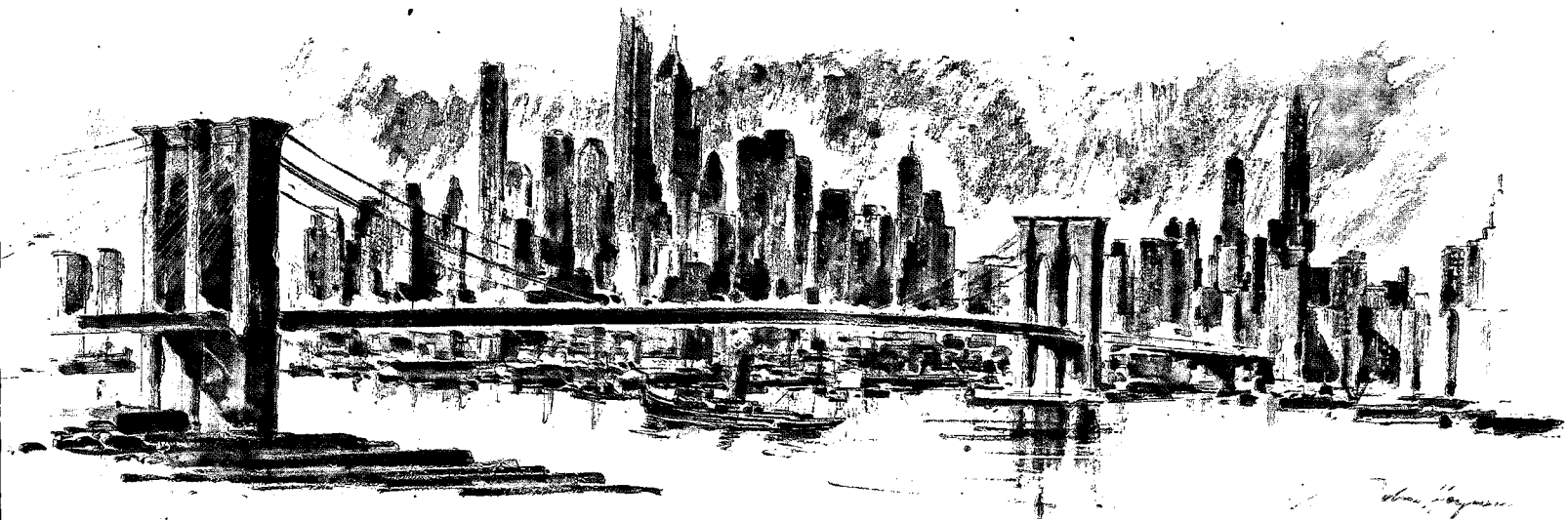


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BY THE FOREERS

*Custom Cards*



*Seasons Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year*

SHIRLEY and BRUCE HYLAND  
59 Weequahic Avenue  
Newark, New Jersey



Candeub, Fleissig & Associates Community Planning & Urban Renewal Consultants

117 Liberty Street • New York 6, N. Y. • COrtlandt 7-3440

59 Weequahic Ave,  
Newark,  
New Jersey,  
United States of America  
December 26th, 1961.

Dear George,

Nice to hear from you and glad to know things are going well. I have finished my course work at Cornell and am now, theoretically, working on my thesis. Actually, I have been so busy that I've hardly had time to do anything on it and at the present rate, I doubt whether I'll ever finish it. I'm now working with CFA who are the biggest urban renewal consultants in the country and I'm getting the picture on renewal here. I am monumentally unimpressed. The one thing I am impressed with is the \$8,500 a year they are paying me in easy fortnightly instalments. When I think of earning about \$5000 back in Sydney, it makes me wonder whether I would stay permanently here if it could be arranged.

We think New York the most tremendous place we have ever seen and we try to get in frequently. Fortunately, it is only 25 minutes from our apartment to the Port Authority Terminal so we are conveniently situated and we have subscriptions to the Symphony of the Air concerts and the Cinema 16 Film Society so we are pretty well fixed for entertainment. We try to get in once every couple of weeks to a show but we've been so busy what with Xmas and all that we haven't been in for a while.

We have also bought ourselves a Cadillac convertible, a television set and a few other necessities and hope to get a stereo record player and an outboard motor before we leave — we're really livin' it up, man. Haven't seen a hell of a lot of the country although we've pretty well blanketed the north-east, including Montreal and Quebec, and I may see a bit more because the firm moves me about here and there — anywhere from St. Louis to Boston. We have offices all over so it's possible I might even get back to California one day.

Saw Nigel while he was here. As a matter of fact, he dropped in to Cornell to say hello and I later met him in New York and drove him out to Radburn. I understand Charles O'Connell is over here now and I hope to get his address in case I get to Chicago.

January 8th.

I've been trying to find time to finish this letter but in the last week or so I've been in Massachusetts and three towns in up-state New York. My wife doesn't care for it in the least. Day after tomorrow I'm off again so I must get this away. Since I wrote the previous page I've had a letter from Charles O'Connell in San Francisco. Apparently, he has been looking for a job but without success and is now coming to New York to try to find something. I don't imagine there were no jobs offering in S.F. seeing what a shortage there is of planners but he must be looking for something special.

Had a notice from the Australian Commission (or something or other) in New York that "due to the intense interest" in the Rockies project, they had extended the closing date. Does this mean that nobody has bothered to submit a proposal? Now that I see how developers are barred in America, I'm not surprised. Who'd want to go to all the trouble involved in the Rockies when there is plenty of easier money to be made.

My opinion of the American urban renewal legislation is abysmal. Nothing but a ramp to put the public's money into the pockets of the real estate operators. I always refer to the law as the Slum Subsidy Act which enlarges Americans no end. Of course, all the authorities we deal with are hopeless so it's not surprising the general standard of the work is so bad. You could count the really good urban renewal projects on one hand. I did inspect the Miss Van der Roke project here in Newark and thought it a very shoddy piece of work. At that, it is hundreds of times better than any of the others. I understand Pei has just completed two new apartment houses which are highly spoken of but I haven't seen them.

We are driving down to Philadelphia again this weekend to see some friends - weather permitting. Today is the coldest day for the past twelve months and they are predicting snow. Oddly enough, we've only had one really substantial snowfall this winter and that was on Xmas Eve. Last winter was one of the worst on record and it's something of a contrast. Many people, too, said that the Fall of '60 was the most colorful they had ever seen. I did get some photographs but, unfortunately, lost a whole spool of movie film when it jammed in the camera. This was before I replaced the Contaflex I lost in Honolulu. This year I did get some photographs but the colors weren't as good and for a lot of the season I hadn't replaced the Contaflex I lost in Quebec.

Must get this in the mail. Hope to hear from you.

Bruce

November 6th, 1961

Bruce Hyland  
448 North Geneva Street  
Ithica  
N. Y., U.S.A.

How are you getting on? I imagine that you have had a wonderfully stimulating year, and that you are enjoying it immensely. I would very much like to hear something about your work and how you have reacted to the States.

Have you completed your course at Cornell? Are you working? Travelling? Have you any plans for your return to Sydney?

Things here change slowly, and some change for the better. We are inundated with work, and I spend most of my days, nights and week-ends in the office, so there's not much else for me to write of just now, except that I am now the father of two children.

I assume that you met Nigel on his travels. How did he react to the States?

Before I write you a proper, longer, letter, please drop me a few lines, giving your latest address and your latest news.

With warm regards to your wife.

Sincerely,

George Clarke.