but it became a bit more expensive than expected. Good trip to Rotorua, about 1.5 hours. George 'Zabs' met us, got us settled in the very nice FRI flat, bought us lunch, we took Dixie to find a hairdresser, and I spent the day (the rest of the day) looking around the semi-deserted institute (day after ANZAC Day!), talking about research and looking at

some interesting tree-herbaceous competition experiments. It had been busy all week, so we bought a few things at a deli and spent a quiet evening in the flat.

[Dixie] Bought a washcloth and small hand towel for our use when we return to the Rahman house.

27 April

[Bill] Beautiful sunny day. I walked around for an hour or so, took a bunch of pictures, including some of the competition experiment, and we had a leisurely breakfast. Drove out to Blue and Green lake and to Lake Okaina—very nice. We ate lunch there and talked to some retired Aucklanders.

Drove 50 km north to Te Puke to look at kiwifruit orchards at 'Kiwifruit Country'.

Decided against the formal tour after seeing what it might consist of, complained quietly about the Japanese concession attendants and the poor quality of the kiwifruit video.

Instead, we walked into a couple of orchards by ourselves.

Back in Rotorua we spent an hour or so with Brian and Nancy Tichborn, manager and painter, respectively, friends of Simon and Julie Hedley.

Very friendly, good art work, especially calendars, and quite business-oriented.

At 7, George and Manda (Scottish) picked us up and we had a very nice dinner with them to wind up our visit. In the meantime we had found out that the Hamilton Reformed Church had its morning service at 11 am.

With the nice weather we washed some clothes in the morning and put all our Indian/curry-smelling things outside to air out (quite successfully).

28 April

We got up early enough to pack up, clean up, and check out by about 9. For a while it was foggy (low clouds) in the hills but lower down it was OK. Got to church in good time and were met at the door by Betty Wiersma, preacher Bill's wife. I think she had been asked to look for us. She also invited us for coffee/lunch afterwards, and we had a nice visit. They are from Australia but have travelled in North America. About 15 years ago they served the Christchurch congregation.

Back at Rahman's we went over to visit Patrick and Teddy Holland. She came from Red Deer and met Patrick at Queen's University. Meanwhile it poured outside, as we looked at trees and shrubs, ate scones with jam (I have had better), and talked.

Again back at Rahman's we had a nice buffet Indian dinner with the whole family and another Indian couple about to move to James Cook University at Townsville. We had not been very anxious to go back to Rahman's again but it worked out OK.

The Rahmans seem to be very influential in the local and national Muslim community.

They seem to take their religion quite seriously, and it is easier to see now that Christianity has an uphill battle in Muslim countries.

29 April

I went back to Ruakura to talk to Denis Lauren and to take some pictures (fine day after yesterday's rain), then went back to pick up Dixie and Qumer to go into town for a while. At 12 we met Anis at Ruakura, took the car back to the rental agency, got the bill put on my VISA card, and went back to the house to eat the bag lunches Anis had brought. A bit later we said our good-byes, took a bit of a tour to the Hamilton Gardens

and to the New Zealand Mormon temple (Templeville?)—a big setup to serve the Mormon church in Australasia, and Anis dropped us off at the airport for our 3 o'clock flight back. Pleasant flight with mostly clear skies, saw the Ruwapehu with the lake on top, and somewhere before Christchurch the clouds closed in again, with rain on the ground. I picked up the car at Van Ameyde's while Dixie waited at the airport, we picked up a few bits of food, and soon we were back in Lincoln again. It had been a busy but good week, and our clothes did not even smell much. The painting was finished but all the cans and the paint smells were still there.

30 April

Back at Lincoln, I found Ross Dixon's Ph.D. thesis in my mailbox and spent most of the day reading it (2/3). I find myself agreeing with Ian Morrison's rather negative assessment. Now I'll have to put all that into a report and make some plans for what to say at the oral examination. Fortunately it is not really a borderline case and the decision is quite clear. In the meantime Jim White has mentioned something about discussion between Roger Field and Mitch Andrews about it also, to complicate it a bit more.

At the woodworking class (last before a 4 week break) I made some more progress but it is really quite slow. The instructor is not terribly imaginative and helps mostly only to carry out the ideas I have. However, progress is progress

[Dixie] Had a nice surprise call from Andy and Joan and Elaine. Elaine sounded a little better to Bill than to me; she sounded weepy as soon as I got on the phone. Andy and Joan had exciting news—Joan is pregnant and expecting a baby in December.

1 May

[Bill] I finished reading the thesis ^{so} that part of the chore is done. With the week's trip to Hamilton/Rotorua the grass plants for the experiment have become quite large so I'll have to figure out an experiment with detached leaves instead. Should be able to do that for next week. Sue has planted some more grass for an actual spray treatment, so I need to make plans for that also.

Reg and Joyce Smith and Paul and Mary Krause came for dinner. Dixie had prepared an excellent dinner and, despite the fact that Reg kind of monopolized the conversation, we had a nice time. After the Smiths left we had a nice visit with the Krauses for a while still. After cleaning up, we were tired but it had been a good evening.

[Dixie] The painter came by this am and picked up the empty cans and his brushes etc. He informed me he had been on strike for 2 days.

The dinner went much better than I expected, considering my limited supply of serving dishes, etc.

I skipped out of my typing class as this was the only night the Smiths had free before they were leaving for Canada.

Slept on the couch last night. I was coughing so much I didn't want to disturb Bill.

Couldn't get the blow tube from Dr. Taylor any higher than 25.

2 May

[Bill] Part of the day was taken up with going to two seminars (Michael Ostash on thesis research and David Penner on pesticide policy decisions in Washington/Wenatchee during his study leave.

[Dixie] This morning I discovered that I had forgotten to put all the spices in my barbecued pork chops. I had put the dry mustard and chili powder in a cup so I'd have it ready when Bill got back with tomato juice which I had forgotten to purchase with my groceries Wednesday morning. Fortunately the Worcestershire sauce had given them a little flavour. I had thought the meat was a bit bland.

Went stitching with the American ladies group, then had lunch at Southern Cross and afterwards Nancy Recker and I went to Merivale Mall to view the embroidery 'samplers' on display in the mall. Some of them were very nice.

3 May

[Bill] I did not accomplish much in the way of work today other than talking to a few people, sending an e-letter to Hank Bestman, and going to the 'capping' ceremony where the first Lincoln degrees were conferred. Some 2000 people (500 students) in a huge tent on a sports field near our flat. Except for the Maori preliminaries it was quite like U of A convocations, including the vice-chancellor's unhappiness with the New Zealand government (overseas student fees, capital funding). A medal-receiving alumnus offered a crisp four-point pithy response speech: (1) Don't be surprised if your career path does not unfold exactly as expected, (2) Look for job satisfaction rewards rather than for high pay (the surplus cash will come later), (3) ..??., (4) Don't get married too soon.

We traded our four art works in for five different ones at the library (\$25 for the next three months), and had a MacDonald's supper. Scouted around the public library and the U of Canterbury library some more, and picked Dixie up at church at 10.

[Dixie] Had tea with Doreen Williamson (she lives on a few acres just outside Lincoln town). Lovely place. Her husband is a retired real estate salesperson. Doreen and Ron do a fair bit of home hosting—dinner, bed and breakfast. She suggested that as a possible business venture for me. Not the actual hosting but doing the arrangements. Also met Petra Lammerink, Ivor Lammerink's aunt.

Listened to a wardrobe ad color consultant at church tonight!

4 May

[Bill] A beautiful sunny day today, with Christchurch the hot spot of New Zealand, at 19 degrees. We hung our five 'new' art works on the wall. One of them fell down twice (mechanical problems) and left a bit of a gouge on our newly painted wall—too bad! At first we thought we'd try to keep what we had but now we are glad we changed to different ones. They do quite a bit for the place. We went for a drive in 'the country' east of Lincoln, towards the hills, bought some apples and, after supper, went to see *Dances with Wolves*. Full house. Interesting movie about US army and Indians in the 1860s—perhaps a bit overdone.

We did get Elaine's birthday card and letter done and mailed it at the Christchurch post office.

[Dixie] Yesterday Simon Hedley brought over the electric typewriter he had offered us for my typing practice. Discovered from Simon that a ski lift ticket at Mt. Hutt is \$44, bus transportation \$16. If you take your own car the road is terrible plus there is an \$8 road fee. The access road is owned by three different parties (one a farmer). There is another ski hill only a little further (I'm not sure which direction) where the lift fee is \$36 a day.

Sam
5 May

[*Bill*] Frank Van Dalen (works in Pakistan) preached today—good sermon about prayer, based on 2 Kings 19 and 20. Coffee and lunch at Henk and Gerda Rache—he was made redundant by Air New Zealand last August, after 30 years. Still unemployed and not happy about it. Also met Cees and Nel Vanden Ende (daughter Helen is Mark Liefering's girlfriend) and Gerda's sister Gelske and retired-farmer husband Derek.

Today it is time to fill in some blank pages in the diary, back to April 17!

Some things the minister said about Muslims in Pakistan reminded us of our contacts with the Rahman family. John Goris was to preach ^{on} the afternoon service, and we decided to spend the time at home instead. Dixie was a bit homesick, and I tried to learn something about playing bridge.

[*Dixie*] Felt a little homesick today, maybe the dull dreary weather compared to the beautiful weather the last few days was a contributing factor.

6 May

[*Bill*] We got up early to phone to Calgary but did not actually make the call until about 7:30 am (1:30 in Calgary. Talked to Jean and Clarence, and briefly to Elaine and Karen. Total time about 35 minutes. I spent a good part of the day writing letters and thinking about the next experiment.

Back home it was time to sort through the various drawers and piles of paper that had accumulated.

[*Dixie*] Dull dreary day. Made a loaf of bread—turned out good!

Found out from Jean that Peter Nicolai has accepted the call to Calgary. Also the Oilers are still in the playoffs. They beat Calgary and LA so far! Jean is cheering for Minnesota. Those Calgary fans are such poor losers!

7 May

[*Bill*] I sent off my letter to Penner about the thesis, wrote Thank You letters to several people I had visited, and made plans for an experiment. At lunch time we managed to get a letter and card written and sent off to Karen.

On campus there was a lot of activity today with the visit ^{by} of the president (?) of Turkey. More police and bodyguards than actual officials, it seemed. Even a few Cypriot protesters.

[*Dixie*] Had Sherrie Whalon over for tea this afternoon. She was impressed by the homey-ness of our flat. Lent her the whisk from our kitchen. Tonight Sherri and her daughter Bethany returned the whisk plus two cream puffs they had made. They were delicious! Mark Whalon is in Australia, giving six talks in five days. Sherri and the girls will join ^{him} Sunday for a week's holiday in Cairns. Bethany Whalon (12 years) is having a hard time in school—is teased a lot about how she speaks. She (Bethany) mentioned that there is a new boy from British Columbia in her class. He will be here 4 months.

8 May

[*Dixie*] Didn't sleep very well last night—too much coughing and breathing problems. Finally went downstairs and slept on the couch so that at least Bill could sleep. Went to the doctor again and got a prescription for asthma medication. The doctor's office is very spartan compared to most doctor's offices in Edmonton.

[Bill] Went to District Bible Study, second part on James, on trials. Some disagreement among the group as to purposes of trials. On the way we listened to Knoppers' sermon on the sparrow falling from the roof (Matthew 10:29). Gary Milne surprised me by asking to lead one of the subgroup discussions.

9 May

[Bill] Spent a good part of the afternoon in Christchurch. Bought gumboots and rain parka and pants. Visited Ian Popay at Burwood Hospital, etc. A quick bite at MacDonald's and went to the joint Ascension Day service. Service was good but very poorly attended.

I told Ian Popay a bit about the Knoppers' sermon but don't really know what his reaction to it was. He had said that he had figured out why his accident happened. Things were going too well for him! I suggested that he did not really believe that, and he agreed. I'll have to visit him again some time.

10 May

[Dixie] Did my washing and cleaning today so that we'll have a nice clean flat to come home to next Friday night. Also picked up my medicine for asthma and got instructions from the chemist about how to use the different devices. Went shopping and afterwards went to the Park Royal for dinner. Food was not spectacular this time—we also had to wait 45 minutes for a table. Our shopping expedition was not very successful and rather a trying time. We have different philosophies about shopping—we were looking for clothes.

11 May

[Dixie] Bill went to the lab this morning and didn't get back until close to 12 o'clock. Consequently we had to rush to get downtown in time to return the sweater I had taken home on approval. Bought a different sweater—more stylish but not as good quality as the one I returned. The price was only half that of the one I returned. Picked up some groceries and when we got home, had to bake a cake for Sunday, start making my soup for Sunday, and make dinner for our guest and ourselves for Saturday evening. Swiss steak, baked potatoes, carrot salad, cauliflower, baked apple and custard.

[Bill] Kristinn Svavardsdjöttir came over for dinner at 7 and we had a nice time with her. Mark Liefering dropped by to pick her up at about 10:30 or 11 and also stayed for a while. The evening's visit had worked out well. Afterwards I went back to the lab to finish my experiment and put the samples into the counter. It got quite late (1:30) but at least it was done.

12 May

[Dixie] Had the Boumans and Trudi Bouman's father, Mr. Dirk Loef, over for soup after the morning service. John Haverland preached a mothers' day sermon used the text from Proverbs about the superwoman who got up while it was still dark, was in real estate, etc. Fortunately he said that this was not a recipe for all women. Dirk Loef was not happy with a theme sermon for Mothers' Day.

[Bill] We had a nice time with the Boumans. I took them over to the lab, showed them around a bit and tried to explain what I was doing with radioactive herbicides. They

seemed interested but probably didn't understand all I was trying to cram into them in a short time.

After church we had a quick supper at Recker's. Gave John Haverland the Knoppers' tape to see if it would be good for Fo Van Ameyde.

13 May

[Dixie] Today both Bill and I were up before dawn and at the airport by 6:20. Had a good flight to Wellington where we transferred to a bus for our touring on the lower North Island. Six US exchange students in the group, five female and one male. They seem like a nice group. There are 25 students plus four profs and three assorted males (post doc dip.?) and us. The students are approximately half male and female.

[Bill] With aid of a group photo I tried to learn al the students' names but it wasn't easy. Tami Hoksbergen is a CRC girl from Chino, California. Had an unexciting bag lunch followed by a fascinating visit with Timber and Sally Wood, all about kiwifruit and pears. Tried to call Elaine several times from the house but got a busy signal. Later tried from the local pub and finally succeeded and had a nice talk with her. Accommodation at Flock House was OK but not spectacular. Same for the dinner.

14 May

Up early again, for breakfast at 7 and departure at 8:15. Bus actually left at 8:10 and, without a body count, left two students behind. When it was discovered, we went back for them. Today's visit was to a 'hard-hill' sheep and cattle farmer and a beef finishing operation. Tough conditions on the first place, seemingly easy money on the second. I had been asked to organize and lead the evening discussion, an interesting challenge. It meant getting to know who the students were. The discussion went fairly well, with the help of the Lincoln staff members. This time we stayed at a regular motel, quite respectable accommodation and meals. The bag lunches at noon were no better than Monday, though.

15 May

Today we visited a factory-supply dairy and a 'high-altitude' share-milking operation in Taranaki. This time the Burke family arranged for lunch, in their 'shed' (two-car garage). It was much nicer than the bag lunches we had before.

At night we were back at Flock House, had a nice dinner, found out that Jim White attends Cashmere Presbyterian Church (some of his children are 'New Life'), that Peter Fleming appears to be a Christian and has a Dutch wife, Anke, and that Greg Anderson attends the Brethren Church. More Christians than we had thought.

At night heard a very good presentation on the Taranaki dairy industry by a local MAF scientist, Norm Thomson.

16 May

A river terrace sheep-beef operation, including some hi-tech embryo transfer technology in the morning, and a wheat/maize/potato farm in the afternoon. Clyde Rowland's parents provided a very nice afternoon tea and, while the group had tea, we used the house phone to call Karen and wish her a happy birthday.

At night I was to lead another discussion. This time we used a slightly different procedure, stayed strictly with time, and had a more successful evening. Perhaps the program is touch overloaded with all these discussions.

Dinner was good tonight, and after the discussion I had a beer with some of the staff. Students (at least some) were planning to be up late, it seemed.

17 May

Some students were up late, and slept only a few hours. It showed later in the day. In the morning we visited a woodlot managed by and ex-MAF scientist turned consultant, and learned all about trees, and how to take care of them. After lunch we learned about a DISIR experiment with different stocking rates in a bull beef operation. While there, we met Agnes Van Dasselaar, from Wageningen's Agricultural University. Her home is in Nijkerk and she knows my Tante Eef (grandmother to her cousin apparently). Small world it is.

It was a 2.5-hour bus ride back to Wellington, then a half-hour flight and a further bus ride, and by 7:30 we were home again, a bit tired, but a lot more informed about some New Zealand farm operations. The weather had been good (i.e., no rain) but there was a lot of cold wind several times. In any case, not bad for getting around.

18 May

Time for a more restful day. We did some grocery shopping, I walked around and took a bunch of pictures of colored leaves and tree shadow patterns, and rested some more. At night we had a potluck supper at Simon and Julie Hedley's, along with Don and Sandhya, Dan and Marie, Roger and Karen, and Oscar and Gudren (neighbours and/or friends of the Hedleys). I managed to drop and break one of our wine glasses and, after helping with the dishes, we were the last to leave. Had a nice time.

19 May

After church in the morning we spent the afternoon at Recker's. first visiting with Gerry and Wietske Loef and, after they left, making plans for our Queenstown/Milford Sound trip. We might consider the less commercial Doubtful Sound. Decided to meet at Burnham at 7:30 on Tuesday morning.

After the sermon this morning a woman got up and asked John, "Where was the Holy Spirit?" He gently responded that he would preach a Pentecost sermon in the afternoon (she was absent from that service). [This was Pentecost Sunday].

20 May

Took the car in for oil change etc., then walked to and from Lincoln for a haircut (about 15 minutes each way from my office, 20 minutes from home). Found out that one of the rear tires on the car was finished and that the other also was nearly done for. After some contemplation and some advice from others decided to buy two used tires from Bayliss Motors. Just as well to find this out before starting the trip.

It took a bit of time to get all organized but in the end it all came together nicely. We tried to call Mark several times but did not get an answer. Try again next week.