

1.

Soane Cambell to Violet Clay in Surrey.

He was some 40 years older than Violet's son Gervas, who was then 28.

Choma
N. Rhodesia
21/6/35.

Dear Mrs. Clay,

Thank you for your letter & the photo of your house, which reached me last week, having been to Mankoya first. I was so sorry to leave Gervas but did so in response to a wire offering me a job. Unfortunately, when I arrived at Livingstone I found that the position had been filled owing to the delay in reply to the wire.

As the wretched native who brought the telegram from Mongu took 7 days & the rogue who returned with the reply took 5 days (126 miles) I cannot say I was surprised greatly that that had happened.

I have had no luck at all & up to the present have not succeeded in obtaining employment although I have written to every possible employer including the Mines & Government. It is very disheartening. Gervas urges me to go back to him at Mankoya but I must hang on as long as possible as going back there would mean practically complete surrender of any hope of a job, unless recruiting was started again. You may be sure I want to go back, & miss Gervas very much.

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2.

I think Gervas would rather have me with him than be alone, but at the same time, he is more or less "self-contained". He is very keen on shooting & gardening & is extremely fond of reading. He has had plenty of "administering" to do lately too. A certain amount of lawlessness appears to have manifested itself in his District, which will prevent him from becoming bored, & at the same time will provide experience for him which will undoubtedly prove to his advantage later.

What did you think of the trouble on the Mines here? There was quite a lot of excitement & you will notice Gervas's favourites, the Awemba, were apparently at the bottom of it all. There appears to have been rather a bungle too. In view of the fact that some of the Government Officials mingled freely with the rioters seems to prove that they were not after the Whites at all, but were out for the Black (Civil) Police mainly. However, things seem to have resumed normality now & the detachment of B.S.A.P. (S. Rhodesian Police) both White and Black, returned to Bulawayo recently.

As you have no doubt heard, a road is being made from Mankoya to Mongu so that Gervas will be able to run in with his car any old time. It is pretty certain too that one or two people in Mongu will get a car when they discover they can

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21/6

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get a run out to Mankoya. He had the Auditor & Doctor flying out when he last wrote, & was also expecting Mr. & Mrs. McArthur of the Vet. Department. He is, of course, also only 37 m. from the Luampa Mission, to which place he has cycled in a day on several occasions, so he is not really very isolated. Now his aerodrome is completed I think it more than likely that the Govt. will inaugurate a policy of "swopping" officials for a month or two, sending, say, a man from Lusaka by air to Mankoya where he would take over for a month or so, while Gervas would take his place at Lusaka for the same period. They would then change back to their respective jobs. Sir Ronald Stovis(?) stated that this would certainly happen. An excellent idea, I consider. I envy Ralph his flying. I have only "been up" once & was thrilled to the marrow. I went from Mongu to Senanga & back, about 120 m. along the Zambesi. I had always wanted to see the great river from above & it more than exceeded my expectations. A marvelous sight. I fully expected to feel sick, but did not, & thoroughly enjoyed every moment in the air.

This is a nice little place on the Railway, 4307 ft. above sea level. Nearly 1000 feet higher than

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4.

Mankoya. It is pretty cold now, being winter, but lovely days, clear & sunny. I like the country round here. Rolling downs. Any amount of game & game birds. I went in an old Ford lorry, to a Mission, Kanchindu, on the Zambesi (South of the Falls of course) last week. It is about 90 miles from here & we dropped over 3000 feet! The track through the mountains was appalling & had been mad straight through the hills with no attempt at grading, so that at one moment we were standing on our heads and the next on our tails, so to speak. I could not have believed that a motor could have negotiated the precipices up & down which we crawled. When I say it took us 15 hours to do the 90 miles you will realize it was "some" trip. We took 4 days to do the double journey. There are rhino, elephant, buffalo & all sorts of game in the Valley but we only saw a couple of beautiful kudu bulls as the country was a tangled mass of grass & undergrowth & there was a lot of bush too. None had been burnt, too green yet. We struck a pack of wild dogs in the mountains, which evinced the most annoying curiosity & hopped backwards & forwards in front of the lorry at a distance of only a few feet. We were on a precipice at the time & could

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not pull up. I got a shaky shot at one & they then cleared off. They are a terrible scourge & kill a lot of small stock & cattle round about. Lions have been busy round here lately & killed about 10 head of cattle on a "ranche" near here this week. However, the Manager poisoned two & caught a third in a trap & shot it. Another lioness ran in front of the train some way the other night, not leaving the line until actually near the School.

I am very glad to hear Mr. Clay has had a good beagling season. I think it is wonderful of him to run with them. I'm afraid a sprint of a couple of dozen yards would incapacitate me for quite a period.

I'm afraid I can't say if Gervas has got his gramophone mended. I expect he has. When I left he had borrowed one & was using that.

I hope you, Mr. Clay & Ralph are all fit & well; with kindest regards to you all

Very sincerely yours
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