

Fraternidad,
Fosfin Olmos,
Por Vena
Pcia Sta Fe.

Archivo
Nacional de
la Memoria

Dear Mummy,

Hope you are all keeping well I got the last letters after the wedding of Liam & Kitty with Money etc. Thanks. I also had a letter from Marie Fitzpatrick saying she was going to see you before coming. I imagine when you receive this letter, that will have happened. I should have told you not to give her very much to bring out as they are coming hitching etc. However I'm sure you were aware when you met her & her boy. I'm looking forward to seeing them both. In my last years at Maynooth I was friendly with a Dublin group which she formed part. I think the change will do them well as it is necessary to get a bit from Belfast in order to see things in more perspective.

I was delighted that Liam & Kitty Wedding went off without hitches - I'm sure they are now happily settled down in their house. (I keep forgetting where it is (Ballymore?)). So you met Jack Corkery - he is a really fine fellow - He had heart trouble always but I imagine he is well. If you see him again give him my best wishes. We were in the same class in Maynooth together. Since a month ago I am in Olmos. I am now working with another helping to set up a Carpentry workshop. Sorry for the delay in sending this letter. I am now working it Sunday 8th Sept. As I was saying I am now working with another in order to establish this carpentry. The machines were paid with money from Belgium. We have an old motor like the motor of the old allis chambers we had at home. It is nice work here as there is a lot of very fine wood here. There is a type of mahogany that is very good for making chairs & tables. Outside of that on weekends I have the usual parish work. Yesterday in our town here we have a wedding with Mass. It really was very nice as the people here very seldom marry according to the Law & in that Church. They were 3 young couples & one who were fixing up their marriage. The nice thing was the simplicity of everything. As the people here are usually very poor it doesn't even occur to them to marry in white - most times the wife doesn't even have a ring but there is a great deal of unity among the people. After the wedding the meal we had was organised by the 4 couples in one house & it really was very impressive. There was any amount of food especially meat - goat meat - pork etc. a famous dish here is roast meat which is roasted with the skin of the animal as natural. They stretch the pieces of meat on a stick upright near a fire (burning coals) with the skin away from the fire. It really is very juicy in that way.

The weather is still cold here - They are frosts almost every night & spring hasn't really begun as yet. We are now 3 here - one the Italian Mario Giffa who was with me here last year & a new brother Jose Alvarez from the island of Santo Domingo who was with me earlier this year in La Rioja & in the South. He finds life here in this area still fairly strange but then this area is very special - the people especially. As they usually work alone in the forests here axing timber with very poor wages & in very difficult physical conditions - very hot in Summer, cold in winter - they are very downtrodden - the same as the tinkers - some even live from the hunting of other type animals & deal with their skins - of Agriculture they know very little. Really they survive on a level of life which is very primitive and really inhuman. The government keep making promises but really their situation hasn't change that much for the better in the last year or 2 of Peronist Government. They are an awful lot of vested interests. For instance there is a farm here which if you put the wire fence around it on a straight line it would stretch from Bs As to ~~La Plata~~ ~~in~~ Bolivia. and they are some 6,000 head of cattle on that farm. The charges here will have to very big if ~~Peronism~~ ~~to be~~ the poor are to be given a real change here in Argentina & Argentina is hardly the best off of the Latin American Countries.

How is everyone at home I am looking forward to seeing Man & Alan as they will give me all the news. Here in Argentina things are quite unstable especially in Bs As but here everything is quiet. Thank Dennis for his letter. I hope he got on well in the Inter. I had a letter a short while back from Garret, he is keeping well although he is a bit on his own there in New Guinea. Of Brazil I haven't heard anything in ages. I think Frank Korn & all the old friends are well. Here we have a visit of a brother Javier of our congregation - he is French. The majority are French or Italian in the Group but really we are few - that give us the advantage of getting to know one another very well. Then we have about 1/3 of the brothers who are priests.

I got the papers you sent. If you are sending on other papers you could send on in the papers a small ruler - of 1 foot. Here timber is measured in feet & inches but one cannot get a ruler. Give my best wishes to all. On Oct 15 - I am going to La Rioja - I will be there until 15 of Dec. That is in Suniaco, San Blas de los Sauces, La Rioja. Will write again soon - God Bless all L - your fond son 