



HOTEL DULUTH

FIREPROOF
SCHROEDER HOTELS
SLEEP IN SAFETY

HOTEL NORTHLAND
GREEN BAY, WIS.

HOTEL ASTOR
MILWAUKEE, WIS.
HOTEL RETLAW
FOND DU LAC, WIS.
HOTEL LORRAINE
MADISON, WIS.
HOTEL SCHROEDER
MILWAUKEE, WIS.
HOTEL INDIANA
WABASH, IND.

HOTEL DULUTH
DULUTH, MINN.
HOTEL WAUSAU
WAUSAU, WIS.
HOTEL CALUMET
FOND DU LAC, WIS.
HOTEL VINCENT
BENTON HARBOR, MICH.
HOTEL SOUTHERN
SOUTH BEND, IND.

WALTER SCHROEDER
PRESIDENT

DULUTH
MINNESOTA

Wednesday.
May 29, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

So far there hasn't been much chance to write, and I'm pretty stumped after driving all day. But I will try to tell you a little of what we have done so far.

That first afternoon it rained hard & was a real northeast storm in Rockport. We had such a nice visit with the Hibbards and ate a tremendous dinner of lamb, asparagus and shortcake. They a few friends came in to see the slides, among them the Reekia's (can't spell it) I told you she is George Parsons sister. It was a late night for us as they all stayed until midnight. So we were

not too bright I'm afraid on reaching
Gorham. Also the going was so slow
and stormy. We had a lovely visit
with Uncle Marshall + Florence. They
both seemed so well and everything
about the house looked so well kept.
Florence was just as nice as she
could be + Pete had a nice chat
with her while Uncle Marshall
showed me some things. He both
thought she looked just like
Dorothy Morton who used to go to
Art School.

When we left Gorham the clouds
started to lift + we even had a
bit of sunshine near Standish.
We stayed at North Conway at
the ~~the~~ Kearsage Inn, as the Eastern
Slope Inn was closed. It was
a very nice place and we were
well entertained by a conversation
between a son? and his deaf
father who was a real character.

That day, Saturday, we drove
through Pinkham Notch in clouds.
saw a few ardent skiers starting



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out and then on the other side of the mountains it started clearing and was perfectly lovely from then on. We had seen all day and have every where except for one heavy shower Sunday, and every where we go people remark about the beautiful day. The first they get have had for one or two weeks it evidently has been raining pretty much every where lately.

The drive across Vermont to St Johnsbury from Gorham & then to Montpelier & Burlington was too lovely. The apple blossoms not quite out, and here by the Great Lakes the trees just budding. The Trilliums are thick, especially today.

I'm too sleepy to write any
more now but may be tomorrow
I can. We spent Sat night at
Lake Placid. Sunday at Ottawa
and Monday at North Bay -
last night at St Ignace in
Nieligan opposite Makinae
Island. We couldn't get a good
boat connection at Sault Ste Marie
so decided to come this way
instead.

Loads of love
Catherine.



FIREPROOF CONSTRUCTION

PLACER HOTEL

HELENA, MONT.

Saturday
June 1, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

Each night I think now I will drop mother a line, and then after we have eaten supper around eight or nine, I'm too sleepy to do much. So a mere out line is all you can hope for. and I know when we get to Bauff there will be so much to do -

We are in Helena Montana now and will be in Bauff sometime Monday. To go back to last Saturday, we spent that night in Lake Placid & saw Sigrid. Erling Stroms wife. He was in New York.

Sunday we drove to Ottawa and had little traffic, and no rain though we could see showers all around us. We crossed the river on the Roosevelt Bridge, expecting a wonderful new bridge, P.W.A. at least. However it must have been named after Theodore Jr. we drove on a sort of shelf beside the Rail road bridge. The Customs officer was so busy listening to the news on the radio he was very anxious to get rid of us, he seemed to think the news had been pretty good. We saw little signs of the war, even in Ottawa, though in the ^{National} Art Gallery. Mounted Police were on the various floors & no other attendants. Why I don't exactly know.

We saw Mildred's mother for a few minutes before leaving on Monday afternoon. We tried to get information about boats



PLACER HOTEL

HELENA, MONT.

FIREPROOF CONSTRUCTION

crossing Lake Superior from Saulte Ste Marie to Port Arthur, but they were very uncertain, thought they might be one Wed. or Thur. about noon. So we decided to start west any how. It was very hot & muggy in Ottawa & Pete ~~looked~~ up all the people he wanted to go.

We had good roads and drove to North Bay (near where the Aunts are, in fact next day was their birth day) that night! over 200 miles. Russ & Kitty were over that road when it was bad, but they have it in fine condition now & more pavement. Tuesday we drove from North Bay over not as good road to Saulte Ste Marie & found a boat had

gone 2 hours earlier, but they didn't know for sure about the next one. So as a ferry was about to cross to the States Saulte St. Marie we took that, and drove to St Ignace that night.

It was lots of fun there with ferries going to Mackinac Island & Mackinac City, and we watched them from our window. Was it that where Father was sort of ship wrecked as a boy and spent the night at the light house because of a storm.

Wednesday we drove the 458 miles to Duluth. All along people remarking on the perfect day after all the rain they had been having -

Thursday we drove to Bemidji & Friday Billings, both over 450 mile days. and then today we drove over the Red Lodge high way into the Yellowstone



PLACER HOTEL

HELENA, MONT.

FIREPROOF CONSTRUCTION

Park and spent an hour with Cousin Bert. He seemed awfully well we thought. We also made a call on Cousin Alma to the Smileys. and we were glad to find her feeling much better - and picking up after being sick. She evidently hated to have her teeth out but the Doctor insisted and in any case she has no more rheumatism or whatever it was. She has her new teeth in.

We drove on here to Helena - and if we can't make Bauff tomorrow. we will by noon Monday.

Loads of love from us both.

75. Tell Russ that I received his wire & will write soon.
Catherine

Banff, Alberta.

Tues. June 4, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

What weather you must have had after we left, I am rather glad that we missed it and that Concord was so lovely while we were there, We were so lucky all the way across, and it got to be a joke so many people remarked that the particular day we were in a place was the first nice day with out fog or rain for a week or more, and we could tell by the roads how much ~~the~~ rain they had had all the way across. and yet we had only one shower near Ottawa and another near Helena and on Sunday near Logan Pass. It is storming this minute though this morning was sunny. I don't mind if we get rain this month as we have so much to do in the house and around the place.

X We found everything here much the same as when we
X left, Pete's father is just the same but his mother has been able
to get out a little more which is good for her. Summer is here with
the leaves all out and buds on the spruce trees. One awfully sad
thing happened, Mrs Rungius died in New York just before they
planned to leave, about three weeks ago, so last night we went up
to see Carl, he was working in his Wild garden, enlarging it this
year, and he showed us some paintings he is starting. it is awfully
X hard I should think for him, coming back alone, and being all alone.

The Sunday we left Helena was the most beautiful
day and the foothill country looked its very best and the mountains
were so clear after the rain the evening before, I have never seen
tham more beautiful, We drove to Glacier Park and decided to take
in the ski meet being held on Logan Pass by the Kalispel Ski Club,
We knew we couldn't make Banff early enough to warm up the house
that night so we thought we would go home via British Columbia,
which was only a few hours longer, However by the time we got
across the pass in a traffic jam and a sudden shower, which rather
interferred with the skiing, and down the other side, we found that
the roads on the west side of the rockies were in bad shape and so
turned around and went back over the pass. It is a high Pass for
a moter road to cross and one of the most spectacular drives we
have ever been on. The clouds were so low the first time that we
couldn't see much, but when we returned the shower had passed, the
Ski meet was over and we put the top down and thoroughly enjoyed
it all. We crossed the border and spent that night at Waterton
Lakes and then were home the next day by three o'clock.

To-morrow we are going to Calgary to see about some
things, There was a letter here from you and Jean, and another came
to-day. I am glad we didn't have a radio in our car coming across,
for we enjoyed the trip and only heard the news morning and night
on our portable set. Just remember one thing that some General said
during the last war, " The news is never as good or as bad as it
appears to be at first." There is little excitement here and no
panic, Every one seems to feel so sure that the Allies will win that
any other possibility is not mentioned, it is more a question of
how long it will take.

I must get supper now,
Lots of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Friday June 7, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

Just a hurried note, as I still must unpack, and goodness knows how much else there is to do. We would like to get everything in shape before going painting, but have decided that we had better do the painting first and the tyding up later. Otherwise we may never get started. The new road to Jasper is to be opened the fifteenth, though not officially until the first of July. so we are going to go up there the end of next week.

We have had a few callers just local people, and have to catch up on all that is going on.

We are having the usual showerey weather that we are supposed to have in June, and it gives us a chance to do things in the house for which I am glad.

It was nice that Memorial day was fair for a rainy one is miserable. We forgot about it and were afraid the traffic would be bad that day leaving Duluth. But it wasn't thick except near a few towns and we managed to miss the little parades.

How dissapointing the tulip season has been this year, I am glad that we saw the first of it anyway. Our Danderlions are approaching their prime and are a mass of brilliant yellow ~~blooms~~ blossoms, they are a joy I am sure for the people to see passing along the river road, at least they can be thankful that they are in our yard and not in theirs.

This is all for now but will write in a few days.

Loads of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.

Tues, June 11, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

I guess it is several days since I last wrote you, Sunday we thought that it would be fun to go up the road to Bow Lakes, it was lovely when we left here but soon clouded over and when we got to Lake Louise it looked very rainy ahead, However we had our lunch with us and decide to try the road anyway, which we did for about ten miles, they have recently oiled it and so we had to drive very slowly and all the time the clouds were settling down more and more and it seemed silly to go on when we could easily tell it was raining hard at Bow Lakes, so we turned around and came back and it cleared up here quite a bit and has been lovely ever since.

There is so much to do around the place, we have a man who comes evenings to cut the grass and split wood or any odd jobs, he does the same for the rest of the family too. so we can't get him every night, but if he can look after it all summer it will help.

We are getting the paint ready to go out which will probably be the signal for the rains to decend, The road to Jasper is to open to cars the fifteenth and we are planning to go up

and see what the country is like, for neither of us have ever been to Jasper Park. Then if the weather is good we may stay in the Simpsons camp at Bow Lakes. Last summer we missed out on our sketching so this year we are going to try and do as much as possible in the first part of the summer.

Yesterday was quite a day with news, first the giving up of Norway for now, the sinking of the "Glorious," Italy entering the war, Norman Rogers our defence minister being killed, and then Roosevelt's speech and later one by OUR Prime minister. It kept us quite busy listening.

The dark room has to be cleaned out so I must get started on that.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.

June 14, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

We are having the loveliest weather cool but clear and a good shower blows up each evening to clear the air for the next day.^x We are getting things to-gether to drive to Jasper tomorrow when the road is open for the public for the first time. We want to get a general idea of the country as we think it will be good for painting. Pete thinks he will make small sketches and then sell them with the idea of 50\$ going to the Red Cross, that is if the idea can be worked out. He, with everyone else feels that they want to do some thing that will help.

The last few days we have been getting the house in order. It is the first time we have had rooms for living in seperate from those we work in, and so it is much nicer, for it is fairly easy to keep the kitchen and front room picked up and tidy when any messy work is done in other parts of the house. There is still a lot to be done in the way of cupboards and shelves but we will have to wait.

The big hotel is open and the tourists are beginning to come, but people are wondering if the war news will scare them off a bit, we all hope not

for added revenue is much needed i n Canada, and tourists will help a lot.

We were just driveing up the west road, which corresponds to a drive around Carlisle for you, and it was such a beautiful evening and promises to be a lovely day to-morrow. We probably will be away two or three days at the most. We saw lots of Moose, even a baby one.

Erling Strom and Sigrid arrived yesterday. you might tell Hanna that he told us he was in New York and heard that all his family and friends in Oslo are alright. Maybe Russell could find out for her from the Norwegian Consul in New York about the people in Arendal.

I will try and write from Jasper and tell you about our trip. I forgot, I had a very nice birthday yesterday.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.

Tuesday June 18, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

I tried to write you yesterday but somehow we felt too restless listening to War news and then trying to do odd things, It X has been rather hard to settle to anything, X Pete and I used to express opinions on what we thought would happen but lately we have no sooner said one thing than the opposite has happened, so we don't even dare say a thought out loud. We all have faith in the ultimate outcome, and no one X seems too discouraged. Did you and Jean listen to Princess Juliana speak over the Radio? We thought it was the most moving speech we have heard, and her voice was so full of emotion, even the radio announcer afterwards had sort of a frog in his throat,

This morning we had thought of going up to Temple for a day or two, had hardly decided on our plans when Lila came rushing down to get Pete as his father isn't as well this morning, It is perhaps lucky that we didn't go. I will tell you how things are before finishing this letter. Pete has been up and down all the time.

X We had such a nice weekend, the road to Jasper was opened Saturday, not the grand opening which is the end of the month, but open to

travel, We went up Saturday coming back Sunday, The weather was lovely and we did enjoy it, also we didn't have the radio which made it nice with no news. I am sending you a trail hikers folder of the trip we are going on this summer, if we go, and have put in two folders on Jasper and the new road which will give you anidea of what we saw this last weekend.

We got a faibly early start Saturday and took our lunch with us, which we ate~~x~~ near the Waterfowl lakes, There were many clouds which got bigger as we went along and we were only just ahead of the heavy rainstorms, for looking back we could see the showere behind us. Pete had been up to the Columbia Icefields in 1929, when Gardener Cox was out here, but at that time they went to a part known as the Castlegard meadows, and turned off where the road goes now, at the place where the Alexandria and Saskatcewan join. Following the Alexandria. So most of the road was new to Pete too, and it was great fun seeing the country we had heard so much about, for the first time. The Sunwapta pass is about the loveliest section of the new part, for the Glaciers that come down almost to the road are very impressive. It was a bit dull when we went by on Saturday, but Sunday was too beautiful. A lovely day and we drove all day with the

top down. We ran into a very black storm as we neared Jasper and ~~went~~ drove right through it. As we came into the sunshine again we could see that the storm had left fresh snow on all the mountain tops and the air was clear and lovely. We went up a side road to see Mt Edith Cavel which is a lovely glacier hung peak which one can drive to the foot of. It is seen from Jasper. We had supper in Jasper town and then wanting to see all we could so as to have a good idea of the place, we drove to Miette Hot Springs that night, and stayed in a most attractive bungalow camp, similar to ones we now have here.

Sunday was the loveliest clear day, so fresh after the rain, We saw Philip Aston, who Pete knew as a boy in Banff, and who is now in charge of the Hot springs at Miette. Then we drove around Jasper a bit, It is a wider valley than Banff is in, and they have many small lakes which are the most beautiful colors and yet they are not near the mountains but more in the middle of the valleys, though you can see mountains in all directions.

Fern Brewster Clarkson and George have come back to the mountains to live, which we are all so glad about as Fern really belongs here. He is to be in charge of the Brewster Transport at the Jasper end in the summer and they will live

in the house Lila used to live in, in winter.

We found it even lovelier driving home, as the highest mountains are ahead of one on the way back, we stopped at the Simpsons as they were eating supper and they invited us in and we had a nice visit. Margaret was there and is going east to marry Paul Brown of Boston in July. she said that there is being built a new skating rink in Fitchburg and she will be skating there this summer.

I will finish this later,

Loads of love
Catharine .

x P.S. It is now afternoon. we have just been listening to Churchill from London. It is more encouraging, and also there has been announced from our Prime Minister that there will be compulsory registration of man power in Canada which is a good thing. Everyone here is so anxious to do something to help and this will be a good way to go about it.

x Pete hasn't come back from the other house. The doctor doesn't think his father will come through this attack but one never knows.

Loads of love
Catharine .

Banff, Alberta.

June 20, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

A nice letter from you to-day, written last Sunday, also one from Jean, I must write her, but I know that you read her my letters to you so that she knows all we are doing.

You certainly sounded busy with all the partys and the bridge for the Alliance etc. and then having Cousin Jane there too, though I know she isn't exactly company. It will be nice company for you to have Frances there too, this summer and certainly lovely for her.

We were quite surprised to hear that Uncle Marshall had sold the place, but I can imagine that it was a great care to him, for he never could have stood seeing the place look run down at all, Perhaps too if he lives in a small place they will be able to go away a bit when they feel like it.

How wonderful to think of flying from Washington in three hours, I am glad you went in to see the airport. it is thrilling I think to see big planes come in.

Pete's father is no better, but how he keeps on is a mystery to me, Pete said the other

day he noticed a decided change in him, he could hardly speak and yet yesterday could talk a little. To-day he is breathing very heavily and sleeps with his eyes open, so perhaps it won't be long now. We have been doing odd things around here, for we feel he will either be better or worse in the next little while.

I forgot to tell you what happened when we called you from Ottawa that night. On our way upstairs we gave the telephone girl the number we wanted etc and also our room number thinking it might take a little while, however the girl who was on duty must have gone off and didn't give the other girl our room number or name, I was just going to ^{again} call her when the telephone wrang.

It was good of you to think of sending me a check for my birthday, why not give it to the Red Cross, they need it more than I do. There was an appeal for 50 Ambulances for the Canadian Red Cross about two weeks ago, the same day the Rotary Club in Calgary ~~had~~ met as usual and in five minutes had collected enough for one Ambulance, \$2100.00, and a few days later there had been 7 Or 8 ambulances subscribed, and now I believe Alberta has contributed enough for 30, which I think is pretty good, some were given by groups and others

by individuals, enough were donated in Canada to bring the price down to \$1750.

Seems to me we spend a good deal of time listening to the news. I wish you could get a radio like ours that would bring in short wave, You could even get one that works as yours does by pressing buttons and then when you wanted short wave you could tune in on it. "The B.B.C. news direct from London" is the most interesting of all the broadcasts we think, and it comes every hour or two. Also the "go to it" programs are very interesting for different people speak about the jobs they are doing and it gives you a far better idea of the wonderful spirit of the people. It is something like the Christmas Broadcasts. I am sure that you all would sleep better at nights if you listened to something less sensational.

If you want to send us a subscription to a magazine as a present any time, we would love the National Geographic. We haven't received the maps yet, but perhaps they would take longer than a letter.

I guess I had better send this along.

Heaps of love

Catherine

P.S. Friday. Peter's father was much better this morning.

Banff, Alberta.

Monday, June 24, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

X I think I wrote you Friday morning, that night Pete's father wasn't as well and he died Saturday afternoon about four o'clock. Even though we all expected it, and couldn't wish, for his sake, that he should live on, it is always a bit hard at the end. He was a wonderful man and had done so much for the people in Banff for the last fifty years, and so many of the old timers feel it too, for he helped people in so many different ways. The funeral is private, or rather from the house, on Tuesday. There is some big luncheon for the Board of Trade and the Rotary Club and some outside group of visiting Newspaper men or something from Montana, up at the Isfields Chalet on the New road to Jasper, and so it seemed mean to have the funeral on Monday, for a good many of the men would have felt they s// shouldn't have gone. X

We have had such lovely weather lately for the last two weeks nearly, cool with lovely clouds, I have been busy watering the lawn, for it hadn't had much care while we were east, It takes quite a lot of time even moving the sprinkler about, the one I got from Miss Morrison is very nice, for you can change it without turning the water off and

on, I have decided that we should specialize in
trees rather than flowers, for once given a good start
they will more or less look after themselves. \

Also if I get a chance I think I will try trans-
planting wild flowers and see if they will grow. \

I don't know just when we will be going out
painting, but maybe by the end of the week.

Loads of love,

Catharine -

Banff, Alberta.

Canada.

June 27, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

This week has gone rather quickly, with one thing or another to be done. ^XThe funeral was on Tuesday afternoon, and it was a beautiful day, yesterday was dull and showers and to-day too though not too bad.

Monday Mark Pocette appeared, the one Ebbs' portrait is of. He told Pete he had ^Y" come to see My Friend put in ground." Pete found the teepee we have and with Mark and Bill Smalley (who is Ukrainian and cuts our lawn) they managed to get it up. the Squaws usually put up the teepees as you know, and the three of them didn't make a very good job. Mark was hungry and so I made him lunch, though we found out later he had already eaten at Lila's. Cyril Paris also came over so Pete arranged to have Mark eat over there.

Tuesday quite a few relatives had arrived, and so there was quite a bit going on, also Cliff and Mildred came down from Temple. Everything went off rather well. Several Indians came up, and really they can express themselves better than any other people I ever heard. The young chief of the Stonies

Jacob Two-Young-Man, his wife and Mother (who we had some slides of on a horse, very wrinkled) came up. Pete's aunt from Calgary said they noticed the Indians picking wildflowers beside the road on the way up, and thought it was a funny thing to see the Indians doing, but they arrived soon after Pete's relatives and had brought the bunches of wildflowers with them. Mark and another Indian, at different times wanted to go into the room Tuesday before the funeral, and they each made the most impressive prayers. We didn't hear them, but Pete's mother told us about it. However after the funeral Mrs Jonie and young Mrs Two-Young-Man came to the house, and told us how they felt about all sorts of things, all expressed so beautifully.

The services were held in the house, the minister an old boyhood friend from New Brunswick, who only discovered Pete's father lived here about five years ago. Then the part in the cemetery was a Masonic service, I think all the masons must have been there, they marched from the house which seemed to take forever to us in the cars following, and as we crossed the main street the Mounted Police Sergeant was standing on one side and another police man on the other side, they had blocked the street first with their cars across it, and then stood at salute

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ while the whole procession passed by -

X It was very touching.

(over)

I must go over town now. We may
drive down to Calgary to-morrow and
then can go painting.

Loads of love

Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.

Sunday, June 30, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

This is our tenth anniversary, this morning Pete remembered it, but I don't think I would have until writing you and putting the date at the top. It is a lovely day and we may go up to Bow Lakes this afternoon or to-morrow morning early. To-morrow, July 1st is Dominion Day and a holiday, so there are lots of cars up for the long weekend, and last night the town was crowded for the first time this summer, it is the real start of the season usually, school being over too. I am glad it is good weather for it means so much to everyone.

There are quite a lot of things to be seen too before we go out, things to be decided and settled, but when we do go we won't have to come back right away.

I may have a chance to answer you last few letters. Waterton Lakes Park is the one south of Banff, it is on the border and joins onto Glacier Park in Montana. Jasper is north as you now know and joins onto the Banff National Park. Then Glacier Park in British Columbia is in the Selkirks and reached only by the C.P.R. The town in Jasper is smaller than Banff, about half the size I should think, it is a divisional point on the Railroad and so lots of Railroad men live there, It is over 200 miles from Edmonton by road, and not a very good road either, I don't think they have as many people going through as we do, for the C.P.R. boats on the Atlantic and Pacific mean that lots of people going to England from the Orient and Australia etc. go back and forth through here.

The Canadian National Railroad goes through Jasper on its way to the Coast. It also is a trans continental R.R. and is owned by the Gov't. was a group of small lines all put to-gether I think. Frances Hiams Husband was the representative I think in Vancouver.

We think it would be an awfully nice idea for you to send the car out another summer and bring Mildred with you, or you could use our old car, for the roads are getting better and also one can go to more places than they used to be able to. Probably the first of June would be as early as one would want to come, though May is nice too. Of course at the Coast April is nice, but then if Mildred is teaching that might make a difference.

I wonder how Anne is getting on, what a shame she hurt her back, and what a time they must have had washing diapers, you should have been there to laugh at Ebbs in return for his laughing at your troubles with the leaks in your bathroom. I imagine it is fun for Cousin Alma to help with the work and the baby.

Pete has been talking to Jackie so perhaps it will be tomorrow that we go, It is apt to be so crowded on the road that we would rather wait for the weekend drivers to be gone, It is lunch time too.

Loads of love,

Catherine

Bow Lake

Wednesday -

July 3, 1940,

Dearest Mother,

I should have written you before now to let you know how we are getting on. but it's been so warm I guess I've been too lazy. We have had very hot weather lately and the forest fires have started. One very bad one 25 miles north of here, and right across the new road to Jasper. We all feel so terribly about it. Last night about nine o'clock the game warden came in to get Little Jimmy Swinson to go up to look for them. It seems that the men who had gone in to a place called Glacier Lake to set up a camp for the Alpine Club, had somehow let the fire get started, a cigarette or some carelessness, or perhaps it was someone on their way in to see where the camp was to be. Any way a small fire got started. They managed to get it out last week. but a sharp wind must have started it again. Any way it began. Little Jimmy had gone fishing when the game warden came in so Pete & Big Jimmy went for them, and then (another fellow who is to help with the horses was with him) and then Pete drove them all up to the base camp near the fire. It's quite an undertaking. fighting a fire in the mountains, with no trails or roads to speak of to get the equipment in. All night we could hear trucks tearing up the road with equipment & men. horse and

pumps, and horses in some trucks to pack the fire fighting equipment on. However they evidently could get ~~only~~ no papers, & that was what Little Jimmy was wanted for.

Pete said they were working hard setting up a base camp on the road, a cook was there & lots of food. In after all the fire fighters have to be fed. As a rule the fires die down at night, but this one spread to a five mile front and ~~today~~ today we had a terrific wind and it was hot too, and I guess there was nothing to stop the fire. It even jumped the road and roared up Mt Wilson where it will burn itself out. That is about the only good thing in a mountain fire, it goes up the mountains & is stopped at tree line. Also a shift in the wind helps.

Pete & Big Jim didn't get back here until after midnight.

It is now Thursday morning, and so smoky that you can hardly see a mountain. The wind is blowing again, but we are hoping the fire is under control.

Monday was still a holiday, and lots of traffic coming up the road. They were busy here that day & fill up that night. We have a cabin which is nice, and then eat over at the main building.

Tuesday we painted, it was very hot & busy and a good many mosquitoes but not too bad.

Wednesday we painted in the morning and then drove to Lake Louise for some gas

They were sold out here Monday. & we had to explain out a bit of our gas for a car of young people who had gotten stuck. & then with the fifty miles Pete drove that night we decided we'd better get some more. We saw the Swiss Guides & had a beer together and then came back.

Miss Lillian Quest of Philadelphia was here for lunch. She is a great mountain climber, and said she had seen quite a bit of Eric McCue last winter. So I told her the news you had written us about him.

I'm not sure how long we will be here, as Pete has a few things to see too in Banff & Calgary some time soon. But I think we will stay as long as the weather stays nice.

Loads of love
Catherine.

P.S. Lillian Quest said she would bring our mail on her way back to Jasper today but if the road is closed, as it was when we came back from Louise, she might not get here.

Bow Lakes
Sunday, July 7, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

It is a very flat light at this morning, and so I might as well write you a few lines now that I have a chance. On the whole we have had good weather, rain one night and morning, which brought the Forest Fire under control, much to the relief of everyone.

X The fire was pretty bad. Thursday there was a terrific wind, we drove to Lake Louise for gas, as Pete had had to cyphon some of ours out to help a car full of gas, and while there we called on the Swiss Guides who were rather discouraged they have so little to do. Most people come now on tops of the North west & don't stay long enough in one place to climb. When we started back we found the road closed, on account of the fire, but as it is 25 miles beyond here, we were allowed to come to Bow Lakes. The wind had evidently whipped the blaze along and in one place it jumped a half mile across the road and began burning in a new place. It must have been very difficult to fight with no roads, except the main one, five miles at first from the fire, and no water

bandy. We were all feeling pretty badly after hearing the various reports. It had burnt up the sides of Mount Wilson, had burnt the base camp ~~at~~ Thursday morning which Pete & Jim had been to at midnight the evening before. They had just been able to save a new log building at Harveys by getting the water there as the fire reached within 30 feet of it. And they also said the fire was raging both sides of the North Saskatchewan river, where Pete & Jim knew of beautiful timber. Well it rained in the night & snowed as well. There was snow on the ground when we got up yesterday morning. and it was rather Dandy all morning. so we decided to see for ourselves the extent of the fire. Much to our surprise the slopes of Mt Wilson were still green, except for a tiny bit of timber on a cliff and the odd tree above. Harveys place had green trees all around it. - it was burnt over long ago & second growth anyway. We found the fire was nearer 30 yards away & to the side where it can't be seen from the road & below Mt Wilson. The only place on the side of the road burnt was the spot where the base camp had

been. It evidently rushed up the hill
 just first there which was funny. The
 lovely timber Pete & Jim had remembered
 was still there & the fire was across the
 valley for the most part. It burnt in
 patches mostly & there were still other
 patches of green trees left. It was still
 smoking but at least they can see
 where it is. I imagine when the smoke
 was so thick they had a feeling that
 everything was burning up. It was
 X certainly lucky it wasn't worse.

For the fun of it we counted the
 American discuses we saw, and we
 got 19 different states including Alabama,
 Louisiana & Texas. We also picked
 mushrooms on the way home. There are
 wonderful crops to be had on the old
 manure heaps left by the road camps
 when they were building the road. & Jim
 knows where the Stables were.

We probably will go back to-
 morrow as Pete has one or two things
 he has to attend to. but this summer
 we are going to try to paint as
 much as we can, & stay out of
 Bauff.

Letters from you have been brought up
when any of the Swipsons go to town.
and they are always nice to get.

I was interested too in the Friends
Society letter. Barbara has told me quite
a bit about it & all they did in the last
war. They do so much without saying
much.

The evenings are lovely up here,
it is light enough to read a paper until
about nine thirty.

I must go over now & see how
they are getting on with the plumbing.
They are just connecting it up. & Pete
is helping as little Jimmy is still off
fighting fire.

Loads of love
Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. July 10, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

My letters are apt to be very irregular now a days. We came down to Banff yesterday afternoon as it looked like rain & was too dull to paint. Pete had to come in to see Jackie and now it looks as if he can't do much until Sunday, when his Uncle Clifford Jones comes up from Calgary. It's about the well. For Pete & Jackie & Cliff are executors. However we know if we stay it will mean only entertaining, so we are going back to Bow Lakes this afternoon, and then can come down Saturday or Sunday morning, giving us three days to paint.

We found a card in the door from Mrs Ball, but I imagine it was a week ago, as she always goes to Victoria in July & August.

I'm sitting in the car, waiting for Pete to have his hair trimmed & I wish you could see the people. Some of the costumes are so funny. However the pants are a great improvement on flaring beach pajamas.

I don't know but the postures are
femier than the costumes - some are
so fat & bulgy in the wrap spots.

Had a nice letter from you about
the fourth of July. What a lot of rain
you have had, but it will help the
trees. It's been pretty dry here, though
a good rain one night from the looks
of the ground.

Agnes Hammond came back Sunday
she went abroad last winter to be with
her sister Gwen in London. There were
700 children on the boat and just 200
people looking after them. She says
she never wants to do that again. Lots
of the children were done too, Agnes
said until the time they left, every
thing was quiet & you hardly would
have realized a war was going on -
except the black out & few cars, but
when they left, their house where they
had been all spring was being taken
over by the Government, for defense
purposes. They have three ^{great} children
and she was only allowed 74 dollars
each. That's 10 pounds English money.

Pete is back so this is all for
now. Heaps of love
Catherine

Banff, Alberta.

Sunday, July 14, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

We came down from Bow Lakes yesterday afternoon, Pete's uncle from Calgary was supposed to come up this morning, but came yesterday instead, as he had to get some signatures and they wouldn't have been legal on Sunday, We got in just in time to see him before the train left, and Pete arranged to go down to Calgary on Monday, then the train was nine hours late on account of a mud slide or something and Uncle Clifford came down last evening and he and Pete had a long talk, so now it looks as if we wouldn't have to go to Calgary after all. at least for another week, in which case we can go out painting for at least a week. We think that perhaps we won't stay in for Indian Days this year, it gets so complicated and so many people to see.

It was pretty hot the last few days at Bow, and also smoky, as the fire started up again, in spite of the inch of rain they had. That only dampened it down and then it broke out again as things dried out, We went up to see it on Friday, and it was roaring up in one place. Actually it was very beautiful on that particular afternoon, as there was little wind and it was clear, The smoke rose straight up, about seven thousand feet into the air. In some places it looked like a cyclone as it twisted up in a spiral and the roar was like a waterfall. It was across the river from us and burning from the river right up to tree line. The flames in the center were tremendous and when the smoke would clear a little

we could see them, they must have been 40 feet high. The color of the smoke was lovely, but it was awful to see beautiful forests burning, They have pumps to get the water from the river, but about all they can do is to keep the spot fires as they call them down. The burning bits of branches rise with the draft into the air and then fall maybe a half a mile away and start a fresh fire, so a good many men are posted to watch for the fresh outbreaks and put them out before they become fires. also the fire travels under ground and breaks out way ahead of the main blaze. We had a terrific thunder storm and wind before we got back, It came up very suddenly and was the kind that blew high trees right over. In the Yoho we heard later a bus full of people were caught between fallen trees of either side of them, though none fell on the bus and it is quite a job clearing them away.

We had great fun with an Englishman who was up at Bow Lakes for five days and brought him down with us yesterday. He is from Singapore and used to be in HongKong for many years, I think was head of the Nestle Milk in Singapore, His name was Shrubsul and he ~~was a~~ is a bachelor and sunh fun, had us all calling him Shruby. He has been all over the world and now is on his way back to Singapore.

There were some nice letters from you, telling us about the swimming pools you bought, what fun they must be, and how the children must love them. Also you mentioned your plans to go to Gorham and Marblehead and Cotuit. I hope you have the best of weather and a real nice time everywhere.

back up I will try to write again soon, we now think we will go

* Bow Lake to-morrow -
Loads of love.

Catharine -

SIMPSON'S

Num-Ti-Gah Lodge

BOW LAKE

LAKE LOUISE-JASPER HIGHWAY

Thursday July 18, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

As usual there doesn't seem much time to write. Yesterday was the loveliest day, with great big clouds. We painted on what is called the Bow Summit, in the morning and then had the most eventful afternoon. There were about 30 people here for lunch. Among them the Southland tour people. Two cars of them. They are from Georgia, a group of boys & girls about 16 to 18 years old, and they come in for a five small buses, & they have a sort of cook truck. They camp out in tents & have a chef & all. I'll have to write a real letter later. We are now at Lake Louise having brought Mary Simpson down. & are getting gear & going right back! It was cloudy, so we thought it a good chance to get down. But as to dinner now we want to get back to paint after lunch. Yesterday afternoon was so hectic that it is too long a story to tell now.

I hope you are having a lovely time too.

Lots of love

Catherine

P.S. I keep forgetting, we did not take the Garage key this time!

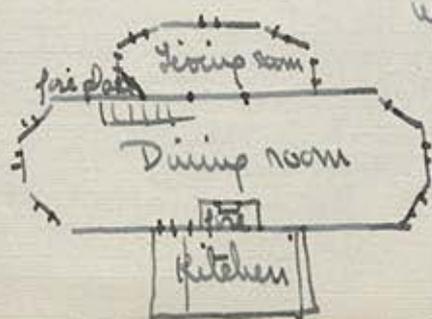
Bow Lakes.

Thurs. July 15, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

There never seems to be any really good time to write letters up here. Perhaps it is because there is always some interesting person to talk to. Just now I am waiting for Pete to come back. He went down around the end of the lake to paint. Of course it took him some time to get there, whereas I finished a sketch near here, so if he doesn't get back too soon I may get a letter written at last.

The Simpsons have a lovely place here. Jimmy has had a few cabins here for many years, and used to bring people in on pack trips before the road was built. They had a lovely cabin built hexagonal with logs, & a fire place, but used to cook outside on an open fire. It was a bit hard to get used to a main lodge with all the fixings, and last year the carpenters were still working way into the summer. However this year the main lodge is well fixed up and is lovely inside. They hope to add on a wing with more rooms. Right now it is like this.



The outside is rock part way up, & logs on top. Inside is paneling where the rock part is, & then the logs. They have many of Carl Rungius pictures

and others that are interesting & so it looks awfully nice inside. more like a home. as they bring about everything up from their house in Bauff. They have six rooms upstairs, so can accomodate 12 people, and then two baths that are working now. I may have told you how Pete helped with the plumbing, as little Jimmy was at the time. & Fred Waterworth needed someone to give them a hand. It was the day all the Simpsons went to Bauff. & I helped the waitress when people came. It was quite hectic. 4 people had reserved two rooms, but we weren't sure if they would show up, and then the greatest lot of people began coming about supper time. & wanting rooms, & we didn't dare let the reserved ones go. & then the head of Jasper park & his wife came bringing Mr Shrubal & we knew Mrs Simpson would want them to stay. Luckily the Simpsons came back in time to fix it all up. & we had a lively evening. There were three Minneapolis Doctors here, and they gave a party, but that put the plumbing off an hour or so in the evening as they insisted on Fred Waterworth joining them. People were tired & went to bed early, about ten, and then Pete & Fred tried to be quiet & harmonious. Wrenches & pipes make a lot of noise as you know, and really it was funny. They would be so quiet

putting the heavy wrenches down carefully each time & then by mistake brought over something in the kitchen that would fall down with a frightful din.

They were putting a coil into the camp stove for heating water, & really he did it awfully well, but it meant lots of measuring & pipe cutting & fitting. He had to finish what he got so far so that there would be water in it when the fire was lit in the morning. They worked until 2:30 in the morning. I held the light & helped a tiny bit. I guess if the Concord plumbers had worked from 8 one morning until 2:30 the next you might have gotten your bathroom finished sooner. The next noon some friends of Fred's came through on their way to see Jasper. & as he had finished by then, he went with them for a two days trip. That is the way they work trips here.

Yesterday was another of those hectic days. I started telling you about the 2 car loads of Georgia boys & girls who came for lunch. One lot with the chaperon ate lunch but the seven others 2 girls & 5 boys decided to walk to the glacier. Some went across the lake in a boat, & the others walked round. They were coming back very soon. Of course it took them longer than they expected to get to the glacier

4

→ the Chaplain didn't know what to do.
He finally left with some that had eaten
lunch & left many instructions for the
others. It was all right until we saw
a thunder storm coming up. They can
come up awfully fast & John was pretty
worried for fear they all seven would try
& get into that one small boat, & they were
rather a scatter brain lot anyway. So he
rowed over in the boat & waited over an
hour for them. They had had a wonderful
time & felt real snow etc. & were pretty
damp as well. For there was a good shower
with the rain. They all had tea, &
lots of people began arriving for the night
until they were full up in no time. There
were all sorts of descende plates outside.
N. Y. Penna. Minnesota. Washington.
California. Manitoba and one other. Mrs
Walker from Bayport came with her husband
& friends for supper, and there was much
going on. Another storm came up very
quickly to drench the fisherman standing
on the shore, and with it a terrific wind.
The lake had been so calm before but
the wind in no time whipped up the
waves & really it was a pretty bad
storm. Suddenly a lady who had come
with her family, ~~two~~ rushed downstairs
& there was much excitement. Her two
small daughters aged 15 and nine
were out in the boat and way on the

5
other side of the lake. Luckily they had
the best boat and somehow the older
girl kept her head & kept rowing a little.
Just enough to keep it from tipping over.
The wind blew them right across to this
side of the lake. Jim & the father jumped
into the other boat & tried to get out to them
but didn't make much headway. The
poor mother just trembled like a leaf
and really it was pretty awful to watch.
They were bobbing about, the rain lashing
down & the wind roaring. Evidently the
two children quite enjoyed the experience
& the little one wasn't scared at all! They
certainly were plucky. but everyone
else had a good scare.

That was almost enough for one day
and after some 20 people had had
dinner we began wondering when the
Phillips family would get back from
a climbing trip they had gone on. They
had taken their lunch and started after breakfast
and at ~~the~~ supper time they weren't back.
Jim again rowed across the lake, & met
Mrs Phillips & ~~the~~ one daughter, and two hours
later Peter took his turn rowing down to
meet Mr Phillips. We kept watching for them
& finally as it was getting dark we could
see their lanterns, just tiny specks. much
to the relief of everyone.

Later - Got a nice letter from you to-day after
you return from Marblehead. That!

ships my must be quite a place. Too
bad the food was poor. I should think
compared to your home food, anything
would ~~be~~ ^{seem} poor.

Sister Mary came back this noon & may
go to Bang before long. so I will send
this much.

Tell Jean that if she heard over the
radio or read in the newspaper that the
Germans bombed Dundee, not to believe
it. It will be purely a guess on the news
agency's part, as the British censor will
not allow any news of the exact places
bombed to be sent out, as it will only
help the Germans know what they have
hit. All that is allowed to be sent out
is whether to the "South east coast" or
"north west of England" or some such thing
to give the general location. So far the
damage seems to be no more than you have
in New England every summer from bad
thunder storms. and I can't see that there
has been any greater loss of life than
during a summer day with you. Certainly
not as much as from automobile accidents
drownings & lightning. It's because little
seems to be happening in contrast to the
early part of June, and so the newspapers
make the most of what they can. Everyone
here feels encouraged about the whole
situation.

Loads of love

Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.

Monday, July 22, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

Yesterday Pete's Uncle was supposed to come up from Calgary, Pete and Jackie are executors of their fathers will, and so for the next little while Pete probably will have to come in fairly often about papers and what not. His uncle is the lawyer, and he didn't ~~have to~~ come up after all, so we went to Indian days in the afternoon and in the evening to the Moores, for Pete wanted to know when they will start drilling.

I don't know if I told you that Pete joined the militia last week. It is what they call the Non-Permanent Active ~~Militia~~ Service force, and is part of the 2nd Battalion of the Calgary Highlanders, which is the division or rather regiment that Alec Carruthers brother went across with in the last war. It is something to do with the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders which Jean probably knows of in Scotland. They don't expect to be issued kilts but I think they get a uniform. Col. Moore is Commanding officer here, he had to be willing to be demoted in order to get in, and so is now a major. They are forming these units all across Canada, and primarily it is for home defence, Last fall they would only except men with an "A" rating in physical health, and lots were turned down, but in this Non-Permanent militia they will take men with a "C" rating and up to sixty in age. The idea is for them to train two nights a week, and so not have to leave their regular jobs. The two nights will be equal to one full day in the army. Then sometime during the fall they will go to a camp for two weeks training, maybe a month. In this way when they want men for the Active Service Force they can weed out the young ones and the best from the Militia, and if there is ever any trouble in Canada, like Sabotage or Strikes they will have trained men all through the country. Jackie also joined. Another thing is that you can transfer to any other branch from this one, if you are needed to do some other job. Some time in August we are also to have ~~7th~~ National Registration, everyone from 16 to 60 has to register, during the four days, and this will give the Gov't an idea what people are best fitted for, what training they have had, if any whether they can drive a car, milk a cow, cook, run a tractor etc. I think it is a wonderful idea.

I am going to enclose a clipping out of our paper that may interest you and Jean, if from time to time I see anything I will enclose it.

Would you like to support a British refugee in Banff? Mrs Greenham, who runs the Mountain School where Jean Lindsay went, and who's sister wrote the lines the King quoted in his Christmas speech to the Empire, is going to have twenty children (I think it is that number) Another one of her sisters runs a small private school in England for children who's parents live in India, and she became quite worried over her responsibilities in case of airraids. There was much cabling back and forth, and ~~it~~ not real time enough.

to arrange for the parents to send money, as there is some question about there sending funds from India. However Mrs Greenham who is the most kind hearted soul, took the full responsibility, feeling sure that she could get enough people interested here to help. and feeling that the children must be gotten out of the British Isles. They are evidently about to start or have started as they have permission etc. and so far she has six or eight people already who have promised to ~~100%~~ give the \$500.00 for the first year, there being the possibility that the parents can pay it back. Several people here think it rather an easy way to be responsible for a refugee. For it isn't always easy to take one right into the family.

Pete has just gone over to get a chinese supper, They make it all up for one and put it in a cardboard container like ice cream and then one can bring it home.

Lots of love and I hope you are having a nice time, you know that Nell and her family go to Wianno every summer, she has a little girl about Gale's age.

More love,

Catharine >

Banff, Alberta.

Wed. July 24, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

Yesterday afternoon we decided to go to Calgary, as Pete wanted to see his Uncle Clifford about his Fathers estate, there is some question which one will be executor, as all three boys were appointed but two can withdraw. We hoped he would come up last Sunday, and rather expected him too, that was why we came in from Bow Lakes, but maybe in the end it was just as well it happened this way, for the weather has been rainy in any case. We drove down last night getting to Calgary at supper time, then we went to a most amusing movie, " His Favorite Wife " with Irene Dunne and Cary Grant a real farce where everyone gets into silly situation and even the children were laughing. It is so seldom you hear people really laughing out loud in a movie now-a-days. It is the first one we have seen since we were east.

This morning Pete went to see Uncle Clifford at nine thirty and it was twelve when he got back. So they had quite a talk, and it was a good chance. Uncle Clifford is really retired, and only looks after his old customers, but said that because of the war he felt he should do a little more as so many younger men have gone into the services. He has no telephone in the office, and so few interruptions. Pete remarked later that it was really quite tiring and made his jaws ache. I spent a good part of the morning waiting my turn at the American Consuls and have now applied for a renewal of my passport.

As we were eating lunch the most terrific thunder storm came up and it rained so hard that the streets were flooded in places, and the subways under the C.P.R. tracks for the road traffic were deep in water. It was over the sunning board when we went through and quite exciting. So we decided to come home as there wasn't much more to do, the stores close Wednesday afternoons, When we are in Banff, we think, "Oh, we won't bother to write a letter to such and such a firm in Calgary, we'll see them the next time we go down " Then afternoon comes in Calgary and we say " Oh, we won't bother to go there this trip, but can write them a note later." So back we came. But the best part is that Pete's uncle said there was nothing to do for a week or more, so we will go back to Bow Lakes maybe tomorrow, coming in next Thursday, as we are going on the trail hike August first to the fifth, three nights out,

After coming back I suddenly thought, that all the time we were in Calgary not one person mentioned the war, we spoke a while to the various people we know at the Paliser Hotel, four or five different ones, Even the American Consul who asked me how I liked it here and said he thought it a pretty nice place to live, never mentioned it. and the movies didn't have one thing about the war in the news reel or "March of time". True there were lots of Soldiers around the streets last night, their evening off, and in the hotel, officers having dinner with their families, I guess, but no great excitement about it. We haven't even heard or seen any news to-day.

I have written this letter while Beverly Herbert is talking to Pete, He stays and stays, so when Pete saw him coming he went outside, and they are still talking. He is a young lad from Toronto, who likes the mountains and likes to paint, and has to get advise about every little thing he does, I am just wondering if I should go out and remind Pete of something to get over town, and if Pete would catch on No. He is going now, he has made two starts, so I guess it is O.K. three starts, now he has gone.

Lots of love
Catharina

Bow Lakes.
Sunday, July 28 1940.

Dearest Mother,

We are up here again at Bow Lakes but the weather has been rather rainy, with the clouds low over the mountains in the morning, clearing at noon. This afternoon a sudden rainstorm came up, as it often does in the mountains and it is just pouring.

The mail just arrived, and a letter from Margarett Watkins, that Jimmy & some friends ~~have~~ are going to be in Banff August 4th. We don't get back from the Hike until the 5th but can leave word for them. They are camping, and have covered New Orleans, Texas & California I guess.

There were quite a few New Englanders in camp last night. A Mother & son named Leche I think are staying here. They are from Eeter New Hampshire. Then there were some Alpine Climbers from Worcester Mass. named Fulmore, and later a Mr ~~Blodgett~~ Blodgett from Boston. who's wife was in Martha Chase's

class in college. & knew lots of Concord
people. Has talked with Russ on
the telephone -

The Castles from Honolulu come
tonight I think -

We may be here two more days
and then have to be in Bauff Wednesday
night for Peter's first drill, and the
Trail Hike starts out on Friday until
the following Monday -

I got your letter in Bauff about
the grand dinner Russ & Kitty had
with the Admiral of the Fleet. How
exciting that must have been. You'll
be anxious to hear all the details
when they get back from the cruise.
I hope they have good weather this
year.

This is just to let you know
how we are getting on. I'm too
sleepy to write more.

Lots of love

Catharine -

P.S. Am enclosing some clippings
that may interest you or Jean.

Banff, Alberta.

Tues. July 30, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

Your first two letters from Cotuit came this morning, and I am so glad that it is such a lovely place and for it sounds just right, Have you a cottage, or is it a sort of suite? Couldn't you stay another week if it agrees with you, and is the kind of place you would like. I am sure the change and air would do you lots of good, but I know how you hate to be away from Concord too long. You never mentioned Nell, and I wonder if you have seen her. By now you will be back in Concord I guess.

We came down from Bow Lakes last night after supper, it had rained off and on all day, hard showers, and not enough clear weather in between to do much, it was the second rainy day and we decided as we had to come down to-day anyway, we might as well come last night, also they might rent our cabin. We have been doing odd things and seeing people, To-morrow night is Pete's first drill, they already have more men than they need signed up. Then Thursday we are going to Calgary for a few hours, and Friday morning early leave on the Trail Hike, coming back late Monday night. The hike this year is going to Egypt Lake where we went once before, but none of us saw the country around there as we moved camp each night and it rained and we had to give up one walk. We walk in in one day, and then camp there over the weekend three nights and come out on Monday. I think there are over thirty going.

How is Olive making out? and does she hear much from Alec. I think it really is easier for the people who are on the spot, in some ways, than just hearing bits of news and having to wait a couple of weeks to know if it was true or not. And more than likely Alec never mentions the same things one reads about in the newspapers here.

Wednesday, Another nice letter from you to-day. I guess maybe I am wrong and you are staying two weeks at the cape, from one of your letters I got the idea that it was for just a week. I am so glad that you could have the nice hot weather there and not in Concord.

I will send this along and maybe later will be able to start another letter, While we are away there will be five days when you won't hear from us.

Lots of love,

Catharine
P.S. Poor Uncle Marshall with pianos & rubber plants to dispose of. I'm glad you have the toys. Wouldn't the Antiquarian Society at the house in Waltham like to borrow them to show. As I remember the doll was very nice. It's hard breakup up a home.
Much love
Catharine

Banff, Alberta.

Thurs. Aug. 1, 1940

Dearest Mother,

We are busy getting things together for the Trail Hike to-morrow, for we have to be all ready by eight in the morning. This is my last letter to you until Monday night.

To-day we went to Calgary for just two hours I guess, Pete saw his uncle and I got my Passport. It was raining when we got back and doesn't look very promising for to-morrow.

X Last night Pete had his first training, or drill. It was pretty exciting getting ready and evidently they all felt the same, for though though they were to be there at 7.30, most of them were 25 minutes early. They wanted to get about 80 men here, but already 93 have joined up and most all were on hand for the first drill. Two drill sergeants came up from Calgary, and then the Colonel in charge of this ^{group} ~~regiment~~, who gave them a little talk before hand, about living up to the reputation, and upholding the honor of the famous Argyle and Sutherland
X Highlanders etc. When they were drilled in the new way, which evidently is much simpler than the old system, and Pete said he was surprised how well they all did and with so few mistakes, Of course a good many were in the last war, but even the young ones

did well, and to-day Pete heard that the Calgary ~~the~~ officers who came up were awfully pleased at the fine turn out and the excellent marching for the first time, they said it was better than the Canmore group even after several drills. Pete is pleased to think there are so many men he likes on it, and really they all seem so enthusiastic about it. They are to drill Mondays and Fridays, with maybe extra classes for those who want them later on. It was rather lucky they won't meet this Friday, and Pete will just get in on time Monday. We will have three and four days between to paint and have decided to go to places near by so we can get back easily.

This is all for now, Lots of love

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.

Monday, Aug. 5, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

We got back before supper this afternoon, and Pete has gone to his drill, so I thought that in between listening to the news and doing the odd bit, I might start a letter to you.

The Trail Hike was most successful and the weather, which is rather important when one is walking and living in tents, was on the whole rather good. I wrote you last on Thursday evening after our trip to Calgary. We went over town to mail it and also to find out if the Wards had everything ready for the Hike. We found Sis waiting patiently for Sam to come back from Lake Louise where he has been working, we talked awhile and then when he still didn't appear we decided to telephone to Lake Louise and find out if he had left. It took some time, but we finally got him, found that he had mistaken the day, and as we all had to start the next morning at eight o'clock, it ended by our driving up to Louise at nine thirty and getting Sam and being back by midnight, for chicken sandwiches at the Wards, and a spot of rum. We were so glad that we had gone up to their house or we never would have known about it. You see Sam is the President of the Trail Hikers for this trip, and we wanted him to be sure and be there. It worked very well, and though it was easy to stay up that night, it wasn't quite as simple getting up at six the next morning. However we managed and got things fixed up in the house before leaving. I am so sleepy that I can't possibly write you a description of the Hike to-night, and I can't promise to do it to-morrow either, I suppose it is being out doors for four days and nights that makes me so drowsy, I wonder if Pete is able to snap into the deill as he is supposed to.

A lovely long letter from you from the cape, I am so glad that you are enjoying it so much, it must be such a nice place, and being on a beach too. I was so interested in the refugee children. We told Mrs Greenham that we would like to be responsible for one of hers for a year, it may be more. I see in the paper that her sister and three have arrived, so we will have to see if one is the one we will sponsor. I think it wonderful of Frances to take two, but seems to me people with children are the first to take more on.

We found a letter, which I will enclose on our back door, and just now when I went to water the lawn I found a card on the front door from Jimmy Watkins, he was here this afternoon and will drop around to-morrow. That is one reason I may not have a chance to write about the hike to-morrow. It depends how many people we must see etc.

Tuesday. Well Jimmy hasn't arrived yet, but Dr. Thorington of Philadelphia called and just now a lady who was on the Trail Ride who wants us to make a sketch on a coat for her, of all things, Carl and Mr Palenckie both made a drawing in pencil on the thing, (it is a kind of windbreaker) I think to get rid of her, and she asked us to do it on the hike, but didn't have the coat. We sort of put her off, thinking that we would be going out to-day.

but the unit decided to meet this morning at 10.30, to talk about drills, and so she caught me watering the lawn just now. Had the coat under her arm, she is so persistent though very nice about it. so finally to get rid of her, I took the coat and said we would return it to the Mt Royal, but Pete was so busy he might not have time to do it, knowing that he hates that sort of thing.

Maybe I had better start telling you about the hike. It was really very nice and a most congenial crowd, and every one walked in which is nicer, Mrs Vaux hasn't appeared yet this summer.

The site was near Egypt Lake, and quite a way in, but by getting a lift six miles up the fire road to Shadow lake, it made the hike one of about four hours. We all met at eight at the Mt Royal Hotel in Banff, and as there were more than were at first expected, over forty, we rode out on the Gov't truck that took the dunnage. It was fine when we were on the main road but quite a ride when we reached the fire road which was both slippery and bumpy, but it was lots of fun sitting on the duffle. We started walking in about ten, the lunch was supposed to come on a horse, but for the first time in years the boys couldn't find the horses and were a bit late, about half an hour and so we with some others walked right into camp before having anything to eat. but it certainly tasted good *when we got it -*

I will send this along unfinished so you will at least hear we are back. We drove up to the camp ground & found Jimmy & his two friends washing the car. They came to the house at tea time & we all had beer. Then we got Col. Moore to come over as he is a Princeton man & he told them stories, & after that we took them to Parises for supper as we hadn't much in the house, and as they ate one and a half chocolate cakes between them at tea time, four pieces apiece we decided it would be quite an undertaking to cook them supper.

*lots of love
Catherine*

Banff, Alberta.

Wednesday, Aug. 7, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

This is a continuation of my attempt of yesterday. To go back to the trail hike. We took about four hours to walk in to the camp near Egypt Lake, and had only a little chocolate until we got there. The cook and his helpers had the camp all set up, and they made us the most delicious tasting sandwiches as we came in, the slower ones had their lunch on the way. It was a very nice camp ground, lots of trees and the teepees scattered about in little open places, we take our own tent so that we can be to-gether, otherwise if they are at all crowded they put ladies to-gether and men. ^{W. B. M.} The cooking was done over an open fire for the large kettles and small camp stoves for the other things, like cakes and pies. There was a long sort of table shoulder high, where the plates, cups, cutlery, sugar, cream, butter etc, were set out. All one had to do was to walk the length of the table and pick up the things you needed, cafeteria fashion. Then if one were wise you could hold your plate near the fire long enough to warm it, and then walk over to the people dishing the food near the stoves. The food was excellent, and it always tastes extra good out doors and when one is hungry. People sat all around on fallen trees, grassy knolls when it was dry and boulders. They had flys put up over the long table and the stoves when it rained, a fly is a tent without sides, if you know what I mean.

The first day was cool and nice for walking, we had one or two light showers, but it didn't amount to much. However the next day it poured at breakfast time and most of the morning we had heavy showers, even a little hail, in between the sun would come out. Most every one went out for the day just the same, but we had our lunch in the camp and then in the afternoon, when there seemed to be more sun than showers, we started out, meeting the various groups on their way home. We stopped several times to sit and chat, and so didn't get very far, but we were lucky and had only one shower and the best weather of the day. In the evenings we had a big camp fire and everyone sits round and talks, some tell stories and then we all sing a bit. until at ten o'clock there is hot cocoa and we all go to bed. The second night there was a heavy frost and it cleared up the weather, and was a lovely day Sunday, and clear as a bell Monday for coming out, has been clear ever since.

Sunday Carl Rungius was going to Haiduk Lake to fish, it was a two hours trip about, and beyond where we had gone the day before. He told us if we brought a frying pan we could cook the fish he caught. He started right after breakfast, but we were a bit later, and also were delayed on the way, by catching up to slower walkers and chatting with them. We really didn't expect to have him catch much. but when we got there we could see him in the distance and he held up two fingers, so we judged it meant fish. He had two beauties and wanted to cook them right away. We got the fire going while he tried to catch one fish we could see swimming around, but he had to give that one up.

We had a big chunk of butter which was first browned in the frying pan, and then the two fish beheaded and cut into three pieces each, were put in. they were big enough fish to hang over the edge of the frying pan otherwise. The secret of frying them is to cook them on one side without touching them and then turning them only once. We had no ~~knife~~ forks but pocket knives, so we really ate them with our fingers after placing them on bread from our lunch sandwiches, the butter soaking into the bread. they were without a doubt the most delicious fish I have ever tasted. It evidently makes a great difference to have them cooked so fresh and really we all had such fun enjoying them.

We started home right after eating, leaving Carl to fish some more, he came home two hours later with eight more having caught the limit.

Monday, we started home again, the trail much drier than when we went out, the cars met us again and took us the last six miles which helped a lot. We had a car meet us at the road for the rest were going to the Pow Wow and having supper, but Pete wanted to be sure to be in Bangf by seven for the Drill, He had quite a workout that day, with two hours drill after an eight mile walk.

Yesterday morning he went again at ten and could have gone in the afternoon too, but the last two days have been awfully hot in the sun, 80 in the shade. The drills in the evenings twice a week are more or less compulsory, but any one anxious to have a little extra drill during the day time can go mornings, There were only a few there in the day time but Pete felt he learned a lot, He says they are awfully good about it and like to have the men ask questions. Also they take turns calling out the orders which gives them a chance to practice everything. They are getting pretty interested in it all, and naturally the more interest one takes and the more one practices the more chance there is for promotion. also Pete wants to go to the camp for training, and they will only pick a certain number to go.

Another nice letter from you to-day, after getting home to Concord, I guess it seemed pretty nice to be back.

Lots of love

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.

Sat. August 10, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

It is afternoon and as soon as Pete returns from drill we are going up to Bow Lakes for over Sunday, if he doesn't have another drill Monday afternoon, we will stay until then. The only compulsory drills are the ones on Monday and Friday evenings, but any one who is interested enough can go at other times, and all this week Pete has been going once a day either morning or afternoon. He finds that with only a few there that one learns more, for they can ask questions and also take turns calling the orders. Everyone is quite pleased with the unit here, for they evidently parade very well for such little practise. They are all so enthusiastic and can talk of little else, and are all looking forward to the two weeks in camp in September. It is a purely voluntary unit so perhaps that accounts for their eagerness to do well.

I am not sure where this week has gone. Jimmy Watkins and his friends from Princeton were here Tuesday and then spent Wednesday and most of Thursday up at Lake Louise and the ~~the~~ Icefields beyond Bow Lakes. We went to Canmore Thursday night and so missed them, but they drove down here before leaving on Friday. It was hard to know how much to do with them, for Pete was busy drilling and anyway they probably had more fun going around by themselves, We did have them down for Beer to the house, which I told you about and then took them over town for a dinner, and they seemed to enjoy that.

Monday, Aug. 12, 1940.

We went up to Bow Lakes before I had time to finish this letter, As we drove in we saw a very nice looking white haired gentleman sitting out side enjoying the view, we looked again and of course it was Dr Bartlett. They had been there three days already, we had supper with them and in the evening drove up the road to see the sunset, then yesterday afternoon they went on to Lake Louise as they had all their arrangements made. Tomorrow morning we are to pick them up at Lake Louise and drive them to Moraine Lake and bring them back to Banff for a couple of days. It was lots of fun seeing them and they seemed to be having a grand time.

X As we were eating lunch to-day one of these magpies that look like crows except they have white breasts, began squaking away, we were trying to listen to the news on the radio but he made such a racket that Pete got up and said " I'll fix him ! " He went to the front door but evidently saw nothing, but still the chattering, so I said " Goodness, it sounds as if he were right in the house" and just then Pete looked arund to see a saucy looking magpie in the fireplace, behind the screen, it is a ~~xxx~~ tightly fitting screen so he couldn't get out, how long he had been there we don't know, but long enough to flutter about distributing ashes very generously over the rug and chairs and this end of the room, which means I will have a busy afternoon ahead of me vacum cleaning. We didn't know how to get him out, for of course he flew right for a closed window but Pete managed to open it and let him flutter out. and he didn't X get nervously excited, luckily, (the bird I mean, not Pete)

Lots of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.

Thursday, Aug. 15, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

I started to write you last night while Pete was at drill, but I had hardly finished making blueberry muffins and washing the dishes while the news was on, than Pete came home, It gets dark about nine o'clock now. He is getting so interested in the drilling, and now the small group of them that take the extra drill are having rifle drill and that can be pretty complicated I guess, Pete went yesterday afternoon while I took the Bartletts for a drive to Lake Minnawanka and up to Norquay and the Cave and Basin. and then brought them for tea here (which we didn't have as they weren't thirsty or hungry, so they insisted) Pete was just back and he went through the drill they had had that afternoon. The Sergeant made them go through 37 movements with just one order. Dr Bartlett will probably tell you all about it, ~~for~~

Tuesday Morning we got up early and I made a few sandwiches and we drove to Lake Louise, met the Bartletts at about nine fifteen and drove to Moraine Lake, walked up on the pile of rocks at the end of the lake to get a better view, and then had our picnic lunch on the way down near the beaver dam, It was a lovely day and great fun for us and I think they enjoyed it too. Dr Bartlett was

much amused talking to a lady from Boston who was just starting off in her car from Deer Lodge where they were staying, He asked her if she was going to Jasper, and she said she had been told that ~~the~~ gasoline cost 35 cents a ~~dollar~~ gallon up at Jasper which she thought was too expensive, so they weren't going up. Dr Bartlett thought that was wonderful coming all the way from Boston and then not going 200 miles further because the gas was a few cents more a gallon. (We also figured that she was gaining 10 cents on every dollar in exchange anyway and the Canadian Gallons are a fifth larger ~~than~~)

I seem to be making more mistakes. We

We have just come down to Calgary for the night. & to do a few things in the morning & be back in Banff by afternoon for drill. Pete is planning to take a few days off next week to get some sketches at O'Hara so this fall he can work on some large paintings he has started.

The Bartletts left Banff tonight, will be home in Concord Sunday evening & I think will be playing bridge with you Monday. They invited me up to the Alpine Club for lunch which I enjoyed so much. Pete couldn't go.

Loads of Love
Catherine

Banff, Alberta.

Friday, Aug. 16, 1940

Dearest Mother,

Pete is at his drill, but will be back shortly. I have been listening to the British News Reel which we get at 7.30 every night. It has news, and to-night several people spoke about their experiences in the Air Raids to-day. I wish you could get it for it is so interesting, and sometimes very amusing. Lots of little things that happen. One Air raid warden was telling about an incendiary bomb that fell on a house and then rolled off and landed in the gutter, I imagine blazing, the door of the house opened and a man came out with an *Apedistra* plant (I am not sure what it looks like but it must be similar to a rubber plant!) Anyway the man put it on top of the incendiary bomb and said after it was gone, "Well at last I am rid of that " His wife was evidently away.

Did you read Mr Gowen's letter in this weeks "Life". I thought it was very interesting. Is he in the States now do you know, or in Concord ?

The other day when we went to Lake Louise for the Bartletts, we gave a lady walking a lift up the hill, she was in train cloths and with all the cars going by didn't look as if she were doing the

thing she was dressed for, We were right, she had thought Lake Louise was just a little way up (It is 3 miles) and after being on the train wanted a walk, She had to catch the train that night as she was on her way back to England, She was young and very nice, has been in the States since the war started, but couldn't stand not going back, though her family wanted her to stay over here. She said she was so glad to be in Canada where people weren't so jittery and gloomy, then she told of being in Boston and seeing a headline on a newspaper " England Falls " and then after buying the paper found in tiny letters underneath " so says Hitler ! It was that sort of thing that got her down, and now she is so tickled to be going back.

We had a nice short trip to Calgary. It is rather nice going down in the afternoon with the sun at your back, being fresh for errands in the morning and then we were back in Banff by lunch time to-day. We also stopped to watch some new recruits drilling, as Pete wanted to see how they looked, He was so ticked to see they weren't nearly as good as the Banff unit. In fact where they were marching in different squads, I suppose they were at different stages, there were three men being tutored off to one side, they just couldn't keep in step, and how the man drilling them could be so patient I don't

know, they just couldn't keep in step with him or each other, Then we also watched two squads doing rifle drill, A regular tough sergeant was drilling the more advanced ones, he was the hard boiled type and not nearly as successful as the other young officer who was very patient and didn't shout.

To-morrow we have arranged to register in the National Registration, so that if we go up to Lake O'Hara for a few days we won't have to come down the first three days of the week when everyone is supposed to, I will send you a copy of the questions later.

Have had nice letters from you lately. What fun they all must have had on the boat over the weeken

I am so sorry that Cousin Alma had to go to the hospital, but hope they were able to find out her trouble. The summer will soon be over & Cousin Bert goes east. I can imagine how much fun they will all have together again.

It is Saturday now - We registered this morning & will leave after lunch for O'Hara I think. It's a lovely day. Pete has been excused from drill on Monday & will have a whole week to catch up to the others before going to camp the first two weeks in September.

I asked him how the drill went last night & he said all right except that a horrid little dog had buried a bone some where under the ground they were trying to drill on, & all the time he kept yapping & running under their legs, and then stopping suddenly & tripping the men up. He even barked so loudly that some men couldn't hear the orders. & no sooner did they shoo him away than back he would come again.

The other night they had to drive away a herd of elk before they could start drilling.

Lots of love to you all.

Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.

Wednesday, Aug. 21, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

We are back again, a little early^{er} than we at first thought. We had perfect weather and so Pete got the three sketches he wanted especially, and one other besides. We went up Saturday afternoon and it was so hot that day that we didn't start in until five, having taken supper with us. It was eight thirty when we reached O'Hara, for we had rather heavy packs and it is uphill most all the way.

The Links were not back from a week at Skoki, and though they were expected any day didn't appear while we were there. However there were others we knew, Mr Simpson, a lawyer from Philadelphia, who comes every summer he can, and who was at Temple last spring. and two ladies from St Paul, Catherine Rice and a Miss Routh, funnily enough they were on the bus that came into Bow Lakes for the Bartletts the day they left there. and they recognized me but couldn't attract my attention as I was busy saying goodbye to the Bartletts. They met us at O'Hara four years ago and were lots of fun. Also at O'Hara was Miss Elizabeth Knowlton of Boston, a great Alpine Climber, we remembered her as having been there before. and since then she has been on an expedition to Nanga Parbat in the Himalayers (can't spell it) She had a young Swiss boy with her as Guide, Peter Gabriel, who is a skier at Franconia in the winter. There was also an Englishman from Brazil. so we were rather a cosmopolitan group. It is fun

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meeting all the different kinds of people.

X Each day we were there was clear and hot, the hottest we have ever had up there, for usually we go later when the first frosts and snow storms come. Pete has three large canvases started of that district and wants to finish them this fall if possible, we didn't get up there last summer and he was anxious to refresh his memory a bit. so we went up with those definite pictures to ~~take~~ sketch. I took the camera stuff. The first morning Pete did a foreground on the lake, and then in the afternoon we went up Obabin valley, just a little way it was so hot. Monday we were out all day, on the Odaray Plateau in the morning and a viewpoint overlooking the Goodsir Mountains in the afternoon. Then Tuesday we went up to Oesa, and Pete sketched the waterfall there, and then we decided after lunch that we might X as well go out that afternoon, when it would be cooler walking. X It took us about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour to pack up and we made good time, two and a half hours to Wapta. We had supper at Lake Louise and were back here in time to get the mail at the store, lots of nice X letters from youtoo. X We were just glancing at the paper when we got into the house when our first caller arrived. a Mr Bieler, an artist and husband of a sister of an old friend of Pete's from Kingston Ontario. He is teaching at the summer school here, it was nearly ten when he left and we were ready for bed, after quite X a day.

Pete kept thinking of all the drill he would be missing, Saturday and Sunday there wasn't any, and he had gotten excused from the Monday night drill, but still he wanted to miss as few as possible, However there was none this afternoon, only to-night.

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He is over there now. The Sergeant is only going to be here this week, so Pete doesn't know if they will drill themselves or not. they go to camp the first two weeks in September, that is one half and the rest go the last two weeks. The unit now has 140 men in it and it is only authorized for 80. The man who reads our meter for the Government Reg Harris I think his name is, came around to-day, he is in the Militia too, and Pete asked if he were going to camp, and he said " I wish I was, but I ~~let~~ can't get off," and he added " You know it would have been a nice vacation for me too." You would think that they were all going on a west Indies cruise or something the way they talk about their trip to camp.

I meant to mail this to-day but we were busy running errands and one thing or another and I didn't finish it. I will add more to-morrow.

Thursday, Another Forest fire near here and it is terribly smoky to-day, but cooler than it would be if the sun were out bright. We have had no rain since the trail hike.

I am so glad that you sent us the articles Mrs Wayman wrote for the Globe about the Empress Zita, It must have been very interesting interviewing her, and fun for you to hear about it.

This is all for now,

Lots of love to you all and I hope that Cousin Alma is feeling better and that they found out what was wrong.

More love

Catherine -

Banff, Alberta.
Saturday, Aug. 24, 1940.
now Sunday-

Dearest Mother,

I am afraid more days have slipped by since I last wrote than I meant to have. but that is often the way. I keep thinking that there will be lots of time before the next mail and then something unexpected comes up and of course I put off the letter one more day.

We haven't been doing anything very special since coming back from O'Hara, at one time we thought we might go some where this weekend, but it was very smoky from forest fires in British Columbia, and also looked like rain, now we are glad that we didn't go for Col. Moppe came down this noon and told Pete that the uniforms have come and Pete can hardly wait until to-morrow morning to see about his. They go to camp at the end of the week, and I imagine will be drilling hard this week in order to be as proficient as possible. I am going to be busy too for there is so much to be done in the house that I have left to do, it will be equal to one of your attic cleaning times.

You certainly have had a busy time too at home, and what a shame that Sandra was sick so long, and the children with you and all the things that went on, callers and what not. I hope that Cousin Alma is feeling better.

I am so glad that the Bartletts enjoyed there time here. Pete said after they left, "you know of all the people that we have taken round a bit out here, the Bartletts and the Eatons have been just about the nicest of all, I like your mother's friends."

In one letter (I am reading over a lot I have saved to answer) you mentioned Uncle Marshall having given you some toys and dishes belonging to Aunt Nela, I wonder did the dishes include the little bright blue saucers with white stars and crescents ? I can remember eating out of them when I was a little girl, and would love to have them, if you have them.

Mrs Vanx never appeared in Banff this summer, I don't know how it happened, perhaps because George had to work or something.

You really had quite a lot of hot weather, we had what we call hot weather, but not much over 80, though the sun gets awfully warm.

Isn't Mrs Cochran your new neighbor the lady from St Paul who's daughter is to marry the Emerson boy ? Remember she asked me if I didn't know some people from St Paul, and all our Minnesota friends seemed to be from Minneapolis. Funnily enough we have met a lot of St Paul people this summer and of course I couldn't for the life of me remember Mrs Cochran's name. The two lady's at O'Hara, Catherine Rice and Miss Routh, are coming here to-morrow on their way through, they are from St Paul. and there was also a very nice family named Philips at Bow Lakes.

No. I don't remember Miss Newcomb, Cousin Janes friend who called on us, no doubt you will see her this winter some Sunday. I f you do, try and describe her to us.

Do tell me what happens to the Sewell house, I shall be very dissapointed if it isn't painted.

You and Jean both speak of going and making dressings at the / Red Cross. In Canada only people who have been Registered Nurses at one time can make the dressings. I suppose they feel they will know just how they should be done.

I was quite interested in your new drink, Pete's mother introduced it to us, only without the mint. and it is so easy to have on hand, just the Grape juice and gingerale. In fact it makes me thirsty enough to go and get some right now.

Guess this will have to do as a letter, Pete's Mother hasn't been very well the last few days, in fact quite sick, but the Doctor thinks it is the reaction of all she has been through the last year, and she feels better now after a few days rest in bed.

Lots of love

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.

Wednesday, Aug. 28, '40

Dearest Mother,

Such excitement as Monday night, when the uniforms were issued, Pete spent the afternoon helping the Sergeant sort them out in sizes, then there was company drill that night, Pearl Moore came for me, for she wanted me to go down and see them drill, and much to my surprise Mrs Vaux was with her. She is on her way east, her sister in law having just died, Mrs Walcott of Washington D.C. Anyway we watched them drill until it was so dark you couldn't see any more, they really march very well and it was the first time they were divided into Platoons of 15 men each and then the orders given by one man and repeated by those at the head of each Platoon. Pete said it was very confusing as they had no real idea what they were supposed to do, and the officer who came up from Calgary to give the drill didn't explain very well and the wind was blowing so hard they couldn't always hear, however it looked all right from where we were. After that they were issued their uniforms, at least those going to the first camp got theirs. and of course we had to rush home and see how the uniform fitted. All the men did the same thing I guess, for yesterday they told Pete about it. The uniforms are denim and so will shrink and the size they issue is a good deal too big, it also gives room for sweaters underneath. The pants are the funniest, they are supposed to bulge over at the ankle like Ski Pants used to do, and so are extra long, also they are high in the waist to give extra warmth and protection around the waist, one boy told Pete that his were long enough to come above his head and tie with a string. I guess there was a good deal of fun in more than one house that night. Pete's fitted very well we thought, and the boots are fine, which tickles Pete.

They also are much excited as they leave Sunday morning by bus for camp, and of course must have everything ready.

Wednesday afternoon,

There is just a possibility that Pete may be asked to take more than the two weeks training at the camp, in which case he has suggested that I make you a little visit in Concord. He won't know definitely until Friday night after drill, so this is sort of a warning in case I should be able to go.

Pete said that he would feel better to think that I was doing something worthwhile, instead of just sitting in Banff while he is in Calgary, (and they aren't apt to have much time off the first two weeks.) He thinks it is a good chance for me to go east and see you, for I am not apt to be able to go this winter, and if you would like to have me, I could make you a two weeks visit and maybe do some of the things we didn't have time to do last spring.

The one question is, would you be willing to pay all my expenses while I am in the United States? The Regulations now in affect here won't allow anyone to take money out of the country for a pleasure trip, only in case of health or business etc. I am taking it for granted that you would like to see me as much as I would like to see you, so if I can go, it might be best if you could wire me an invitation and offer to pay my expenses while in the states. Then I am sure that there would be no trouble in getting a ticket. I would go by train I think and not fly.

If I can come I will wire you Friday night, night letter, but if you get this before that, say on Friday sometime, you might wire me something like this. "Will pay all your expenses in the United States if you will visit me ~~XXXX~~ in September while Pete is away." Then I would have something to show the bank manager in order to get travelling money, though there may be no difficulty in any case.

I do hope this works out, for it would be fun to go east at this time, even if I did have great ambitions to clean house and straighten things out, I even thought I might paste a few photographs in books, I shan't count on it all too much in case it all falls through.

I better get this mailed,

Heaps of love and I hope to see you soon

Catherine

Canadian Pacific Railway

EN ROUTE

Sunday.
Sept 15, 1940.

Dearest Mother,
We are just going along
the shores of Lake Superior now,
and I thought I might write you a
short note so you would know how
I was getting on.

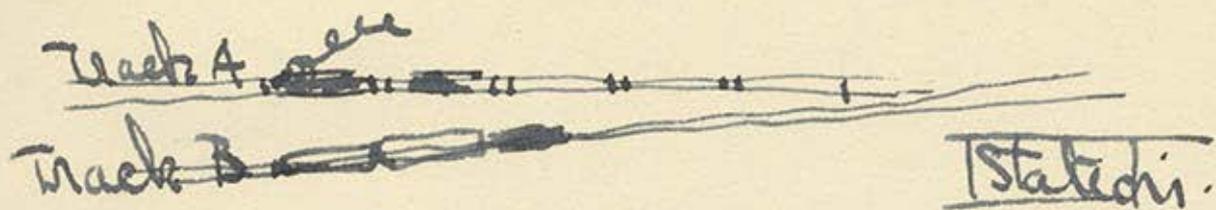
The trip up was un-
eventful, though at one place I
thought I'd been left behind. I got
out at Newport & walked down to the
station & when I came back up the
platform I got on what I thought
was ~~the~~ day coach on our train
and walked through to where I
expected our car to be and it

3.

though it's hard for me to get the
meaning out of all the French &
German quotations. Aunt Julia
will be able to though. It reminds
me a bit of the story of "Saw
Michelle" and he wanders about
a bit with some wonderful
stories.

The customs man was very
nice, a young French Canadian.
I showed him the dresses and
he asked how much they were.
So I said \$15, and \$20, and he
said "What? Why they couldn't
cost that much" so he decided
twenty dollars would do for
both & the kettle he called an
antique without looking. So I
paid \$2.00 as a 10% War
Tax, which was very fair I
thought.

wasn't there. I got an awful
fright for there was no train in
sight. What happened was this
we came in on tracks A and I
walked to station, while a switcher



engine had 2 empty coaches on
to Track B, so when I got on them
& walked through I couldn't see any
train at the other end as I expected
too.

It was a lovely day and
quite a few trees already turned
red. Bill's duck lunch was
delicious & so I had just one
meal, supper on the train.

I bought ~~the~~ Dr Zisser's
book with some of your money
and am enjoying it very much.

one thing I do enjoy about this trip is the chance it gives me to read.

Thank you for everything. for I did enjoy my visit even though it was short.

Its too hard writing on a train when its so busy going round corners.

Lots of love and my
best to Philip -
Catherine

Canadian Pacific Railway

EN ROUTE

Monday night.
Sept 16th 1940.

Dearest Mother, I thought I would have a letter ready to mail in the morning at Calgary, so you will know I arrive safely. I just had a wire from Pete that he would meet me there, so I guess he drove down, which is nice for me.

It's been a fine trip though the train is full, the lowers not the uppers. We were in two sections to Winnipeg & even then had fifteen cars on our section.

there is an excursion rate on -
 which probably causes it. Also quite
 a lot of Air Force men & Army
 too, going to various training centers.

I always get interested in the
 people. One of the funniest is a
 man that got on my train at a
 station in Vermont. As we drew
 into the station some ladies in
 our car kept saying "what's all the
 excitement" "maybe it's a wedding"
 Finally a man about 45 got on
 with as far as I could see only
 one person to see him off. The
 remarkable thing was that he
 was dressed as a cowboy never
 dresses. The black boots look
 like cowboy boots all right, but
 are brand new. Then he has
 a black satin silk shirt & kerchief

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a sort of vest or waistcoat made
of calf skin, brown & white hair.
The leather belt to his greenish
pants, is studded with bright
colored glass, but best of all
is a big brimmed black hat
with strips that come under his
chin. I could hardly believe he
was serious at first! He looked
like a circus cowboy. His face
doesn't fit the costume at all.
He looks more like a travelling
salesman, and I know he has
a good Vermont accent. He
certainly scored a sensation
on the Day coach, and wore his
hat all the time. Much to my
surprise I saw him walking
down with a porter carrying his

suitcase & he boarded this train.
 The further west he gets, the
 more out of place he looks.
 He was in the diner, this noon
 & when he got up to leave he
 carefully adjusted the straps
 to fit under his chin, ~~the~~ the
 hat he wears perfectly straight.

Last night I ~~had~~ overheard
 a porter tell a lady, that he
 didn't know much about it
 but he was going to Seibe.
 & I know at Seibe is a dude
 ranch. for we know the people
 who run it. Do you suppose
 he got the outfit out of a Sears
 Roebuck Catalogue or maybe
 Jordan Marsh?

I have a very thoughtful
 porter. He had the train man pick

Canadian Pacific Railway

EN ROUTE

~~was~~ a lovely bunch of dwarf
pilot out of one of the Station's
gardens & then presented it
to me & even got a glass of
water for the flowers. I just
hope no sudden lurch of the
train lands it all in bed
with me.

One nice old couple were
on the car to Winnipeg &
asked me if I were English,
because of my accent. I said
no. New England. I was sure
they were recently from the Old
Country, but it seems they
came out 33 years ago, and

now this is their first trip
west. They were already to
get off at Winnipeg at least
two hours before we arrived.

wasn't that wonderful the
British bringing down 185
planes in one day -

Time to go to bed now -
Lots of love to you all ☺
I will write soon.

Lots of love
Catherine.



Calgary, Alta.
Thursday -
Sept. 19, 1970.

Dearest Mother,

We have just arrived in Calgary, and are to stay over the weekend, as Pete has some things to do out at Sarcee Camp during the day-time, and I have quite a lot to do in town. Then Sunday there is a Church Parade which I missed seeing two weeks ago when Pete was at camp, but which we will see this week.

2.
while Jackie is there.

Your Sunday letter arrived
as we left Banff. You certainly
had a lot of callers that day &
I hope Russell & Kelly had a
nice sail for their last one.
Its lovely weather here and
quite warm.

We had rather a busy
time after I got back. Pete
met me in Calgary, and
then he wanted me to see Sarcee
Camp, which I was equally
anxious to see, so we drove
out there, as he has a pass.
I felt I shouldn't have

have been there, but they
 all made me feel I should.
 Col Moore introduced me to all
 the officers and it was great
 fun. Squads of men were
 drinking all around and I
 got a wonderful idea of what
 it was all like. They all look
 so brown & healthy in spite
 of the rain they had. It
 rained the last weekend
 & they had to close up a day
 early.

We were busy seeing
 people about this & that
 yesterday and the day before.
 We went down to see Reed

moore, as Pete wanted to tell
 her about the camp, & Pearl
 said that when she & Edmee
 went to Calgary to see Col. Moore
 over the weekend, all he could
 talk about was Tarce Camp
 and she said he wouldn't give
 her a chance to tell about their
 trip to Jasper that she & Edmee
 had had. The same thing
 happened yesterday. We never
 heard about it either.

Diff was in town & all the
 larch trees have turned and are
 on the way. Though the trees
 around Banff are still green.
 We may get a good Indian summer
 yet.

Loads of love & will write
 again soon.

Catherine



Sunday -
Sept. 22, 1940.

Dearest Mother,
We have just come back to the Hotel from Sargee Camp where we saw the church parade at 9.15. It was very nice except for the weather. It looked a bit threatening, and started to pour in the middle of the sermon. We were in the car & had a fine place on the edge of a hill. The two thousand soldiers were lined up on three sides of a square beneath us on the flat. Then

It poured, and we could imagine
 how wet they were getting. Luckily
 the minister didn't go on too long
 & they left out one hymn. It
 was very interesting as they marched
 back to their quarters in the tent
 camp beyond. There was a band
 and really for just a weeks
 training they marched awfully
 well. There is to be a review
 on Friday to see. I guess we
 will stay down till then. The
 weather hasn't been very good
 as it was dull yesterday &
 hazy the day before. Pete is
 going to do some sketches &
 has already taken some

photographs.

Yesterday afternoon we drove out to Currie Barracks which is now part of the new Empire Air Training Scheme, and such a lot of building as is going on. Hangers & huts of all kinds. Also at the Wireless school there are many barracks springing up. Just in the last week! and last night being Saturday I've never seen such a crowd on the streets in Calgary, & about half in uniform. It's certainly a wonderful thing for Calgary.

4.

We don't know just how long we will be here. It rather depends on the weather.

It's lunch time now, & then we go out to the camp to see the sports, if it doesn't rain. There is nothing worse than a rainy Sunday in a hotel in the city.

Lots of love

Calhoun.



Calgary, Alta.
Tues. Sept. 24, 1940

Dearest Mother,

We are still in Calgary, and may be for another day or two yet, as the weather hasn't been very good for Pete's work. They asked him to make some sketches and caricatures of the camp and also to take a few photographs, and the weather has been hazy first, then rain over the weekend & now so smoky & foggy. It

queer kind of weather. I
 have been practicing with
 water colors & doing encausts
 for a good chance to shop
 around. Also I have been
 reading "Polish Profile" which
 I found awfully interesting. I
 think you would like it!

We didn't really expect to
 be here so long, but the weather
 being poor we may be here a
 day or two more. In the evening
 we read to go to a movie. Last
 night we saw "Irene" which I
 guess is fairly old as May
 Robson & Billie Burke are both
 in it & I believe they are now

dead. It was light & very
 amusing, taken after the musical
 comedy of several years ago.
 There was the usual love theme
 and near the end it gradually
 worked up to the climax in a
 moonlit garden. The audience
 was still as could be. The hero
 just about to kiss the heroine
 when suddenly a voice "If Albert
 Johnson is in this theater etc"
 It really was awfully funny,
 for the call couldn't have come
 at a worse time from the
 pictures point of view.

Sunday night Erling
 Strom went through on the

train going east. We saw him
 for a few hurried moments. Also
 on the train was Miss McGowan
 who used to teach gym at Miss
 Wheelers & is now hostess at the
 Bauff Springs hotel in summer.
 Also ^{with them} Mrs Newall & her daughter
 Mary ~~were~~ on the train. She comes
 from Boston, the daughter went to
 Concord Academy & Mrs Newall
 says she knows you. It was very
 confusing as they were rushing
 back onto the train & we had also
 just run into Mr Duke from
 Victoria who is the Ford Dealer
 there, and who we think terribly
 nice. He has just been called
 up for the Air Training Scheme
 as he was on the Reserve.
 Have run out of paper so will mail
 this with lots of love. Catherine



SKOKI LODGE

Banff, Alberta.

Thursday, Sept. 26, 1940

Dearest Mother,

We came home yesterday morning to a very hectic afternoon here, seeing all sorts of people and trying to decide what to do about the various problems. We tried to see Gen. MacDonald and he had left on the morning train for the east, so Pete had to write him a letter (which under any circumstance is a great strain!) and we took that up to Mary to give him, as she was taking the afternoon train. We also saw Sam Ward about cupboards he is building us, and the Moores and goodness knows how many others. But most difficult of all was trying to decide what to do about Pete's Mother. She went out to the coast two weeks ago on the Doctor's advise, taking Marion Stockand (Lila's oldest daughter) with her. The letters home have been very discouraging and hard to tell whether she is any better or not. Pete decided that he would telephone Bobby Hunter who we knew she had been to for a doctor, and was sure he could tell him how she was, he called up only to find that Bobby had just left for two weeks, so then we were in a quandry. We knew there was no use calling his mother, and as Jackie is at the camp and will hardly be able to leave again to go to the coast, and as we have to go out some time this fall to the dentist and also about one or two other things, we thought we better be the one's to go and see how she is, and how long she should stay etc. Pete can talk to the doctor giving her the treatment etc. We will drive out over the new road leaving to-morrow morning early, so before I finished unpacking one bag from the Calgary trip, I started packing another for this trip. We may be able to reach the coast in two days driving time, and then as soon as we fix things up will come right back, it may not take more than ten days to do it all. Then when we get back we can turn the water on and get things straightened up a bit here -

The last night we were in Calgary we went out to the camp to see a shooting demonstration with tracer bullet's, it was very interesting to watch.

There is so much I should do this evening that I mustn't write more now but will drop you a line from the coast.

Tell Jean to keep the book she is reading "The Failure of a Mission" and then lend it to Dr Bartlett if he hasn't already read it, I don't think you would like it awfully much for it is all about the 2 years leading up to the War in Germany, but I believe Russell would.

Lots of love to you all

Catharine

SUSSEX APARTMENT HOTEL
1001 DOUGLAS STREET
VICTORIA, B. C.

Monday.
Sept. 30, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

We reached Victoria last evening after one of the nicest trips with perfect weather. We were much relieved to find Peter's mother feeling better and ever so much more cheerful. She has had a miserable time lately. While up at Temple visiting Cliff in August, she had a terrific pain in the back of her neck, and her blood pressure was high and she felt pretty sick. The Doctors in Bang felt that she should get to a lower altitude

and so she & Marion came out here soon after I left for the east. She saw Bobby Hunter, Peter's friend who is a doctor here, & he advised therapy treatment to relieve the pain. She had four x-ray treatments or whatever they are & then the pain left. Bobby evidently felt it was all caused by the reaction after last winter, and the rest has done her as much good as anything we feel.

When we got back from Calgary the other day, Ma was pretty upset as the last letter from Mom had been written before the last treatment and the pain hadn't left, so she

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VICTORIA, B. C.

was discouraged, and Pete thought perhaps the best plan would be to come out to see the Doctor etc. We tried telephoning Bobby, but he was away for a while. Now we are glad we came and to find she really is getting on well and so much more cheerful about things. They were a bit lonely I think & awfully glad to see some family. ~~We~~ They go home at the end of the week.

Tuesday

I didn't get this finished so will go on where I left off. We went to the dentist this morning & will both be finished by Friday. He's

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a very busy dentist so to not
easy to get appointments but
also is hard ^{for me} to go too often.

We also are having the car
given the 10 thousand mile
check up & Stabilizers changed.
We couldn't get them changed
in Calgary as they had none.
But here a new supply just
came in this week. So it was
perfect for us. Its just as well
we came out now to get all
these things done.

The trip out was great
fun, though some of the roads
aren't too good. We left
Banff about ten o'clock
Friday morning. Had lunch
at Golden with Mrs Valentine,
(where we took Mrs Wayman)
Then in the afternoon went

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around the Big Bend Road.
It follows the Columbia River,
where as the Railroad crosses
the Selkirk Mts by Rogers
Pass. Its 190 miles around,
some parts are very lovely &
especially through the big trees.
There are ^{only} three filling stations
& one little place to stay on
the way. We spent the night
in Revelstoke.

There is always a great
difference in the mileage one
makes between spring & fall.
In the spring one can drive
till nine in the evening, but
in the fall it gets dark soon
after six.

Saturday we drove to a place called Alexandria Lodge in the Fraser Canyon. It was a lovely day and we did enjoy it all. I'm afraid you never could make it, for much of the road is on the edge of nothing. The river seems miles below and when one meets big trucks or even cars it's not always pleasant having the outside edge. For there are few railings to give even imaginary support.

Sunday we would have reached Vancouver by eleven but tried to get the Steveston Ferry to take us to Sydney which is near Victoria. However after going ten miles or so out of our way found it was no

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longer running, and so in the end after watching planes at the airport take off + land (one a Bomber) we got to Vancouver just in time to catch the two o'clock ferry to Nanaimo, and then drove down Vancouver Island to Victoria. The ferry was a little late. It takes 2 1/2 hours anyway, and it was another two or more hours drive to Victoria.

I must go now. So will leave any more for my next letter.

Heaps of love

Catherine.

SUSSEX APARTMENT HOTEL
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VICTORIA, B. C.

Friday -
Oct. 4, 1940,

Dearest Mother,

Seems to me I haven't been very good at writing, but also I haven't read last week's "Life" yet, which is always a sign of not much extra time in the room.

We are leaving today. We had hoped to drive Peter's mother and Marion up to Nanaimo & cross on the ferry to Vancouver there. It's a three hour drive about 75 miles and 2 1/2 hours on the ferry, but it's very misty and so we decided it would be wiser to take the 4 1/2

own boat from here. They
they connect with the night
train to Banff, & we spend the
night in Vancouver & start
home tomorrow. Will get to
Banff Tuesday.

We have each paid three
calls on the dentist. He is very
efficient. Has two rooms in fact
each with a chair & all the fixings.
He worked on both of us one time.
Drove Peter's gums in one room,
then finished me off in the other.

Dr Rumball asked us out
to his new house for dinner, &
we had an awfully good time.
He has a most attractive wife,
and a lovely little house right
on the shore. It's in a row of
other houses, but so planned
that you can't see them when

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sitting in the living room or dining room. The living room has a tremendous plate glass window, from about a foot and a half above the floor to the same distance below the ceiling, and as you sit on the sofa and look out, you can see no land, only the ~~straights~~ Straits and the Olympic mountains beyond. They watch all the boats coming in & out & the sky & sea are always changing. It feels like being on a boat. The dining room also looks out to sea & they both face south.

It's only a few minutes from town, so he can be home for lunch. We admired a lovely

dresser in the dining room. It was so beautifully made, and he said he made it. We could hardly believe it, but it seems they both go to night school in Victoria, 2 nights a week all winter, and they take the wood working course. As in connection with the Public schools & the ~~work~~ shops have all the planes & saws & equipment, so they can make all kinds of things. Dr. Kimball has a workshop downstairs in his own house as well.

People out here seem to be awfully clever that way. Last evening we went out to Mary Campbell's for a drink before supper, & to meet her brother & sister-in-law, to whom

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VICTORIA, B. C.

as a wedding present she gave
one of Pete's sketches. He is in
the Militia & also just back
from camp, and as enthusiastic
as Pete about it all, but what
I really was drawn to, his
wife paints portraits & they wanted
us to see their new house. It
was a fascinating place & she
had designed it all, even the
furniture, & had a studio
upstairs. The cupboards were
perfect. I've never seen so
many or such well planned
ones. She was very clever I
think.

Mary Campbell is in the
woolen shop up at the Bauff
Springs in the summer, her

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sister's husband is Captain of
the Canadian Destroyer "Restigouche"
which probably doesn't mean
very much to you. But he was
the one who saved so many
lives when the "Fraser"
was sunk at Bordeaux, France.
I think it was Bordeaux. as it
was sinking, the Captain ran
the "Restigouche" up alongside, so
the men on the "Fraser" could
jump onto their deck. It was
evidently quite a feat. They
also have accounted for a
number of submarines.

It is about time to go
now. will mail this later
in Vancouver.

We are looking forward
to Bauff + mail from you.
Loads of love to all.

P.S. just now Kate
brought 2 nice

letters from you, forwarded from Bauff.
Catherine



SKOKI LODGE

Banff, Alberta.

Tues. evening, Oct. 10, 1940

Dearest Mother,

We got back early this afternoon, and in time to get the water turned on and even the furnace going so the house is nice and warm and we have had the doors and windows opened too, so we are practically settled again, and for once in the last month after three separate trips I am unpacked.

The trip was fine, we spent Saturday morning trying to find some shakes for the new roof like the ones on the old roof, but had to give up when we were several miles out of Vancouver, so we just kept on going. Spent the nights at the same places as we did on the way out. The first night at Alexandria Lodge in the Fraser Canyon, it is run by a very large English lady and is more like a home, wonderful food and all sorts of good English magazines, The second night we reached Revelstoke, you can't make very good time on B.C. roads as there are lots of turns and the gravel surface is never too good, but we found by driving carefully that we didn't mind. The part in the Fraser Canyon is on the edge of nothing most of the time, very high a good part of the way and no retaining walls, it is quite a road, and not very wide, yet any minute you may meet a greyhound bus or a truck. The Road from Revelstoke to Golden is 190 miles long and just three filling stations, one place with two cabins and a few logging camps and trappers cabins, so we didn't like to go over it except in the day time when we knew we had time. The morning we left Revelstoke we first went up Mt Revelstoke, an 18 or 20 mile road climbing up 5000 feet. It was a lovely view in all directions and we picked up the boy who is caretaker of the little house on top, which is used in summer, and in winter for people who have the energy to climb up for the ski down. He was Don Macrea who was one of the boys who skied over the Big Bend last winter, it took them three weeks I think.

It was noon when we started over the Big Bend, and six when we reached Golden, so we stayed there with Mrs Valentine at Golden Lodge. but first we pushed a car three miles into Golden, and got our bumpers locked going over the last railroad crossing, it was only a Y track used for switching, he had run out of gas, and today we helped another car on the way from Golden, it was having trouble with the feed pump and Pete knew a trick for unplugging it. It was an old Dodge, a young man and his wife and a little girl and two elderly ladies. They had trouble several places along the way from Vancouver and got into Golden at eleven last night, We couldn't imagine starting out with a car having trouble late in the afternoon over the Big Bend, yet it hadn't worried them evidently. We followed them giving them a hand and a push now and then and finally left them at the first garage at Field.

I cant find any other letter paper so used this, there were lots of nice letter here and I now have a lot to answer, nd will soon as we get settled. There are literally hundreds of things to do, the trees are still lovely with their yellow leaves and if the weather is nice perhaps we will get out sketching, but one can never tell at this time of year what to expect. It might snow. If the weather isn't extra nice I think I will try and get things straightened out here in the house. first.

Lots of love

Catherine -

1904 17018

Banff, Alberta.

Thurs. Oct. 10, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

Yesterday was almost nice, but there were such heavy clouds that the sun only shown a moment at a time, today it is raining and is sort of fall weather of the wet type.

We are kept busy sorting things out and cleaning up, some mice got in while we were away and left their calling card on so many things that one feels every thing should be scrubed. but we are getting on, once things are fixed up then we will feel like going other things.

How wonderful that Kitty and her committee got enough for four travelling kitchend, I noticed on the radio that the king had given a number of " Movable canteens " or some such name, I imagine that they are about the same thing as the travelling kitchens, they must be needed badly.

Carl Rungius is back from his hunting trip and brought three large venison steaks this morning, also told us all about his trip. He goes east in another two weeks for the winter in New York.

I hope you had a nice trip in Portland and I am glad that you will stay long enough to enjoy it and not feel hurried. The color should be ni lovely now and maybe you will get some nice drives.

Did Dr Bartlett enjoy the "Failure of a mission " ? I think Russell would like it as so much of it was when they were abroad, maybe you like it, you could try it. Frances would find it interesting too as she seems to be a person who wants to find out about things going on in the world.

This isn't much of a letter but will write as soon as I get things picked up a little more
Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.

Sunday, Oct. 13, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

I meant to write you in time to mail this to-day, but it was so lovely out that we were tempted to stay in the sun. We had promised to drive Sven Hanson up to Lake Louise and meet Cliff at the gate, we had the back of the car filled with bags of sawdust for the water system at Temple. Yesterday was dull and a miserable sunset so we never expected the perfect morning we had to-day. The sky was so clear and blue, just perfect, but real snappy too, a heavy frost and ice on the little puddles, yet Mrs Ward said she still has flowers in her garden. maybe it is because it's on the hill. Cliff said it went down to nineteen at Temple last night, and there is snow way down on the mountains from the last storm which was rain here. Yesterday we got enough mushrooms for three families so that was pretty good. You would think it was too cold for them now.

We have done a lot of picking up and cleaning, Pete has been working on his workshop which he hasn't had a chance to really clean this summer and so many things do collect, paint brushes, tins of oil, paint and all sorts of tools and nails etc. I spent two days cleaning my kitchen cupboards and china etc. a few mice got in while we were away in Sept. as they will in the fall, and it is always a question whether to catch them and have them smell after a couple of weeks in a trap, or clean up when one gets back. There must have been a whole family this year for the tracks were every where. but now it is all clean. I want to get every thing in order for the winter and then when things are as one wants them it makes everything so much easier to look after. I still have a lot to do all over the house. Its what I was going to do in those two weeks when I went to Concord.

To-morrow is our thanksgiving, but no One takes it very seriously here, it makes a nice long weekend though, and there are lots of cars up from Calgary and many picnics.

We listened to President Roosevelt speak last night from Dayton, I wonder if you heard him? I think it was the strongest speech I have heard him make, and thought it quite wonderful. You asked what they think of him in Canada, out here people seem to like him, though you don't hear many talk about him. Last summer it was quite funny up at Bow Lakes for

the American tourists would often bring up the subject, and they were either strong for Roosevelt or equally strong against him. I guess most country's ~~at~~ look at things like that from a rather selfish point of view. They like Roosevelt up here because he is strong for helping Britain, and has shown it in many ways, also is very friendly with Canada. They don't have to worry about the money he spends or the effect on business etc. but they do like him for the things he has done or has tried to do for Britain, they don't know enough about Wilkie to want him for president but do know more or less what to expect from Roosevelt. In our last election a good many Conservatives voted for Mackensie King who is a liberal, not because they liked him particularly, but because they felt it was a mistake to change Governments in the middle of the war, (it was in the spring) and many would say "you know it is a mistake to change horses in the middle of the stream" So Mr King was elected with a large Majority. I shouldn't say Mr King, for it was the Liberals who were elected, and he is premier. I have an idea that Roosevelt will be re-elected for much the same reason. His government in spite of it's mistakes and short coming is after all a known quantity, whereas Mr Wilkie, they don't know quite what to expect from him. I think he would get in if there wasn't a war on.

We have just been up to Pete's mothers for supper, and part of the evening. She seems so much better since she went to the coast and had the change, for this summer in August she was pretty sick and sort of down which worried the whole family, but she seems real cheerful now.

I haven't yet answered your nice letters but will try another night, lots of love,

Catherine .

Banff, Alberta.

Canada.

Friday, Oct. 18, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

I don't believe that you will get a decent letter until next month, there just never seems to be a good chance to

write, and at night I can't seem to feel in the mood, I guess I am plain lazy. Yesterday we made a rush trip to Calgary, were only there for two hours but got a good deal done, the important thing was to see about having a folder printed for Temple, Pete is making the drawings and so he wanted to get all the information necessary, about size etc. The night before we made up all the prints from the photographs he took down at Sarcee when we were in Calgary, and it took me all morning to spot them. That is what keeps me from getting all the cleaning done I mean to do, my intentions are first rate, but I can seldom get started for one reason or another. We did get all the windows of the ~~our~~ living room and kitchen done Wednesday afternoon, the storm windows had never been done, and it was a good excuse to be outside doing something for it was a lovely afternoon. It is stormy looking today. Pete has all the sketches to make that he has promised to do of Sarcee, so maybe I will get things done while he is doing that, he also wants to help widen a few ski trails at Temple before the snow comes, but I will be here to keep the house warm. Just now we are waiting for Sam Ward to come down to fit some shelves he made while we were away, they are for the bathroom, I used to have a shelf for towels over the horizontal hot water heater, but when that was changed I lost my shelf, so now I am to have three shelves with doors which will be so much nicer, then on the balcony we are to have two bookcases for magazines, for "Life" "Punch" "the Illustrated London News" "the National Geographic" etc. If we ever get a place for each thing then it would be far easier to keep things in order.

I am so glad that you are having a nice trip to Portland, of course you are home by now, but it must have been rather a nice way to visit, and also it gave you a chance to see the other relation with out having to make a trip out of going to Portland just to make a call. and it was nice being able to have your meals at Uncle Marshalls and not being alone in the hotel, and yet having your own room and all. The drives must have been lovely, some day we will have to go east in October when we can see the color in Maine and Vermont.

Do you and Jean ever listen to the Quiz Kids on the Radio? I heard the tail end of the program Wednesday night and it was very funny as they had to hum tunes and they weren't very good singers, but they are awfully bright. There was an article about them in "Life" a month or so ago. Also the "Radio News Reel" direct from London is broadcast in the United States now, over the Mutual Broadcasting Co Network. you might be able to get a Radio Magazine and find out when you could hear it, for sometimes it is awfully interesting. "London Calling" is awfully good too, Priestly is on quite often, and also Leslie Howard once a week.

Must stop, lots of love

Catherine -

Banff, Alberta.
Sunday, Oct. 20, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

It has been lovely and warm the last day or two, up to sixty which is unusual at this time of year. I have decided to do a little looking over of letters and so will write about the ones I have saved to mention to you, as I go along.

Louise Blymyer Newbury's was first, I am glad that they are getting on so well and enjoying married life, have you started on the chair seat?

I think they did awfully well to get four kitchens in Concord to send to England, did Kitty ever find out about the other lady who was raising money, Countess someone or other? Was she representing "Friends of Britain" for I believe that is the group that works in Hollywood, and so if she was connected with that her story might not sound so strange.

The letters from Miss Annie Agge are wonderful to read and we do enjoy them.

You often speak of running to the telephone so often, didn't you once think of having an extension put on with a phone in your room, but of course without the bell. I should think that it would save you a lot of steps.

As the Boston Opera house really to be disposed of? do let us know if you hear any more about it.

Before I forget it, Margaret Simpson is putting on some skating show at the new rink at Fitchburg, Mrs Simpson told us about it, and she said that Margaret was doing it all, the coaching and costume designing. I don't know whether or not Mary will be skating at it ~~or not~~. It is to be held on October the 26th, that is on Saturday. I thought you might be interested in going, as Fitchburg isn't very far. The Bartletts would like to know maybe, and Mrs Eaton.

You know you wrote me about the Garden club houses you went to see after I left, one so warm and cosy the other so cold and modern. It made me think of the one we saw in Victoria that the wife had designed herself. Her's was comfortable, especially the living room, and she did have pictures. but the dinning room looked like the kind you see pictures of in vogue. Plain veneer walls, a light wood and very nice, there was one sort of open cupboard made entirely of mirror. It was recessed into the wall, and she had a display of red and white glass on it. The backs and seats of the chairs were upholstered in red too. It was rather bare looking though. The kitchen was wonderful, with chromium sink and counters, and red trimmings on things, the wall paper was very bright and pretty with all sorts of colored vegetables on it. The thing that interested us most was the bedroom. Don, her husband, is a most manish sort of person, but their bedroom was all done in pink and silver, and peach colored fixtures in the bath. It would have been perfect for a movie star. However the cupboards made up for it. they were tremendous and a place for every thing.

You wrote about the English lady who had come over to Concord ~~for~~ with her three children, it must be so hard for them, and yet it really is the

best thing they can do i guess. It means four less people to feed and find room for in air raid shelters, but I bet she would much rather be over there with her husband. She is really doing the hardest thing. There is a mother here with two children, no three children, one is not her own, and step child, and I am sure she would rather be over there. Next time you see Mrs Shaw do ask her where all the Baker-Carrs are, and what they are doing.

You wrote about the toll road up Mt Washington, that you didn't have time to go up, and said it cost \$10.00 or did you mean \$1.00. ?

About the Watch. I haven't had a chance to go up and see the customs man as he is only there certain hours and the rest of the time I forget, perhaps this week I will get up.

I just remembered, Margaret Simpson 's name is now, Mrs Paul Brown, but perhaps she will retain her other name for skating.

Well I guess this will be all for now as I have one or two other letters I should write but probably won't.

Lots of love always.

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.

Thurs. Oct. 24, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

By the amount that I write you about the cleaning I am going to do, you must think that I do little else. The truth is that I do little cleaning, and that is why I am always talking about it. Usually I hardly get under way than something else interferes, or someone drops in or there is a meal to ~~make~~, get, or an errand to do, or the sun is shining too nicely to want to stay in. But to-day I really got something done, the big end of the front room.

X Yesterday we went up early in the morning to Lake Louise and met Cliff at nine-thirty then all three of us blazed a new short cut for a better way to ski up and down to Temple, and also if it is wide enough it can be used as a winter road, and so make the distance a little shorter. It took us until eleven and so we ate our picnic lunch here after we got home, (For the trip to Lake Louise now takes only an hour they have surfaced part of the main road and improved the rest) - it was fairly easy to lay out the new trail, and with three of us we took turns going ahead or back and so could make a good line. Pete spent the rest of the afternoon in Banff trying to find some one to go up and cut the trees with him to-day before the snow comes. Cliff is still busy on things at Temple to do with the water system, and Pete had an awful time getting anyone to help, X even by paying them.) At first we hoped to get enough volunteers. However he did get two workmen, and then Jim Boyce appeared and will go up too, so they left this morning at eight. It is a very cloudy day, but warm so if it does anything it will rain lightly I should think. I did a little dusting of logs yesterday when we got back and so after taking this to the mail and getting a few groceries I hope to finish up the big room this afternoon, so please excuse this short letter, I imagine at this moment you and Jean are in the attic. I have a good system, I do the quiet things like dusting books when the good programs are on, and this morning heard three speeches of the Herald Tribune Forum in New York, Dorothy Thompson, Alexander our minister of Naval affairs (?) and the Australian Ambassador to Washington. The other night we heard Winthrop Rockefeller speak very well over the same thing and Information Please.

The other night I

we tried again to hear Mr Wilkie, for we haven't been able to find when he is on. However all we could get was the most awful sounding speaker, it was a political meeting allright for there were "Boos and Cheers " Pete was making a map at the time so he half listened, and I gave up when the man started about a parade and a little girl kept waving a flag, and read a paper instead. The man we could just picture and the sort of fat irish poltician with a big cigar, patting people on the back. I got so disgusted at the whole thing, and made the remark "thank goodness they don't do that here" (though I expect they do ~~at~~ the heights of an election). It seemed to be a Republican speech, and I grew so disgusted that I finally said with much feeling, " Well, that man whoever he is, will certainly lose a lot of votes for Wilkie " a moment later and the announcer's voice, " You have just heard the Republican Candidate Wendall Wilkie speaking from, etc. " We both looked at each other, and didn't ~~say~~ know what to say. Pete said I was right about ~~the~~ him losing votes for Wilkie. Of course his hoarse voice ~~at~~ made it all sound even worse, but then I couldn't stand what he said or how he said it. Last night I got the end of the Forum Speech of his which was a little better, but I was certainly awfully disappointed in him. I think he is an awfully poor speaker and seems to muddle things up. Just from hearing him I wouldn't think he was nearly great enough of a man to be President. We heard Roosevelt last night too, and I didn't think his speech was very good either, but he does say more.

I found out about the watch. Just send it to me by mail, and with it the bill for the repairs. All I have to do is to pay a little duty on the repair bill.

Must stop.

Lots of love

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.

Canada.

Saturday, Oct. 26, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

I just got your letter about the one from Louise about the chair seat, and luckily I still have it, though I had torn the top off to keep her address. At the time you sent it I wondered you hadn't kept it for the discription of the rug and all, but thought you might have copied it off.

Your other letter about the busy Sunday when Olive and her husband were there and all the others, also came this morning, and also one from Jean. I don't wonder it seemed like old times, with so many young people.

This morning it was very gray out, sort of a leaden sky, a typical winter morning as I often remember them in Concord in November or later. It looked like snow, and though the sun did try hard, it soon started sort of spitting snow, and now this afternoon is snowing hard. It is rather nice though and I love it to see the snowflakes coming down steadily and piling up on the branches.

Pete finished his trail cutting yesterday, and now feels so pleased that they did it when they did. People here are so apt to forget that we almost always have a good fall of snow in October, ~~and~~ though when it is as clear and lovely as it was yesterday afternoon it is hard to imagine its coming so soon.

The two days up cutting trail gave me a good chance to get things done here, and I got all but the cupboards and desk done in the front room. so now I only have the bedroom to do, and that won't take more than a full day. Of course I never do finish looking over things, but neither do you, for I hear that you are working on the third floor again.

I was awfully interested in the article that Mrs Wayman wrote about Russell Smith, I hope he does well at the school, for it needs a person like that.

Over the radio the other night a man was speaking from London on the subject of being seperated from ones family, his own was evidently in America, but during his talk he mentioned meeting a man who came to one of the "Mobile Eanteens" (as they call the ~~Travelling~~ Rolling Kitchens) and all he said was, "the wife and kiddies left for the country to-day" he wanted some supper. This speaker was showing how it isn't so easy for a man when his home is broken up and no one to prepare his supper, but I was interested in the fact of the kitchens being in use.

Banff, Alberta.

Thurs. Oct. 31, 1940.

Halloween !

Dearest Mother,

We have been so busy the last few days cleaning and straightening the house and every evening is about the same, from eight to nine we have news from Canada followed by "Britain Speaks" (if you can get that do listen to it) then the Radio News reel from London, which lasts about half and hour. During that time we get our evening paper, and then we listen to political speeches until the ten o'clock news. Its hard to turn on the radio now-a-days without hearing speeches.

Roosevelt spoke from the Boston Garden last night, I wonder did you listen, He certainly is a past master at speeches, and seems to know what to say and how to say it, he gives you an idea that ~~you~~ he is telling you the whole story, when lots of times he tells it in a way to make it sound wonderful for the Democrats. We have heard Wendle Wilkie only once or twice, once we thought it was Wilkie and found afterwards it was Vandenberg, who is also very hoarse. I don't care for Wilkie's speeches at all, it never seems as if he got anywhere and he does shout so. We heard Oren Root the other night and thought him fine, he was so simple and sincere sounding and made his points well, but I like that sort of speak, it never sounds over done. We also heard Joseph Kennedy, the Ambassador to Great Britain, and didn't care very much for him. He sounded to me like a "scared Cat" and awfully gloomy, I believe that the gloomy outlook ^{of the world} people have in the United States is a reflection of his reports. I wonder a person in the position of Ambassador at a time like this would think of coming back for politics.

We had a letter from Colin Wyatt the other day, he is the Skier and artist who was here with his wife summer before last on their way to Australia. He wrote that he is now giving news casts over short wave from Sydney Australia, in French, German and English, we hope to hear him some morning. He also wrote about his mother in London and I will quote from his letter, "My Mother is now in the thick of it, in London, which I find a bit worrying, but she writes me regularly and the last letter I had, dated 28th, August, via Clipper, was most cheerful and she seemed to take the whole thing as a dam nuisance which had to be gone through, but out

of which she was taking every ounce of latent humour. Not bad for over 60. The house is very ~~sl~~ solid, and over 200 years old, real thick masonry, so she and the staff descend to the capacious cellars and seem to have made quite a home-from-home down there. The last letter said that there had been an alarm for five hours, and at the moment she was sitting under the very massive stone cellar stairs, memorising some Liszt from the score and periodically getting up to interrupt the amorous antics of black beetles ! So I gather that London is responding magnificently to everything, and the morale is quite incredibly unperturbed. Which is some small comfort. I wish she'd come out here, but she doesn't want to leave my nonagenarian grandmother, and feels that she'd rather risk a bomb than shipwreck."

I thought you might be interested.

By the way you spoke of sending us a "very old book " you had found in the attic, we would love to have it but don't agree about its being very old, I am surprised at you- /Z 1887 is pretty recent isn't it ? After all, what year were you born?

This is a longer letter than I intended at first, oh and thank you so much for subscribing to the Opera Guild for us, we will so enjoy getting the booklet things and also it needs supporting.

Lots of love,

Catherine .

Banff, Alberta.

Tues, Nov. 5th, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

Your chances of getting a coherent letter is very small. It is 4.45 P.M. now and with you 6.45 and the returns are starting to come in. At least the programs that will bring them have started, so you can imagine how I am listening with one ear and writing with the other. It sounds as if it were going to be pretty close. It looks as if Roosevelt will be elected, I don't feel very strongly one way or the other, except that I do think Roosevelt is strong on his foreign policy, but any way we will see.

Pete went up to Lake Louise to-day with Jim Boyce, they were very anxious to see how the road is coming on. The Gov't loaned Temple a small bull dozer to put the road in shape for winter, While writing this Pete came back and so I didn't have a chance to finish, now it is ~~still~~ about seven (nine with you) and the returns are still coming in. I am trying to keep score on the sheet that is in "Life". it works very well, but I am afraid I will have time to do little else for the evening,

I am getting on with things here, to-day I did the bedroom and to-morrow Pete is going to Golden (if it doesn't snow) to the funeral of Christian Haesler, the Swiss Guide who died the other day, He may pick up two Guides at Louise and take them over and back. There are always two guides as caretakers and roof clearers.

Wednesday- As you see I didn't get this written last night. and now Pete has left for Golden though it looks like snow, however unless it snows heavily it is an easy trip. It takes three hours but on account of the change in time it is sort of two hours over and four back, so it will be seven at the earliest when he gets home.

Well the election is over and we are really glad it went the way it did, On account of the War especially. Had Wilkie gotten it, the Axis powers and Japan might have taken the opportunity to "over step the mark " while things there were in the process of changing Governments, it was the uncertainty that would have been bad. But as it is people here respect the way Cordell Hull carries out the Foreign Policies and then it means that the U.S. and Canada Defence Board can carry on as they are going. It is true that many of the domestic things, especially, that Roosevelt tried to do have perhaps been wrong. but he also has done a lot of good things for the country.

Its some of the other Democrats that are the worst. We listened to the last broadcasts the eve before election, did you? I liked the Democratic one ever so much, it seemed serious and to the point and in good taste, if you know what I mean, Carl Sandburg spoke at the end, and really it was wonderful to hear his voice and the way he expressed things and also the poetic sound it all had. Dorothy Thompson was fine too, and also a Senator I think it was from the south, Byrnes was his name, a rather Scotch accent. They all sounded very sincere and also more idealistic. Then came the Republican program which I thought was cheap and terrible. The Democrats spoke on the radio without any audience to cheer, which gave it a dignified air. but the Republicans was all bands and yelling and whistling and sort of "Wah wah" stuff. Wilkie no doubt is a fine man but the way he said "America" like "Amurica" and "ya" instead of "you" was hard to over look. some how I couldn't quite imagine his giving important pronouncements from the Capital. It was something like the feeling about Alfred Smith when he ran. nothing against the man, but his voice didn't go with the presidency, though it does now. and after all most of the country now-a-days knows a leader by their voice as much as anything.

the stores close at noon on Wednesdays so I had better go over, Tell Jean I have a letter partly wrätten to her.

Loads of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.

Canada.

Thurs. Nov. 7, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

We are having a real old fashioned blizzard and it is great fun to be in a nice warm house and outside a fine fine snow that blows about with each gust of wind, we can watch it drift off the shed roof in a sort of cloud every once in a while. The snow doesn't actually pile up very fast, but on the prairie it is the kind that drifts so badly.

X Pete didn't get home from Golden until ten last night. He was awfully glad he went to the funeral and the Swiss Guides and their family's evidently appreciated it an awful lot. He waited and brought the two guides now at Louise back with him, and then a man taking their place at Louise yesterday came back to Banff with Pete, so he didn't have to drive all the way alone. The storm was threatening all day yesterday, an east wind and a tiny bit of snow in the air here X and an east wind is always damp and cold. I shouldn't say damp but penetrating. There was quite a bit of snow on the Divide and at Louise and had it been to-day Pete couldn't have gone, so it all worked out just right.

This letter was to help you about Christmas. First I will enclose a picture of what we believe will be the best camera for you to get Russell for Christmas. It is new this summer and a boy here used it for taking color slides and got very good results. They recommend it highly at the Photographers here. It is the style of the Leica and Contax which Mrs Sohler recommended, but she probably hadn't seen this one. The Leica and Contax are ever so much more expensive and are made in Germany. This "Kodak 35" is made by Eastman and cheaper because there is no duty on it for one thing. I send the picture, and you can go to Pinkman and Smith and get it there if you like. There may be a few extras you will want to get like a case, and a sun shade. I notice the case is \$7.00 in this ad. The Contax would be over \$200.00 and the Leica about as much. Also if Russ were more of a person who wanted to take 'difficult shots' where you need special lenses etc it might warrant the more elaborate camera, but it also is more confusing to use and this looks to be as simple as possible and just the thing for the type of picture he would probably want to take.

Another suggestion that might make a nice present for Russell and Kitty would be a "chest" to hold their movie films. I enclose a clipping of that too, so that you can see what it is like and I should think they could send for one for you where you get the camera in Boston.

If you want to know something Pete would like I am sure. for Christmas, it is the "U.S. Camera Annual 1941" and is in two volumes this year, I enclose the clipping about that too, and if you wanted to you could have "1 year's subscription to U.S. Camera Magazine" sent to him. This could all be done through the store in

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Boston, at Pinkham and Smith, as I believe that is where you usually go. All these ads were gotten out of the Camera Magazine and I thought it might make it easier for you, to enclose them.

My goodness the sun is coming out, and I had looked forward to being snowed in.

Pete said the other day that it always tickles him to have you think of him in connection with the lovely concerts you hear. even if he doesn't do much about it, it pleases him to have you think of him that way. Did I thank you enough for subscribing to the Opera Guild for us, it will be fun to see the magazine.

You must have had a lively Sunday with George Watkins and his friends, we enjoyed his letters and are glad you didn't have to say # no dice " when he called up!

That was a nice letter from the British War Relief about the "Kitchen on Wheels" you gave. Just yesterday on the Broadcast from London, someone was describing the view of the King and Queen to the bombed areas of Liverpool. in it, they mentioned the fact that the American Red Cross had given a "Mobile Canteen" to the city of Birmingham. (they call them "Mobile Canteens" in Britain.) and the King remarked how glad he was, for he felt they were so useful and had given six himself to London. So it shows what a need there must be for them.

I am afraid that John E. is not having a very easy time of it right now, it seems so often that family's have all their troubles at once. Like Christian Haesler, the Swiss Guide who just died. Just three years ago the day he himself died, his youngest son was killed by a chemical explosion in the cellar. Then last fall he himself was clawed by the Griggly and while he was so sick his wife was terribly nervous and upset herself over all their troubles and then she died herself in the spring. and now he has died. There is just one son left, out of the family. Not that John's troubles are as sad as that, but are evidently very trying, he told me quite a bit in September, but he is awful determined to be independent and not ask for help. I can see how he feels, but I believe that when a person is in difficulties, through no real fault of his own, that he should let his friends help him for the time being. after all it gives them pleasure to feel they are a real help. He didn't want me to tell anyone the difficulties he was in so I promised not too. At the time he didn't know what he was going to do. You see Mrs

Cullis is pretty much of a problem, as evidently her mind is sort of going, and they can't leave her alone in the house for they don't know what she might do, in a forgetful way. she might even leave an iron on and set the house on fire or something. It must be a great responsibility and really John's Home can't be his own. It is small too. Of course when she came over she wasn't quite the such a care. and they could hardly foresee what would happen. One thing that John told me happened was that he got her to start a small bank account, only to find out later, when the money would have been very useful to the family, that she had loaned it to a neighbor to help him pay off a mortgage or something, and John had told her that though he was a very nice old fellow, he wasn't the kind ever to pay back a cent, and of course he probably never will.

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The Kennels were evidently a good paying proposition, the boarding of people's dogs while they went abroad or away, paid the running expenses and then when they sold dogs it was extra. Well the war hit the boarding part, for people didn't go abroad and kept their dogs with them. Then he had all that trouble and lost three litters of puppies, just plain bad luck, which must have been doubly hard for he had people wanting to buy them as soon as he could fill their orders. He evidently didn't owe a cent on the house or kennels and hadn't borrowed anything from anyone, but I don't think that he had any money coming in. I don't know how much he told you in the talk that you had to-gether, but I know that he felt you had been so wonderful to them that he wouldn't even let me tell you about it all. He didn't want to ask help from anyone. He also said he thought of going into Radio again and had gone to the people he had worked for before, and I thought it spoke pretty highly of what they thought of him, for though they never as a rule take back anyone who has left, they said they would take him back as soon as there was a vacancy and at his same wage, but the catch was that there wasn't a vacancy. And not only that, but it seems that about a year ago television was to be put on the market and lots of new men were taken on at the various places, and then due to the war they decided it wasn't a good time to put it on the market, and now there are all those extra men to be absorbed. I suggested his trying for a job in Radio in Canada, for I know they need men badly in the radio field, but then there are the difficulties that he couldn't send the money he earned out of the country, and with Mrs Cullis and all he can hardly move the family up here. I don't know whether the Radio Job has materialized or not as yet, but I do believe this is the time he needs the most help. Some how sort of unexpected help does give a person new courage, and often seems to change their luck. I wish I had been able to help at the time, but of course I can't send any money out of Canada etc. The only thing I could do was to give John some of the money you gave me. I wondered if you thought how eager I was to take it at the time, but I believe it helped out a lot. Do let me know what you hear (and please don't tell anyone all I have written now) about how they are getting on, I don't know how much John has told you, and I know he didn't feel his family would understand, which seemed awfully sad, for naturally Uncle John and Aunt Julie would rather help him than any one else. But perhaps it is not always easy to tell your troubles like that to your family. This farm you spoke of that John was thinking of buying maybe a new idea, do you think there is anything we all could do to help tide John over until things are going well again for him? My hands are tied unless he is in Canada, There is a possibility that he could get a good job teaching in one of the wireless schools connected with the Air training Schools in Canada, then if he put his salary into War Bonds in Canada in your name, maybe you could send the equivalent to Eileen for the family. Then after the War it could all be straightened out. If you think of a good idea please let me know.

The sun went in again after an hour and it is darker than ever now and the temperature is dropping, it is now two o'clock, and eight above, it was ten most of the morning.

Lots of love to you all, I must write Russ soon, and I hope these suggestions will help in your Christmas shopping.

Love from us both.
Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.

Tues, Nov, 12, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

We are having a little touch of winter, since last Wednesday, almost a week ago it hasn't gotten hotter than five above zero, and yesterday morning was 28 degrees below zero, which is rather chilly for the first part of November. It was 39 below at Lake Louise. Actually it is rather unusual for so early in the season, and we will either have it very warm again or else it is to be a long winter. It was a storm from the north east, and the snow was very fine almost like frost, so though it snowed for about three days there is only about four or five inches on the ground. The last three days have been clear and beautiful, the bluest sky which makes the shadows on the snow so blue too. Now a strong west wind is blowing so it may warm up.

I am going to enclose an article about the earthquake in Japan in 1923, written at the time by a friend of Pete's who was a young officer on the "Empress of Australia" just out of university. He was also on the Trail Hike this summer and one evening was telling us of his experiences, and ^{later} sent us the University paper his account had appeared in. I made a copy of it for I thought you might be interested.

It was just lucky that you sent me Mildreds last letter, for she mentioned a cousin's birthday in N.Y. on Nov. 13th. for I might have forgotten Russells

Must go now.

Loads of love

Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.

Thurs. Nov. 14, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

Well the weather is moderating, but hasn't gotten above freezing yet, it would be warm except for the high wind from the west but the days have been clear and sunny. We really had it pretty cold for a week. Just now there was a little noise outside, and Pete turned our outside light on to find that Maxie was out at our Garbage Pails. (Pete calls him Maxie Bear) He really was an awfully funny bear to-night, he is big and black and comes nearly every night. some people think it may mean that winter isn't really here yet. Anyway to-night he got hold of a tin that had had sausages in it, and I guess it smelt pretty good and had some fat left in. ~~xxxxxx~~ he had quite a time sitting the way bears do, on their haunches, and then with the tin between his two front paws he tried as hard as he could to get his nose inside. the tin was slippery and would of course slip out of his hold and then he would push it about on the snow. Several times I thought he was going over backwards when he sat up, and once he raised one hind foot to balance himself, we had a good laugh, he got mad and deliberately upset the two pails and one box full of stuff and scattered it all over, then walked away, with a very snowy seat all we could see in the dark.

I can find every Geographic but the Nov. issue, but will look again later, No. we never went to the island of Saba. we liked the pictures of the Indians very much, some naturally more than others. (~~xx~~ I have found it) They are so strong and colorful don't you think? though sometimes I think his figures are a little woodeny. He painted up here one summer, maybe more, and Pete knew him quite well. Neither of us can figure out who the person looks like on page 611. Pete suggested Aunt Julie. but I can't see it is like anyone.

Thank you for asking about the Baker-Carrs, though I could have done with even more details. D'arcy is on Hongkong I think. Right now I guess that K. Howe is lucky to be deaf, for I the noise is the worst part of the Blitz.

About the sauce pan, I think the 3 qt size will be plenty large enough for us, and as you say two small ones might be better than a big one, but we better try this one first.

I didn't realize that Uncle Marshall is going to move, I guess when he found that Portland agreed with his asthma he thought they might as well settle down, for the Eastland would have its limitations and grow a bit tiresome. You will have to go down again now and see this place. It is nice that they will be there for thanksgiving, in Concord I mean. It is the 21st isn't it ?

We were very much interested in the letters you sent. The newspaper ones I mean. I may enclose some more clippings for you. and perhaps Jean would like to have them to read, and Nannie the one about the Swedish Captain. Yesterday was a wonderful day for news all round.

We have been busy with all sorts of little things as usual, and to-day Cliff came down and there were things to talk over

with him. Jim Boyce was here the afternoon before also to talk
and then there are all sorts of little things to see to.
guess this is all for now.

Loads of love,

Catharine -

P.S. Russell I think would be interested
to read these clippings too. They
may not give as much in your
papers -

Banff, Alberta.

Monday, Nov 18th

Dearest Mother,

We had another little snowstorm last night, but this morning it is ten above and clear and lovely. We now have about six inches of snow on the ground and on the trees about two inches, and it is pretty. After that cold spell we did have a little warm weather, but not enough to melt the snow on the ground, so maybe this is winter after all. It is so much nicer when there is snow on the ground for it keeps the town looking cleaner.

TO-day Sam Ward is here making a door for the partition in the big room. Last year we had a partition which cut off the high part of the room, and made the fireplace end cosy and easy to heat. Where the stairs went up we had a door that slid and also one for the big room, but they weren't very satisfactory and hard to slide with anything in your hand. So this year when Pete put the partition up we decided to use a curtain instead. I spent a couple of days making it, and it did look awfully nice and worked well, then that cold spell came and the cold air in the front room just rushed through any little crack and we realized that it wouldn't do for the middle of winter, so we will save the curtain for fall and spring and Sam is making hinged doors which are far better than the ones we had last year. Sam is such fun to talk to that we can't help getting into discussions and so it takes about twice as long as it should, but I think we get as much out of the talking as we do out of the work, for he is a great philosopher.

There is always so much to do about the house, to improve it. We are now considering putting blue linoleum on the kitchen floor. We got a large sample at the store, six feet by five, and have been looking at it all weekend, and really it would be nice. It is a rather soft blue, but quite bright, and with the vermilion curtains it is a nice combination of colors. The floor is just plain and the surface can't hold up a whole winter without something being done, and it is too cold to put on a coat of varnish. Also there is always so much dirt and snow tracked in and a linoleum floor is much easier to keep clean, anyway we are going to try it.

Your letter written on Russell's birthday came this morning. I guess the camera is the same, but will be interested to know if it really is. Also just now another letter with the licence.

I must go overtown now, loads of love

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.

Wed. Nov. 20, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

I almost forgot that to-morrow is Thanksgiving for all of you, and I believe it is to be a real family party this year, with the Phinneys and Mildred and Cousin Grace Center, to make it really exciting you should have asked Cousin Harriet Shaw ! Wasn't it mean the way she lit into Mildred ? I don't see why one should do a lot for a person who acts that way, when there are so many people who are more appreciative of the time one spends with them. I had an awfully nice letter from Mildred the other day.

We are having another snowy day, Yesterday morning we had planned to go to Calgary by car to see the printer about the folder that Pete is making for Temple, this is the first time we have had any printing done in Calgary, and it often means that one has to go several times to be sure they get it the way one wants it. They are also making our Christmas card. Monday night we spent trying to finish the wording, it is not as easy to do as one would think for there is room for just so many words and to give the right idea of the kind of place it is, is ~~not~~ difficult. Then after we had it the way we thought best we took it to Cliff and Mildred for their approval, made a few changes, and then showed it to Jackie, who unfortunately was in an argumentative mood, and suggested a lot of different wording. He is quite a business man you know and likes that sort of language on folders, whereas we don't. It was really very amusing, Cliff realizing that Jackie was in the wrong frame of mind, just sat and looked sleepy, Mildred kn't and was very diplomatic, and Pete didn't dare say anything for fear he would say too much. I was so anxious to get the thing settled once and for all, so we could take it down the next morning, that I tried to ~~settle~~ get them to decide. We finally did all but one sentence and then came home after eleven. Yesterday morning there was a very red sky, and then it was gray, and as Pete is always sure it means a storm, and it usually does we decided not to go to Calgary after all. It was just as well, for Jackie was so agreeable in the morning that we even got a Christmas card planned for Cliff to send from Temple. Pete then thought that he would go down on the night train, which he did last night. See his Uncle about the estate which he has to do, go to the printing office and do one or two other things and come back by bus this afternoon, if he gets through in time. We wouldn't have dared go to-day as it has turned out, for though it is a fine snow falling it is awfully steady, and you never can tell if it will drift on the praries or not, and then if one is blocked you worry about it getting too cold for the water. I think that I will tackle the desk this afternoon, we save so much stuff that it is hard to keep it all straight and know where to find things.

We didn't hear Wilkie unfortunately, I had an idea that he would sound better if he just talked naturally over the radio, instead of yelling, as he did when making speeches. I have an idea that if he can do a lot now in the next few years, that with all the experience he would be

a wonderful person in 1940. For it must take lots of it to know what to do under certain circumstances and how to word things so that they won't be misconstrued.

I just remembered it is Wednesday, and the stores close this afternoon, it is a nuisance, and people are always forgetting.

Loads of love,

Banff, Alberta.
Friday, Nov 22, 1940

Dearest Mother,

Here is November almost gone, the months do go by so quickly, but we are getting quite a bit done on the whole. Pete has gone to drill to-night and so I thought I would use the hour between now and the news to write you, though I am sorely tempted to look at LIFE that came to-day. However that can wait. While the news is on I can do the dishes. We get the Canadian news at eight, then BRITAIN SPEAKS at 8.15, and then a half hour of the Radio News real direct from London. Making an hour in all. I save up the odd mending or knitting to do, and in that way can listen and get something done too.

Pete had a very successful trip to Calgary, got a thing to go under our rug which we have been meaning to get for ages and that we fitted to-day. Then he ordered the blue linoleum for the kitchen floor, which we will have Sam help us to put down some day next week. It takes some one with experience to know how to do it. Pete also arranged about the printing of a Christmas card, and it soon will be time to start on that.

Is Jean sick or anything? or is it just the affects of the Church fair, for I don't think she ever misses a Sunday writing us a letter and this Thursday none came from her. Perhaps she gave it to someone to mail, and they forgot.

You be careful and not get too tired. I wonder if you are having Thanksgiving this coming week, as I don't suppose Russell and Kitty would be in New York for that. I tried to think of you all eating turkey and pies and all sorts of good things yesterday, and now perhaps it was to no avail, so to be on the safe side I will think hard again all this Thursday. You will be having a lively time with the children with you this week.

It was wonderful of you to do so much for John E. and I am so glad that you and Uncle John could help, and that John would sort of let you. It did seem so sad to think that he wouldn't tell his troubles to the one's who would want to help him most, and I am glad that he was able to find a way out. Where will the new farm be? In New Jersey too? I hope this means that his luck has changed for the good, and the puppies work hard to do their part.

You wouldn't like to help support a little British Refugee would you? We offered to help with the expenses of one that is at the Mountain School. But in the fall several other people had spoken first for the chance of taking one, and she said she would let us know. I think I told you about them. There are four who were at school in England and came over here to get away from the bombing. Miss Haskins (her sister who wrote the bit that King George quoted last Christmas) brought them over. It seems now that the people who promised to help out have for one reason or another backed down, and we were the only ones who came through. I think it real mean to promise and then not be able to help. and goodness knows how Mrs Greenham can do it all herself.

A Catalogue of books came this morning from the Bay Colony Book store, and if anyone wants to know what we would like for Christmas, we really would like these. (only don't tell Russ and Kitty for they always give us "Punch" and "The London Illustrated News" and we do love them). I will enclose the things about them. First "Letter from England" by Mollie Panter Downes. We always liked her letters in the New Yorker but don't see that now. I think you would enjoy reading it first. Then Gluyas Williams book "Fellow Citizens" It sounds good. I don't know what to say about the third or fourth, but we enjoyed Clare Booth Luce's things in LIFE and her "Europe In the Spring" ought to be very good. The "Author in Transit" by Lancelot Hogben sounds awfully interesting too.

Another catalogue we got that I didn't realize at the time was a book store on Boylston street, had a list of a sale, and one was "Men and Memories" by Sir William Rothenstein. and only 97¢ didn't you read it and find it good? I thought that Pete might like it. I am enclosing an advertisement from the same bookshop, which I thought might be the book that Jean could give Peter as she asked me some time ago what he would like most. and I am sure that the Rockwell Kent book "This is my own" would be just the right thing. She could even send for it with a money order enclosed. or get it some where else.

It is still fairly cold, up to thirty in the day time but to-day was down to Zero when we got up. It must be cold drilling for they have no place indoors and just march up and down the street they hope to have lectures after Christmas, they did start them and then things were changed.

Well the hour was up and I have now finished the dishes and the News real is on, also the paper has come, so I guess all in all this will have to do for to-night.

Loads of love,

Catharine
Saturday. The joke was on me last night. Pete never got home until after ten. They have a basement to drill in now, under the Mount Royal Hotel. It has a cement floor & their feet got pretty tired. also it was deeper than it should have been. but its a step ahead.

P.S. The watch came. Thanks so much.

Banff, Alberta.

Tuesday, Nov. 26, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

I should have written you yesterday, I was going to when Pete went to drill, but he didn't go after all, as he was working on some pictures for them. In the morning Cliff was over, as he had come down the night before for a Ski Club meeting, and he had some things to talk over, then we took him up to Lake Louise in the afternoon. There were big snow squalls and the effects were lovely. Cliff is staying up at Temple, clearing trails and fixing the house etc. We now think that we will go up there for the Christmas vacation. Mildred and the boys will be there and some others perhaps. It is very nice here but a round of things going on, and no doubt we would enjoy a week of skiing more.

Sunday was a quiet day for us and we did quite a bit. Pete finished off the downstairs toilet, as it had never had the last bits of trimming and boards put on, then he oiled it and now it looks real nice. I made curtains for the bedroom out of plaid gingham, just pinned and then will get them sewn little by little as I listen to news on the radio. They are such small ones. the largest 23 inches by 36.

We do enjoy Miss Annie Agge's letters, she expresses things so quaintly you might say and is always so gentle. A letter from you yesterday about going with Madge to the needle point show, I bet Jean wouldn't admit that any were lovelier than yours and I think she would be right.

I am so glad that Mrs Cullis enjoys the Inn, I should think that she would, as people are friendly and also interesting there. After all we don't know but perhaps she is just as glad of a little change as the rest of the family. I don't care how nice people are or how fond you are of them, it ~~is~~ is unusual that they can live together in threes. For the first few weeks it is fine, but the more the third party feels at home, the more apt they are to do little irritating things, that grow more irritating. Like the Phinneys, they all were so fond of each other, and all thought that they were doing the right thing for the other, and yet what a muddle it all got into. Also I believe it is very different when a man's business is at home. as John's is, and he is there all the time. After all the Phinneys were fine until Uncle Marshall had to retire.

That was funny about the picture in the Geographic, for at one time I thought it looked a bit like you in the mouth and chin and then thought of course it must be some one else you meant.

That was awfully funny about the dressing table frame that Ann ordered, you wonder how they can get along if they make so many mistakes in just one ~~order~~ order. Did you all notice that Belgrade Montana got into "Life" Page 36 in the Nov. 25th number.

It was interesting about Jean's sister's letter being censored. The reason that they cut the names of places out is largely because they don't want the enemy to know what damage if any they have done. Supposing that the Germans bombed a certain factory of such and such a night, and were pretty sure they had hit the target,

well in that case they probably wouldn't try to raid that district again, for they are sure they have put the factory out of commission for several months. Now suppose that actually instead of hitting the factory that they dropped their bombs on someone's farm or a tiny village, (for you must remember that they are forced to fly so high that their aim is not very accurate as a rule) Then if they find out that on such and such a night they only hit a little village, they are apt to try again soon to hit the real target. Another reason is that ~~they~~ naturally don't know who is writing to whom, and any names of places may be put in a letter to give the enemy information of places that should be bombed or something. They go to no end of trouble sometimes to get information out. And naturally the United States being a neutral it is easy to send information in the most innocent sounding letters to the U.S, and then have it relayed to Germany. They can't be too careful, and naturally one is apt to send out information quite innocently with out realizing the harm it can do.

We have been trying to remember what news was so bad last week, It was the ~~day~~ that Pete was in Calgary, seems to me the news has been more good than bad lately. The Greeks have done so wonderfully in Greece and Albania, and lots of times it is what the British keep the Germans and ItalZians from doing that counts, not the few lucky things that they enemy may accomplish. I wish you could find some news to listen to besides Lowell Thomas, he makes things far too exaggerated to give you a real idea of what is going on, I am afraid.

Well + must not write more now,
Loads of love,

Catherine .

Banff, Alberta.

Friday, Nov. 29, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

Pete has gone to drill again to-night, and so I should have a good chance to write a little, though LIFE always comes on Friday, and it is a temptation to read that first, do you ever read the articles? most of them are very interesting. Did you see the picture of Katherine Dodge and her Mother, in this weeks copy. It is perfect of Mrs Dodge.

You asked what war work we do in Banff, I am afraid that I don't do very much, except to make the odd donation. because there are really more willing to do the work than there is work to do. Later on I may go to the Red Cross one afternoon a week, which quite a few do, then there are little groups who meet at each other's houses and knit or sew, also for the Red Cross. Last winter there were courses in First Aid and Motor Mechanics. but actually there doesn't seem to be a great deal we can do right now. In the cities across Canada there is much more chance to do things. I know in Victoria they have groups of girls who take all sorts of courses to fit them for driving trucks and ambulances etc. They have motor mechanics and First Aid courses etc, as they did in England. There are still many people, I should imagine who need jobs, and once they are absorbed in war industries then there will probably be calls for volunteers for various things, but again it will probably be in the cities. Maybe you remember that this fall every one over 16 years of age registered, men and women, and that gave the Gov't an idea of what everyone was able to do. One thing that they have done is to give every boy leaving Banff on active service, a few knitted things, a sweater, socks, wristers, a balaclava helmet or whatever it is. Then this Christmas they are sending each man from here who is on Active service overseas or in Canada a package of cigarettes, candy, and a few other things. I think that rather a nice idea. *for the boys then because the people at home in Banff are thinking about them.*

We got our linoleum down yesterday and it does look nice. Sam came in the morning, and as all the chairs and odd things were all over the front room, I remarked that it was just the time for some one special to call, and sure enough a little later George Eisenshmel brought his mother to see the house. She is Czech, and got out before the war, and is now living in Montreal. I sort of entertained them in the midst of tables and chairs while Pete helped Sam as we could only get him ~~for~~ such a short time. He stayed until long after the noon hour and finished all but a little place under the sink and may come Sunday to do that. I will enclose a tiny sample to show you the color, from a distance it is a flat blue but really it is sort of mottled to keep the dirt and foot marks from showing.

Jim Boyce was here all morning talking about a tractor for the ski camp. We are doing a lot of thinking.

Loads of love

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.

Canada.

December 3, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

It is just a little after seven o'clock, 7 A.M. not P.M. We were up at six this morning as Pete has gone to Calgary with Jim Boyce to look at Tractors, They are thinking of getting one to use up at Temple for transportation this winter, instead of horses. It would shorten the time considerably, and also not need to be rested the way horses do. They are such expensive things at first but cheaper to operate for the amount they can haul. We would each put in a third. They are only going to be in Calgary as long as they have to, but unless they go early they reach Calgary at lunch time, and miss the ones they should see.

We are having a "Chinook" and it is getting very mild. 49 above in Great Falls Montana, so I guess they are having it too. Sunday night it was real cold feeling, about zero when we went to bed, and then in the night we felt a west wind and yesterday morning it was about thirty above and stayed above all day, while in Calgary it was only eight above. But this morning the soft sort of rushing wind is blowing and it feels very mild.

You must have had such a nice Thanksgiving with all family and I wish we could have been there too. It sounded more like old times. Some how it never seems like Thanksgiving without the majority family. I shall look forward to the details. The reason I thought it might have been the week before was that you mentioned Cousin Jane Barry helping you with Thanksgiving things and I got a little mixed. I never can keep dates straight here for the weather doesn't seem to go with the season, or what we do doesn't. Christmas things seem to be coming out now, they have the toys in the store already. I nearly forgot your birthday, but perhaps I will find a little something to ~~something~~ to send you to-day. Anyway I shall send a special letter for you with my wishes.

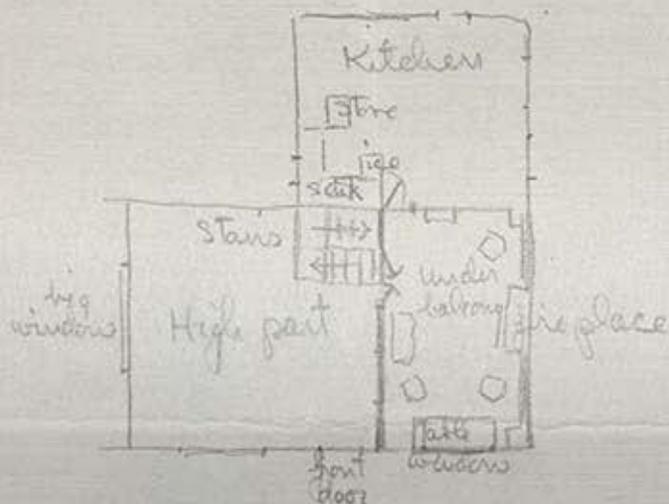
Now that I am up so early I thought I might be able to get Colin Wyatt on the short wave from Australia, but I can't seem to. Will write you until news time and then make the bed and do the dishes while I am listening.

The new Camp in the woods sounds awfully nice and we would love to have you make a plan for us. Have you thought of giving Kitty or Russ a charcoal burner thing for Christmas? Cliff had one given to him by a tourist and they are perfectly wonderful for steaks. You make coals out of the Charcoal and then broil the steaks over the hot coals, and the Charcoal fire gives the steaks a special flavor, without smoking them. The little grills are very nice, I think Macy's would have them, and you buy Charcoal by the bag.

You know when you wrote in one letter, about the girls being away one Monday and that you said to Jean, "I will just have a slice of beef and a baked potatoe and nothing more" and I read it to Pete and got to " and was just eating when in walked *- "

here I paused to turn the page and Pete said " Mable Brown" and sure enough that was who it was.

X I don't know how I can draw a plan to give you an idea of how the partition goes in the living room. It goes along the edge of the balcony, three large pieces of veneer, four feet wide, then the stairs happen to go up from a point outside the partition, or right on a line with the edge of the balcony, you know we had them changed some time ago so that instead of coming straight down to the other end of the room, they have a landing and turn back. so now we have two doors that open into the low part of the room from the partition, one into the big room the other up the stairs, so it is very convenient. I will try a plan.



We haven't heard Wythe Williams yet on the radio. Some of the men take the most pessimistic view and others look at the other side of the picture. Last night there were too articles in the paper, and I will send them to you just for the fun. They are about the same subject and even the headlines are opposite.

one, the pessimistic one is by Drew Middleton, who usually makes things a bit dramatic and discouraging the other is by W.L. White who wrote the article in the last "Life" about going over seas in the Destroyer, he is the son of William Allen White the well known editor. The one who wrote that well known editorial about

X his daughter's death. You must have read it, when she was thrown from her horse. Anyway his son sounds as if he would be as wonderful a newspaper man as his father. The story in "Life" is awfully well written. Jean would probably like to read these too.

Did I tell you that the first book came, marked " Mr Pater /Whyte " I also got the watch and thank you so much. The customs man said, "are you sure your mother will pay for the repairs," and I told him you had and wanted to, I wonder what his mother is like. He kept saying, it is a very peculiar case, and as he had a terrible cold I was anxious to get away before catching it. There was only a dollar duty to pay on the repairs.

Has the Moving picture theater ever been built.? and has any one bought the Sewall house ?

How tickled Pietro must be to have won first prize for his garden.

We saw an awfully good movie, as movies go, based on the Life of Stephen Foster, the music was all his and the story stuck pretty closely to his life. It was very sad.

What a queer thing for Aunt Mary Hoar to have. I am glad that she is better.

The cost of keeping the child (British Refugee) in the Mountain School is \$450. a year, and that includes everything. Of course for other children the tuition is more I should think. the four hundred and fifty is the minimum and I don 't see how Mrs Greenham can do it.

I must stop. Loads of love

Catharine -

Calgary, Alberta,
Canada,
December 5, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

Many happy returns of the day! I hope this letter won't be too late in reaching you, for I really meant to write you yesterday, but we had some friends here all afternoon and there wasn't time to get even a note in the mail before the evening train left. I scribbled a hurried one, but it was hardly worth your reading.

I am afraid that the only present I could think of to send in a letter were these handkerchiefs, and that was what I sent you last year, but you must know that though a tiny present they go with all my love and best wishes to you. Pete made the card for you specially.

x
Do you remember a number of years ago, during the opera season I think it was, that we met a very distinguished looking white haired man while lunching at the Copley Plaza? He was Lauren Harris, a very well known artist in Canada, who is quite

modern. He and his wife arrived in
Bauff yesterday for a few days, and
came over about two in the afternoon.
It was after four when they left, and
we had a very interesting time. They
have been living in Santa Fe, New
Mexico until recently, and are going to
x be in Vancouver this winter.

It is snowing hard right now. We
had a few warm days. When it got
up over forty and the snow melted
with the warm wind from the west.
I don't know whether this will amount
to much or not.

I must go over town now. So
lots of love and do have a happy
birthday, which I am sure you will.
There may be a letter today telling
about your Thanksgiving.

Loads of love from us both.
Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.

Canada.

Saturday, Dec. 7, 1940.

Dearest Mother, Just a hurried note again to answer you air mail that came yest erday, (Guess I had better go at it slower as I am missing letters) It must be the opera music that is hustling me . It is the light quick kind. The first Opera we have heard and both Calgary stations are carrying it this year. which is nice.

Pete's Mother is not "David" but "Mrs Dave White, Sen!"

Also the kettle came and is more fun, I made some apple sauce first as that seemed simple, and Pete was crazy to take ~~the~~ off the top before the right time. I am sure it will be a great help and will tellyou how I make out with it. It is so well made.

Another Christmas book came too, that makes two.

We had a real tea party the other day for "r and Mrs Lauren Harris. Mrs Hayes who they had been told to look up, Mrs McDonald and Mrs McDougal who is a friend of Frances Hiams and here for the winter. It was about all we could seat comfortably, and just enough so that they didn't all talk at once. They seemed to enjoy it as much as we did.

The weather is quite mild and it looks like snow, I was surprised to hear that you had so much ^{fun} on Thanksgiving. What a nice party it must have been, but quite a house ful for ~~11/11~~ you. It was nice of Florence and Uncle Marshall to send us a card from the play. I hope we can see it sometime.

I hope you have a lovely birthday and get all our best wishes. To-morrow I shall have to start addressing our Christmas cards. It is quite a job not only doing the writing but figuring out who to send them too.

Loads of love

Catharine

Banff, Alberta

Canada.

Monday, Dec 9, 1940

Dearest Mother,

It is your birthday, so I am thinking of you extra hard, do your ears burn or anything? We have been working over lists of names for Christmas cards, I have one list that we used first in 1938 and it is just names and in pencil and hardly room left to make a mark of whether we are sending a card this year or not, so all yeasterday afternoon I spent going over the list and through the address book, and I copied out the addresses too, so it will be a comparitively easy matter to address the envelopes, I also went through the pile of unanswered letters.

Yesterday was a dismal Sunday, a wet snowstorm in the morning and then it rained off and on the rest of the day, but cleared beautifully at sunsettime. We went to the train to see the Harrises off, and then it was late so in between we went up to the Wards for a chat. We have quite a bit to do, Pete is working on some pictures, sort of caricatures of the camp life at Sarcee, for which he made sketches some time ago, then we are working on a map of the ski country near Skoki, I did the first part to scale, and then Pete is doing the hard part of making the contours look right. Pete is also working on a war poster, and then there are the cards to color when they arrive which we hope will be soon. Pete has gone for every mail expecting them and the folder for Temple to come. finally telephoned and they won't be here until Wednesday. nearly a week late.

You say not to send any Christmas presents and books arrive almost every day, another package arrived this noon. I won't send anything much, a handkie here and there. I have ordered some "scuffs" from Vancouver, they are made by the Occupational Therapy Place, sort of a charity thing and I guess they need the money. They are the most comfortable things, are designed for evenings after skiing, are lined with lambs wool, or rather sheepskin, I thought that Kitty might like a pair and the children could use them for bed shoes or if they come in with cold feet this winter, I may ~~add~~ send a pair to Jean for her upstairs, even if she has no dog to let in in the middle of the night, I am also sending a pair to Frances for skiing, or rather after skiing. It really is a little too easy to give every one the same thing. I feel that it is allright to buy anything made in Canada, and especially in Britain, for they need to have the money circulate. You can help a lot by buying British made goods in the States, for only by selling things like dishes and cloth etc. made in Britaán, can the British get American Money to pay for munitions bought in the states.

The kettle is wonderful, I made a stew Saturday night and again this noon, and it took just one hour for a three hour stew. It takes longer than the two or three minutes advertised, for first you have to get the pressure up, and that takes five or ten minutes, once the pressure is up the things take the two or three minutes then there is another minute or two to get the pressure down.

A nice letter from you to-day, - mustn't write more
now, Loads of love

Catharine.

P.S. Could you tell me what Bo Amory's address
is? I never can remember whether it is
Wenham or Hamilton. and we want to
send a card.

Banff, Alberta.

Alberta.

Friday, Dec. 13th 1940

Dearest Mother,

I will send you one of the new folders (if I remember to enclose it) so that you can see what we have been doing and talking about. Pete did the sketches and the map, though I did help grabbing it from the park map so that the contours were correct, for the original map was this size but we had to make the one for reproduction twice the size. The thing that took us the longest time was the wording of it, which would seem easy but for poor writers like ourselves it meant a lot of thinking. The Christmas cards are also finished and arrived yesterday so there are those to color and get off. There is always a lot to be done.

We have been very busy all week, without time to even read the newspapers. Wednesday Col Moore came down to see some caricatures that Pete made of the Sarcee Camp and he stayed over two hours, just as he was going George Eisenshiml came on his way back from the Coast. It must be a custom abroad to drop in for a short informal call just before supper, for George came at five thirty and it always is a bit difficult getting supper after they leave at six something. Last evening his mother made us a call also around six, it seems a funny hour and yet I can see why they come then, thinking one has a late dinner. Wednesday evening we went to Fern Clarksons, who is now living in Banff again. We figure we used to see more of them when they lived at the coast.

Yesterday Jim Boyce was here for a while as Pate has made a map for him, and then Mrs Eisenshiml came about six and so it goes.

Some more packages came, this time two were from Jean, and one from you. Last night I used the kettle to cook some parsnips in no time at all and they were delicious.

Your letter came too with the one of Mrs Richardsons which I thought awfully interesting.

Don't you feel badly about not sending a lot of Christmas presents to us, I know it is fun getting things that are attractive to give, for I would love to send you some of the lovely things that I see sometimes but I know it would only be a nuisance for you to have anything more to go in the attic, and honestly we haven't room right now for anything more, a lot of things we have are just put away. and really books are the nicest things of all and we lend a lot too. So please don't feel badly.

And another thing don't let people encourage you into thinking that you see awfully little of me or our home, you will begin feeling awfully sorry for yourself and make yourself miserable. Why hundreds and thousands of people don't see their children at all after they are married, and some very seldom. Mildred hasn't seen her mother for nearly ten years, and her mother has only ever seen

~~Yet~~ one of her grandchildren. Edith Wilda Hammond is leaving this next week to be married to an officer in the Indian Army and goodness knows when she will get back to Banff. She goes alone too all the way to India to be married. I believe it is all a state of mind and comparisons. so don't feel too badly for think how fortunate you are to have Russell and his family right near you and your grandchildren to enjoy too.

I must go now but will Perhaps write soon again.

Loads of love

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.

Canada.

Tuesday Dec 17, 1940

Dearest Mother,

Such a rush as we are always in, Pete has started coloring Christmas cards every day for nearly a week and is usually interrupted, It is partly the tractor that is due to arrive at Lake Louise to-day. Again interrupted, I don't know just where to begin, but unless I write to-night you may not get a letter before Christmas, I didn't realize until yesterday how near Christmas is.

Sunday we never went out all day and no one came in, Pete painted the blue tracks into the cards and I did the brown and red, but the days are so short now, the sun not appearing from behind Rundle Mountain until nearly nine thirty and going behind Sulphur at one, of course it is light before and after but not as light, so we couldn't color very long in the afternoon. Then Monday morning Pete had just started to finish the cards when Jm Joyce came in to say that the Caterpillar would be up at Lake Louise Tuesday early for the trial, If it proves successful we have promised to take it. Pete wanted to be there for the big experiment. In the meantime Cliff arrived and there was a lot to talk about as there always is, and then there was coal to order so that there would be a load to go up, and then to see about the tractor cab frame to go up with the load etc.etc. Somehow having realized that it was so near Christmas, I did my Christmas shopping. I had ordered some books and only one came which I sent to Mildred (I had to read it first and then thought it so good that I had to wait until Pete read it before mailing it to-day. The "Scuffs" that I told you about sending a good part of the family were also slow in arriving and weren't made as well as the first samples, so I have only sent a pair to Frances and Nancy, the sizes were wrong for Gale or Robin, so I got some little toys instead, not very exciting, but there wasn't much choice of things easy to mail. Then as the book for Russell didn't come I got a box of things I thought they might enjoy eating, Domestic things from Canada and some Pickles from England. We were going to express them as they are breakable, but found to-day that it meant filling out papers and perhaps their having a lot of difficulty too. So I hope they arrive on time with little trouble. Somehow I did up all the parcels in the afternoon yesterday, and thought of Jean and all she had done up for us, It is a job, and I was glad that you used such good paper and string in the past, for it is nearly all from packages you sent last year. By the way, tell Ebbs there is a fifty cent stamp on his package, if he would like it, or give it to Uncle John. I hope all the things arrive in time. Russell's book came to-night so I will send it soon. The very queer present for you is to sit on in your dressing room. I believe you have one in the guest bathroom. It is made by the French Canadians I think.

Pete was a help too in between his errands, and got the customs slips to fill out and helped me mail them, so we did quite well

We had promised to drive over to the Windermere with Sam and Cis & Ward when they go to the coast. They have our old car and we don't like to have them drive over the Windermere at this time of year alone, for if anything should happen it is so far to walk for help and little travel, so we are going over and back in the day to see they get there O.K. They came down Monday afternoon about tea time (we all had tea too) to say they were going Tuesday if they got all the things done, Pete was so anxious to be at Lake Louise for the tractor trial that he got them to go Wednesday instead, which is to-morrow, and so we go then after breakfast here.

Last night Pete got excused from drill and Painted cards like mad while I wrote messages on the backs of some. This morning we were up early and I had his lunch made and he was off to be back in a little while to say that Jim Boyce had heard that the Tractor had been delayed and they weren't leaving Calgary with the tractor on the truck until ten, so we did make running round trying to send the food to Russell and various other things. We left here at one, I should have stayed here and finished the cards, but it was such a perfect day it seemed too bad to miss the fun at Lake Louise, so I went too. A lot of good it was, for after waiting in the station until four o'clock and no sign of the tractor, we started back and met it just as we entered Banff at five thirty. The special driver is coming up to-morrow so we decided to go through with our plans and go with the Wards to-morrow and Pete can go up there Thursday and see how it works, but it was rather disappointing, but that is how things go. I really should have stayed home, for now I will have to send cards like mad on Thursday.

There are lots of things to write you about and so little time to do it in. First many many thanks for the wonderful check for the Evacuee, I will go and see Mrs Greenham soon, then I forgot to thank you for the check to cover the duty on the Christmas presents, So far nothing has been opened as most of the packages were books which are educational I believe and the other things weren't worth enough to be dutiable at Christmas time. I shall let you know what we do with the check.

About the things at Trumballs, I thought they were very attractive and so well advertised, didn't you? For Frances I think she would find the Mohair Ski Climbers very useful, we have used some for several years but can't seem to get them in Canada, if she has some you could send them to us as there are always people who want to borrow ours. The Siwash Socks are good and warm, but as I write this I find that they are twice as expensive as they are here, so that might not be as good.

About the Charcoal broiler, you sent me a catalogue in the fall which I can't find but the one you saw at Macy's probably would be allright, and get a bag of charcoal, you let the charcoal burn to a red coal before broiling the steaks, or whatever you broil, hamburg is good too.

I must go to bed now, as we are starting early in the morning. In case my next letter doesn't reach you in time for Christmas, Best Wishes for a Meezy Merry Christmas and lots of love and we will be thinking of you. More love

Catharine .

Banff, Alberta.
Canada.
Saturday night.
December 21, 1940.

Dearest Mother

A nice long letter came from you today, written the eve of the big supper which everyone had accepted an invitation too. I hope it was a big success as I am sure it must have been. I'm awfully sorry I scolded you so, and I shan't think of doing it again. I was very much touched by your feelings and I really am sorry not to be nearer, but I guess it just can't be helped.

We also were very much interested in the announcement of Suzanne Manierre's marriage. Do you remember in the letter Cousin Alma wrote when she got back west, she mentioned that Suzanne was still going with the Catholic boy in Madison - or something like that. Well I figure that they probably didn't want all the fuss and furor that had been planned for Mary Jane's wedding, so Cousin Kathie does love to do things just so, and now-a-days I don't think as many young people care about big weddings etc. Anyway they

probably got married & then told
the family, and of course Cousin
Rathie would insist on announcements
going out, & when printed maybe
they had no permanent address for
presents to be sent too. Poor Cousin
Rathie done out of two weddings in
one year.

We have been terribly busy with
all sorts of things, but mostly the
new tractor at Lake Louise. For four
mornings this week we have had to get
up & breakfast in the dark, and I
haven't read "Life" this week or the last
few newspapers which shows how busy
we are.

Monday we were going to do the
Christmas cards, when Jim came to tell
us the tractor would be up the next morning.
Pete was up early Tuesday & then the
tractor was delayed & they didn't expect
it at Lake Louise until afternoon. So I
decided to go too for it was such a beautiful
day, clear as good could be. The tractor
never arrived, so after sitting around in
the station & the men getting the snowed
in sleigh out, we started back, & met
the truck from Calgary with the Caterpillar
tractor sitting on back - just as we

reached Bayf. There wasn't much we could do then. We were up earlier still Wednesday. The Wards came for breakfast & then we drove in our car behind them to Radium, about 90 miles, having a picnic lunch on the way. It was a lovely drive & lots of snow which was very lovely on the trees. Its across the divide. There are only a few game wardens & they are often 20 miles apart, we could walk the ten miles in ski boots if our car broke down, but didn't like the thought of Cis Ward doing it. & they were very appreciative of our going with them. We came back in time to run up to Lake Louise & see how the tractor demonstration had gone. but it was already on its way up the hill. so we drove home again.

Thursday up early again & Pete went to Louise, leaving at eight & was gone all day. They even

broke a trail a mile beyond
Temple on the way to Skolri +
Pete was so tickled!

I did Christmas cards all
day + then went up + mailed
them.

I must go now but will
try to write more later. There
is so much to be done + to
think of.

Heaps of love and I hope
you all have the merriest +
happiest sort of Christmas. We
are going to the Allen Mather's
for Christmas dinner.

Loads of love

Catherine.

P.S. It now takes the tractor ~~to~~
one hour and 15 minutes to pull
a slight fall up to Temple from
Lake Louise. 52 minutes to come
down.

Banff, Alberta.
Canada.

Dec. 24, 1940.
Christmas Eve.

Dearest Mother, Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year! I hope to get enough
written to send you a note tonight.
I hope you all are having the very
merriest kind of Christmas. I am
sure at this moment you have most
everything done. Well I nearly have.

You certainly gave Mrs Greenham
a very happy Christmas. I went up
to the Christmas tea Friday with the
Parents. It was awfully nice. The
children sang carols, the tiny tots
sitting under a large Christmas tree &
they were so good. The older ones
served tea, doing it very well. Then
the children distributed to their parents
little things they had made themselves
in school. It was all very nice. I gave
Mrs Greenham your check, and tried

to explain how you wanted to help with a child when you heard I was helping. She was so grateful and really could hardly thank me enough.

Pete & I went up Sunday to ask a little about what sort of things the children would like for Christmas, and Mrs Greenham told us she got such a shock when she opened the check. But she said it was like an answer to her prayers, for only the day or two before she got a letter from a mother with three little children. They were to have come to her as regular boarders while the mother went back to Singapore to the father, however though the Company the Father works for is part American & will guarantee the funds, they can't get the money until after the war is over. The mother didn't know what to do, a friend would take one child but she wanted to have them be together. She asked Mrs Greenham what could be done, & here came your check like a God send. So now I believe the three little children can be looked after. Mrs Greenham is

putting all the money in a fund, and taking out \$30. a month each per child to cover expenses. & believes she can do it on that, with the reserve for emergencies. They are the dearest little children, the ones there now. My little boy we are looking after or rather paying for, is Peter, the son of Mrs. Gherbain's brother. He is also from Singapore. ^{aged 7} Then there are a brother & sister also small, and little Colin only four. They were all at school in England.

I told her about the Christmas card you sent Peter's mother. The British War Relief one, with Miss Haskins' quotation that the King used on it. She then told what a time her sister had had. Actually it has been an awful trial to her, for Miss Haskins is a quiet unassuming & shy little person & hates publicity. & suddenly all the newspaper men and publicity people descended on her & she became famous over night. She hates the publicity

and all the fuss. But worst of all
 the Church Societies & Religious people
 keep at her wanting to know what
 the real meaning was etc etc. & also
 wanting her to write new sayings.
 She evidently wrote the list when
 she was very young, and doesn't
 feel the same way about things now
 which adds to her difficulties. The
 rest however is very fortunate, for
 the sale of her books & the use of
 the quotation is actually keeping
 the whole family who lost all
 their money. Miss Perkins was
 called back in a very important job
 to teach women to be teachers of other
 women for war jobs in England.

I'll let you know ~~how~~ when the
 other children arrive & maybe we
 can help if they need more money
 in the future. Mrs Greenham is so
 wonderful with children. Jean Lindsay
 went to her school.

It looks like snow & we all
 hope so for the last warm spell
 took most of what we had in Bauff

away.

all sorts of packages have arrived for us. even one from the Harvard Coop in Cambridge, one today from Elbs. & an envelope from Russ, & the candy from Mildred. We were going to Temple tomorrow but may stay here instead. We have been invited to two Christmas dinners tomorrow.

Must send this.

Heaps of love to you all & especially to you. This includes Mildred who I believe is to be with you.

More love

Catherine

P.S. I forgot. Frances Heam came over this morning & while Pete showed the four youngsters the Indian things. Frances & I had a nice chat. They will be here until the 5th

Banff, Alberta.

Sat. Dec 28. 1940.

Dearest Mother,

We had the nicest Christmas this year. and I hope next letter to be able to tell you all about it in detail. I am making some shoe bags for Edith Hilda Hammond who leaves Monday for India and I do want to finish them today. Its more of a job than I thought it would be at first.

We have so much to thank you for, and especially for all the books which were the ones we wanted most. Pete is tickled to pieces with the new one by Frank Case of the Algonquin. All the eatables were also enjoyed and much appreciated. I shall have to try the puddings & biscuits soon.

We did well with two large turkey dinners Wednesday. one at noon at Jackies & one in the evening at the Mothers. quite a day for us. Thursday was "Boxing day" which is also a holiday in Canada.

Frances Heain came to tea yesterday
bringing Mrs Beverly Boxter with
her. and today Pete has gone to take
Louise as Frances & three boys are
going up to Temple for the day with
another family. & she seemed glad
when he said he would go too &
if they wanted to come home early
bring them back.

I will write regular mail to-day
or tomorrow, so good bye for now &
lots of love & A Happy New Year
to you all, you specially.

More love

Catherine

Banff, Alberta

Sunday, Dec, 29, 1940

Dearest Mother,

Christmas is over and New Years not quite started, so perhaps I shall get my letter written to thank you for the many many gifts. It is hard to know where to begin for there were a lot to open. The books were grand and as Pete says he doesn't dare start in reading his in case he gets nothing else done. It was funny about the Pont book. I ordered one by him for you called "The British Carry on " but it didn't arrive until the day before Christmas, and then you sent the one called The British Character by the same man. I think that his drawings are wonderful and love his sence of humor. I will send the one + got here on just the same.

"The Land below the Wind " I have wanted to have as I only half read it, and the ones of England and Europe in the Spring will be most interesting. The Barsis book of Ski Cartoons we hadn't seen before, though some of his drawings have appeared in various magazines. The Gluyas Williams book that Jean sent me is really a wonder, we both are enjoying that and have lent it all-ready, as well as the one Frances sent of Prices. The three little books are such sweet little stories, I liked Mrs Morrows best. Tubby is just learning to read real books and I think that she will love them

You must tell me about the little dolls that are so beautifully made. Where did they come from. one looks exactly like Miss Barret, did you look at the painted expression? The linen table cloth and napkins are lovely, such a nice blue, and the two runners are lovely, they may be mean't for something else but I shall use them for bureaus. Oh yes, the nice travelling slippers which are always so nice to have, I guess Jean must have told you that my old ones are all worn out. Did you make the pincushion, for I notice that it is the same material as the curtains on the stairs. The little dinah is clever too, does one use it to cover a bottle? I wonder how many " An Airmans Letter to his Mother" Mildred got, I sent her one but am delighted to have one Myself. Did you notice the man's portrait in the Illustrated London News, that is where I first heard of it.

The candy is delicious and I eat it much too much, all our favorite kinds, the puddings look good and easy. Pete thinks that the new kettle you sent the very best thing we have and we have stew pretty often, all kinds of left overs mixed to-gether. I haven't had time to try the corn muffins, and I haven't opened the cake as Pete's mother made us a Christmas cake for a present, as well as a delicious mince pie.

Pete gave me one of those new little radios that looks like a camera. is the size of a two pound box of candy, and starts working when you open the top. The battery is the kind one uses in a flash light and keeps it going for four hours. It is a wonderful little thing. and even works in the car.

We had quite a hectic Christmas eve, for we found out about a family of six that

were going to have a pretty slim Christmas, we knew them as the man is a cowboy and has a weak heart and hasn't been here long enough to get a job on the government and they have a new baby, so all to-gether they haven't much to get along with. We went down and 'ete got Mrs Millar to come up town with us so we could get what they really needed. We got a whole lot of groceries that they can use for a long time to come, staples as well as a few Christmas things, then we got shoes for the little girls and a toy each and new skates for the little boy and a hockey stick, and a few other things. It was great fun for us and I hope they had a nice Christmas. We thought it the nicest way to do rather than give each other a lot.

Christmas day was really very nice, we opened our things right after breakfast, and then took the little things we had up to Lila's family, and saw their things, then it was time to go to Jackies for our first Christmas dinner, there was great excitement there with the two little boys, We all ate turkey, mashed potatoes and turnip and string beans and gravy, followed by plum pudding and hard sauce, and about four hours later we had the same dinner over again at the Mathers, so we did very well. It was four when we were finished at Barbara 's as there are dishes to be done, her little girl is home for her holidays, and also at the Mathers, as they have no maid. So it was nine when we got back from there. Thursday was boxing day, also a holiday so we made a few calls, You know here you are supposed to a call on every one dur ng Christmas and New Years, and as it means that you have sherry or Scotch and Christmas cake offered to you no matter what the time of day it is quite an undertaking. We don't really make many calls the way most people do.

I guess I will call this a letter for now.

Monday evening
As I haven't done today's breakfast dishes yet I may not surprise you that I didn't get your letter mailed. We did go over town early this morning & then Mrs Mueh, Mary her daughter, and Marcia Prior came down, & didn't leave until lunch time. then we had some slides to look out for Agnes & had to make a hurried trip to Louise. We brought Cliff & Jim down for the evening. So now I'll have this ready to go -
Loads of love -
Catherine.

P.S. Your short letter of Christmas came and also Jean's lay one. I will write her soon.