

BYLAAG G4

1 Hamilton St,
Gardenvale,
Melbourne 3185
Australia

(33)

Dear Petra & Willie,

4/12/85

No time like now, makes me write

To wish you all a very happy & peaceful Xmas and New Year.
I really intended writing long ago, but always kept putting it off. Many thanks for your letter and the papers you sent me. I have some of them in High Dutch, and have some idea of what is written. I gave those you sent me to my daughter to peruse. Her husband is German and understands quite a good bit. Unfortunately, when I asked her to return them so that I could study them, she told me that she had searched the house through for them, but could not find them. She had them on a table with a lot of other correspondence and business papers. She said that they evidently got mixed in with some newspapers, and destroyed. I was really mad at her, you mentioned that there is no record of the whereabouts of a Marnevecke in Germany. That is probably the one who first arrived in South Africa in 1752. Many migrants joined ships crews and sailed to South Africa without it being recorded in German records. There is a George Messer Doetee a manager in the Standard Bank in Cape Town, and a Willem Coetzee, a solicitor in Pretoria who are also relations of the Marnevecks, but more so on the Messer side.

We do not have much news about South Africa in our daily papers, so do not know what the situation is like in that country. An article was in the Age newspaper last week saying that 500,000 black unionists are taking up the apartheid battle. They threaten to bomb oil installations and mines, as well as roads and government buildings. Other countries are too blind to see what the results of their sanctions will be, until it's too late, and communists have done their dirty jobs. South Africa has an impossible task ahead of it. I only hope and pray that it will effectively weather the storm. But it looks very black.

The Australian economy is just about on the rocks too. The government tries to pull the wool over the eyes of the people by telling them continually that the economy is very sound. We have having train & transport strikes - hospital strikes where patients can't get a bed and have to use voluntary labour because the nurses are on strike - teachers strikes - you name it, we have it. Renting houses is becoming almost impossible as the government wants to change the Landlords Tenants Act by giving tenants more rights and landlords big headaches so many people are selling their properties instead of telling them of age are asked by the government to retire from work so that the younger ones can get jobs. There are plenty of jobs advertised for the young, but many do not want to work. They receive \$90 a week dole and in most cases three or four join together, and with their combined dole they live very nicely without work. Thank you. We are forced

almost to the hilt even pensioners are penalized,
 Labour governments have never been any good and
 those who voted this one into power in the last elections
 are regretting it.

We sold the property, my son and I renovated for \$267,000
 but do not intend buying another for renting until
 we see what the Landlord's tenant act comes to announced
 we are investing the money at 17.5% interest for the time.

We are having plenty of rain lately, and expect the
 summer heat will strike us suddenly.

Hoping that you are all well and wishing you
 one again a happy Xmas & future &
 love from
 Katie.

TO OPEN SLIT HERE FIRST

FOLD SIDE FLAPS FIRST

FOLD SIDE FLAPS FIRST

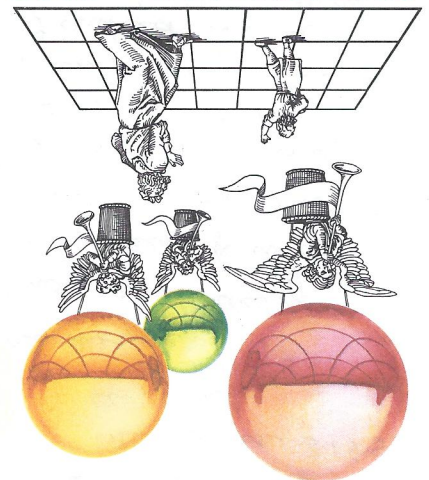
Mrs Jany,
 1 Stamford St,
 Hardmanville
 Melbourne
 Postcode 3185
 Australia

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

TO Mr & Mrs W. M. M. M. M.
 Ocean View 414
 Agynwood 0851
 Pretoria
 South Africa
 COUNTRY OF DESTINATION



CHRISTMAS • 1985



BY AIR MAIL PAR AVION AEROGRAMME