##### 1964-04-05- Necochea-Transcription

April 5, 1964

Dear Folks,

Well, I have let the time slip by again without writing again. I really have been busy. The day I wrote the last letter, I was told I was changing branches. The next day I packed and got on a bus and traveled south for 19 hours to a resort town on the coast in southern part of the Mission by the name of Necochea. That is where my branch is now. The town is of about 30,000 and its main industry is tourist. The branch is small, around 80 with 90-95 active [percentage?]. My companion is the branch president. His name is William Ward from Huntington, California, just outside of L.A. He is 29 and has 2 months left of his mission. He really is a wonderful guy and has a real testimony of the Gospel.

Well, I just was getting to know the branch and the tow (about a week later) and one of the Z.C. came down from Mar del Plata to say that he was going to work with my companion for a week and I was to go to Mar del to work with his companion. Well, that is where I am now. We work her Wed, Thurs, & Friday. Friday night we took off to visit the branches and see how everything was going. We went to Tandil, Azul & Olavarria which are Northwest of Mar del Plata. They are about the same size branches as Necochea except Tandil, which is larger. Also in the south there are branches at Tres Arroyos and Bahia Blanca. We are on the bus for around 12 hrs in all and stay one night at Olavarria and one at Tandil.

The people down here are different than those in the north. I can’t explain the difference but there is one. The people are generally richer here than in the north and because of the tourist trade are more modern. For example: in the north hardly anyone has running hot water in every tap but here it is common and there are more cars here than in the north.

I saw my first mountains while I was traveling the Z.C. over by Tandil. They remind me of some of those in Nevada, except the whole land is wetter.

Mar del Plata is a town of around 125,000 now but a month ago there was supposed to have been over a 1,000,000, but now it is fall and they have all left. Hotels, homes, businesses all have closed down with the change in weather.

I finally finished the roll of film I had in the camera and when I get some money I will send it home to be developed. It is a 36 picture roll and Kodak. They don’t develop States film down here.

The missionary work is coming along fine. They were supposed to have baptized a man in Necochea this week and there were baptisms in two or three of the other branches in the south.

I sometimes wonder if I am doing something wrong or if I ust haven’t had the opportunity with baptisms yet because one of the Elders that came down with me has had six already and that means 12 between him and his companion.

I guess it is not for me to say but for the Lord to decide who is ready and who is not.

I haven’t received any mail in quite a while because of the move and now me being up here and my mail in Necochea so how is everybody? I hope that the kids are coming along and improving in school. I finally received a letter from Ilene & Terry but they are really busy, I guess.

We heard part of Conference tonight in Spanish but the power went off before it was over so we didn’t hear much. I guess we will have to wait till July or August when we will receive our five Era’s to find out everything about Conference.

I am running out of things to say now so I will close for now, but maybe I can think of something else tomorrow before I mail it.

April 6 – Well, I can’t think of anything else to say so I will close really now.

Remember I love you all so very much and my prayers are always for your safety and health.

Love always,

Gary