

Banff, Alberta.  
Wed. Aug. 1, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

We are leaving to-morrow for the trail hike and I thought it better to write now so you will know where we are if you don't hear again for five or six days. We are in the usual final rush of seeing this person and that, the one time a telephone would be handy. We expect to walk in to-morrow noon, the Moores are riding and Carl Runguis and the Wards are also going along. the rest of the 40 people will walk in the next day. We come down again on Monday.

I am so sorry that Russ and Kitty had fog the last part of the cruise, but perhaps better than in the beginning, We were thinking all the time it must be such good weather with a drought going on, but never thought of it being foggy at the same time.

To-day we went up to the Banff Springs hotel for lunch with Mr Gibbon followed by a meeting which took most all afternoon. We were supposed to be making final decisions on things but really we didn't do a great deal but agree to what was mentioned.

Supper is nearly ready and I must do a few things. This hardly seems worth sending by air-mail but otherwise you won't get it until next week,

I nearly forgot, your letter about Louise Blymeyer and Allen Newbury came to-day. how awfully nice for them both, I am so glad, some how I wondered all along if it would turn out that way, for both their letters sort of reflected their fondness for each other, if you know what I mean. I am also glad that Allen got a job to his liking.

Lots of love to you and tell Jean I will thank her for her nice letters soon, but I guess you always let her read mine to you. More love -

Catherine

The trail hike is in the Sturgeon Valley  
near Temple Chait.

Banff, Alberta.  
Tuesday, Aug. 8, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

We got back from the Trail Hike last night quite late, and this morning feel a bit weary from the four days of Hikers. There were more than usual on the trip this year, and I think they all had rather a good time. The first day we nearly died of heat, including horse flies and mosquitoes, and then the following night we had snow, not very much but the ground was covered in the morning. and the last night in camp we had a heavy frost, enough to freeze nearly an inch of ice on the water in our wash basin, it got as low as 26.

This morning there were three letters from you and one from Jean at the store for us, and we were glad to hear how very much you enjoyed your time in Manchester, and also that in the end Russ and Kitty had good weather to sail home in.

About the present for Anna Winton. there is no use my getting any thing here, for she would have to pay just as much duty on it from Canada as she would from the states, and most any thing appropriate comes from England any way, so I am sending the check back and if you like you can get a money order at the post office and send it air mail (about 30 cents it costs) to her and she can get something real nice in Scotland with it.

Yes the two parcels arrived and I guess in the rush I may have forgotten to mention them. We loved the Studio, next time if it isn't too much trouble could you either put a card in saying, "a present for you" or better still, could you direct it in your own hand writing, for then the customs man just stamps it duty free without opening it. This time it came from the binding place, and so I had to go up to the customs office and tell him it was a present from you and not worth more than five dollars. He thought that I had ordered the book myself as there was nothing to show it was a gift. He was very nice and took my word about it, so there was no duty. The Indian book was very interesting and I am going to lend it to the little boys. The New Yorker we had seen as Barbara takes it, and we had just read the article you marked.

Allen Newbury is working as an engineer in the Accounting Department of the New Orleans Public Service.

The Colin Wyatts leave today, and I expect they will be coming round any minute, and there are lots of things as usual to do.

Loads of love,

Catherine .

Banff, Alberta.  
Wed. August 9, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

There are lots of letters from you to answer, and I always like to read them over another time and then I am not as apt to forget what I wanted to remark on ~~the~~ after the first reading. I guess we cut out the same kind of clippings for some you have sent back, I sent the one about the seal. We love Dahls in the Boston Herald.

The back of the house must look very nice now it is all fixed up. What a mess workman can make when they are doing such a job, it was lucky you could be away during it all.

We had a card from Mrs Wayman from Kyoto saying she is starting home via Europe, I will enclose it if I think of it. She has found four of Grandpa's old pupils still living. but I guess she told you all about it.

Don't worry, I write to you because I like too, and not as a duty. but I imagine they are very irregular in arriving as some go in two days and the others in four. A letter mailed in London England on Friday at noon, reaches Calgary on Monday morning. *by Air mail now -*

We had quite a day yesterday, In the first place we were very weary from the trail hike, and then it was one of ~~the~~ those days when every one under the sun drops in, nothing important but just to see us about something. Cliff and Hans Faulkner were on their way to meet an English lady on the noon train, Then as we started lunch Sam Ward came in and before he had left or we had finished lunch George Eisenshimel came in with a young skier from Tocomo Washington who he wanted us to meet, They have been climbing at Mt Assinboine. He is the one who came last fall, and who we saw later at the coast and who had lunch with Russell in Boston. Then Mrs MacDonald came down to see if she could bring some friends to see the pictures, A Mr and Mrs Banks, English but who live in San Francisco and in London when they are not in New Guinea, flying into their Gold mine. I believe it is the only way to get there, the natives are really cannibals but are becoming very civilized. They came down about five thirty and were hear until suppertime. They were awfully attractive people and great fun, had spent a lot of time in Honolulu, and were interested in our sketches. Mr Banks told us "the Missioaries had gone to Hoholulu to do good, and had done well!"

The Wyatts had come down with us the night before and left for the coast last night, Mary also came down in the afternoon for a little while, and they all wanted to come down in the evening to play Tiroler Music, Colin plays a "squeeze box" as he calls it, and yodels too. Hans and George and his friend and Carl Rungius and Herman would have come too, but we felt that not only would it disturb the neighbors, for it is rather loud music, but as they were going on the one something train in the early morning, it would be a late evening for us, and we would be all in to-day, so we put them off. and I believe they had quite a time at the hotel.

We are now waiting for Cliff to bring down the English lady. Loads of love

*Catharine -*

Banff, Alberta  
Wed. Aug. 10, 1939.

Dearest Mother.

Another lovely day and we are back in town again. It really is funny the way things go, We would have been out sketching last week after the trail hike, and then a girl at the hotel wanted to see Pete's sketches and pick one out as a wedding present for a friend, so that was the reason we had to be here ~~th~~ Thursday night as it was the only time they could come down. Then we thought that to use our time to good advantage we would make a portrait in a couple of days of Mary Macdonald, so started that and it took us far longer than we thought, so Sunday we decided to start out Monday, and when we went up to the Hotel that evening we got Backed into and a big dent in the fender, It took most of Monday to fix it and then we found something wrong with the fuel pump or some part in the engine, and it took part of Tuesday morning to fix that, so it was eleven by the time we had ~~ed~~ west. We noticed a cloud coming up but didn't think it really meant much, there was a lot of smoke too in the air from distant fires. Well, it got cloudier all the time and when we reached Lake Louise it was quite overcast, Pete had a few letters which were to go to Temple and so he went over to Jim Boyce's shack with them and heard from Jim that the Links were coming to Lake Louise that day and going to Skoki with him the next day. so we thought as the weather was too dull for painting or photography that we would drive to Wapta and surprise them, however we got the surprise for after a sandwich in the car we drove up to Wapta and found that they had come down early in the morning and were already at Louise! Back we went and did a bit of looking round and it wasn't long before they appeared. We had great fun seeing each other again, and they evidently had been doing some boosting for us, While the man in charge of Hotels and Camps west of Kenora, Mr Chester was at O'Hara and talking to them about improving the place and one thing or another, they spoke of some decorating that Pete and Mr Macdonald used to talk of doing long ago on the walls in some panels, and one thing led to another, and it ended by Mr Chester wanting Pete to do a picture for over the mantle. The Links could hardly wait to tell us about it and told Pete Mr Chester was in the hotel and suggested Pete call him up, which Pete did, and Mr Chester said he would drop in some time to-day and talk it over. So back we came to Banff just missing getting caught in the rain all the way home. and then it went and cleared off last night and never even rained a drop here. So to-day is lovely and we have been at home all day and no sign of Mr Chester. We are wondering if he is just too busy or has forgotten. It doesn't matter so much for we had promised to be here to-morrow any way, as George Noble the photographer, asked Pete if he would go around with the man who George studied photography with years ago in England. he is coming through Banff To-morrow. but after that we are free. Pete also laid in a Ski decoration for over a mantle, this afternoon so the day wasn't really lost. Probably Mr Chester won't come at all.

Loads of Love  
Catharine

P.S. I'm enclosing a note for Joan -

Banff, Alberta  
Mon. Aug. 14, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

I started to write you a letter yesterday and then had to call it off. We were going out to-day for a trip, but last night went up to the Banff Springs Hotel to see a girl about a picture she wants to buy, and while we were talking to her in the court yard, a Brewster Bus backed into our left front mud guard, put a nice dent into it, and now it is over at the garage being fixed, so maybe it will be to-morrow before we get away. The weather is lovely too, has been all week with some forest fire smoke making it hazy. I bet as soon as we go out it will cloud up and rain.

This last week we have been working on a portrait of Mary Macdonald, she is 17 and has a sweet face and poses better than any one we have ever painted. With the result we couldn't seem to get a good likeness at all. Pete's came out pretty well but mine never did get finished, I think I tried too hard. Every time I try hard to do any thing I miss completely, that was the trouble with golf, the harder I tried to hit the ball, the more apt I was not to hit it at all. We worked for four mornings and mine got steadily worse, but perhaps we can do her again later.

We were awfully interested to hear about Ebbs and Anne house hunting, I can't tell which School house you mean the house they are looking at is opposite. Of course there is the one the Howes made into their house, and then there is another I remember beyond Carlisle on the way to Westford or New Hampshire. and perhaps that is the one, do draw a map of the general location if you have a chance.

I never told you much about the Trail Hike, but in a way there wasn't much to tell. We walked in on Thursday which was the day before the thing really started. The Moores road in on horse back and the Sam Wards and Carl Rungius and Miss Boos also went in that afternoon. It was a lovely day but very warm. The camp was right near the Halfway cabin in the Ptarmigan Valley. a nice place to be. The first evening was lots of fun, for we all knew each other and sat around the Moores Teepee fire and talked and laughed and had a very amusing evening. Next day was even hotter and we did a good deal of sitting around in shady spots, the flies and mosquitoes being thick. the Wyatts also appeared and stayed until evening when Cliff and Hans came up bringing Colin's accordion, and they entertained the whole crowd with yodeling and dancing in the true Austrian Manner. That afternoon we went on a short walk to Hidden Lake a lovely spot only a half mile from the camp. Some fished but only one girl caught any, and that was Mrs. Bennett. She was there with with some others not connected with the hike. There was also another party out, a young lad named Watris, and his two guides. they gave us some wonderful fish the first night which we had for supper. By the time we got back that evening the rest of the Hikers had arrived, there were about 45 in all. The next day was cloudy and dull, a little rain and by evening it poured, during the night it turned colder and there was snow on the ground by morning. However we were lucky for the next day was perfect though rather cold, We didn't do much hiking

Most of the Hikers that go are the kind that dawdle and it is very tiresome walking with them. Monday we walked out and again it was hot, then there was the sing song at Lake Louise and we met the Wyatts and drove them down to Banff.

Pete just brought a letter back from you, about Dr. Chamberlain. we are so sorry and it was quite a shock to us, for in your last letter you mentioned going with him to see the house in Carlisle. I remember your saying how sick he had been last winter. We just heard that Anton Baumann who took colored pictures with the leica, and who we went to Lake Oshara with last summer, was killed this summer. He evidently fell while getting an unusual shot with his camera. He was just a young man too.

If the car is finished in time we are going out this afternoon so I will send this along.

Loads of love to you all.

Catherine -

P.S. Pete showed the clipping you sent to the grocery man, the one about eating carrots to improve your sight for night driving. He replied by telling Pete that some kind of mayonnaise is excellent for eczema! Can you imagine anything messier to rub on! & surely too -

Banff, Alberta.  
Sat, Aug. 19, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

It looks now as if we might get out to-morrow, it really is almost a joke how things go, I think I told you about the old Photographer from England who Pete had promised George Noble to take around. He is the man that George worked for in the old country before coming to Canada, and he seemed very anxious that Pete would drive him around. He couldn't go himself, and he has been so nice to us that Pete was glad to do it for him. The Gentleman was to have arrived on Thursday, but he decided to stop off in Lake Louise on the way through and so didn't come until last evening, Pete went over this morning at ten and they evidently decided as it was such a lovely day they would go to Bow Lakes, so Pete just came back to tell me and change his shoes and off they went. However it won't delay us as much as it might for now Pete can see how things are up there, and what the chances are of getting a cabin for a few days if we want to go up there, which we had thought of doing this week. Of course had we known earlier he wouldn't arrive until to-day, we could have been out painting all this week. However Pete was able to make a frame which he had to have before the tenth of September, and otherwise we might have had to return to do that.

The Magazine, (Atlantid Monthly) arrived and I was awfully interested in Miss de Mier's article, weren't you? I know you said that you often wondered where her family had come from, but I never thought the story would be so romantic. She wrote it so well too. Didn't you say that she lives in the Colonial Inn now? I wonder if she has ever been to Columbia. I will also look up the article's in the New Yorker, you spoke of.

I am glad to hear that Ebbs and Anne have settled on a house and that it is the one you and Dr Chamberlain had looked at, it will be nice to have them near, and you must tell me how near, will they be in it before Cousin Bert and Alma come? I don't believe the Chamberlain family seems any larger or more numerous than our family of cousins did to Pete at first. When you wrote about them all being there I couldn't help but think how nice it would ~~be~~ have been could they have been together before Dr Chamberlain died, for he would have enjoyed it all so much, but isn't that the way with things, however they did all see each other at the time of the wedding last fall. I never realized before that Mrs Chamberlain came from Los Angeles. Pete said that the Bixbys are a well known family there.

We had a heavy frost last night and it is cool but sunny, perhaps it will be an early fall, some trees are starting to turn already.

On the hike we walk but the camp is set up by using pack horses to get the things in, and some people who enjoy the camp but who don't go on the hikes ride in on horse back.

About the Studio, it would be alright if the Rose Bindery people would do it up as a personal parcel, with out having the name Rose Bindery written on the out side. May be some one could direct it in long hand and then in the corner

say from "so and so ". or if they do it up as they did before you could give them a card to put inside, " to Catharine from Mother " that might be the best.

Yes I got the invitation to Louise 's wedding also to Jack Mcloeds daughters wedding.

I was interrupted once, The Bowmans who have a boy's school in Litchfield Conn. and who have been here for their second summer, have decided to build a log house and heard this morning that they could get the property they want, so they came down to take pictures of our house this morning, just to show the family back east that people do live in such places. They are a most attractive couple and came down for the first time the other day, to see the inside. While we were talking Mrs Bowman asked if I came from Boston, and it seems that she came out the year before me, I didn't like to ask her maiden name, but she knows Julia Kidder very well and went to Windsors, so if I have a chance I must ask her. They seem to like our house the best of any, which is nice.

I have been busy mounting slides, colored ones we took Indian days, they came out pretty well, some the best we have. it takes me nearly an afternoon to mount one roll and we have ten rolls. I shall do some now.

Loads of love to you all, I can imagine what fun it will be having the family at the farm again.

More love

Catharine -

Banff, Alberta

Tues, Aug. <sup>2</sup>26, 1939,

Dearest Mother,

I can't seem to find the larger paper, but I guess this will do. This letter from Mrs Wayman came yesterday, she does write in such an interesting way and it was more so for us as we also went along the railway to see the monument but not with so many to escort us! I shall be anxious to read the book, I like the way she links things up.

Thanks for the map of the location of Ebbs house, when you spoke of the school on the hill I kept thinking of the little district schools that used to always sit up on a hill, and that was why I got mixed. now I know pretty well where it is. though of course I can't remember the house.

To-day we are having the new electric hot water heater put in. it was supposed to be here weeks ago but got put off in Winnipeg and lost for a time, if it works it will be fine. it isn't very large, 42 inches high and about three feet broad, and fits in the bathroom half way under the eave. The tank itself isn't as large, for there is a good thickness of insulation around it. There is a thermostat control so that the water is kept at a certain temperature all the time, it will be grand to never have to think of hot water and always have it. We were lucky to get the plumber for today, as he was supposed to go to Temple to put the bathrooms in, but the men are working on the road and it is better to wait until they can haul the stuff up by car.

We were so sorry to hear about Mrs Dexter, I didn't realize that she was so ill.

Robin must be so cunning and very lively. I don't suppose you have any snap shots of him. We liked the one of you and Gale even if you two did look a bit bored. Pete seemed to think the station wagon in the back ground also interesting!

We were going up to Bow Lakes this week, but Sunday Pete's father wasn't as well and we were glad that we weren't away. though there isn't much we can do he seems to like to feel we are near. In a way he has been gradually growing weaker but his spirits are wonderful, he has practically lost the use of his legs and yet can still walk a tiny bit very very slowly, and hates to be helped, he would rather take ten minutes to walk from one room to the other than take anyones arm, it is something to do with co-ordinating, for a long time he has had sort of spells of shaking and not being able to stop it, like his arm or his leg trembling for a minute or two. but now it has gotten to the stage where he can't make his legs and arms do what he wants them to do. The hardest part is that he doesn't sleep well and only rarely sleeps all night, he can't turn over in bed without being lifted, and yet he still gets up and sits out doors when he can, He has spells of feeling so weak you would think he could hardly live more than a few days, and yet after a good rest he is up and around again.

It is always hard for a person who has never been sick in his life to feel he can't do things, Though his body is getting so weak the remarkable part is that his memory ~~and~~ is so good and his mind so active, But it is hard on the family who would all like to help and yet there is nothing to be done.

Maybe we will stay in Banff for awhile and see how things go, there is plenty we can do, and we would never forgive ourselves if we were away and were needed.

I am enclosing a few rather amusing things, We loved the cartoon about eating carrots especially after getting the clópping first.

Loads of love

Catharine /

Banff, Alberta.

Fri. Aug. 25. 1939.

Dearest Mother,

This has been rather a hard week on all the family, and none of us has done much but go up and down between houses and listen to the radio. Pete's Father seems to grow weaker all the time and also has sort of spells, which are pretty bad, it is pathetic as his spirits are still suprisingly good, and he speaks of the time when he is able to go over to the store etc. His nights are the worst, for he sleeps little and often has to get up with a pain he has, he has to be lifted and yet he doesn't want a nurse or anyone but Mom to be there, so it is all very difficult. We all would like so to help and yet none of us can do much,

There isn't much to write for we have done nothing but wait around. The European Crisis doesn't help much and right now there is so much static from a thunder storm that we can only catch bits of news in between.

We were much interested in your letter about the cows, how maddening it must be to have the garden ruined just as the vegetables are getting ripe. It must have been exciting during the round up, it is too bad that Ebbs couldn't have been on hand on a horse to help in the true western manner.

I must go over town now for ~~some~~ some things and will mail this.

Heaps of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.  
Mon. 28. Aug. 1939.

Dearest Mother,

Things are about the same here, It is pretty hard on the family and there is so little we can do. Every time any member of the family appears at the door, we think it is the end, for Pete's father has had some very weak spells, and then next thing we know he is feeling better, but we all know he can't live very much longer. One night we will think he is better and go to bed with fairly free minds, so to speak, and then in the morning find it was a bad night for them. then like last night he seemed so weak, and Pete tried to sleep in his cloths, and this morning with all of us not sleeping we find they slept all night. and so it goes, I think that is one of the hard parts the uncertainty, and yet with it all Papa is so bright when he isn't dozing.

We have been making meals for them as they seem to eat what we take up, which is amusing, but it is nice to be able to help even a little. There isn't much to write for we haven't been off the place all week except one night we went for a short drive,

This is just to let you know how things are and I will try to write in a day or too.

Loads of love

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.  
Thurs. Aug. 31, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

I expect there will be a letter from you in the mail to-day, some of the trains have been taken off and so the mail may be delayed, and so I shall just start this letter so there will be more to send when I send it.

Pete's father is about the same, perhaps a little weaker, he is in bed all the time and dozes a good deal, yet last night when Pete saw him he was very bright and even joking, and still interested in everything. The first of last week about ten days ago he was still able to go out doors on Mon. and Tues. then he didn't feel well enough for that ~~and~~ but still wanted to walk into the kitchen, he was restless and not very comfortable in bed, but we think he used too much strength trying to show he wasn't sick, then by Sunday he was willing to eat lunch in the bedroom, but now he eats in bed I guess, The Doctors keep saying that he won't be here more than a day or two, a week at the most, yet I believe the week is up since that was said, We think that now that he has given up trying to be up now and then, and has had more rest, that he is really a little stronger, yet there are times when he is very weak, and his blood pressure is very high, Five years ago ~~the~~ one Doctor told the family that he had about six months to live, so at that rate he might live a while yet, It is hard to know what to do, we don't like to go away for more than a few hours at a time. Jackie is the same, he hasn't been to the store this week, and had just ~~to~~ decided to go yesterday

when Doctor Atkins said he thought he had better stay around as he didn't see how Papa could last more than two days, I haven't heard how he is this morning, Pete is up there now. We wanted them to have a nurse, but Mom feels that she can do everything for him and wants to do it all, We all feel that it is too much for her and also it would be so much easier for us all if we knew someone was there, so she wouldn't be alone. Mrs Bret, who is an old friend and a nurse, has been sleeping in the house at night now for four or five nights.

Pete came back to say that his father had slept all night and all morning and still wants to sleep, so perhaps he just won't wake up one of these slæeps, which would be the best way for him and all.

Your Sat. letter came telling about the Gorham visit, and I am so glad that everything is going so well there, it must have seemed strange in a way to be there without Aunt Mary and Aunt Nela, but of course for so many years it hasn't seemed the same as it used too, and Florence was there so long that she would seem part of the family, I am so happy for Uncle Marshall.

We were so sorry to hear that Russ is sick again, and wish we could be there to cheer him up, I don't wonder that you say " if I see YOU " ( I didn't mean the 'yeu' to have capitals ) for it does seem as if we never would get east. but after this there won't be much to keep us here, It may be an early fall too, and in that case the trees will turn soon, we do want to get a little concentrated paintëng in of the fall

effects, the larch and the aspens, and then we might get east in time for the color there in October. The last month has been hard for us to get much done, and now with the prospects of a War the outlook isn't too cheerful.

Our hot water is wonderful and we can hardly believe it, it makes everything so easy, and the electric stove is also a wonder, I am almost a cook, but my repertoire is very limited.

Our Mushrooms are growing so fast that we have a hard time picking them and keep the whole family supplied.

This will be all for now,  
Loads of love

Catharine .

Banff, Alberta.  
Canada.  
Fri. Sept. 1, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

What a day this is! We woke this morning to hear news boys shouting, and I said to Pete, it must mean war, he wasn't so sure but it is the first time I have ever known the evening paper to get out an extra in the morning, for of course our papers come from Calgary. In a moment our news boy was knocking at the door, and we had a page of the nights happenings, also a couple of pages of last nights paper. From then on we have been almost glued to the radio, I never got the bed made until after lunch, for the minute I got upstairs another bulletin would be on the radio, We listened to a British news report from London about Mr Chamberlains in the parliament and the White Paper etc. you probably were doing the same, it lasted an hour. Pete listened to it up at his mothers as he and Jackie are taking turns being there all the time, Pete's father is so weak this morning they don't think it will be long now, I have had the feeling all along that he would die as war was declared, his ups and downs have corresponded with the European situation so closely, even when news was more encouraging this last week so was his condition. I hope I am wrong and neither happens, though I don't see much hope of England keeping out of it now. I think Hitler and his advisers have gone crazy.

I don't suppose you ever listen to the radio in the morning when they have the worst programs imagineable, we call them "soap Programs" for some are serial stories acted out, the rest are

advertising patent medicine or cooking ingredients, However for the news bulletins one must suffer the music etc. This morning there was a regular news bulletin of the C.B.C. given in the usual serious voice and certainly the news this morning wasn't very encouraging. It had hardly finished when there <sup>was</sup> a flourish of music and a silly voice, "this is the Happy Gang" you can imagine the kind of songs they sang, and how incongruous it all sounded when the serious voice would brake in from time to time to give a news flash from Europe. After the long broadcast this morning the following program was a bit more appropriate, "ex-lax for headaches!"

Pete came back for lunch ~~for~~ at twelve and we had hardly started some soup when Mark Pocette dropped in. He is the old Indian who does the chicken dance and who Pete's portrait is of, the one you gave Ebbs. His wife died last year, but Mark really looks younger than he did and better, he had his little girl with him, one he adopted as a baby, he lives with the ~~day~~ mothers family, I think some relation. Any way they arrived quite hungry, so we made some soup for them, and luckily had a roast to help out and some beans so they did quite well, While they were eating Beverly Herbert, a young boy who is out here painting this summer, he comes from the east and hasn't read the papers all summer, ~~so~~ came over to ask us what we thought of the news, and what Canada was likely to do. we couldn't tell him much. We listened to more news flashes, and Mark asked Pete. "they shoot each other yet?" Pete had to go up to his Mother's so Jackie could eat and the rest went too, Mark had brought us presents, a necklace of

eagle claws and some mocasins to me. He also said that there was a big fire near Morely, " Little Red Deer " that is the name of the valley, " 40 Indians go, maybe Mark go too " we asked him if he was going to fight the fire too, and he said "no, White man pay Mark, he pray for rain, maybe Mark go Monday " I guess maybe he thinks his prayers are more apt to be answered then.

Your Monday letter came this morning, I am glad that Russ is feeling better, but sorry that you have had hay fever again, I suppose this is the time of year.

I guess I had better do some thing else except sit by the radio which is what I am doing now, and there hasn't been a flash since I started this letter. There have already been several calls for certain men in the army corps to report to-night at the armory for a bit of marching, and also for R.C.M.P. reserves or something. Most people here are more interested to know how it all will affect them, than anything else. It is remarkable how the veterens are volunteering as experienced men, though a while ago they seemed to feel they never would let them selves get into another war, yet it is the same thing over again, they are all eager to go to the aid of the old country, the young people seem less eager to be involved. We haven't gotten nearly as serious as we felt last year, largely because there have been so many "crisis" since last September, and also because we have been so concerned about Pete's father.

Saturday-- Well this morning seems a bit more encouraging, at least there aren't as many news reports. Maybe Hitler will feel he has saved face with his own country if he has got Danzig and a little of the corridor, and will be willing to negotiate, though goodness

knows if that will help the situation any.

My theory still seems to work, after Pete's father slept all morning and didn't even talk when he was awake, in the afternoon he woke and seemed brighter and asked for Pete, and then wanted to know if Pete could get him some liver, The Doctor had said to give him anything he asked for, as really nothing could hurt him, So we got some liver and bacon and he ate two slices of it, a piece of bread, a bowl of peaches with cream, a blueberry muffin, and a glass of milk. Then he wanted to see "the cook." for a week ago we had been joking about my being engaged as cook, I was in the kitchen with Mom, so went in and we all joked a bit, and he seemed so interested and bright, we told him about Mark praying for rain, and he told us a few stories, and even laughed a bit. It was hard to believe he could brighten up so, but it made us all happy to think he could enjoy his supper so much. Pete hasn't come back yet this morning so I don't know what kind of a night they had or how he is this morning.

General MacDonald came down yesterday, partly to see Mary's (his Daughter) portrait, and partly to say "good-bye" as he had to return to Ottawa and report to the Army, he had been called, Col. Moore was getting out his Kit yesterday, Pearl told Pete it was too funny as his pants fit allright but his tunic had to be altered considerably, It seems so unreal, As yet they are calling up men only for the defence of Canada, something else happens before they volunteer for overseas service, already they are guarding bridges and harbors etc. just ordinary precaution. and I guess to give the soldiers something

to do.

We have the most wonderful crop of mushrooms you ever saw, some one told us how to cut them with a knife so that they will keep coming up, we have to give them away we have so many.

Loads of love  
Catherine .

Banff, Alberta.  
Tues. Sep 8.5, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

Lots of nice letters from you, the one this morning with the card for flowers from you to Mrs White, They have to be ordered from Calgary so I will do it at the best time. Things are about the same as far as our days go. Though War is declared and Papa isn't any better. He has reached the stage of not knowing what he does and just now he tried to get out of bed, One thing that has made it a little harder, is that they didn't want to have a nurse, We understood that Papa would have been very unhappy had he had to go to the hospital, but we wanted to get a nurse to be there, but Pete's mother has the feeling that she wanted to take care of Papa until the end. And all along the Doctor has given us the idea that he might not live another night. so Jackie and Pete sort of felt for one more day and for one more night it wouldn't matter, However in spite of an abnormally high blood pressure and not eating much and a few other complications he has kept on. Mrs Brett who is an old friend of the family has been wonderful and come down every night to sleep in the house, and last night she and another friend took turns watching, in the day time Pete and Jackie have taken turns sitting up there for the Doctor said Mom mustn't be alone, and they can help her lift him up and now help keep him in bed. Jackie has the feeling of wanting to be there, but Pete feels a nurse could do what he does and ~~no~~ more, and still if a nurse was there he and Jackie could drop in now and then, but wouldn't have to sit for hours at a ~~no~~ time. He is going to try again to-day to

see if Mom won't agree to it,

I wonder did you hear War declared on Sunday, we were in bed and didn't get up early enough, for it was around six o'clock, we heard about it soon enough and I suppose by Thursday when Parliament meets, that Canada will declare war. It all seems so unreal, no one is very excited about it, The only reaction here seems to be a run on sugar and flour, though they have warned everyone there will be no shortage this time, housewives remember last war and are taking no chances, of course by all feeling the same they are creating a shortage of present supplies. one store here is already sold out of sugar and flour has gone up 45 cents,

Sunday was quite a day for us, Pete spent most of it up at Mom's while Jackie looked after relations from Calgary who had come up to see how Papa was, he was so weak we didn't see how he could live much longer, It also rained to help out. We all got cheered up when news came of the capture of the Bremen, and then had to be disappointed to hear it was not true. The relations, (five of them, one Pete's aunt,) came over here for a while, Lila was out, and it gave Barbara a little rest before they all returned there for tea, and I went over to help entertain them. They are all awfully nice but it was just one more thing for us, Aunt Lizzie stayed over night in the end and Barbara was grand and looked after her until next afternoon,

In the late afternoon Hans Faulkner dropped in to borrow a sleeping bag, he and Herman and Miss West had come down for the night from Mt Temple, and the town was full on account of the Labor Day week end. Miss West is an English friend

of Sir Norman Watson, and came over this summer to see about the Ski Developement. Watson him self was coming the end of August but the War has ended all that, so now she is on her way home, She came to say goodbye to us as we were starting supper, and stayed until after eight, She had just finished telling us that she was going right back to England to be near her family and also to help over there, she had found out the next sailing from Canada, when the news of the sinking of the "Athenia" came flashing over the radio. However she has decided to go anyway, but she did admit that she didn't realize that they would be sinking ships so soon. She said she was a fatalist and felt when she had decided on a thing that she would go through with it, after the crew were taking the same chance she was. She leaves here on Wednesday.

All the men who used to be in the Northwest Mounted Police have been called up for Police duty in Canada and other jobs in connection with the Police, an announcement came over the radio several times, saying that any who left the force for any reasons except one or two, would be reinstated etc. We heard yesterday that Major Bagley had gone to Calgary to report, He is one of the oldest members of the force, came to Calgary long before the Railway, when there were just the Mounted Police and one or two shacks in Calgary, it was over 50 years ago, and he has been retired for some time, However it is interesting to think that he is one of the first to rejoin. The different regiments in Calgary are having no trouble in enlisting men to bring their forces up to "Wartime strength" and already they have started to build a camp in Calgary at one of the parks, they are working night and day.

Yvonne of Love Catherine

Banff, Alberta.  
Sat. Sept. 8, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

I haven't written you for a day or two, for no good reason except that we are still waiting and have even lost track of time, Pete's father is just weaker. I feel as if it were like Aunt Mary when she used to write you that Aunt Nela was getting weaker all the time, you wonder how a person/ can get weaker constantly and yet be strong enough to live through attacks etc. We have thought several times that Papa couldn't live much longer, and yet after sleeping day and night he would be real bright again and ask quite rational questions, I think it was last Sunday that he ~~was~~ was wandering a bit in his mind and seemed confused. He also had times of getting up out of bed and they would come into the room and find him groping around, though for two weeks he has had to be lifted, sort of a supernatural strength. At last we got two nurses, one for the day time as well as at night, and both Pete's mother and father seem reconciled to it, and it is a great relief to us to feel someone who knows what to do is there all the time. Papa had an awful attack the other night as we were in the midst of supper, and the Doctor doubts if he can stand another, yet after he had slept 24 hours he was bright again, I guess it's his constitution that is strong as well as his heart. I will let you know how things go.

We won't get up to O'Hara this year, it closes on the 10th, but perhaps we can get to Louise for a few days and paint the Larch trees. We could go out for a day at a time, but now we don't

feel much in the mood for painting any way, Last night Papa thanked Pete for doing so much for him, I think he has liked feeling that Pete was near, for he has trusted Pete and would do anything that Pepe wanted him too, last fall at the coast it was the same way. so of course we want to be close by and within call.

We still don't know if Canada is to declare war or not, at any rate there doesn't seem to be much prospect of conscription just yet, and it looks as if supplies and war materials would go over before an expeditionary force. They are enlisting men to bring the present forces up to wartime strength, but are being very careful to take only the men who are in perfect physical condition, bad teeth are enough to keep a person out of it for the time being.

This isn't much of a letter but I haven't time to write more just now. Please thank Uncle for his letter and the two books which we find most interesting. I shall write him soon.

Loads of love,

Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.  
Mon. Sept. 11, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

We also are having a typical Seal Harbor Day, only it is the rainy kind ! Mark Pocette has been praying over time we think. It rained hard last Monday and off and on all week, yesterday started out nice early in the morning but clouded up by noon and rained hard all night and is still pouring, but I guess it will be fine for the woods for there was hardly a shower during the summer.

Pete's Father is still getting a little weaker, he slept all day yesterday and hardly spoke, he is eating practically nothing, we feel better about it as there are two nurses on the job, one Mrs Colebrook who came as a friend, but who needs the money so is coming now every night as a regular nurse, then a Miss Flemming who is one of the best nurses in Banff, comes for the day. Pete and Jackie drop in at least three times a day usually more and some times sit with Papa a while, It has been three weeks now and we have hardly been off the place except for about four short drives, and yet we want to be near. The War seems very unimportant somehow. It was declared yesterday by Canada, We were sort of hoping that Canada would hold back for a little, until the U.S. changed the neutrality Act, but the Moores were down last evening and we were discussing it, and of course realize that Canada naturally would come right in behind Britain, also they said it would not be understood by natives in other parts of the Empire if we held off even for a good reason, they sort of

expect Canada to set a good example. I imagine too, when the States see a lot of business going this way that they might have had they will want the neutrality Act changed, It is really the planes that I suppose are needed most, but Canada also are building a lot for Britain. I wish the U.S. would come in at the beginning, even if they didn't send over an expeditionary force, the fact that they were on the side of the Allies would mean so much. Well, we will soon know what help Canada ~~is~~/expected to give, The recruits are pouring in faster than they can be examined by the Doctors.

Pete said it would be far better if we could have one crisis at a time, What~~x~~ with his Father so ill, and the war, and also the wondering about what will happen to the ski camp, for now that there is a war, Sir Norman Watson is out of it until the "War is over. Miss West who came over from England to take care of his interests has gone back, she went with Herman and Hans in their car, they felt they might as well go east as there is nothing here for the~~m~~, and they have a job in the east if they want it. Miss West is going back to England. Yesterday there was almost another crisis for us. We had a very quiet day in the house looking over old magazines and such, Pete went to borrow an onion, and came back with the news that Barbara was in the hospital, it turned out it wasn't as serious as we thought, and she will be allright in a day or two. She and her mother, who is here on a visit, decided to drive some cousins, who were here for a day, up to Bow Lakes. It was lovely when they started but turned out stormy. However they got to Bow Lakes, in looking

for the ladies room, which Barbara thought was in the new building at the back ( it is really the laundry and girls quarters ) she opened doors inside, the first looked as if it might be a shower, and the next door opened and she sort of swung in with it dropping into a cellar about ten feet deep. She missed the ladder completely of course never thinking it would open into a cellar. She evidently sprained her back, but of course it was an awfull shock to them all, especially as she couldn't move at all at first, not even a toe. Mrs Carpenter said she never will forget looking down and seeing Barbara lying there, somehow a boy and Jimmy Simpson got her up out of the place, and the cousin they were entertaining drove the car home. She went right to the hospital and they took exrays, and found no bones broken and so she came home last night before supper. Poor Jackie. well we are all relieved it wasn't more serious. Just to help out there is some sort of funny grip or something going around, even Miss Flemming the Nurse has had it. It only lasts a few hours but makes people sick to their stomachs, all the children have had it at the most inconvenient times, Little Clifford had it first in the middle of the night, when they were staying at Lila's, it was when Mildred was packing up and the boys came down a day or two early. Big Clifford had it at Temple and I believe spent most of the night in the privy as the plumbing still isn't in. Barbara's kids had it the night Aunt Lizzie was staying with them, the only night they had company. and last night Pete's mother had it. So you can see it never rains but it pours here, Barbara is in bed for maybe a week -

It has been nice to get all your letters and the ones enclosed and the clippings. We are glad that Russ is better, and hope he continues so. What a shame you are having such a time with Hay fever, I can imagine how tiring it is and how sick it must make you feel.

What happened to Mr Surette? and where is he. we never knew he was sick.

I am sure I have mentioned the mushrooms, we used to have a few in the lawn at times, but the last month the new lawn has had so many that we can't possibly eat them all, and have been able to supply all the family and friends. They are the ordinary kind of mushroom one buys but grow wild in Banff. all one does is to cut them with a knife so as to leave the root, and give them plenty of water, We watered the lawn as much as possible when we were here, and that gave them a start. We got a pailful one day. a big pail/

The "Wizard of Oz" sounds real good, have you seen "Goodbye Mr Chipps"? they say that is fine, we enjoyed "Pygmalion." too.

This is quite a letter, and I must write Uncle John and thank him. it is so hard to settle down to doing anything I should do, especially with people dropping in and listening to newscasts every hour or so, and they are all so much the same we wonder why we listen. We just heard Anthony Eden give a fine speech, did you ?

Heaps of Love, and I am sure we can all look forward to seeing each other before long, Just as soon as we can straighten things up here and do a little fall sketching, for it may be the last for a while.

More love. Catharine

Banff, Alberta.  
Wed, Sept, 13, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

It was real funny, just now as I was writing "Sept." I started to get up to see what the date was, and just then over the radio came a voice, "Wed, Sept. 13th." most convenient I call it,

Yesterday was the most dismal day, the clouds way down like fog, and when they did lift a little we could see lots of snow on the mountains. Pete sat up at the other house most all afternoon, just to be there, his father slept all day and his breathing was very heavy. It is sort of tiring just sitting around and it is harder to settle down to doing anything, for every little while Pete goes up to the other house, that is one reason why you have had longer letters from me, just now it is quarter of twelve, and there is no use starting lunch which we usually have at noon, for it may be one before Pete comes back, it depends on things up there. So you see I just write in between times, for these scribbles can always be picked up anywhere.

One thing you will be interested in though I don't know how true it is. Pete was reading one of those movie magazines up at the other house, and in it he read that Bette Davis ( one of the best movie actresses in Hollywood, you must have seen her ) has taken Stanley Woodward under her wing so to speak, is sort of sponsering him in Los Angeles. If it is true it will be wonderful for him, You know they have a very good collection of paintings in Los Angeles, and one of the best galleries in a hotel there with paintings by all of the better American Painters, not the surrealist sort of stuff. Did Uncle John show you the two books he sent us with photographs of all the paintings in the International Business Machines Corps. Exhibition at the Worlds Fair? We thought it was awfully nice of him to send them to us, and we never should have known about it otherwise. It was very interesting to us to see that someone appreciated good painting, though they aren't by any means all masterpieces, still there are a lot that look as if they were very good,

Later- I am afraid that I won't be able to answer your question about the New York Fair in time for it to be any help to you. but My suggestion is that you go with Kitty, if ~~if~~ you find it awfully interesting, then it will be worth seeing again, and if not worth seeing twice, then we won't bother seeing it once. I would like to see the Art Exhibits, the one of ~~77~~ 79 countries. and the British one. Another point I don't know how long the Fair will be going and when we will be east.

I will send this so you will get it on Monday.

Lots of love

Catherine -

Banff, Alberta.  
Mon. Sept. 18, 1939,

Dearest Mother,

I haven't written you for several days, but will send this air-Mail. Things are about the same here, no one knows how Pete's Father can go on as he does, he has had times of being very weak, his pulse weak and the nurse told me that his breathing is so irregular that it stops for half minutes at a time. yet he will rally and be real bright, actually brighter in his conversation than he was a week ago, I saw him the other night and we had a nice chat, I had a slight cold for a few days and so told him that I hadn't come to see him for fear of giving it to him. he said he wouldn't have caught it. When I asked him if they were looking after him well. (it is hard to make up a conversation) and he said "He guessed so but added " I have been used to having my own way all my life " I guess having so many women around telling him what to do is rather hard.

Yesterday we went on a real spree for the first time in a month, Ellen Whitney of Boston and Milton. had written some time ago asking about accommodation etc. after the hotel closed, and she arrived yesterday and dropped around after lunch for a twenty minute call. When we found out that she was going to drive to Lake Louise with some friends, and (two girls they met on the train, and the girl she is going to a convention in Seattle with) and when Pete saw what kind of a person she is, he suggested that we drive her up to Louise so as to have a little visit, (afterwards he said that he thought it would be nice for me to have a nice chat with a friend from the east and then he was afraid he had done most of the talking) We first found out if we were apt to be needed and when they said "no" we went, we were back by supper time, and had a real nice trip. It rained a bit but we were able to go half way with the top down and it was lovely as the trees are turning fast this year. We left Ellen up there, she said though she didn't know you by sight that she would be glad to have you drop into the uptown branch of the New England Trust Co. where she is, and she could give you first hand information of how we were. It was her suggestion, but she won't be there for another two weeks, She had seen Betty Dumaine before leaving and also had seen quite a bit of the Shaws in Marblehead this summer.

I wonder did you go to the fair in New York, I hope so so you can tell us what it will be like. It looks as if it might be an early fall this year, last night on the radio the announcer said that the Indians in British Columbia said it was going to be a severe winter, asked how they knew they said they could tell by two signs, one that the swallows had gone south earlier than usual, and second that the White men were getting in more wood than usual !

Tell Jean that I shall write her in a day or two and thank her for the Wedding cake and her nice letters, The cake arrived in excellent condition.

Lots of love and I hope to do better next letter,  
Catharine

Banff, Alberta.  
Wed. Sept, 20, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

I am sorry that a whole week went by without your hearing, I can't imagine what happened unless the letters weren't mailed when I intended them to be. Sometimes if I send one airmail and then send the next letter two days later ordinary mail, there is six days in between, and when you don't get mail Saturday after noon, that might make a difference. Any way don't worry, for you will know there is a letter on the way.

Things are much the same, Pete's father is weaker but hasn't had any severe attacks lately, perhaps because he eats so little, We don't go up quite as much but are trying to get a few things done. we also are planning how to put a stove in the back piazza and continue the heat duct to the stove on the porch, it means only cutting a hole in the wall, and having a new chimney built which can later be used if we ever put on the edition. If we tried to put that on now it would take all fall, and we are still planning to go east. " Believe it or not ! "

We were delighted to hear that you are going to the fair, what fun for you all to be to-gether in the same hotel and near the fair grounds, we of course will want to hear all about it and how it struck you . and what you saw etc.

Barbara is up and around again after nearly ten day in bed, or I should say a week, she still finds it hard to sit down and easier to get up, however she was lucky not to be hurt more. It seems to be the fashion to fall into cellers. First Gen. MacDonald fell three weeks ago, and hurt his side and bruised himself, then Barbara fell at Bow Lakes, and then Pete's Aunt at the coast fell down her cellar steps and landed in the hospital having her arm in a cast. The last to Fall was the worst, the undertaker who had diabetis and they think may have had a dizzy spell, fell down his cellar stairs and fractured his skull, and has since died It was very sad for he was young and his wife who is a nurse was on a two months case in the east, having just gotten there with th patient. Now we have no undertaker the other one having died last spring.

We read the article in the Magazine of Art about Peter Hurd and thought too it was most interesting , I will look up the other ones you mention,

This isn't much of a letter, but it is so ovely out with the trees startang to turn,

Lots of love to all.

Catherine .

Banff, Alberta  
Canada.

Thurs. Sept. 21, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

Maybe I can get a few of your letters answered. About the rug, I should have told you to let Ebbs and Anne use it, as it is doubtful if we could bring it in here without paying a lot of duty, also they had better get the thing to go under it, for it is far better, and we will buy it from them if we take the rug at any time. which is not likely for a long time.

We also read about Arthur Rackham's death, and I meant' to tell you.

How hot it has been for you, lucky it wasn't while you were at the fair, Did you see in Los Angeles it was 117, imagine it.

Clifford has been up at Mt Temple and comes down every few days. At first he had to stay there, and such a time, as Miss West was anxious to hear if England was at war or not, and every time the telephone rang with more news from the game wardens wife, Cliff would think it was about Papa. Now it isn't quite as bad for we all know it is only a matter of time, and what to expect.

I can't find the mushroom article just now but if I do will mail it to you.

We enjoy the letters, Was sorry to hear about Mr William Agge, but was glad to see how well Miss Katarina can write after the time she had with her eyes.

Your first letter from New York just came, I say your first hoping for more, it is so interesting to hear about the lovely fountains and fireworks, I am getting anxious to see them now, maybe we can. Must go on loads. Love Catherine

Banff, Alberta.  
Canada.  
Sunday, Sept. 24, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

It is raining hard to-day, in fact it rained most all night. it will be good for our mushroom crop ! If you look on the other side of this sheet you will see the size of one mushroom we found last week, after it was sliced up it was almost more than we wanted ourselves.

Your second letter came from New York and we are tickled to think that you are enjoying the Fair so much, I am sure that I would enjoy it the way you are seeing it, driving around. The fountains and fire works sound so wonderful and you described them so well, in fact you have made the Fair sound more remarkable than anyone else has, and we loved your letters, I shall be sure and save them.

I was sorry to hear about Mr William Agge, though if he were to be ill and hard to handle, it is better. A long illness would have worn the three sisters out completely.

If you haven't already sent the guide book, do mark in it what you saw, I guess the Newburys are enjoying it all, how nice that they could come at this time. I suppose there is not much use your describing Ebbs and Anne's house as I expect we shall see it shortly. at least I hope so.

We do a lot of listening to news, but can't seem to get Lowell Thomas, perhaps he comes over Eastern Networks only. We have heard John Gunther several times. Our News broadcasts are very good, just the facts, and never made exciting, We have news at 9.30 A.M. noon, 1 o'clock, 8 P.M. and 10, also at 10.45 if we are up. However when it is noon here it is seven in the evening in Europe so from then on the news is about the same, however we listen thinking there might be something new. the best News of all is a broadcast direct from London, at 2.45 P.M. it lasts from a quarter to half an hour depending on how much news there is, It is on all our stations.

I never knew that Aunt Rhoby was so old, I imagine one reason that she doesn't tire too easily is that she doesn't hear noise, seems to me that is the most tiring thing of all. I notice it so much when we first hear it in a city. Like the Park Street subway, it seems to send all my insides of my head jangling, and also a party where everyone talks at once has the same effect. probably because I try to listen to more than one conversation at a time. I guess our hearing is too good, I know that Barbara's voice some times gets quite loud and she never notices the children when they are excited and laugh and scream as children sometimes do when they are playing. I think maybe she is a little deaf. but it makes my ears ring.

Pete's father is about the same, he didn't like the strange girls around, and as he seems better in some ways they are trying it with only one nurse, Miss Fleming comes about ten in the evening and then goes home next morning about nine, is on call all day if she is needed, but as Papa prefers to have Mom do everything for him as she has been doing for so long, The Doctor is so nice and he understands old people, and as he said they have their own ways of doing things, and don't want strangers around. The reason we wanted the nurse is in case Papa takes one of these awfull pains,

Size of mushroom -  
about 2 1/2 inches thick  
Pete says -

pains, she could give him a hypo to relieve it, and also we don't want Mom to be alone when it happens. However we can only do our best and make Papa as happy as possible. He sleeps most of the time as the Doctor has given him pills to take, a week ago he refused to take them anymore as he thinks too much medicine is a bad habit to get into, so now they give it to him in milk. He sleeps until late in the morning and after dinner until some times eight or nine o'clock at night. so in that way he is easy to take care of, much easier than in the beginning when he refused to give in. even now he insists on being dressed in his blue serge suit, and once and a while he even sits in a chair for a few minutes, we think he is trying to show us that he isn't really sick, He told one of the girls at the store some time ago that he was "going to die with his shoes on!" That's the way all the old men feel, they want to keep going till the end. I am sure it is only his determination to keep going that has pulled him through this far. he is far brighter now than a week or two ago, but his insides seem to be paralyzed so he can't go on indefinitely. He also has a "malignant Growth" but the Doctor from Calgary intimated if that was all that was wrong he might live several months, it is the other part that is not so good. Papa is just your age but he worked far too hard until he was sick, never would stop working, some people are like that, Pete's Grandfather said the other day had he known that he would live so long he would have kept working another ten years, as it was he retired, however he looks after his own house and garden and does some painting as well and he is 88 in January.

We were glad to hear about Gardner Cox, for we had been wondering what had happened, we shall be anxious to see how it comes out.

We enjoyed your Roosevelt story. Did you hear his speech on Neutrality, we thought it one of his best.

Do you remember the clippings I sent you about the seal that escaped from the Calgary Zoo. he escaped a second time and was free for five weeks before they could get him. the zoo keepers spent their weekends trying to capture him, but without success. He evidently grew fat on the fish he caught and had a very pleasant time of it.

Is Miss Barrett still in the hospital? Tell her that I asked for her, if I have a chance I will write but I never get much time as you know.

I got mixed up, you were one of the ones who said that "Goodbye Mr Chips" was so good, and then I told you you ought to see it. ~~W~~

Well this is quite a letter, it has taken me most the morning and now it is lunch time.

Loads of love to you all, and to the Newburys if they haven't already gone home.

More love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.  
Canada.

Wed. Sept, 27, 1939,

Dearest Mother,

We are so glad that you enjoyed the Fair so much, and love to hear all about the things that you saw. It sounds lovely with the trees and all. I hope we shall get east in time to see it this year, they say that they are going to have it open next year too, with new exhibits in place of the "not so popular ones."

I am sure that I thanked Jean in June for the lovely Art books she sent us, I remember doing it for we were very interested in them.

Things are about the same with us, Pete's Father is just a shade weaker, he had an attack of the pain again yesterday, but it seemed to go off and they gave him a hypo, and he went to sleep. he has been sleeping more and more and just has a little milk and an egg nog once in a while. The Doctor was afraid he wouldn't stand a severe attack, but this last one perhaps wasn't as severe. Any way he is sleeping now.

We went down to the Moores yesterday afternoon for a while. We ask Col. Moore's advise from time to time as to what we should do to help Canada. He told us that he has done everything he can from writing a senator, having friends write ~~to~~ the minister of defence and the Prime Minister to offer his service<sup>s</sup> and all that happens is that his letters are acknowledged. So he says if he can't get a job yet with all the pull, there is no use our trying until they~~e~~ are more organized. He said he figured the best

Thing to do is to carry on the way one ordinarily does, and then when you~~s~~ are needed there will be plenty of time to offer your services.

We are thinking now of adding on a furnace room but not the studio upstairs as that means a lot more work and fussing. however we will build the lower part strong enough to carry the upstairs later. It shouldn't take long to put up the three sides and a roof and get the furnace in. the finishing can be done in the winter, and the heat would keep the big room warm for painting. Also we would be wise to do it while we can get the workmen and the prices haven't gone up.

Anice letter from you to-day from Concord, and how wonderful that you can sleep off any tired feeling. -

*Thursday* - We had quite a day of company yesterday. Just as we were serving liver and bacon for lunch, in walked Mark Pocette and his little adopted Indian girl, it was raining hard and they of course were hungry. so we divided up the liver and there was enough for us all. Then Pete drove them to another house which was an easy way to get rid of them, they were going to stay all night in Banff, and the stores were closed as it was Wed. Later Barbara came in and said they were sitting in her kitchen by the stove waiting for Jackie ( who was up at the other house and didn't want to see Mark) and Barbara didn't know how she was going to get rid of them. it evidently took until supper time!

Pearl and Edmee Moore dropped in for tea, Pearl has taken on the job of registering volunteer women who want to help in any way they can, ( I'll cut out the list of questions from the paper

so you can see the sort of thing it is )  
 She and Edmee had been busy all afternoon going from house to house, and went home for tea tired out, when they drove in they recognized a caller's car and said that they were too tired to cope with them, so drove to Pearl's Brother's house, but no one was there so they came here for tea and we had lots of fun, and tea.

Then in the evening at seven the Morants came down for the ~~ex~~ two hours. You wouldn't know them, and it is a long story I 'll tell you later.

Last night we had snow, bears, and elk. The snow wasn't enough to amount to any thing, the bear Pete almost fell over as he went out our back door about nine-thirty. and the herd of Elk only spent a good part of the night pawing up our new lawn. They must weigh ~~every~~ 300 pounds, like a horse, and with the ground wet they sink in a couple of inches with each step. and very often as deep as six inches. you can imagine how pockmarked the lawn looks now. We are glad that the grass didn't grow any better than it did or we would have been really mad. Pete has gone up to get permission to put up a fence, it was the ruining of the mushroom s that made him prevoked.

I must write Jean, Twice now I have started to write and absent mindedly have typed "Dearest Mother" and then thought, "oh well, I will ~~just~~ finish one to Mother first."

Lots of Love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.  
Canada.  
Sunday, Oct. 1, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

September certainly went fast enough, and it has been very unsettled as to wheather this year. We had hopes of lovely autumn coloring when the trees first started to turn, but that was more than a week ago and we have had rain and wind since then so lots of it has gone, though some trees are still green.

We are in the midst of planning our edition, you would be surprised to know how many times we change our minds. It all starts with the one idea of heat, then we figure to do that we must add on a little at the back, then to make a big enough workshop we have to take out three trees, then we might as well go as far back as we can with in five feet of the next tree. Then with such a big workshop and plenty of room for a real furnace and the Gov't not allowing a shed roof, we might as well put the roof a little higher and have our Studio. and so we come back to the plan we had last year. There are lots of ways to look at it, we might as well build it now for the future, and while we can get the work men, and before the cost of building goes up, then we will have it no matter what happens, We have even improved on the plan we drew up last year. Sam Ward can do it now, and we already have the excavation dug, and will get the foundation in maybe this week, before it gets too cold.

We were so sorry to hear about Frannie Hill, does Russ know how bad it is? and where he is going in Arizona ? and does it mean he can't get around and is in bed ? or what?

Jean also wrote us about Ebbs and Annes house and it sounds so nice, I bet they are having lots of fun with their own home. and how nice that Cousin Bert and Alma could see it too.

I found the bit about the mushrooms, it got in between some papers and magazines, I hope it is not too late.

Pete's father seems about the same, he is very weak but a little better in some ways, so perhaps he will go on this way for a while yet, it seems so hard to tell, The rest has perhaps built up his resistance somewhat, but he just eats enough to keep going, He is apt to have a sort of attack of pain any time and if it is very severe he may not be able to stand it. This period of waiting is a good time for us to build in a way, it is hard to feel like painting but Pete will be helping Sam with the building, and we want to be here most of the time, The finishing can be done in the winter inside, but the inside boards will be th finished interior in most cases.

Pete just read this in "Time" and thought it would amuse you.

" In Bloomington? Ind., Mary Weaver, 11, playing hide-and-seek, counted to a hundred by fives, then shouted " Hitler ! " This, she explained, meant " Ready or not, here I come ! "

I won't try any more airmail as our train doesn't connect now with the plane and that may account for the delay.

Lots of love to you all,

Catharine -

Banff, Alberta.  
Thurs, Oct, 5, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

Such a busy time as we are having with the new addition, it is fun and is going to be so nice when finished. If we had had any idea six weeks ago that we would ~~have~~ be in Banff all this time, we would have naturally started before now, but perhaps it will all work out well in the end, for we have a good idea what we want. Also we have changed the position of the furnace and won't have to build a new chimney. The new part is 20 by 23 feet and it gives us a ten by ten furnace room, a tiny toilet downstairs, a dark room ten by eight, and a work shop ten by 23 including the back door. upstairs will be studio, and better light than the present one we expect. When Pete has time I will get him to make you a sketch of the outside, as He makes it look much nicer than I can. We are going to face the lower floor outside with rock and then fough Plank for the top.

We hope to have the cement poured before the end of the week, and then Sam with a couple of helpers hopes to get the walls and foot on in short order, the finishing can be done inside even in the cold weather. Mr Neilsen the heating man was here all morning also the plumber so that we can dig the necessary trench for their needs under the house before Sam gets the floor in. It takes lots of planning when one is their own Architect, but it is fun and we can do as we like. I hope we don't drive Sam crazy changing ideas as we go along. Pete is helping all he can, our men who were to dig the trench under the present house aren't available yet, so Pete has been digging alone, and also helping nail with Sam, and run errands. There is nothing that Pete can do up at the other house as his father isn't strong enough to want anyone talking to him, and also he sleeps a good deal. The Doctors still can give no idea of how it will end, and it is a help for us to feel that we are getting ahead with something. I don't know what has happened to Indian Summer, half the trees have turned and it is cold and lots of snow up high, a lot of rain here.

The guide book came yesterday and it looks so interesting though I haven't had time to read it all yet, I carefully checked it up on all that you saw.

Goodness me! it is snowing hard out side, just a flurry, it will be lovely if it does get warm again with so much snow on the mountains and the color in the valleys.

The elk were evidently chased out of town by the game wardens, one man who rakes the road around Tunnel Mountain drive was chased by a big bull twice and had to run for a tree. but we have a black bear nearly every night, who empties our garbage all over the grass.

I don't seem to hit the right keys very often, maybe I am in too much of a hurry.

Heaps of love and I hope you get a better letter next time.

more love

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.  
Mon, Oct. 9, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

I haven't had a moment to write in the last couple of days, what with the building going on and trying to keep up my end of it, which is the plan drawing part, and a lot of callers thrown in it is not only disconcerting but keeps us hopping. I don't wonder you are mixed as to what we are doing. You know the addition we were going to build last spring and which you sent the present? and then Sam Ward was kept on longer than he expected to be kept at Lake Louise, and so we put it off, and then with the war and Pete's father we didn't think about it until two weeks ago. Then we began to think that perhaps it would be nice to have it with the ~~extra/robb/rob~~ furnace for heat if we were to be here, and when we asked the Gov't for the permit, they preferred to have us build the whole thing, rather than just a furnace room with the idea of later putting a studio over it. We did some fast thinking and in fact started the foundation before we had the plans drawn. got the furnace man up from Calgary on Thursday and he was just in time to plan bits he would need for vents etc, before the cement foundation form was finished, we also were lucky to get the plumber to plan his things, for we had to have a trench dug in the cellar for the heating and the pipes, and we got the best digger in the country to do that, it is has all been going on at once and we have been trying to think of all the things we want at the same time. We have been pretty lucky to get people when we need them, and Paul Stutz came on Saturday morning to pour the cement ~~in~~ for the foundation, and we didn't have frost that night of yesterday, and it set over Sunday. Sam said with another carpenter he could do it that much quicker (and Pete helps a good deal, sawing and nailing etc.) but he had to write the man in Calgary, the one he knew was good. However he didn't get the letter off on Saturday, lacking a stamp and missing the train, and we were afraid with Monday a holiday we wouldn't get the man until Tuesday. However it couldn't be helped, and then who should drive in the yard but the very man in question, he was looking for Sam, and so it was all arranged that he would come Monday, and none of the men have taken the holiday, (it is Thanksgiving but too early for Turkeys, and they don't mind working to-day which is all the better for us) The furnace we hope will be here within two weeks, and maybe before that Neilson can get in some of the air ducts, By that time the roof should be on, and then if we want to leave we can, and Sam will come back and do the inside finishing whenever we like. We are facing the outside with stone and that too can be done later if we like.

We figured that having to be around here anyway it was an excellent time to do the building, and it makes us feel better to be doing something. If the War keeps on, we wouldn't be able to do it later and also prices may go up and the men be too busy, and if the War is over by spring then we will have it all done and ready to use.

Pete's father is much the same, it is cancer of the ~~bowels~~ I think, and you know how hard it is to tell how long it

will be, he is so thin and weak, and only eats or rather drinks milk and egg nogs, and slæeps a good deal, yet he seems so glad to see us when he does feel bright. I saw him for a moment the other evening, and he knew me allright, saying " Hello Catharine" when I came onto the room. Pete wouldn't feel like leaving while his father is this way, but later we still are planning to make our trip east, so don't give up hope.

Your not very encouraging letter came to-day, but perhaps you felt tired and things seemed worse, Pete thinks we can cheer you up a bit and he wants to have a talk with Russ, is sure we can cheer him up too. Poor Mildred, I imagine all her feelings now come from the years of worry she has been through, and care.

I shall have to save the part about the callers until my next letter or this won't catch the train. Two of them were a Dr and Mrs Etecker from Switzerland, We dided with them in Wengen two years ago, and they spoke of coming to Canada for a hunting trip but we never heard from them again. He is a famous doctor, a surgeon and looked after all the broken bones around Wengen, ski accidents etc. He also spent a long time with the Mayos many years ago, he has retired and they hope to be here a month. We met them through Bill Carson who had broken her leg and gone to his clinic. It was Mrs Etecker who told us that Hitler had gone into Austria, she heard it on the radio, and we hadn't seen a paper.

Must go, for there is tea for all to get.

Loads of love

Catharine

Banff, Alberta  
Wed. Oct. 11, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

We are still in the midst of building, and it is really getting ahead quite fast. The cement was very good when it set, and Monday they were able to get the floor on the bottom laid (the finished floor goes on top of it later) and one wall up, the frame work only. At the same time Mr Waterworth was busy putting in the pipes for the downstairs toilet and the darkroom (which we are going to move into one corner) and as he finished laying in pipes they floored over the area. Then yesterday they got the other two walls up and a partition in. The two men we had digging finished the trenches for the airducts under the front part of the house already for the furnace man when he comes. They also leveled out all the dirt from the excavation and made it slope from the new foundation towards the back. There was a lot of dirt and it was nice to have to make the back look level, so all that is done. Now ~~they are~~ putting the boards on the ceiling of the downstairs part, making a floor for the upper part, and may get a few uprights in too. One thing about building now is that most of the men are glad to have the work, whereas last spring so much was being built and fixed up for the King and Queen that no one had time to do any extra work, so by waiting it will take less of our time, we hope.

It is really great fun building especially with the men we have, Sam Ward you have heard me speak of before. He is lots of fun and we all tease him, (he is the one that goes on the Trail Hike, and is always the life of the party) then the plumber enjoyed a "bit of fun too" and the other man who Sam has worked with before seems to like the kidding, and it is a wonder that we get on with the work at all, telling stories and joking. Poor Sam had an awful time at first for we all talked when he was trying to figure out measurements. At four we all have tea, and just now at eleven thirty I took out some Bovril, sort of beef tea, and it evidently tasted good, for they are all joking about being on ship board, the service they get. When you come to visit, now that we will have more room, you will have to meet Sam.

I will try to make a plan of the addition for you. The plan we are using is not really finished for we change it as we go along and think of things. for the proportions are governed by the log part already up and the trees we don't want to cut down, and the partitions go in to allow for the furnace, stairs, up and down, (really ladders) and plumbing. but it works quite well and we are making the most of everything. I am called out every little while to give the measurements on the plan we have, then it usually ends by moving a window over six inches to make the joists come in a better place, and I come in and erase the drawing and change the plan round. We are using the windows that we already have in the present building, for the end we built in several years ago where the back porches were, is now to be incorporated into the new building.

Lunch time, lots of love

Calherine

Banff, alberta.  
Sat. Oct. 14, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

Those were the nicest pictures of Robin and Gale, and needless to say we were delighted to see them, and see how they have grown. Don't you think the one of Gale looks much like some of the early pictures of Helen Buttrick? There is one you have in the albums that has the same expression, though of course I realize in real life they weren't a bit alike in looks. Thank you ever so much. I will send the one of you and Gale to Russell, he wants to have another negative made from it.

The house or rather addition is progressing rapidly we think. They hope to get the roof on this afternoon, and they have all but one wall sheeted in. There are three of them working, and Sam had to go to Lake Louise one afternoon, so they have really done pretty well. Pete is tickled to pieces with the size of the Studio upstairs, and by making on half of the roof flat, or in other words making the north wall higher than the south wall, he has an eight ~~foot~~ and a half foot window (high) for his north light. The stone mason can come next week so we hope to get the stone work done too, then we will go to Calgary and see about insulation material on Monday if all is well, and also see the heating man for we don't think that he will expect the roof to be on so soon, so perhaps he will be up next week too. It makes us happy to have things go well and we hope the furnace comes when it should.

Yesterday was a lovely day and warm, 66, and I cleaned all the windows downstairs, it was such a lovely day to be outside, this morning it was the same but has blown up cloudy and looks like rain, I can hear them all working like mad up above, for they want to get the roof on before it storms, they put the rafter up yesterday.

They have been having their annual sale at the store this week, there were a lot there Tuesday and I expect to-day will be busy. Poor Jackie didn't know whether to hold it or not this year and only decided the last minute. They marked the stuff down last week end and Monday was a holiday and so they could work then too. He will be glad to have it over safely. Pete's Father is still about the same though he is so awfully weak and thin, he has days when he is real bright and others when it is hard to understand what he is saying, or driving at. The other day I saw him for a few minutes and told him about the addition, and he seemed interested, he always loved to check up on how things were being done, to be sure it was all done the right way, and he said to me, "I'll come down in a day or two and see how you are getting on" so I told him that would be fine, and he could ~~watch~~ see it from the window, though I don't think that he has gotten to the window for more than a week, but I think he likes to think he will be up and around again.

I must go over and get the things for the weekend before too many other ~~sare~~ are about.

Loads of love and I will try to answer your letters soon.

Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.  
Monday, Oct. 16, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

I never did manage to tell you about last Sunday which was a very full one for us, and yesterday was the opposite. The Sunday before we were still in bed (being father tired from a busy week of getting the house started) and when we heard a knock on the door, we couldn't think who it could be, and as they went away Pete had a peak out and was even more mystified by seeing a very blonde girl, who he thought must be a Swiss or Austrian. We were eating breakfast when they returned, and it was Dr and Mrs Etecker from Wengen in Switzerland. We had had dinner with them at their house in Wengen when we were at the Swiss Ski Championships in 1938. They had asked us all about hunting here and we knew they were planning to visit Canada when he had sold his practice, but we never heard any more of them until they came here Sunday morning. They are terribly nice, he is retired but very young in spirit, and she is young and so attractive, his second wife. They are great fun and we talked and drank coffee, what was left of ours and another pot. They wanted to stay here a month and have a house, the hotel seemed cramped, and they wanted a place of their own. Pete found them the nicest house in Banff belonging to a Calgary girl, the same house Mrs Vaux had last summer. It has a lovely view and I guess reminded them a bit of Wengen. We saw them yesterday again and they want now to stay until May they like it so well. They were here until lunch time and then came back to tea later that same first Sunday. and Dr Etecker was so comfortable in the biggest chair in front of the fire and with his pipe that he didn't want to leave at all, he said he felt so at home.

Yesterday our only caller to drop in was Edmée Moor and after she left we went up to see how the Eteckers were and The Rungius also arrived so we had great fun.

A nice letter from you just came, filled with other letters, about Olive Newbury and the lovely tribute that Mrs Chace wrote about Mrs Dexter. I didn't recognize Judge Chace as the photograph didn't show his mustache clearly and it made him look so different. What heat you have had, something like Los Angeles a little while ago when it was over a hundred. I am glad that Mildred is better. Why did Miss Hurd, Aunt Mary Hoar and Mrs Cabot resign from the Tuesday Club? yes? I knew Mary Tolman.

I never realized that Miss Marion Keyes is Eighty, but I suppose she must be. that was quite a bridge party.

That must have been funny, the Magicians animals escaping in the north station, I wonder why they don't use more things like that in the movies, for humane things or rather incidents like that could make a movie so amusing. That play of Catharine Cornells sounded awfully good, I think she is one of the best actresses Must go.

Heaps of love

Catharine

Banff, Alberta  
Wed. Oct. 18, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

We went to Calgary yesterday to order the big window and see about other things, and had a most successful trip. Sam had to go up to the Temple Chalet to do the carpenter work for Mr Waterworth. ( appropriate name for a plumber ) They at last are ~~not~~ going to get the two bathrooms in, and Sam had promised to go when he was needed to give advise about other things too. He took Bill, the other carpenter working for us, with him, and hoped to lay out the work for him so that he could come back to-day, and leave Bill to finish up there, perhaps they will both be back, depending on how things go. Ted Brown who has been helping us since last Wed. spent yesterday putting the building paper on the outside of the addition so that the rock man, Oscar, could start to-day. It seemed the best day for us to go down, so we left a little after nine, <sup>for Calgary</sup> having talked to Sam before he too left. It makes such a difference now having the road to Calgary paved all the way, it took us a little over two hours to go down comfortably, though Jackie did it in an hour and forty minutes the ~~day~~ before, it is 85 miles. It was very windy but not cold, around forty or fifty. we had success every where. We first went to Neilsons, the furnace man, to tell him that the building had the roof on and he will be up soon, then to the window factory to order them. We were lucky to find the head man, or one of them, Mr Egleston, of Manning and Egleston, he happened to be the one to take our order, for we had never been there before, he was so nice and even took us through the factory, by then it was noon and the men eating lunch every where, we wanted a glass that you can't see through, and he got a man named Nick to look around for samples. We were quite impressed by the insides of the place, the machines were stopped during the lunch hour, but it was so clean and light, it reminded me of Uncle Marshall's barn, and there were all sorts of doors and windows being made. They are working ten hours a day, and yet will have our order up here in three or four days. It looks like a very well run place, and Mr Egleston was such a quiet kindly sort of gentleman, he is like someone we know but I am not sure who. The thing that interested me was that all the men called him by his first name, as if they had all been working to-gether for years, perhaps they have.

We also went to the glass place to look at the type of glass we want, we are getting "Cathedral white " for the storm window of the present big room, it looks like clear glass but is cloudy enough so you can't really see anything through it, sort of like cloth over it. the other is frosted for the new studio, to diffuse the light.

All this we did before lunch, which I think was pretty good. then while Pete went to see his Uncle about something, I went to look for a hat, had luck and got just what I wanted in about two minutes, the second one I tried on, so now it will be possible for me to go away when the time comes.

insulation and also looked at plumbing fixtures and enquired about

and were headed back here about quarter past three, even stopped in Cochrane a minute to see Pete's Grandfather, and were in Banff at quarter to six, before the stores closed, and not a bit tired. We found that the stone mason had arrived a day early to get things ready to start work this morning, and to-day at eight he and his boy were here mixing cement or mortar. Paul Stutz had brought the stones, one load yesterday, and another came before lunch, so we were glad there was nothing to hold him up. He will have the stone work by the middle or end of next week. It is fun to see it all going on so well so far.

I must go and see if I can get my hair washed.

Lots of love

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.  
Friday, Oct. 20, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

We are really getting on very well with the addition. The window casing took some time as those sort of things do, but they hope to have the windows downstairs in by this evening, the stone mason has made such good progress and is so anxious to get the north and east wall done before the weather turns cold, that he has hurried the carpenters with the windows as he is up to the sill already. The whole bottom story is being faced with stone outside and sort of buttressed on the corners. Pete's idea and a good one. We had one problem the other day. We find that the flue we had intended to cut into in the present kitchen chimney for the furnace is not quite as we thought it was. It is a wide flue at the top and bottom but in the middle narrows down to pass the little fireplace in the bedroom and wouldn't do for the furnace. However we have it all figured out and it will go right up inside the building, (that is a new chimney will) and it will save cutting through the wall into the kitchen. The joke is that when we thought of putting the flue into the kitchen chimney we figured it would save building a new one, and the cost of that would go into the rock work around the house. However the original plan called for an outside chimney of stone and that would have been expensive compared to this one. Luckily we found it out before there were too many changes to be made. Also a new chimney will be better in other ways.

Yours and Jeans letter came yesterday, all about Olive Newbury's wedding, I think you were wise not to go and tire yourself, it is always more tiring to make conversation with strangers and with the Newburys and Jean there it would be nice for Olive. I was so glad to hear what a nice family they were and I hope he gets the job he is hoping to and that things go well for them.

I thought this time I surely would answer your last few letters, but there is so much to do and it is also a great temptation to watch the work progress. Then yesterday when I was giving the men tea the Oetekers dropped in and then Carl Rungius and we all had tea, except Pete who was over talking business with Jackie. Carl came to bring us some Moose stake, our third lot. It is delicious. Then Jim Boyce was here this morning talking ski business, and so it goes. Maybe to-night before the paper comes I will be able to really answer the little questions etc that I want to write about. The paper now comes after eight at night, and between supper and it's arrival we usually go up to Pete's mother's or read here. One nice thing about this addition. The new part will be all for the work we do. Pete will paint upstairs and can scatter things all over the ~~wooden~~ room without any body bothering or poking around. as it is now lots of times people will see a canvas leaning against the wall and turn it around to look at it and perhaps it is some thing that Pete doesn't have ready for people to see, you know how it is. but now he can have things anywhere in the new studio. Then we will have a darkroom with running water which we haven't had recently, and also with heat, ready for use any moment. Also he will have his workshop with plenty of room for making frames etc. also heated. But what I

really started to tell you was about my little room. The room we have been using lately for a dark room, on the balcony above the fireplace end of the front room. I am going to have it for my use with a desk to write at and lots of shelves and table space, for sorting things out or doing slides or anything like that. Then no one can disturb me if I don't want them too. Also it will be our store room, for the one we have had where the old outside balcony was closed in will now be a part of the new studio. Now perhaps the downstairs of the house will be more presentable for the people who drop in unexpectedly. We have a joke that when it is in a mess we may expect company, and when ever the bedroom is not packed up, some one always drops in to see the house or go to the bathroom. we even have the new toilet to get around that.

I must go

Heaps of love

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.  
Saturday, Oct. 21, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

It is about half past four and the men are about to lay the floor in the work shop. They already have the one in the dark room almost finished. The windows downstairs were put in yesterday. and the rock work also is coming on well. The stone mason will have the back wall finished to-night and the long side wall is almost done, about two thirds up, he wanted to get as much done on those sides in the shade before the weather turned cold.

Monday, Well the world is a very different place this morning. It was raining ~~last~~ yesterday morning when we woke though there was about an inch of snow on the trees, and it looked as if it might become an ice storm, which they never have here. However in about an hour, at ten, it started to snow, a very wet snow, and it is still snowing hard and it is 25 hours ~~later~~ later and also looks as if it would never stop. We hardly ever have such a heavy snow all at once, and it is not cold either, just freezing. The poor trees are laden down, we've had a good foot and a half, and even settled a bit it measures 16 inches. Some tall trees have broken off in the middle and quite a few branches, have snapped off. The trees that have snapped are the ones that were left alone after we thinned out the dead ones, otherwise they would have been able to lean on the neighboring ones. the biggest one to go had branches only on the top and it bent way over until it finely broke. It is awfully pretty though, and we hope it clears enough for pictures.

Yesterday, which was Sunday, we were quite busy, Verne Costello, one of the carpenters, came to sharpen his saws, and we gave him a cup of coffee and showed him the house, and then we got chatting and found that he used to be a ship's carpenter, and sailed on four and five masted ships and has been around the world about four times. It was fun talking. Then as we were eating lunch Neilson came about the furnace. The night before we telephoned him in Calgary and asked if he could come up before we got any further on the building and he said that he would, which was a great help to us and also to him, for there were a few changes we had thought of that would save a bit of duct work. so he was here nearly all afternoon. I entertained his wife and a friend while he and Pete did the figuring out.

It is still snowing and I have been out trying to jiggle snow off the trees, six tops have broken already and some of the tall trees are bent double and will probably break before long, the trouble is that the rain froze on yesterday before it snowed and so the branches are very heavy. There is a little wind now and then but it doesn't help very much. It may turn into a real blizzard, we already have it so deep it comes above one's knees. It is lots of fun though.

The river isn't frozen yet and it is full of wild ducks that arrived Saturday. There isn't hardly any frost in the ground so if it melts before spring it should soak away.

I must go over town and get some provisions, it is fun to be out and is warm, just 32.

Loads of love

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.  
Tues. Oct. 24, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

It is almost noon and is about 18 above, it was 10 above this morning at 8 o'clock. It also has stopped snowing and the sun is trying hard without success to shine. Every thing is buried under a good two foot fall of snow maybe more, for in many places it is four feet deep. Calgary also had a blizzard but with their snow was a 40 mile an hour wind, and we kept hearing messages over the radio last night about people that couldn't get home. and this morning they said that six street cars had run off the tracks in various parts of the city. Nearly all the roads out of the city are blocked, by drifts I expect. The great question here is whether or not it is the winter snow, we all hope not, if it is, there are a good many things that won't be found until spring. Two feet of snow is a lot in one storm.

Oscar, the stone mason didn't appear yesterday at all. I guess he is pretty discouraged, even if it warms up it will be hopeless trying to find the stones and the gravel etc. ~~etc/11~~ which are scattered about under the snow, luckily he has only the front wall which is in the warmest exposure and the top of the north east wall to finish, and if it warms up we might be able to locate the buried rock and dry it off for him. The carpenters came and did what they could do, have the downstairs floored, and the window frames ready for the windows when they come from Calgary, unfortunately they are coming by truck and either are in a drift on the road or still in Calgary. They don't like to lay the floor or finish the walls upstairs until they do get in. This afternoon they decided they might just as well lay off until to-morrow. Last night Cecil Philpotts worked from five until nine putting in the wiring and is coming again to-night to work on the upstairs. This storm will hold us up a bit but it can't be helped.

Your letter just came with all the Lindbergh letters. We were sorry that we didn't hear his speech or read it in the papers, only little extracts which never give you as good an idea. We have the feeling that he didn't mean to have it taken quite the way it was interpreted. People have a way of picking out the one flaw in a speech and making more of that than of all the rest put together. Doesn't a person like the President usually have several experts go over his speeches before they are delivered, to be sure there is nothing in them that can be misunderstood? It was unfortunate that Lindbergh should have been quite as tactless, for it will do him more harm than the cause he was speaking for.

At one time to-day it looked as if it might clear off and the sun come out but now it is frosty looking and still the wind the little there is is from the north. We have decided there isn't much use trying to do much, and we will just pretend it is Sunday. after all last Sunday we were busy a good part of the day and it keeps us sort of tied down all day with the work going on. They come at eight or eight thirty in the morning and don't finish until after five thirty in the afternoon. We give them tea every afternoon at four, they say they are being spoiled, but it sort of spurs them on the last hour and helps.

Now I am going to reread all the old letters of yours that I have saved, for it is fun to coment on the things you write of. and most of the time I don't get much ~~time~~ chance. Also I would rather write you than Miss Barrett and Everat, do you think that is awfully mean of me ?

How is Cal getting on with such a housefull of people ? I expect they are having guests as well, but meals for so many ages must be a bit difficult.

It doesn't look as if we would get east in time for the fair, but we honestly mean to get away as soon as it is possibly. How we can tell when that will be I don't know, for of course it all depends on Pete's father. As far as the building goes we can leave it most any time, especially after the heat is in, which we hope will happen this coming week, if the weaaher doesn't delay ~~the~~ things too much. For any finishing could be done later in the winter, as long as the windows are in. Pete's Fther seems to go on much the same, has ups and downs but doesn't seem to suffer a great deal. Some days he is so bright, and I may have told you, talked to Pete of going to the coast, thinking the change would do him good, We couldn't leave while he is like that.

I shall be glad to hear of Mrs Wayman's Return, what a shame to get to Singapore and then have to return. I wrote to Dorothy and Aunt Frankie to ask a question Mrs Wayman wanted me to ask, but haven't heard, maybe Aunt Frankie didn't know either. Also I have a letter here to copy for Mrs Wayman and put it away so safely I haven't been able to find it, as we throw little away I am sure it will turn up presently.

I don't wonder Olive Newbury was so tickled with all the things you sent her, I haven't sent my present yet on account of not knowing quite yet if I can get permission to do so. I should have asked when I was in Calgary. The manager here is awfully nice ( the Bank Manager ) but sometimes it is better not to have them ~~x~~ all know your business in a small town. I was going to send a check.

It was nice that Ebbs could get Madies old car, for he will need some thing to get to the station in, and now-a-days they keep the roads open so much better than they used to do, I don't expect he will get showed in. You remarked that Ebbs and Anne " surely live in a quiet place " I don't expect it is as quiet or as remote as where you and Father built your house, when you built it !

The new house beyond the Hutchins sounds most attractive, and so does the Hutchins. who is living in the house they have always been in? I forget if you or Jean mentioned it.

We were glad to hear that Frannie Hill isn't too sick and that he doesn't have to be in bed, why couldn't Russ go some where like that for the winter with Kitty and the children, where he could be out in the sun and fresh air, surely health is worth more than almost anythingelse, and perhaps some one could help him look after the family affairs. Is Mr Boardman any better or will he always be the same?

Thank you so much for paying my Automobile registry, I think you had better send it to me as it is the only liscense I have.

No I have never been in Vermont except in a train at night.

but it was moonlight. Sometime we may get there in the fall.

That book the "Poison Trail" must give one sort of squeamish feelings inside, from the cover it was quite scary.

When we get this new addition on and the heat, then you can make us a visit. It will be more fun when the house is finished and things are in order. the working area will be all concentrated and also the living part, which will make it so much easier in every way. Pete can paint and not be disturbed by anyone in the rest of the house. One really needs heat which is easy to control to be able to work well, and we are hoping that this arrangement will be as near perfect as possible.

Before I forget again, will you please thank Nanny for the lovely Swedish card that she sent us from the New York Fair. It was so good of her to remember us and I have meant several times to ask you to tell her how pleased we were, but I kept forgetting as usual.

We enjoy all the clippings that you and Jean send and it would take too long to mention them all. That was an interesting one about the swans. They are all interesting we find.

Later-- We have just been listening to a new program, "Meet Mr Weeks" It is awfully well done and I think you would enjoy it. It would be at 9.30 Tuesday night for you. Mr Weeks is the editor of the Atlantic Monthly and it is all about books, maybe you heard it.

Wednesday-- It is noon and only 22 above, but a lovely day such blue sky and a few clouds. Pete has been out all morning taking color pictures before the snow falls off the trees. It is so beautiful. It was zero this morning and ten above by ten, it may get above freezing this afternoon. If it weren't for the building we wouldn't be so anxious for the snow to go. The roads out of Calgary are cleared north and south but not east and west yet, they hope to have the Banff one open to-night. so we are hoping the windows arrive to-morrow.

This is quite a letter.

Lots of love to all

Catherine  
P.S. At ten P.M. on the news broadcast from Calgary they told of the progress the snow plows were making. The one on the road to Banff had gotten 15 miles west of Calgary, but was to work all night, rather discouraging when it is 85 miles all the way. However the 30 ~~20~~ miles on this end is clear. It is now Thursday & looks as if it might be nice later today though overcast this morning.

Banff, Alberta  
Canada.  
Sat. Oct. 28, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

That was quite a snow fall we had, 29 inches was the official amount, almost two and a half feet. It has settled to about a foot by now and has at last blown off the trees. It barely got above freezing the last two days, though it did melt in the sun. Oscar, the stone mason, got a bit discouraged and wanted to go back to Calgary. We were afraid once he left he might not appear until spring, for it did look as if winter had set in in earnest. He came around on Wednesday afternoon I think it was and there was some sun which cheered him up considerably. The others had gone to do another job in the mean time as our windows hadn't come. Well Oscar began looking for his rock and we helped dig it out and they brushed it off and dried it in the sun and then we found that we needed to build a new chimney and thought perhaps that we could keep him busy doing that. He didn't seem too eager, but we showed him an old block of cement that Pete had saved from an old foundation, and he said that would do for a footing for the chimney and he would come next morning. It was then about four in the afternoon and Pete did some hustling for bricks, but again was in luck for they were just unloading bricks from a freight car and so brought them right up here and put them indoors, and they were all here by five that afternoon. The next morning Oscar was so tickled to find them all dry and not frosty, and had the chimney half up by evening. He finished it yesterday. However he didn't think he would come to-day to do stonework, but would wait till next week, perhaps after he had built Sam Ward a chimney. (we were hoping that at least Sam's chimney would keep him in Banff) However when we had a warm west wind and it was melting at breakfast time, who should appear but Oscar to do the stone work and he has been working away all day.

We practically gave up the windows yesterday when over the news cast it said that the plow had only gotten three miles west of Cochrane. It had made less than a mile an hour in plowing the drifts were so bad. Again we were in luck and the windows had been shipped by train when the clearing of the road looked so hopeless, and they arrived yesterday afternoon, so once more there is lots of work for four men to do and Pete as well. The electric wiring is being done in the evening, so that won't slow them up. The heating we hope will be started this next week.

Mr Hughes in the grocery store had quite a trip on the prairies this week. He was near a place called Strathmore on Monday and was stuck with several other cars in the blizzard. Mrs Hughes who is the most delicate sort of person, in leaning over the back of the front seat to get a rug, her feet slipped out from under her and she cracked several ribs on the back of the seat. Some men from another stalled car helped carry her to the nearest house, a distance of half a mile and she was unconscious by that time. It was a tiny three room house, a bachelors, and there were thirty - five people there that night and I guess as long as they were there, which was from Monday until Thursday. Mr Hughes said there was just room enough for them to all stretch

out on the floor side by side. When the road was cleared at last they went to there cars, his was luckily blown clear of snow but one of the men who had helped carry Mrs Hughes found his car buried so that the shovel on the top standing up had only the handle showing above the snow. one man walking in the snow felt something hard under his foot and it turned out to be the top of his car. Rather discouraging !

Your letter with the folder of the Eliot O'Hara exhibitio came, did you see it I wonder ? for there were several painted in Honolulu of different trees, in fact the whole show was of trees I guess, it must have been interesting. I like his things don't you ? Wasn't he the man who came out to the house once with Mrs O'Hara and Grandpa, he had just retired from the Waltham Watch Company, or was that someone else ?

The book fair must be great fun, I had no idea it was such a tremendous thing, and shall be anxious to hear all about it

Loads of love to you all, do tell us all about the new Tractor, what kind is it and all it will do.

More love

Catherine -

Banff, Alberta.  
Tues. Oct. 31, 1939.  
Halloween.

Dearest Mother,

Another month gone by, and I've been told the older one gets the faster the time goes, Pete said this morning that it seemed as if we had been looking forward to September and now October is all over! Well we have really done quite a bit though in the building line.

Luckily the weather has been comparatively mild and the sun has shone for several days. It gets above freezing about ten and stays so until late in the afternoon, so the stone mason has been able to get on with the rock work. It was really lucky as it turned out that we had to build a new chimney, for otherwise Oscar might have gotten so discouraged that he would have returned to Calgary, the road being blocked and work here to keep him busy was all that kept him around Banff. He is Scandinavian and a real Artist, rather temperamental. He is a great worker and never stops, except for tea in the afternoon, and as Sam says he is lost when he can't work. Another day should finish the stone work. We really have a grand group working for us. Of course Sam is the prize person of all, he not only knows the joiners trade thoroughly, having been apprenticed to the trade as a boy, in the old country, but also could have made a name for himself on the stage, he is wonderful at giving recitations and when he is in the mood he can keep everyone in a gale of laughter. Quite often he feels in the mood on the job, and a good deal of kidding goes on, he also is a great singer, and even Oscar joins in too. Then there is Verne Costello, who was a ship's carpenter and has shipped under several flags, and also has worked on the ~~Vidette~~ trail for Jimmy Simpson, he is also good natured. Then there is Bill Widger, who is young from Calgary and thinks Sam is all right, so joins in the fun, also Ted Brown from Banff, a young man learning to be a carpenter. So altogether they make a fine gang. We give them tea every afternoon at four o'clock which they seem to appreciate, and they work until five thirty. To-day we are even busier with Willard Neilsen and his helper starting to put in the heating ducts. That makes eight, and nine men counting Pete, for he works with them. Tearing out the old partition where we closed in the porch, and doing all sorts of ~~XX~~ things and especially seeing that places aren't closed in where the heating has to go, or the plumbing, or wiring. There certainly is a lot to think of. I must say an Architect earns his job.

You must be having a grand time at the Book Fair, I think it was funny that I wrote you about listening to Mr Weeks over the radio, and how good he was, and the same night you were writing me that he was the best speaker that day at the book fair. Do try and listen to his broadcasts, for I am sure you would enjoy them, Jean too.

I must go over town.

Loads of love,

Catharine -

Banff, Alberta.  
Canada.  
Wednesday, Nov, 1, 1939

Dearest Mother,

I now have discovered why Miss Herd and Aunt Mary Hoar have resigned from the Tuesday Club, and I am not sure that I wholly blame them. It must be so that they will surely hear Mr Weeks speak over the radio. I heard him again last night, about childrens books that never grow old, and Alexander Woolcott was the guest Speaker and spoke about "Helens Babies". I hope you heard it. It comes over the blue network of one of the big American broadcasting companies, 9.30 Tuesday nights.

We are getting on fine, I guess none of the men here belong to unions, for they are willing to work evenings if necessary. Willard Neilson and his helper were here from Calgary early in the morning, arriving with the Economy Express which brought the tin cut in the right sizes. It didn't look like much but by afternoon the yard was full of ducts which they had put together. The two of them came back after supper and worked until after ten and they expect to be through by to-morrow, having got the ducts in and will come back to install the furnace when it arrives. It takes all our time but there are so many little things to decide. For instance they decided last night to place the furnace facing the other way from the original plan, and to move the airconditioner to the other side too. It made it better from several angles, more room to shovel the coal into it, room for a trap door into the cellar in a better place than before, giving us more room into the toilet. If Pete hadn't been here they couldn't have changed the plan so easily.

It is now Thursday, and another beautiful day. We still have about a foot of snow, but it melts a bit every day. Oscar will surely finish to-day. It has taken him longer for they couldn't get him large pieces of stone to work with, as the quarry is full of snow, and unfortunately the man who gets it doesn't get it far enough ahead, but otherwise all is well. They got the hot air duct in yesterday which will heat the big front room, the little room on the balcony and the bedroom and one side of the kitchen and also the workshop and Studio. It has been put across the floor upstairs and only two cuts in the log walls had to be made. Only the little registers, 8 by 12 inches show in the ceiling downstairs and we will put the chest of drawers on top of the duct upstairs. It really works so well, but took a lot of measuring and cutting and fitting to get it in. It was about seven when Willard left. To-day they are sheeting the Studio, the floor was laid yesterday and part of the insulation done up there, a ceiling also is being put in. The dark room is finished except for the sink and the window frames and oiling the walls etc. The wiring has been done at night. So all together I think they are doing very well, they are certainly working hard, perhaps the fact that we could pay them up to date has been appreciated.

You haven't told me half enough about the Book Fair, and the different speakers, what do they talk about, and do they just speak a few minutes or for long stretches, the questions must have been amusing.

About the little Balinese girl, if we remember correctly I gave her to you one Christmas so that you could have her to hang in your house. We rather wanted to keep the Honolulu and Balinese things in the family, for they are not easy to replace, However the ones of the mountains are different.

I am so sorry that Mildred has had such a time, but don't you think quite often everything happens at once and it probably is the after effect of all the worrying times she has gone through.

The tea for Frances must have been such fun, but quite an affair when everyone has to have a bath before hand. though no doubt they needed them after a strenuous game like touch football. People building country houses which are used for weekends, will no longer consider a downstairs toilet sufficient, but will include a shower ~~room~~ and dressing room!

I don't know if I told you last summer about Mary Simpson, the smallest one of the two who you saw skating last winter. She was operated on for Peritonitis this summer, and was terribly sick, she finally came home on a stretcher and has been on her back most of the summer. It is rather a question if she will be able to skate again, and we all feel terribly as she was really getting on so well and the best of the pair in skating. Margaret finished out the summer at the St Regis in New York where they were skating in the Iridium Room, a sort of night club. Now it seems that Margaret is ~~sk~~ going to teach skating in Boston this winter and Mary hopes to go down there to be with her for Christmas. Mrs Eaton would be interested I think to know about it, as she knew Mary up at Bow Lakes.

It is so nice that Frances can be with you this fall, for I know how you must enjoy having her there in the evenings, and someone to tell you the goings on of her day. We still haven't the least idea when we shall get east, Pete's father is about the same, some days brighter than others, but yesterday was rather listless so they said. I haven't seen him for some time as he has been sleeping when I happened to go up.

I was real gay Tuesday, went to a tea party with my knitting at Edmee Moores. four other girls were there and we had a very nice time. there isn't much for me to do while so much hammering is going on, That is why you are getting better letters. To-night we are going to start First Aid Classes at the school. We are going as it is a good opportunity to learn, It is the St Johns Ambulance course, and one is examined at the end and gets a certificate,

Must stop, lots of love to all

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.

Monday, Nov. 6, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

That certainly was exciting getting a telegram with such good news. We were wondering what was happening, but thought that perhaps no ~~one~~ one would think of wiring. I guess it all was very exciting and we are so glad that the baby and Anne are both doing well, also Ebbs, for he seemed to be included in the "all doing well." and thanks for letting us know. That is another new baby to look forward to seeing when we go east. It is hard to realize that Ebbs has gotten engaged, married a home and a family, all since we were there. The time does fly.

The house is progressing very well and with luck the carpenters will be finished by the end of this week, that is if the furnace arrives on time and all goes as planned. The front elevation is all finished except for the lamp ~~and~~ the door and a box for the meter, and they are busy now putting on the siding <sup>outside</sup>, that goes above the stone. We will soon have pictures to show you. The studio is finished enough to put in a couple of chairs, and the easel. Pete is so tickled with it that he insisted on sitting up there most of yesterday and just looking at it. He thinks it is the best room in the house and it really has turned out awfully well. The light is far better than the one downstairs, being higher off the ground. the walls are plain tongue and groove boards, and also the ceiling, we will just oil them and let it stay light. Under the eaves on one side Pete is to have racks for his paintings and there is so much room to store things. He is now so anxious to get started painting that he thinks after ~~next~~ the end of this week, that we won't have any more work done and leave the shelves until later, I tell him I always get left when it comes to my shelves, for they never seem quite important enough to have to be done. However I am not worrying about them, and Sam can do a lot of it up at his house and then fit them in later. It is just a month since we started putting up the frame which is pretty good we think.

We were talking to the nurse this morning about Pete's father, and she said that he had completely fooled all of them, the three Doctors included. They figure it is his heart that is keeping him going, and that's all. The growth which was growing so rapidly for a time has stopped growing for some unknown reason, and has even shrunk a little. But he is so weak and can hardly talk at all. It is impossible to tell how long he can go on like this.

We had rather a busy weekend, Saturday night Edmee came down to see if we would go to the Moores for the evening as Mary Cross Oliver, a Calgary girl who now lives in Colombo, Ceylon, was there, Her husband is head of the Ford Motor Co. there and he will soon arrive on leave, she came ahead with her little boy. She is a most attractive person and lots of fun. They all came up yesterday morning for coffee at eleven o'clock, and also to see the house. To-day I am going to take the Oetekers to the Hammonds to tea, Agnes Hammand and a Mrs Yorath were in Wengen one winter where the Oetekers come from.

Loads of love.

Catharine ~~Re~~ D. Your little heart  
Mrs Vaux's call just came.

Banff, Alberta.

Wednesday, Nov. 8, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

Such a wonderful long letter from you yesterday. You certainly have been busy, to start with I think a "Tuesday" meeting held on a "Wednedday" might be confusing! but I know what kind of days those kind are, for sometimes we have them, when one thing after another seems to happen, and it is always the questions to be settled that take the most out of you, at least we find it that way, lately we have had a lot to think of besides the house. The nurse who was staying night and morning up at the other house, has a chance to go on a travelling case for several months perhaps, and we don't want to keep her here, though now that she is going Pete's Mother is sure she won't want anyone else, However we are going to get someone, for though they can do nothing for Papa, they can help Mom, if anything happens she is apt to go all to pieces, after the weeks of strain and going on her nerves. So that is a little matter of diplomacy to help with. Then Jackie has been asking for Pete's advise in matters in connection with the store, and that means a few hours of discussion, and on top of that we have had to give a lot of thought to the Ski Camp. We thought that once Sir Norman Watson became interested that we would drop out of it completely, but with the war he has had to do the dropping out for the time being, and so we have had to take a definite interest once more. So with one thing or another we have been well occupied.

The house is progressing, though the furnace hasn't arrived to-day as we had half expected. The outside siding is almost finished, it would have been this morning, but we woke to find it snowing hard, great wet flakes, luckily(?) it grew warm and turned to rain and is just pouring. There is still nearly a foot of old snow and it all is becoming slush, just awfull, so the men are working inside, sheeting the workshop and furnace room. The up stairs is finished except for oiling the walls, which we can do when there is heat to dry it. Even the window casings are on, The plumber was coming to-day to put in the vent pipe, but I guess it is too wet, anyway the fixtures won't be here until Thursday or Friday. We hope to be practically finished at the end of this week.

Last night Cecil Philpotts, the electrician, put our out side letter at the back door up, It is a wonder, an old carriage lamp, one that was an extra for old Dr Bretts carriage, He was the first Doctor here and I guess maybe in Alberta, also was Luitenant Gov. of the Province, The carriage is a beauty too, and open one and light upholstery. It was cleaned for the King and Queen to ride in, but they used a less fancy one instedd. Mrs Brett ( the daughter in law says we can have it if we have a place to put it in, we also have an old stage coach, so some time I guess we will have to build a stable for them. Maybe we should just start a museum and be done with it. The lamp is brass and had a candle in it originally, a

spring to keep it up and poking it through a little hole. Now it has been electrified.

We also had company last night, friends of the Kingmans in Minneapolis. They were a most attractive couple on their way through to the coast. Mr Leslie is an engineer connected with the Pan American Airways in San Francisco. He was on the experimental flight to New Zealand just recently. He also was in Honolulu when we were there last on the starting of the service there. He went to Tech. so Pete found out as he was taking them back to the hotel, in 1924 I think it was. We had a very pleasant evening.

I bet you had an entertaining call from Mrs Vaux, we get a great kick out of her and so do the Moores. She always wants to know all the details, and fires one question after another. She asked Mary Wyatt and me up to tea last summer, and though she had barely met Mary, she asked about everything. When were you married? What does your husband do? why are you going to live in Australia? etc. We were glad to get her little note. The house she was in is the one the Oetekers have. but don't you ~~worry~~ worry, we will soon have plenty of room for you to visit us, and best of all there will be heat too. for in summer I expect lots of times we will have a wood fire in the furnace to take the chill off.

You asked what we would like for Christmas, I think that books are as nice as anything, and some I myself would love to have are the ones on water color painting by Eliot O'Hara. I can't think of anything else right now.

I am so glad that you heard Mr Weeks, I only heard the first part last night as these people came, I turned it off when Bob Davis was telling about Sitting Bull. so I heard most of the part Mr Week gave. Isn't it funny how entertaining he can make things sound. He would be a wonderful lecturer for college, for one seems to remember what he says.

I am looking forward to your Sunday letter which always comes Thursday, to hear more details about the arrival of Annes baby, and what is her name? I am so sorry to hear about Mrs Hudson, I hope she gets better.

It has grown colder and is clearing a bit, it is a little too early for winter, though the days are so short now there isn't much time for snow to melt. It isn't light until nearly eight and dark soon after five thirty.

I am so glad that you have Frances with you ~~until~~ especially while we can't be there. When we do reach Concord perhaps we can stay a while. longer than we could have had we gone in the spring or summer, and had we gone in the fall we would have had to return because of Pete's father. I don't see how a person can live so long when they are so weak and eat so little.

The men are just finishing, we were over at Jackies helping decide what to do about the Ski Camps. Jim Boyce was there and will run Skoki, and I think that Cliff will run Temple.

Must stop,

Loads of love to all.

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.

Sunday, Nov. 12, 1939.

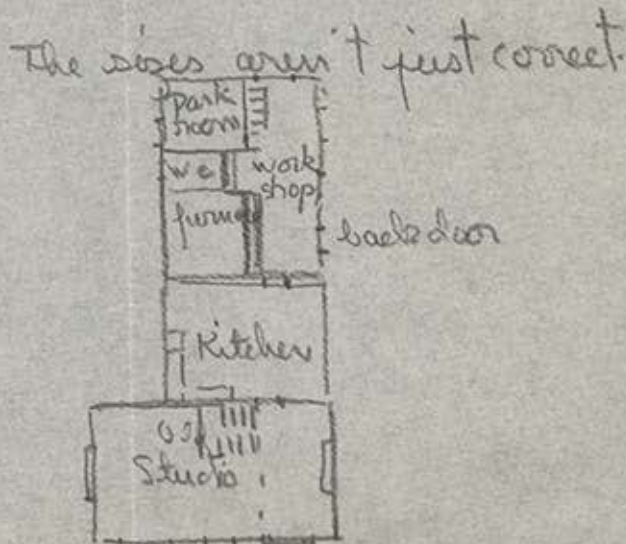
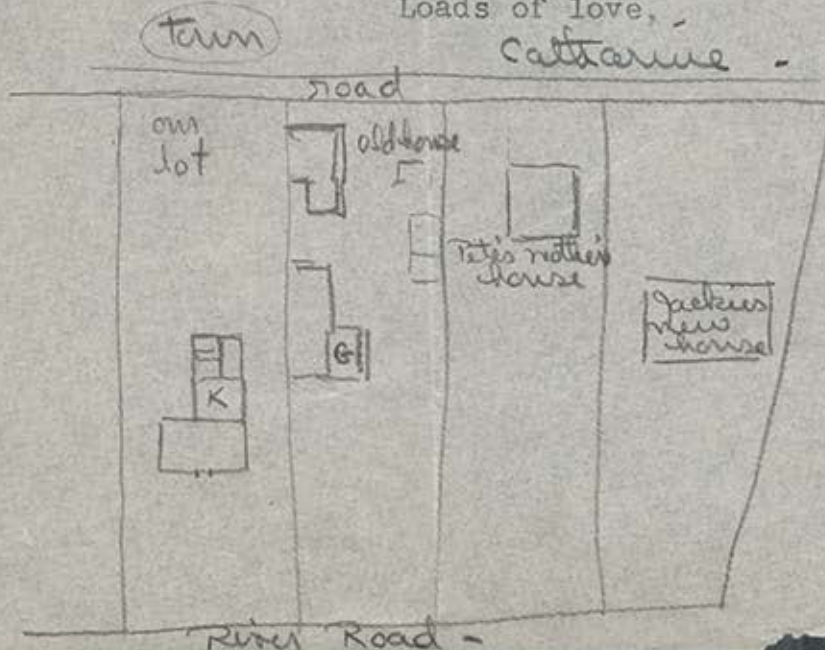
Dearest Mother,

I seem to have skipped a bit in writing you, but we are having two days off, so to speak, yesterday being Armistice Day. It is rather fun for a change to have a rest from workmen and hammering going on. Also we are being held up a bit by the non-arrival of the furnace, and also the boards to finish the sheeting of the workshop. Otherwise the men would be nearly through. The Plumber is putting in the soil pipe, and the W.C. has arrived, so that and the Darkroom sink can go in, the toilet sink has to be ordered specially, but we are in no hurry for that. Then there are three doors to be fitted, and a few odd jobs, the coal box to be finished, and of course the furnace, which will take a couple of days. We hope to have things running by the end of the week at least.

Luckily the weather is not very cold, around thirty and forty, which makes it easier all round. Pete's Father wasn't nearly as well in the middle of the week, and then ~~Thursday~~ and Friday was real bright, we didn't see him, not happening to go up when he was awake, but the nurse was down yesterday morning to say "Good-bye," as she is going on another case, a travelling one that takes her to the coast. She said that he was awfully bright and joking with her that morning. She said that she never saw anyone come back as he has after being so sick, and no one can explain it very well. We hope to have another nurse in a day or two. Even if she just sleeps in the house, it is far easier on the family to feel someone is there.

There doesn't seem to be much to write to-day. You were right the front door faces the river, and the addition is at the back, the roof continueing right along. We will get a few pictures in a day or two when there are not so many boards and things around. I'll make a plan of it.

Loads of love,



Banff, Alberta.

Wed. Nov, 15, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

I never knew anything like the time to go fast. Here it is the middle of the month already. We are doing pretty well on the whole, though there is still no sign of the furnace, if it doesn't come to-day I think we will telephone, for there is not much left to do. One thing that is rather nice is that the men can do some of the little things that usually get left until the end and then are so hard to get finished. We are also waiting for the lumber to sheet the workshop and ceiling, it is supposed to be here by the end of the week at the latest. It is what they call "tongue and groove" and serves not only as sheeting but also is nice enough to do as a finished wall. We got all they had at the lumber yard and they have had this on order for some time. The outside should soon be finished enough to have its picture taken.

We had no luck last night getting Mr Weeks, he is only on the Vancouver station, and last night you couldn't get it loud enough to hear, I wonder did you hear him? On the folder you sent, it said that he would speak over the "Blue Network." Which means that it will be on the station that carries the Blue Network programs. Now whether the paper lists the radio stations that way I don't know, but perhaps someone could telephon the Atlantic Monthly and ask them what station it comes over. Maybe Miss Barrett and Everett would know, it is the kind of program they would enjoy. Of course you could drop the Atlantic Monthly a card. Thank you for thinking of us in connection with subscribing to the magazine, but I don't think that we would ever have time to read it, as it is we haven't time to read the ones we do get as thoroughly as we would like to. How about Miss B and E again. Wouldn't they enjoy it after you had finished with it.

I am so glad to hear that Anne and the Baby are doing so well and I expect they will be home before long. What is her name?

It was so nice to get your three nice letters, they all arrived Monday due to the holiday. We enjoyed hearing all about what you have been doing, your calls on Miss Emma Smith etc. Of course I got mixed up about the little Balinese Boy, for some reason when you mentioned the little girl, I pictured her in the living room, maybe I am breaking up. Which little girl did you mean, the one in green or blue?

I am delighted to hear that the knitted scarf is finished by Miss Newbury. Congratulate her for me, and is she to start another?

It was funny about the photograph of Miss McLellan, it fell out of the letter as I opened it, and I thought immediately it was a picture of you until I looked closer. It was just the first glance that fooled me. Pete did the same. However you have a far better "figger"

That Statler singer must have been amusing to watch.

We are so sorry about Margie Watkins, but it sounded as if she wouldn't be left paralyzed in any way, they do so much more nowadays for people with Infanile.

I think Pete would love to help Russ with the camp in the woods, we are surely coming to Concord sometime, but how we can tell when it will be I don't know. I saw the Doctor the other day and he ~~xi~~ told me he couldn't tell, except that Papa was getting so very thin. There is one thing that when we descend on you it won't be for just two weeks, so be prepared.

It is Wed~~ne~~nesday and the stores close at noon, so I must go over, also I seem to be hitting all the wrong keys.

Lots of love to you all,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.  
Friday, Nov. 16, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

It was interesting to hear of yours, or rather Russells, plans for the picnic place in the woods. I hope we are in time to help. The idea of an inside and outside fireplace sounds a good one, for the weather can change so quickly. You spoke of having the men burn the stumps, why not save them as they make such wonderful things to burn in a fire place. We save ours and let them dry out, of course ~~dry~~ cutting them in pieces the size you want. Ours are Spruce and Balm of Gilead but I should think pine would be equally good. I imagine you will think why save awkward stumps when there is so much wood to burn, but they are grand to keep a fire going for a long time, when you want the cheerfulness but not too much heat, and they also produce grand coals.

You certainly live a busy life, with dinners and company etc. I don't know if we will be able to keep up to you. What was the book that you and Mrs Motte found so interesting? Have you read A.A. Milne's life, it sounds good from reviews.

Yes, we do get Radio City on Sundays, from one to three, father a nice time to listen.

In case we are still here Christmas, you are allowed to send gifts free up to five dollars worth per person. Books I imagine are duty free, but should be sent separately. That is there is some rule if you remember which limits the number to a package. Last year you sent everything together in one parcel, and it was naturally worth more than ten dollars (for there was a lot in it) however he took off five dollars worth for each of us, and we paid duty on the rest. Why not save anything that you want to give us until we get east, that is ~~by~~ if by any chance we don't get there before Christmas, for it is much more fun to be together when one opens another's gifts. Even if we have a new addition it doesn't mean we have a lot more room, so please don't give us too much.

It is hard to realize that it is getting near Christmas, fall here never seems like fall to me, of course there is the time when the trees turn, but then there is such a long period when it isn't any particular season, and no football games to suggest November, I always forget Russells birthday, why I don't know. It makes me mad to be so stupid.

Our weather is very mild, hardly going below thirty above and up to forty five, on the prairies it has been in the sixties. Our snow is practically gone, about two inches left, but very messy looking. The grass is bright green where it is bare, for our only heavy frosts was after the snowfall.

The addition will be finished to-day, even to outside shutters and storm windows, and the floor is stained and the walls oiled upstairs. The furnace was delayed in the east, the car was loaded and then never left the yards, however it started the 14th and should be here by the middle of next week. Thank goodness

it is coming at all. It will take at least two days to install and then the furnace room can also be finished.

Did I tell you that we started taking first aid lessons. I went again last night but the Doctor was called away, we went to the first one, but there was such a crowd we got discouraged. However I think I will go and learn what I can. Yesterday afternoon I went up to the Hammonds and we practised tying bandages and arm slings. It is rather fun to learn what to do, and most important what not to do.

Must get over town before lunch,

Loads of love

Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.  
Mon. Nov. 20, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

I am afraid that it has been several days since I last wrote you. We have been having lovely weather and it is only a little colder. Quite a few people to see lately, Saturday Sam Ward came down after breakfast to give us the mens times and we could figure out what we owed. It is interesting for he told us that the cost of materials should be about the same as the men's wages, and they both are within two dollars of each other. None of us are real business men I guess, for we all had our own way of figuring it up and in the end all arrived at the same figure. but it took us most the morning for we did a bit of joking too.

Then in the afternoon we met the Oeteckers and after they had looked at things here we went up there to tea and had a very nice time, they have decided to go to California for a trip as they have a ticket they can't extend, and then will return in the spring.

Yesterday was Sunday, Pete oiled the darkroom, walls ceiling and floor, and this morning we put the linoleum down, it is the stuff we had in the old dark room, also the sink we used in the first darkroom we moved in, and the tables also just fit. Pete also moved his tools into the workshop, so little by little we are getting straightened out, now if only the furnace arrives on time it might even get here to-morrow, we are anxious to get everything finished and without heat in the front room it is hard to do much.

The snow is all gone around the house and it looks rather messy, but we hope to get a photograph of it soon. We have a great joke about the plans, we drew some up though we changed them a good deal in the be inning, moved a window a few inches this way and that, then Sam got a new pair of overalls with 14 pockets and immediately lost the plans, at least we blamed him, he finally found them in one of the pockets but we never let him forget it, and actually never used them much after that, sort of decided things as we went along, so now we tell everyone that we are building the house first and are almost ready to draw up a set of plans, which is really true, for to get permission to build from the Gov't you have to have the plans approved they did approve the first ones, but now instead of drawing the outside we will just take pictures of it.

I will send this along to-morrow, and if there is time will write a bit more.

Loads of love.

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.  
Thurs. Nov. 23, 1939.

Thanksgiving for some !

Dearest Mother,

Our mild weather is still continueing thank goodness, for the furnace has not yet arrived, it is the only thing that has really kept us waiting, it is evidently still having a lovely train ride on the C.P.R. Our storm windows have come which is a help, and we hope to get Sam to put them in soon, maybe to-morrow, We never have had them but we know they will conserve a lot of heat. It has been rather nice lately with out workmen always around. Pete has practically moved in to his new quarters.

I listened again to Mr Weeks on Tuesday, and thought maybe you were too, it was a real good one with Miss Helen Howe, I hope you heard it for I know you have often spoken of her monologues. The only trouble with the program is that it is too short.

Pete's Grandfather came up for a night, he lives in Cochrane ( Half way to Calgary ) and is so smart for he is well over eighty. It is hard for him thinking of Papa who is of course younger than Grandpa, but he had a nice chat with him yesterday morning, though the evening before Papa could hardly speak loud enough for him to hear. After he left Papa got out of bed and tried to get up several other times. It is pathetic for he wants to get up and of course isn't strong enough, and they are apt to find him on the floor, for in trying to get up he sort of rolls out of bed and unless someone is right there to stop him he lands on the floor, I think it is when he wakes up and doesn't realize that he is ill and in bed. The growth seems to have subsided, so it couldn't have been cancer. but he is so weak it is hard to think that he can get any stronger. Maybe in another week or two there will be a change.

I am glad that Anne and baby are home again, and that every thing went well. It will be fun to see all the children and how they have grown.

Dorothy Whiteman who owns the little house Mrs Vaux had last summer, was down the other day, over a week ago. and I told her about Mrs Vaux going to see you etc. and she said " oh, I had a letter a few days ago from Mrs Vaux wanting to ~~rent~~ ~~the~~ ~~house~~ rent the house for next summer definitely." so I told her that Mrs Vaux was probably afraid that you might take it, and she was going to be sure.

Thanks so much for the clippings, all of them, even if I don't mention them in detail. That speed camera is a wonderful thing, such peculiar effects.

When did the Japan Society start up again, the last I heard they were giving up meeting on account of the war. It will be fun to hear Mrs Wayman, I should think that she would be an excellent ~~teacher~~ speaker.

That was interesting about the roses you got at Mr Quints keeping so long without doing anything for them. Don't

you think that they try to raise the varieties that keep the best and also Mr Quints flowers are always so fresh.

I am trying to get all the color slides in shape, we will have a lot to show you, I have finished mounting the new ones but last spring did about forty backwards and have to do them all over again. They take from five to ten minutes to do one slide, so it is not fast work.

Loads of love

Catharine .

1 Banff, Alberta.  
Sat. Nov. 25, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

Well the furnace has come at last and we are quite happy. Yesterday morning we neither of us dared even hope that it might come, and then as we were eating breakfast Pete saw a red truck go down the side street, I heard the noise but even then we weren't sure it was the economy express truck, which usually brings the stuff up from Calgary. There was an awful lapse of time before we finally heard the truck turn in our drive, and sitting up in the back was the furnace. There was lots of packing cases to be unloaded too, and he had to make three trips with the small truck before it was all unloaded. They brought it up from Calgary in a big van. Then we looked for Willard, as last time he was here before the truck, but it was eleven before they came. and so they didn't really start assembling things until after lunch. We expected the furnace to come in more than one part, but the actual furnace is all in one piece, and they had quite a time getting it through the door. The door was 35  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches and the furnace at its narrowest point 36 inches. Pete had carefully put weather strip on the door, forgetting about the furnace, maybe that is what brought it. They did a good deal of wiggling the thing around, first Pete, Willard and his helper, but they finally had to wait until Sam and Bill arrived for it was heavy too. Now it is in the furnace room and they have the side wing things on and it is very handsome, being a lovely green in color. It is ten inches wider than Jackies, and it is just lucky that we allowed plenty of room. I guess furnace models change as everything else does.

They hope to have it installed by Monday, and will even work to-morrow morning. Bill is putting the rest of the floor in the furnace room, Sam is putting on our storm windows, and Mr Waterworth is doing the rest of the plumbing. So once more there is much hammering going on.

Your Sunday letter came enclosing the bit Kitty wrote about the Concord Players, I have often read the things in the journal, but never realized who wrote them. I think she wrote awfully well, and it was interesting to read about all the old plays, I remember a lot of them from the Monument Hall days.

It is nice that Frances has at last found an apartment. It is much too hard coming after evening things, and even after a long day in town. I wonder sometimes how I ever did so much driving back and forth, and school and all the other things. I don't think I would want to again.

Aren't you smart to have gotten all your Christmas Presents most bought and done up. It is interesting to think that now the shops are increasing and improving in Concord, I suppose the fact that they could go to Boston so easily, made Concord shoppers go in town, and now that the stores are so crowded and it is not as easy as it used to be, people are shopping in the small places again.

The O'Hara books I mentioned are the ones on water color painting, I think there are three old ones and one new one which was mentioned in the folder you sent me. I had the

first one but gave it away thinking some day that I would get another. They are very helpful in painting.

You are as bad as I am in remembering things. I forgot it was the little Balinese Boy I gave you, and now you remember the little girl having something red on her head. I haven't any with a red handkerchief. so I think that the score now stands 1-1. However I will see what can be done.

That's interesting about your hearing Allan Mowbray, we have heard him too on that program ( though we don't listen to it regularly ) and can always recognize his voice.

I am sending you a Trail Hikers Bulletin which you may find amusing to look at. It is all about our last camp. The Mr Wheeler ( who writes an article ) is Mrs Jack McLeod 's uncle.

Tell Jean that we were so glad to hear about Tom Jr's engagement and are hoping to hear more details soon. We shall have to write him.

Next week you will be celebrating Thanksgiving and we shall be thinking of you, I wonder who and how many will be there. Mildred by her letter is helping you out.

I must go over for lunch and mail this,

Heaps of love,

Catharine -

Banff, Alberta.

Sunday, Nov. 26, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

We are having the most beautiful stretch of weather, clear blue sky and down to twenty at night. Altogether it has been a lovely ~~fall~~ November and comparatively mild.

The furnace is still being put together and Neilson and his helper arrived before 8.30 this morning. They prefer to work steadily while they have work to do, and were here from 8.30 to 6.30 yesterday. They are taking the afternoon off for a swim. We don't complain for the sooner they are through the better for us.

Pete has just gone up to the other house to see how his father is, some days he is so bright and asks how we are getting on with the addition, though it wasn't begun until after he was sick, and other days he can't speak well enough to be understood. He doesn't seem to have much pain if any, just once and a while, but not the awful attacks he had in the beginning.

If we had only known what was going to happen we could have planned things differently, but maybe one is best not to know. Of course we should have gone east last winter about January or February, but there always seemed to be something important for us to stay for, and then the way things turned out we could have been away without its hurting too much. However we do want to make the trip so Don't give up hope!

Have you any plans about the winter? Other than that we are ~~not~~ to descend on you, if so let us know, for we don't want to interfere with what you all have planned in Concord. Are Russ and Kitty by any chance going southwards this winter, and if so when? Not that we will know much what we can do, but it would help in planning.

Do you see Life magazine? The last one had pictures of the play in New York, "Life with Father" based on the book of Clarence Days. It must be an awfully good play, just the kind I like. Mrs Carpenter has seen it and says its fine.

Monday - They didn't finish working on the furnace until nearly two yesterday, but after that we went out the west road and took colored pictures of the people skating. Our skates are in the east and we were afraid the sun would be gone if we waited to borrow some. It was a lovely sight as the lakes were quite full of people and it was such a beautiful afternoon. In the evening we were just settling down for a quiet evening when Jackie ran in to get Pete, his father wasn't as well. However he quietened down after a while, but it gave us all sort of a scare.

There are lots working this morning. Sam and Bill ~~are~~ still working on storm windows, the two men on the furnace, the plumber in the cellar, and the electrician on connections, he is having a vacation so working in the day time.

I will take this over, maybe you will get it the day after Thanksgiving. We hope you all had a good time and didn't eat too much. Give my love to Mildred who I imagine is with you.

Loads of love to all,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.

Tuesday, Nov. 28, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

Your letter about the Christmas packages came after I had mailed one ( a letter not a package ) to you. so I thought that I would send this airmail and both letters should reach you about the same time.

We think it would be much more fun if you would save any thing you have for us for Christmas until we get to Concord. Half the fun of presents is seeing the person you are giving them to, open them. Dont you think so ? and then there is always the chance we might get there for Christmas. I never knew about the five dollars worth that they allow free of duty at Christmas time until last year when I was getting your package out of the customs. If we were in Banff by any chance around Christmas, the chances are we might be up at Temple for skiing, and so it wouldn't matter if we had nothing to open here. Anyway you save anything you have and we will do the same.

Also I hope that this reaches you before Mr Hibbard's exhibition is over, for why don't you buy one? I can't think of anything nicer to do, no matter how you look at it. It would be so nice for you to have it to enjoy, and also I think it is too bad not to encourage really good artists. The one on the folder looked like a beauty and I can imagine what a wonderful exhibition it must have been.

It was nice that you saw Katharine Balch, she is married to the young Shutcliff who takes the ski movies, that I think you saw in Concord.

We shall look forward to hearing about Mrs. Waymans lecture, I must go over town now. We would have had the heat on last night but were afraid that it would smell too much as new things do, but we will have it going to-day, we can hardly believe it. It is going to be pretty exciting.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.

Thurs. Nov. 30, 1939.

Your Thanksgiving Day.

Dearest Mother,

At this very moment you are all too full of Turkey to do anything. for it is about three thirty your time, one thirty here. I wish we were there with you but perhaps next one we can be.

Our furnace is all in, and Neilsen goes back to Calgary to-night. It took them longer than they expected, partly because the size of the furnace was just a little different from Jackies which they had used for measurements. and partly because it was hard to fit the air ducts in a log house. Tuesday they worked all day, and ~~7 1/2~~ until ten at night, and last night they were here until eleven. I don't know how they could keep at it so long. They have to be very patient in fitting the things. We also had Sam Ward and Bill doing carpentering, putting a trap door in to the cellar under the water pipes in the new part, and also the partition, and hanging doors. Philpotts was putting in the electric connections, we never realized there were so many to run the furnace, luckily he had a few days off just when we needed him so he had time to do it. He also completed other wiring in the house. WE have one switch which we call the "bear light" for from the bedroom we can turn on the outside light by the back door, and it will be fun when we want to see what kind of animal is in the Garbage. Last night it served another purpose, in the night I noticed a light outside and sure enough it was the outside light we had forgotten to turn off. there was no tramping down stairs, all I had to do was switch it off from bed.

We had the furnace going yesterday and it worked perfectly, but made it so warm for the men working around it that we didn't put it on to-day. It is hot air blown through by a fan, and goes through an air conditioner, we can regulate the amount of moisture we like, and also have a furnacestat, to regulate how often the fan blows, We haven't a thermostat, but it will be set so that we only have to look at it about twice a day.

I wouldn't worry about your lack of remembering things, for it probably means what you lack in memory you ~~have~~ make up for in some thing else, probably in energy. You have good sight and hearing, so that may account for it. You know how they often say a blind person has his other senses higher developed. It was lucky though that you hadn't invited some one else. I should call it miscalculation rather than loss of memory.

I must take this over as I want to be back for the B.B.C. news from London, and see what they have to say about the Russians marching into Finland. Isn't it awful?

Had a nice letter from Jean, How nice that the Cabots have another boy.

Loads of love

P.S. I need plain handkerchiefs for Christmas.

Banff, Alberta.  
Friday, Dec. 1, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

A nice letter came from you to-day.

This is as far as I got writing to you yesterday and now it is Saturday, and the men are all finished with the Carpentering, at least for the time being. There are several cupboards and shelves we want built, but some Pete can do and the best we would rather wait for, until we know just what we want. We even have our winters supply of coal in the bin at the back. There is a little door into the furnace room so it is very convenient. We thought it wise to get in several tons now, for the ground is frozen and they backed in over the lawn. There are still lots of odd jobs that take time as you know, like laying the linoleum in the dark room etc, but worst of all we have so much to straighten out.

Yesterday we went up to say good bye to the Oetikers who left to-day for the coast to be gone a few months, they hope to return in the spring.

It is hard to realize that it is December and almost Christmas. They have just begun getting the things out in the shops. No Christmas tree ~~trimmings~~ trimmings this year from Germany. They all were on a boat near the Panama Canal when War started, and are thought to be in South America. I wasn't planning to send anything to you, but will bring anything I can think of with us when we go east. You might get a little "token of my affection" for your birthday.

I am so glad that the Fair was such a success, especially your flower table. We were sorry not to hear more about Mrs Wayman's lecture at the Japan Society, you wrote us that day, the 23rd and then by Sunday you must have thought that you told us all about it, but you hadn't, so do let us know how it went. (It was Monday you wrote) but I don't wonder you got mixed up, I do the same. It will be fun to hear all about Thanksgiving and who was there. Too bad that Lewis couldn't come.

This has been the loveliest November. Indian summer on the prairies. Poor farmers were just harvesting their Wheat when the first snow storm came, then it cleared and was just drying out when the second storm hit them. They gave up hope of getting it in, and then November was so wonderful that they have finished all the harvesting in all districts. It has been around sixty and seventy in many parts, though not quite as warm here.

There is so much I should do, and this week we hope to have some Christmas Cards to send. We had a lovely letter from Aunt Julie and also from Anne, my pile of unanswered letters is growing fast.

Lots of love to you all

Catherine -

Banff, Alberta  
Monday, Dec 4, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

This little "remembrance" was supposed to be mailed on Saturday at least, but some how it was too late when we had time to go to the mail. However it goes with our best wishes for a very happy Birthday! It isn't much of a present but if you squeeze as much as you evidently did last fall, perhaps it will be appropriate!

We hope you have a very nice birthday in every way and will be thinking of you Saturday.

Lots of love from  
us both -

Catharine.

many Happy Returns  
of the Day!

Banff Alberta.  
Wednesday, Dec. 5, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

My letter writing has become a bit delayed the last few days, yesterday was so lovely we went out in the afternoon to see if we could get some pictures of animals, and just because we had the camera and good light, we never saw even a deer. The sun goes behind the mountains for us about 1.15 now, but up the west road it still shines until after three, and yesterday was like a spring day. Last night it rained hard all night and was 67 in Calgary during the day. It is the queerest weather, and especially for December.

I can't seem to find your last letter to answer, it was the one about Smithy Dexter, How awfully sad and he was such a fine person too, I feel so sorry for Louis having lost three members of his family in such a short time. ~~Oh~~ I forgot about Helen, It seems so tragic for such a young person to die.

You must have had a busy Thanksgiving weekend, I wonder did Mildred get more than one day, I remember at Wheelers we only got the day, I suppose because there were many who had no place to go, and also it interrupted the work so. I hope Mildred had longer as I know you would enjoy having her there,

I don't expect that this will reach you in time for your birthday. How did you like my unusual present ! There seemed so little in the store here that you could use, of course there are woolen things but you can't wear wool so that was out. or can you ? Also something in a letter would go quicker. I hope you had a lovely birthday.

We can hardly believe we have heat all through the house, and of course it would be a mild spell, so we hardly need much fire. The dark room is very convenient too, and we used it last night to make some prints for Mrs MacDonald, the air conditioning keeps it very well ventilated too, and it is just the right size. Now we have all our Christmas cards to do, Pete says he will color them if I do the addressing, so perhaps we will get started on them to-day, it is quite a job. this year we are doing it a little differently, had a painting photographed and then will color it.

It is lunch time so must stop, am sending some clippings that may interest both you and Jean.

Lots of love,

Catharine -

Banff, Alberta.

Monday, Dec. 11, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

I am afraid that my letters are few and far between these days, but there is so much to do. We were late getting up yesterday, it was dark and rainy all day. We have had lots of rain the last few days and another two degrees colder and it would have been snow. It is such unusual weather for December. so warm.

We tried to do Christmas cards all afternoon, and did quite a few. We had all the photographs to stick on which we did at night. We made two hundred, then I have directed all the envelopes and Pete may help write the message. It is quite a job and I imagine that Aunt Julie ~~was~~ and Uncle John were doing just the same thing we were two Sundays before Christmas. Mildred was here for a little while and Jackie, and in the evening after being in all day we went over to Jackie's in the evening. Pete also sat up at his mother's while she went over to the church to make the presentation of a parting gift to the minister. He is going away to-day with the Highlanders. It is the first time she has been off the place since August and about the tenth time away from the house for more than a minute, so it was quite exciting for her. Papa slept all the time which was just as well.

Saturday Edmee Moore came down to look at pictures (photographs) as she wanted one for a friend. In the afternoon Mrs Von Rummel came to see us and the house, she is the mother of Elizabeth Von Rummel who was out at Temple last spring. She is very nice, came from Bavaria 30 years ago, and they have lived on a ranch in the foothills ever since.

I wrote a note about the Christmas Presents which were mailed Saturday. Evidently this year one isn't allowed to send more than 25 dollars worth of merchandise out of the country. I sent the little things for Frances, Mildred, and Ada in a package to you, for then if they have to be opened you can do it or George maybe can. There is also a book for you, positively all we are sending you, and we may not have much more when we visit you. We haven't sent anything to Russ and Kitty and family either, not even a book. I sent a woollen Jaeger suit to Nancy Newbury. If she can't wear it they can give it to someone, but there wasn't much here in the store worth sending, they had some sweaters but as Mickie said "you could find these in Filenes basement" they had cunning silk dresses but hardly appropriate for Carlisle. To Jean I sent a large box of toffee from the old country. I thought that she might like to give the girls some in the kitchen.

A book just came from you on opened, and also two nice letters. I am so sorry that you have a cold, and also that Mrs Wayman has been so sick.

I will try to make the next letter a better one.

Lots of love

Colharine

Banff, Alberta.  
Wed. Dec. 13, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

Wednesday again and I must soon go over before the stores close at noon and so this will go up to the mail. I don't seem to have much time to write these days and I haven't finished the Christmas cards yet, It is more of a job than one ever thinks it will be, but I owe lots of letters and by writing a note on a card it sort of catches me up. I don't like the kind of cards that are just printed with your name nearly as well as the ones with a note on them, I think with luck I can finish them to-day.

I am glad that your cold is better, and I believe the rest did you good. If you have so many notes to write, why not get some one to come in twice a week and do all that for you, You could easily dictate to someone and it would save your energy and time for other things. I wouldn't mind if you wrote me that way, for you could tell me things as if you were talking to us, and the little things that you don't want others to hear you could write in long hand.

I am also so sorry about Mrs Wayman being laid up. Travelling is not always easy, with all the changes in hours and food and also we found it very tiring trying to talk to the Japanese and saying things in such a way so they couldn't misunderstand what we meant, for they always say yes to everything. It must have taken a lot out of her and she had worked so hard before she left.

We are having a little colder weather, but still no snow. Had the rain been snow we would have had at least a foot by now, at Lake Louise they have a lot and the skiing is fine up there. We may go up to Temple during the Christmas rush, for it looks very much as if we would be here during the holidays. The nurse that was up there before may come back after Christmas and Mom liked her so much that I think she would be glad to have her back. She didn't think she wanted her until she left, but if she comes back we think she would stay in the house all the time, and then we would feel more easy to go away.

This must be all for now.

Lots of love to you all,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.  
Thurs. Dec. 14, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

I didn't know you were seventy-five years old, I thought it was nearer 72 or maybe 73 and what a lovely birthday you must have had, and I am so glad that so many people remembered it and sent you messages. Your long letter telling us all about it came to-day and made us happy to think that you enjoyed it so much. Pete's mother isn't sixty yet, 59 I think she was, but his father is your age.

I am enclosing a letter that Dr Isikawa wrote you and you sent me some time ago, when Mrs Wayman was here she asked if I would send her a copy, and so I will return the letter to you to give her, also an amusing sketch she might like to use, We are so sorry that she has been so sick and are glad that you can help her out.

There are so many letters and things to answer and tell you about that I hardly know where to begin. Two bundles have come, one a book for me the other for Pete, and they are unopened. You shouldn't send more really, but evidently you have. Please tell Jean that I have ordered a book for her for Pete for Christmas. It was a book on "Skiing in Sun Valley" that was advertised in one of the clippings you sent. Insidently we enjoy reading the Old man winter and always find some little bit of news.

I think Kitty writes those Players articals awfully well, they are so well expressed and really interesting to read. I guess you missed the play but I always thought it was unnecessarily sad.

We have practically finished our Christmas Cards, 225 sound like an awful lot, but the Moores send about the same amount. There are so many people that come out here for a while and we get to know them quite well but some times several years go by without our seeing them and it is rather nice not to loose track of them. and then like people in Concord who are so nice to us when we are there, and you know how it is you send to one and must not forget someone else. Anyway all but ten are done and we ran out of envelopes so will finish to-morrow. I still have all the children to get presents for, we have decided not to give the grown ups presents this year, and they are doing the same.

Pete has been busy making pictures and frames for various people, one thing the stores aren't so crowded and there is no feeling of rush, though I guess Calgary is pretty busy.

It looked like snow to-day, in fact has for several days, and then about five it started to come

come down very gently and maybe we will have a white Christmas after all, we all hope so. Poor Allen Mather has had one awful time trying to get ice on the skating rink, last year and most years he gets it ready in November. but this year that big snow storm came and he spent all the cold days breaking the ice out of the river so as to get the bridge of wooden floats in, people walk over it in the winter, Of course no sooner had he gotten it in place with great difficulty than the ice melted out in the river and it has been open even this week. Then there was no frost in the ground and he couldn't keep the ice from melting when he did get any on the rink. and so it has been for over a month, He would have a layer of ice and think he could open the rink and it would warm just enough to have it all melt away. Our snow storm didn't amount to anything as the wind came up later ( it is now the next morning ) and though it is fairly overcast the sun~~ny~~ is trying to come out.

Thank you for letting us know the familys plans for it helps us a lot in planning. Pete thinks that if his father stays about the same we could go east for a while, also the nurse that was here before, we expect back after Christmas, and we would feel better about leaving if we knew she was here. I think I told you that the other day Mom went over with Jackie to do her Christmas shopping when the store was closed, and Pete sat with his Father who was awake, and he said that his father was real bright and asked all about the house and how it is getting on, and also thanked Pete for staying around, so I guess he likes the feeling <sup>of us being here</sup> even if he can't say much.

I must do some cleaning so this is all for now,

Loads of love

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.  
Sun, Dec, 15, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

This has been a very quiet day for me and I feel virtuous too, for I have gone over all my clothes, not that I have so many but they nearly all needed a little something done to them, half a ball and socket sewn on or a shoulder strap etc. It takes time as you know, and as a rule I no sooner get started than some one comes or I have to make a half dozen trips downstairs, ( you also know how that can happen ) To-day Pete had promised to go up to Temple Chalet with Jackie and Sam Ward, and as one can't quite trust the weather at this time of year I stayed home. Clifford is running Temple this winter and Jackie is sort of watching him and helping with the practical end of it. Cliff is so enthusiastic and optimistic that he is apt to go too far with expenditures not realizing how little things mount up, and yet once he gets organized we all feel sure he can make a good thing of it. Sammy is going to help hang a couple of doors off the two bathrooms ( which is rather necessary with people coming for Christmas ) and also to tell them how they can change the stair case to give more room, and Pete went to give advise, as he has the best ideas of what people going to that sort of place would like. They left early this morning, it was pitch dark at seven when the alarm went off, they were to leave at eight but it was a little after when Jackie drove over in his car. I made some tea in the thermos you gave us just in case they were cold, but heaters in cars make such a difference now-a-days. There was a new foot of snow at Lake Louise last night but the road had been plowed, they were to be met at the station by Kenneth Campbell ( a cousin who is driving the team this winter ) who would drive them up in the sleigh, so they hoped to be there for lunch, and then back here for supper. It has snowed all day, a fine steady snow which doesn't mount up very quickly, only about four inches and now it is clearing off. It was dark all morning until the snow had amounted to enough to make it lighter, and I spent the day upstairs and got a lot done, I did go up to see how things were at the other house this morning and then after listening to the Philamonic orchestra for nearly two hours after lunch, I went up again for about an hour and played Chinese checkers, which Mom said passed the afternoon for her.

Do you ever listen to the concert on Sundays, it must be at eleven o'clock in the morning your time, It is lovely but this afternoon they interrupted several times right in the middle to bring the latest news on the "Graf Spee". It seemed as if they could have waited until ~~the~~ a pause in the program, or the end of a piece, They don't usually interrupt our programs here that way but perhaps they were so excited in the broadcasting studio that they didn't think. I missed whatever was said when it blew up. but when I came back from Moms, a little after four, I listened to a review of the weeks news, and the man spoke of the Graf Spee in the course of the talk, and referred to it as <sup>now</sup> being at the "bottom of the ocean " and I thought " a funny way to refer to the south

Atlantic," then a little later he said it had been scuttled only a half hour ago. Ever since I started this letter there has been some news broadcast to listen too. The Columbia one from all the Capitals of Europe etc. Last evening we listened to the man from Montivedeo and really it sounded as if he were describing a prize fight the way he went about it. I am glad they scuttled the ship for it would only have meant a useless loss of life on both sides.

And now to answering your letters. I am sorry that we can't be there for Christmas, for I have hoped we might make it somehow. but I am afraid that I wouldn't be much help except perhaps in entertaining your guests. It will be rather a feminine Christmas up at the house, but what fun with Gale and Robin just the right age to enjoy it all. I am sure you will have lots of fun, all of you. and it will be so nice having Mildred there and Ada too. and of course Frances. We haven't planned anything special. If there aren't too many others we might go up to Temple for the weekend. for three days of wine and Christmas cake is quite a lot. for we have boxing day too. I feel very proud for we mailed all our cards except local ones and I have all the presents for the children done up, so it could be to-morrow. We have the boxes for the Indians to get, they were a great success last year. We sent to five familys, all sorts of groceries, fruit, tea, candy etc. They no doubt eat it all right up too.

The Hiams are coming, <sup>to Bang</sup> and Mrs MacDougall with her two boys, and now Mrz Rogers who's husband drowned last summer, and her four of five children. It does seem strange the three of them all about the same age, and great friends in Vancouver, all to have lost their husbands within three years, and all with young children. They are so wonderful about it all. Our friends the Panets are also coming from Montreal. He has charge of the intournament camps, and General MacDonald will also be here. so perhaps we will hear more details of what can be done to help with the war. It takes some time to organize all the branches of the service I guess. Every week they have a talk about what is being done in the different branches of the services, it comes over the radio and is most interesting.

I was very much interested in Helen's engagement and to Francis Coolidge too. Maybe it is like Teddy Chace and Dot, who never knew each other until they met in New York or somewhere.

That was awfully interesting about the letter John Gould's son sent you, and what a wonderful child you were, maybe you ~~are/it/you~~ had better watch out, for you are wonderful now and might be entering your second childhood! I don't think I've put that very well, for I really don't think you are the sort of person to have a second childhood. but I think you are still wonderful.

Last year I sent \$ 100.00 to the Emerson Hospital Aid Society, but this year won't be able to as well. If you would like to add that much to your contribution then I could continue sending it after the war, and I could pay you back - also after the war. - will enclose the letter I got.

This may be the last letter you will get from me before Christmas, for I suppose the mails are perhaps delayed a bit due to the Christmas rush. If so ~~to 1111~~

If so I will wish you a very, very, merry Christmas from us both, and I am sure it will be, with the children to enjoy it all. Somehow Christmas doesn't seem quite right without little children to enjoy the fun. The ones here are just the right age. Bubby was at the store doing her Christmas shopping the other day. She is quite grown up now as this is her first year at school. Barbara told her she would ~~give~~ give her the same amount of money she had saved in her bank, so Bubby had a dollar and a quarter to spend, and managed to get something for everyone. Then Davey had to do his shopping, he shook the pennies out of the bank and went over all alone to the store, he is just a little over three and a half, Jackie thought he would help him but when they started Davey first wanted to buy a truck he has been admiring for some time, I think he finally managed to get something for Bubby. The baby is walking now and is awfully amusing, he gets into everything. I didn't have time to finish this last night. Pete had a good day but it was after eight before they got back.

I must mail this. Again a Merry Christmas to you all, and lots of love,

Calhounie.

Banff, Alberta.  
Tues. Dec. 19, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

I find that I have a whole paper bag of letters and clippings from you that I haven't answered or thanked you for, and now there is a few minutes before lunch to write you. so I will see what can be done.

It was fun reading Cousin Kathie's letter and about all that the family are doing, I am glad that Sam is better and I notice on the bulletins from the Art Institute that he is still there, it must be a job after his own heart. Pete was quite, shall I say amused, at the way Cousin Kathie viewed the war. hoping he wasn't the right age to enlist, and at the same time so pleased about her two daughters going to parties. I suppose it is just the different way people look at things, I agree with Flick, and think she is a better daughter of the American Revolution than Cousin Kathie is. I was awfully interested in the clipping about Roger Eckfeldt, quite wonderful.

We always enjoy the clippings, the interesting ones about art, and the ones on Skiing too.

What interesting writing that friend of Ebbs, who was with you Thanksgiving, has.

It was interesting to hear of Cousin Eugene Adams taking up riding at his age, he certainly is smart.

Another day, Wednesday- and I guess this will be the last letter to you before Christmas, We have already had our Christmas dinner, The Moores asked us for last Sunday dinner to eat a turkey with them, and then Pete was going to Temple and they were sick so they made it Tuesday night instead. It was great fun and as they expect to go to Jasper for Christmas they made it their Christmas dinner, as we drove in the yard all their lights were switched off, and we thought something was up, there were colored lights over the door and a candle in the window, and inside a lovely lighted tree, as there ceiling goes up to the roof, it was about a ten foot or more tree, and evidently trimmings they had had for years as they were like the ones we used to have at home. The Sam Wards were also there and Charlie Reid, who has a drug store here and also is a great golfer. That made eight of us, and we had a good start with rum cocktails, Then a delicious turkey dinner, snappers and holly and candles all adding to the festivities. It was the first real party we had been to for some time and we had great fun. We took some of our slides down to show them and they had some of Banff in the old days so it was a very pleasant evening all round.

It snows a little every day and feels more like winter. We think that we will be here after all, and if we go skiing do it by the day, at one time we had thought of going up to Temple for Christmas but it means turning the water off and that is a nuisance until we really go for long enough. We thought that Pete's father seemed so much better, for he is brighter to talk too, Pete has had several nice chats with him, and he has asked about all sorts of things, but Jackie said that the Doctor told him his Father's pulse was getting much weaker. so I guess we just can't plan anything definitely for a while yet.

One thing we will do is plan to be in Concord when the children are there, we might be able to go in January before they leave for Florida, is Russell going with them to Florida for his business trip or will he wait until later? I wish we could pop in on you for Christmas but I ~~sup~~ guess we just can't this year. It would be fun to be with you all and this year it is sort of a longer Christmas than usual with it being Monday.

I don't know if the stores close this noon or not, so had better go over in case we get left without much to eat.

Lots and lots of love and best wishes to you all for a very very merry Christmas,  
and extra love to you,

Catherine -

Banff, Alberta.

Sat. Dec. 23, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

I can see that I shall fall down these days in writing you, I didn't get one off yesterday as I intended to, and now I suppose this will be delayed with the heavy mails. Yours and Jeans written Sunday came yesterday, taking only one day more than usual. It was funny, you were writing me just at the same time I was writing you, for I stopped also to listen to Finland as Jean was doing. What excitement with Santa Claus at your house, I can remember when we used to alternate with the Buttricks and Santa Claus would give out the presents. I just hope you don't try to do too much, but it is a bit easier with Sunday coming in between Saturday and Christmas.

Frances Hiam came down to tea yesterday, and we had a nice chat, she spends most of her time with the children. We also had Margot Panet and her niece from Montreal to call on us Wednesday evening, and then I went out to tea Thursday and last night we went to the movies to see "The Lion has Wings" the first time we have been to a movie since last spring I think. With all the other things to do we have been very busy.

We decided not to go up to Temple after all, but to stay around here, we are to have our Christmas dinner at Jackies. so that will be nice. Pete may go up to Temple later next week, but we don't want to turn the water off yet, the water isn't so hard to arrange but it is the moving of all the things that might freeze, Photographic chemicals, canned things, ink, etc. It is all right if we are going to be away long enough, but not for just a few days. and as long as we can be a help by staying here we will not go far.

Jean said that the portrait was almost finished, you have never mentioned it, so I hope it came out well, I can think of nothing that Russell would like more. Oh. Jeans package came, and another from you, making five altogether, and a box from Mildred, and two little envelopes from Russell which we haven't opened yet. None of the boxes were opened, I think because they came by mail, and were small.

It is lunch time so I will wish you a Happy New Year, and I am sure you must all have had a very Merry Christmas.

Lots of love to you all

Catharine -

Banff, Alberta.  
Christmas Eve, Dec, 24, 1939

Dearest Mother,

It is nearly five so I imagine you are sitting down to dinner in Concord after all the excitement of having Santa Claus there, It has been the most beautiful day, clear and cold, fifteen below last night. Yesterday was quite busy for everyone had last minute things to do, and as the stores won't be open until ~~Tuesday~~ <sup>Wednesday</sup> it makes a nice long weekend.

In the evening the Panet's niece came around to see if we could take them up to Temple Monday, being the only day Gen. Panet can go, and as we are anxious for them to see it we had offered to take them up for the day. Pete tried to find out what arrangements we could make, but it was too late last night, so ~~this~~ this morning we were up early, and Pete went tearing around to see how our plans could be worked into theirs at Temple. Mildred and the little boys went up to be there Christmas, and Uncle Jack was going to go up to be with his son, Kenneth, who drives the team. Pete had thought the earliest start would be the best, but now we have decided to go at nine in the morning. Jackie has loaned us his car, so there will be room for the five of us. Gen. and Madame Panet and the niece. I am going this time. The team will meet us and we will have dinner up there. They hope to have time to go up for one of the runs and then we will ski down to Lake Louise and home before too late we hope.

To-night they have invited us to dinner at the Mount Royal and then there is to be carol singing outside, much as they do in Concord. I think we will have to celebrate to-night when we come home, for it may be a bit of a rush in the morning. I am rather glad that we are to be gone for the day, as it was such a continual visiting all day last year, a little-----

Tuesday, This is boxing day and Christmas is all over, and really it was the nicest kind of day for us. So I will just start in and try to tell you all about it from the beginning.

As I was writing you Sunday afternoon, Pete came in with his Christmas present for me, and he suggested as we were going to be away all day Christmas and also Christmas Eve, that we open our presents then when we had time to enjoy doing so, which we did. He gave me a lovely portable radio, which is going to be so nice, especially in the evening when we want to sit upstairs and listen to the news at ten P.M. I gave him an eiderdown jacket really for shooting but good for painting in, when you stand for a long time. Then we opened all your presents and it was great fun, Pete was so tickled with the book you sent on Flying, as he has enjoyed reading ~~the~~ "Night Flight" by the same author. and I am so delighted with the cook book, It has all the kind of recipes that we like and they even look easy to follow. My cooking should improve 100 %. The drawings and text are so well done too, I remember your telling about it at the book fair. We also liked the book Jean ~~de~~ sent to me, and I got "My Country and My People" by Lin Yu Tang for Pete from Jean, he has wanted it for a long time. We saved the little red envelopes from Russ to open with our other presents, and it was fun reading the notes and needless to ~~say~~ say we are so glad

to have "Punch" and the "London News" for another year, we enjoy them so much. Then there were the boxes of all sorts of presents from you, and they are so nice for we can use them all, The handkerchiefs, the stickum things, clipps, towells, tags, paper napkins, the apron, and stockings and gloves, and as I broke two plates yesterday morning the cement for mending is wonderful. I don't know how you got so much in such ~~a~~ tiny parcels, it makes me provoked to think they would undo ~~e~~ all the packages I sent you, you would think if they have people to undo them they could have enough to do them up again. I must say they are better about it here, and never undo the packages inside unless you are present, but of course ~~that~~ there is a customs office in Banff. None of your parcels were even looked at, that was because they were sent by mail and not express.

Anyway they were great fun and we enjoyed opening them. We also took a book up to Petes Mother that eveing, as we didn't think we would see her until late next day. Then we went over to the Mount Royal for dinner with the Panets, and had a very pleasant time, there was carol singing at nine and the most beautiful night with a full moon, in fact the moon has been practically full for four nights and though zero or below the stillness made it seem warm. It was eleven thirty when we got home and to bed, and then were up at seven yesterday morning to get the house warm and everything ready to leave for the day. Jackie lent us his car, and it was such a lovely morning, clear and the most beautiful light on the mountains. It was a little after nine when we got off and we saw so many animals on the way up to Lake Louise that we didn't make as good time as we might have. The sleigh was ready when we got there and it was just eleven when we crossed the tracks, and quarter past one when we got to Temple. Uncle Jack Campbell had gone up the night before so had and Kenneth took turns driving, the rest of us rode some of the way and walked when our feet got cold, for it was below zero. Pete skied back with Mragot Panet (as she doesn't ski as well as the others) while the others made one of the runs with Cliff. I waited for them and then we three skied down together full of Christmas dinner. It was a lovely day and just getting dark when we reached Lake Louise. It was my first time on skis this year, and we were rather tired by the time we got back to Banff, just before seven. When we went in to Jackie with the car, they had just finished Christmas dinner and insisted on our having some, after a drink to warm us up. The children were having such a good time with all their presents, and we did too. then we had the things to take up to Lila's family, and spent a little while there, and then over to Pete's Mothers. so it was quite a day. A nice letter from you came too, all about the portrait. I never mentioned the picture for fear you would forget and give the letter to Russell to read, but I am sure it must be a good one and we are anxious to see it.

I will write you more to-morrow, but people are coming in this afternoon, if we don't go out and I want to get this mailed. Heaps of love and many many thanks for all the nice presents. and a Happy New Year to you all.

More love

Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.

Thurs. Dec. 28, 1939.

Dearest Mother,

I hope that my air mail to you had better luck than yours to us! It was interesting to see how the mail came, the rush in Boston was around the 21st evidently, for we got a stack of mail dated that. You wrote us Sunday before Christmas, which letter arrived here Friday, one day late. Then you wrote Tuesday, mailing it Wednesday morning, and we got it on Christmas day, (though it may have come Sunday) Then you wrote Thursday air mail and mailed it in Boston Thursday night, That came yesterday, Wednesday the 27th, though mailed on the evening of the 21st, and with it the one you mailed Saturday in Boston. (Of course it might have come on Tuesday for we didn't get mail that day) Thank you just the same, and we had ~~the~~ nice letter from you anyway that day. to wish us a Merry Christmas.

I am so glad the portrait turned out so well and we are anxious to hear how Russell likes it and all about it.

As usual I am in a rush, but we seem to be busy with little things, this time of year is a bit hectic. Jackie and Barbara came over last evening after the children were in bed, for they have no maid now and so like to be sure the children are asleep first. Barbara was so interested in the Yankee Cook book, and kept saying, "why that's how we always made so-and-so at home." I haven't had time to read much yet, but Barbara discovered the part about a New England conscience, "it never keeps one from doing anything, but keeps one from enjoying it." I think that is awfully good.

Ebbs and Anne's wonderful present came, they may have told you, it is a Dennison chest with all the things one needs most, tags, stickum things, and index things I have never seen before, Pete thinks it was a most thoughtful present and will be most useful if not worn out first by being looked at! I am sure I never thanked you for half the things you sent us, the copper ash tray is a beauty and goes so well in the house. and also the striped dish towels.

Again I must put off the real letter for another day but send you lots of love and best wishes for a Happy New Year.

More love,

Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.  
Dec, 30, 1939.  
Saturday

Dearest Mother,

I should have written you yesterday, but instead wrote a few thank you notes. It was one of those days when lots of people drop in one after another, Gen. Panet came over as we were having breakfast, and wanted to know if Pete would like to go with him when he inspected the Intournament camp. Pete offered to drive him down and they left sharp at one getting back about six thirty. They talked skiing most the way and Pete enjoyed the trip. He said he wished I could have seen him all dressed in his uniform, the red stripe around his hat and medals across his chest, he said he looked about twice as tall as usual, and he is over six feet I guess.

Mr Waterworth, the plumber, came to put in the basin before Gen. Panet had left in the morning. They had sent one wrong one and the second one to arrive was damaged, so that is why it wasn't put in before. That took some time and just as he left at three, Gen. MacDonald came ( seems to me there are lots of Generals around ) and wanted us to go up to tea that afternoon, he had hardly left when the Hammond girls arrived, inviting us to a " hot grog party " Sunday afternoon, they hadn't seen the furnace, so I showed them around. Then I dashed over to call on Margot Panet who we had just heard was in bed with a bad cold. She was up, but her neice had lost her voice, and they were both inhaling stuff. They wanted me to stay to tea, but of course I couldn't very well, Then I dashed back and up to the Macdonalds for tea, not having the car I did the dashing on foot. Then back here for supper.

To-day Margot and Pearl Moore came about eleven one to see pictures the other to ask us to tea on New Years, Cliff also was in for a minute. So it was a busy morning too, Frances Hiam and her friend Mrs MacDougal are dropping in for tea after skating, and there are a hundred and one things to be done,

So I shall probably put off telling you about Christmas until I forget to tell you at all. It looks now as if we will be here over New Years, this week end, Cliff has five people going up to Temple to-day for over the holiday, so we will wait until next week if we go.

Is the Yankee Cook book the one you mentioned during book week, when the people on the audience asked Questions? I am anxious to try some of the recipes. quick easy things are the kind I like to do. for an hour is the most I get to cook supperin.

There is so much to do that I must call this a letter, Lots of love

P.S. The loveliest letter just came from Mildred, as Pete said when I opened it, "why its a regular book " she described the whole week end from the very beginning, and as she did all the things we would have enjoyed doing with you, it made the whole time very real. I am so very glad she could be there, to go to the Italians with the presents and all, and how nice that you two could be at Russells from the start of their day. It was a good chance to sort of change

over from Christmas up at your house to having the main part down at Russells, if you know what I mean. for naturally the children will enjoy it in their own home most. I didn't realize that Frances and Ada were to be at Ebbs, and that just you two were to be at the house, I believe we would have jumped in an airplane and flown on for the week end. Mildred/~~eye~~/~~id~~/ evidently had the loveliest time, and again I am so glad she could be there to enjoy things with you.

I must go,

Heaps of love

Catherine -