

November 21, 1969

Mr. Harold Wells  
Lac du Bonnet  
Manitoba

Dear Ty:

We just put a cessna through a little lake east of Norway House we will have to get over there. These young pilots don't know anything about tripods and chain blocks or sleeping in a tent. Dennie and Dougie are at Fort Nelson B.C. with the Bristol freighter.

Jennie was with me in Montreal, thats where she got hell climbing up and down stairs - couple of weeks ago.

I think it was September 1945 when Dave Allan phoned me from his Indian Department Office of Trusts and Annuities, Ottawa, asking me if I could deliver 50 live Beaver to Peron Minister of Argentina. Seems Argentina contacted the H.B.Co. then Hon J.S. McDiarmid, Minister of Natural Resources, Winnipeg, then Ottawa, for these Castorium. All said it was impossible to transport them on account of the 40 days by boat from Port Alfred, Montreal.

I told Dave Allan - sure, give me \$650.00 each F.O.B. and my expenses to Ushuia, that is the most southern tip on this large continent, a little town on the coast with the Andees Mountains with hundreds of feet of snow. There are 300 lifers there, no capital punishment in Argentine then.

By the time I got the \$32,500.00 from Peron in The Pas bank which would be released to me uponpresentation of shipping bill C.N.R. to Montreal plus re-launching a dovered barge with cook stove etc. Art Winn agreed to be herxman and cook on barge - I got Abraham Buck and a helper at Devils portage as I had three or four Beaver houses there, Absolum Patchenose and I picked Big Creek - Albert Snye and Eric took Caroline Lake.

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I flew to Prince Albert for a dozen live Beaver traps. We only had three or four days trapping when we got an inch of ice. Absolum and I would watch a beaver walk over our trap which would not go off on account of ice on pan and jaws - however, we got 20 beaver when we would hardly get back to The Pas late October.

In the meantime my friend Malahar and J.S. McDiarmid cooked up a 20.00 live annual royalty.

We split 45 gals drums lengthwise and built a pen around them. The Chief of C.N. Express, a good friend of mine, gave me a baggage car - going through Winnipeg, Natural Resources Department, who had turn Eva and Peron down, were all at the C.N.R. station to check or count the Beaver and collect their pound of flesh. I remember a lot of them standing on the platform looking in the door - Jack Cowan their legal man - I gave Malahar the royalty cheque for \$400.00. There must have been fifteen game and other Government men meet the train.

Greg was going to school at Ravenscourt, he played hooky and went to Montreal with Jennie and I - we cut down young poplar in people's yard, made small bundles tied with side-line. No room on plane so Jen and Greg returned home.

I was standing by my beaver in New York airport when the Sacred Cow landed with Harry Truman, so I got a close up picture of him.

I booked rest in Miami. To make new crates, Pan Am Airways gave me one big fridge to put the Beaver in for exercise. During noon hour they chewed a hole in the big oak door I had left open two or three inches for fresh air. All the beaver were running around the long office, the girls were standing on top of tables and typewriters, some job to gather them all up.

Next stop was at San Juan. Trinidad, Port of Spain, Rio de Janerio, Montividao, Ushuia, where I stayed a week cruising around with a canso flying boat we set off with from Buenos Aires. Finally I pick a nice flowing river where I turned all of them loose.

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I did get a few letters from an old scotch descent chap for a year or two then he quit writing. He sent me pictures of a Beaver dam, they plugged a river as large as Moose Creek and flooded out a million sheep and alpacoes and lamas.

My friend Admiral Anadon who was a teacher in Ushia and killed 8 men during Perons election was now made an Admiral, he was very good to me,. I stayed a week in the City Hotel in Buenos Aires. Anadon twice gave me 500.00 american money just for walking around money, he was well into his sixties, had a very young and attractive wife. I would teach her English and she would teach me Spanish.

Another big wheel was Captain Alos (Louis) Fleece who came to Moose Lake the following spring to deal on 10 Cariboo, 10 Moose and 200 Muskrats.

I never did get along with the Government as you know. McDiarmid shouted and yelled at me that I was stocking foreign countries with our precious game animals, and turned me down flat for my second expedition.

Time Magazine published a story that summer how Argentine were getting Cariboo, Moose and live Muskrats from Alaska.

When you are in Buenos Aires go to the Department of Agriculture who handled me and the beaver, I am sure you will track them down. One beaver was shot up the Chilean Coast, guess he was heading for Moose Lake.

All in all I had a hell of a good time picking up thirteen thousand dollars plus two thousand walking around money. I bought Jennie a couple of diamond rings in Belen, stopped at Bahia Blanca, took the train from there 400 miles to Buenos Aires. England gave her all the box cars and little steam engines and coaches. Lots of good wine from Mindosa province.

I found plenty of copper strain up a river not to far from Ushia, I had a rubber boat with oars and did a lot of paddling around. I asked Admiral Anadon back in Buenos Aires if I could come back with a prospecting crew, he said to forget about it until the country settles down. I know I could go right back to it today, I portaged over to a little lake then up a river.

We have all the material at Moose Lake for the new house. Carpenters won't take long with this good weather.

Donald and Rhena were in Chile and Argentine last winter. People very poor.

The very best of everything on your trip.

TOM