

Peninsular Apartments
Surfers Paradise
Sunday 29th May 88

Dear Lou & Peter,

Here we are at sunny Surfers amongst the Japanese tourists. We arrived at lunchtime today and we are not exactly roughing it. The Peninsular is, I think, the highest high-rise in Surfers P., and our suite is up towards the top with marvellous views over the ocean and also over the Nerang River (our balcony extends around three sides).

We arrived here without our special Chicago note-paper. Fortunately we were able to get this flyletter locally, but were unable to get flypaper to go with it.

Ronnie Gips & Rachel have arrived in Venice. I took them out to Lullamarine on Thursday afternoon and saw them safely through the formalities until they went through the door marked "passages only". I am reciprocated by coming over for the evening meal last night, staying overnight, and getting us to the airport in plenty of time for our flight. Friday night we baby-sat Blair, so with a late night Friday, an early morning Sunday, and this afternoon wandering around the town we do not have any big plans for tonight.

Tomorrow will be different tho'. We are all set for "the experience of a lifetime for old and young alike" (or so the brochure says). We certainly plan to enjoy

ourselves at Expo, and hope that the old people do so too. In conjunction with Expo there is a planned \$3^{1/2} million programme of "free" entertainment - 25,000 different acts, 350 parades, more than 50 bands and 20 orchestras. We may well leave before the end. Having just paid an enormous tax bill I think I can guess who ultimately pays for the largesse of the government. Some wise person once said that governments were like babies - an insatiable appetite at one end, and total irresponsibility at the other. We have had another dose with a mini-budget during the week - however we will forget about that for this week.

One thing that did come out of the mini-budget was the scrapping of the unpopular (and largely unpaid) \$5 arrival tax, and the halving of the departure tax from \$20 to \$10 - both effective from 1st July - too late for Horie & I, but just in time for your visit. Apparently you still have some influence here Peter.

Mum sold another painting during the week at the Doncaster Bowling Club Art Show. Scheme is to collect the other painting there and Jimmy to collect the ones at Yurella (if they haven't been sold).

We notice that Brocodile Dundee II and The Last Emperor are both showing at the Hoyts Theatre near us (about 100 yards from us to be precise. We may bestow our patronage on

them before the week is out.

This place (The Peninsula) is not only the tallest building for miles, it is right next to the beach, and close to the centre of town - yet we are high enough to avoid traffic noise. The sound of the breakers on the beach still gets through, but we are prepared to overlook that.

We are here for a week, leaving about lunchtime next Sunday. I think that Jan plans to meet us on our return. We are due for an ~~evening~~ evening meal at Jenny & Bill on the following night, then Jan will drive to North Belconnen the following Friday and we will take him the rest of the way to the airport for his flight to Winnipeg and his family. I think that Ronie was going to enquire whether or not there were any rental cars to be returned to the East, so they may well drive part or all the way to you. Then again they may not, but no doubt they will let you know their movements. Hope that you are able to complete your re-decorating before they arrive - as we hope that we can get ours completed before you arrive - but I guess it really doesn't matter. The main thing is to be able to get together.

We have had perhaps more than we should have for our tea tonight, even after bringing some of it back in a doggy bag, so, if we get up the energy we may well wander down to the P.O. to start this on its way. Love to you both,
June & Ken