

~~Dear Jan,~~ TUESDAY 14TH AUG

Dear Jan,

Sorry for the delay in answering your letter.

As usual I thank you for it because I look forward ^{to} yours + Doris's letters. I hope you have found a filing system that keeps your mail in order. You weren't long in answering mine anyway. That's good news about Doris coming thro' on the 23RD. I'll certainly be there but what about you. It would be really nice for the three of us again. You will appreciate that I'm thinking of you healthwise, so please Jan, just come if you are upto it. You have been pushing yourself too much lately + the constant worrying you do is not helping either.

Thanks for returning A.M's letter. No doubt you will see her at QH on 8TH (That's if you go down.) I don't think

Arin would know who to look for, which is just as well because she would give her such a tongue lashing.

Incidentally did you see the middle sister Margaret M^s reading the news on S.T.V. for John Tayes 6pm programme.

No doubt the Fathers influence at work again. I think hes got something to do with all the brick walls you are ~~up~~ up against including the S. Mail.

Can't say I remember the boy Hagan, but I do remember the Adamsons. In fact Adamsons were brothers & the younger one was the school janitor in our time but not a House Father like his brother.

The janitor was a real stinker, to the boys anyway. We older boys took a week each at pulling the rope for the school bell & would you believe it, it was my turn this week & the rope came away in my hands. It broke off

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right at the top where the bell is. The rope was just simply worn away. Well I'm standing in the cloack room with a coil of rope when Adamson came up to see why I'd stopped, he wouldn't even listen to me he just lashed at me with the rope. So thats just another of many incidents that A.M never got to know of because I stopped writing when you told me about her. There was another pair of brothers as well.

Both house fathers from 25 + 40

Lancaster was their name, they both worked in the store where all the groceries etc were. They were bad, but their wives were worse, the Rankin boys will bear me out on that because they were in 40.

I've been thinking Jan about our get together on the 23rd. If you + Doris like the idea we could go to the S.M

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Offices & ask to see Young or Goodall.
It's only 5 mins in a taxi. What do you think?

You mention about Munro being trained in a bersthal, well do you remember Mr Erskine who was in charge of the Greenhouse & nursery plants (not a house father) well he originally came from the Kibble Home in Paisley - the Kibble was a reform school then, & the story is he was thrown out of that because of ill treating the boys with an order against him never to be employed in a position looking after children.

So because he had greenfingers, A.H. needed someone for that job & he got it, hence the reason he wasn't a house father, any boys I knew who worked under him hated him. So the more you think about during our time, to be employed down there the only qualifications

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you needed were N°1 you must have a sadistic nature. N°2 you must have no children. Funny how none of them had kids of their own. Stranger still, how was Gordon allowed to adopt one. Him + I were about the same age + came to QH at the same time. Francis wasn't adopted right away, oh no he was just the same as me, he must have been around 7 or 8 before it happened. I think I told you before Jan, Francis + I got on great as we grew up, he was more a pal to me than some of the boys in 35. In spite of his position he never clipped or carried tales.

Well Jan how is your health, I hope you are taking it a bit easier now. I know life must go on but you have to slow down. Doris + I know full well what you are trying to achieve + it won't happen overnight. As for

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myself, I'm O.K. just bored & from time to time a little depressed. I dont know why I should be, because my life is more or less just an existence. No ties or worries like most people. I pay my landlady, buy my grub & thats it. Dont even think of a job for at 54. Ive come to terms with myself. I should thank someone for what I have, but I'm a realist Jan & I know its all my own fault.

Ill close for now, give my regards to Bill & Family
& please all take care of No 1

Yours

