

Dundas Hills  
June 28<sup>th</sup> 94

Dear Miss Ray,

I quite agree with you when you say "it seems years" between our letters I was just beginning to think that I was in the most forsaken part of this little island of ours, when it was rumoured that the mail man was coming. Naturally all eyes were scanning the road they had not long to wait however before they were rewarded by seeing the horses with their pack bags containing among others your very welcome and interesting epistle. There being no post office here the horses were drawn up near the tent of an old Dundas miner who relieved them of their bags which were soon emptied and distributed among a crowd of men of all grades eager and thirsty for news. Ten minutes after the arrival the same crowd were to be seen scattered in all directions some opening their letters as soon as they received them and pondering over the hieroglyphics contained therein, retraced their steps to their respective camps, others disappointed and down hearted ransacked the mail bags in search of their expected missives. They were a study and reminded me of some stories I have heard of the mail days of Sydney and Melbourne in the early days.

No doubt you have received a photo of the Store ere this, as I gave Arthur two to post when he went to Albany some time ago, no doubt he has told you of his trip therefore I will not worry you with a repetition. Mr Kilminster and myself have arrived here (at Dundas Hills 165 miles from Esperance) where we intend to look for a few small bars of gold. As water is very scarce here & the warden wishes to have a large tank constructed and a survey made of the locality. The latter he has offered to me & I have accepted and will start for the bay in the course of a few days for my instruments re Mr Kilminster in the meantime will conduct a branch store for us. After completing the survey we will resume our search for the precious metal providing we have a little rain.

I am glad to hear that "Larry" has grown such a dear companion, he really must be a beautiful dog by this time unless my memory fails. I think they are as large as a pony almost, at six months old age. You say that you "take him for long walks" but you don't mention how many rests you give him. Don't you remember taking him for a walk one morning but the poor fellow would get tired and require a

a rest occasionally, neither did you inform me if he knows how to behave himself when he is being photo-graphed, I am awfully sorry that I failed to get a good photo of him while so young as no doubt it would be a contrast to a photo of him now.

When I started this note I had an awful lot of news to tell you but now it has flown from my memory and the mailman is just making preparations for his return to Esperance.

I must thank you and Mrs Ray for your kind wishes and ask you to kindly return the compliment to your mother.

I had a letter from Arthur by the mail and he appears to be in his usual health and spirits but I think he must be a little lonely at night. I did not like the idea of leaving him and am looking forward to being with him again shortly.

How are you progressing with your practising, you must be nearly perfect by now. I would give a lot to hear you play the "Gondoliers" again. But I must say goodbye as the mail is ready and there will not be another for a whole month.

Trusting the mater has recovered from her cold & is now enjoying good health with yourself.

P.S. I will send you a few photos on arrival at the bay.

Yours sincerely  
Raymond Sharkey