

Banff, Alberta.

Monday, March 23, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

We seem to be having a touch of winter again, March going out like a lion I expect. Yesterday there were flurries of snow all day, though the sun came out once in a while and the temperature was about 32 above but this morning it is only 10 above and the clouds are low on the mountains and the wind from the east. Saturday morning was so spring like too, the first robin was seen last week in Banff, by Mr Barnes who is Dan McGowans brother in law, so Pete said it was only right that he should be the first to spot it. A blue bird was seen south of Calgary too. So spring can't be far away.

We had rather a busy time, Friday evening the boys came back from Temple, the two Royal Air Force friends of Grey's, they arrived about tea time so I gave them tea and we heard about their trip, then we asked them for supper and they went over to Barbara's where they were to stay, while Pete went to the butchers for a couple more steaks. I didn't think that so soon after tea that they would have much appetite, but they fooled us, took a "brisk walk" to the Bow Falls and back and ate everything I cooked. Three helpings of both carrots and string beans and real big steaks and then Rhubarb and cake. and coffee. I guess the skiing was partly responsible. they had a record or book of records of "Petrouchka" or something like that, a well known Russian Ballet that Frances would probably know. and it seems that Grey had asked them to bring it up as Dr Mackenzie wanted to hear it. So after supper Pete got hold of Dr Mackenzie who was at choir practice, and he took the boys down to his house and they had an evening of music, the doctor is evidently very musical, has a new phonograph thing and also they had singing too. It was a late evening I guess for they didn't get to bed until one. so we were just as glad we didn't have to be up as late.

The next morning they went up to Morquay and Tony was going to sketch but the weather changed and the light was bad. They came for supper again and helped us eat a roast, and not quite as many vegetables. They had to leave for Calgary, the end of their weeks leave, at 8.30. P.m. They are both awfully fine boys and I guess have seen more of this war than one would suspect, Tony was in the Home Guard I think he said before joining the R.A.F. and a fire watcher or patrol in London for a time, for he mentioned it when we were looking at the reproductions in Life of paintings by the firemen. They are great for understatement as you know, and don't enthuse the way people here would, but are very quiet. We were looking at maps and Ted was telling of a motor trip he and his sister took through the south of France and Switzerland several years ago, and Tony too had been in Switzerland. I made the remark that the Alps must have been a wonderful sight for the flyers who flew over to Italy on the bombing raids, and Tony told us of a great friend of his who joined up at the same time that he did, and who made many raids over Germany and three times over the Alps, and then he added rather quietly, "but the last time he didn't come back." They also told us of their trip across Canada which must have been very amusing, for the whole country was strange and they ran into bad weather into the bargain. Tony even spent three days in the northern most part of Maine, and I can imagine what that was like, it was near Megantic, which I think is one of the places the little train goes through.



Yesterday we had another quiet Sunday, people don't usually come around on Sunday's and we catb up on reading and other things. Though yesterday we did have a short call from some Calgary people.

We don't hear Gabriel Heatter on the radio, and now it is beginning to be harder to get the U.S. stations as the days are longer, though some days they are quite good. I wouldn't count too much on the German's putting off their Spring drive until summer, or that they are hard pressed. They will most likely again do the unexpected as they have before, I don't know if you read "Time" but in the last one there is a very good poem in the letters about news comentators, the last line of each verse being. Something like this, " but our guess is just as good as theirs. "

We just got a letter from you written as the card party was about to begin. Did Mrs Bartlett take the " single room and bath " ? Pete wondered last night if " rubbers of bridge " would be allowed due to the shortage.

We also had a letter from B' arcy's wife this morning, she is anxious to bring her two little children and possibly her mother here for a month or so, before they go to Ontario for the summer. and wanted to find out about accomodation, so Pete has gone over to ask prices as they would come right away. She hasn't heard from D' arcy except that he was in Hongkong Dec 6th. It must be terribly hard just waiting for news.

Loads of love,

Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.

Canada.

Wednesday, March 25, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

This probably won't be much of a letter for there seems to be so much to do. We are to have the exam in Home Nursing Monday night and this afternoon at two some of us are meeting at a Mrs Weldon's to practise the practical part. bandaging, making beds with and without people in them, and taking pulse and all that sort of thing. Last night we had just settled down for a quiet evening, I was trying to do accounts when Agnes Hammond and two other girls came to see if I would like to go with them down to Sid Graves for he was to show us how to do the practical parts of First Aid. Pete thought there was to be lots of women and so didn't come, but read up his books for the army, but as it turned out there were only three of us besides the Graves, and we spent most of the evening on the floor, with Nickie the collie much interested and wanting to be in on everything. We practised Artificial respiration and such things, and tying bandages for fractures and slings. It is hard to get all of them straight, but with the large classes that they have at the school in the evenings it is hard to get the practical side. It was nearly twelve when we got home after eating sandwiches and cake made with honey. It was very good, half a cup of honey instead of a cup of sugar.

Yesterday was very exciting, just as we were cooking lunch the C. P. R. Express drove up, and I went to the door to be handed a large box, obviously flowers, I said it must be some mistake, but the boy said it must be some "occasion" for they were addressed to me. And he was right, they were lovely spring flowers from the two Air force boys, thanking me for my kindness to them. I was really quite touched and felt like a deb or something. They were lovely flowers too, a rose, and iris tulips snapdragons and ~~lilies~~, and pinks and so fresh. It is fun having flowers for a change.

I had to go to the train to see some Minneapolis people we thought were going through, but they weren't there after all, however my morning was gone in no time.

Anice letter from you that the bridge went off well and about poor Nellie Kelly, have the kittens come yet? or were they lost with her. We were interested about the milk deliveries, We have only one Grocery and meat delivery a day in Banff. the merchants got together and decided it should be at a certain hour and they all go at the same time. How about you, here it is not so hard for people to get their own things, We really can get along quite well without a cat, as it is we use less than our quota. Last year we used about 25 gallons a month this year about 15 at the most. and I believe the ration will be nearly 20.

Time to go, so all for now. That was amusing about the slacks, we don't see many with slacks in winter and everyone wears dungarees when they ride or camp or something like that. so they do it more naturally I guess.

Heaps of love,

Catharine -



Banff, Alberta.  
Canada.  
Friday, March, 27, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

Another lovely sunny day but again below zero this morning, it was 5 below yesterday, but got up enough to melt in the sun during the day. I am glad that it is nice as Mr Phillips the wood block man, who did the ones we sent to Frances and Ebbs, is going up to Temple for the weekend. He also has a lot to do with the summer school in Banff. They are going to have it again this year, for it really caters to a lot of people who wouldn't be doing war work in any case, like school teachers and young people still at school and also older people. I wonder if Mrs Bartlett ever thought of coming, it lasts a month and the water color class is excellent. I think I will send you a booklet and one to her too.

Wednesday we spent the afternoon at Mrs Weldon's, meaning Fern, Pearl, Pete's mother and Mrs Worthington who teaches the class. We did all the practical things we are supposed to be able to do and asked lots of questions. I feel as if I had had a real dose of it lately. Monday night Home Nursing class, Tuesday night practising 1st Aid. Wed. practising H.N and last night 1st Aid again. Fern wanted Pearl and I to stop in on the way home for cocoa and scones George had made ( he is from Edinburgh ) so Pearl and I came down and got Pete while the cocoa was being made and we had a real meal for the scones were awfully good. One mind was dark and seemed to have molasses in it. Then yesterday afternoon I was at the Red Cross. To-day and to-morrow there isn't anything special so I may get something done around the house.

I guess you are in the midst of opera, and I hope the weather has been good and that you have been able to hear the ones you wanted to. In Jean's letter yesterday, she was all excited about going to Faust and hearing Richard Crooks in an opera she knew so well, and I don't believe you could have done anything that would have pleased her more than given her an opera ticket. She often speaks of how much she enjoys the radio, did you hear Henry Aldrich last night, He gets funnier all the time I think, and we enjoy him as much as any program. His going away for a vacation and his two returns.

Did I tell you that D'Arcy Baker-Carr's wife, Kay, wrote us from Vancouver? we got the letter Monday, asking us about a place to stay for a few weeks until her mother's house in Ontario, where they go in the summer, is warm enough. We spent most of Monday afternoon looking around and were real lucky in the end, found a little duplex, or double house, tiny but I think big enough and the lady who owns it is painting it all inside so it will be nice and clean, it also has a small furnace, and everything is provided so we hope it will be just right. We got a wire yesterday that they would take it and arrive on the 7th of April. In her letter she said that the last she had heard from d'Arcy was Dec 6th and he was in Hongkong then. I noticed in the Concord Journal that Bunny Cole's husband was in Peking which is quite different from being interned in Hongkong, though plenty bad enough.

Is Stewart Cook in the Army and what does Harding Newman do? I think he used to be in the militia. We were sorry to hear about Mr Sloan, but as you say he never looked very well the last few years, so pale. Mrs MacArthur certainly was brave to take the trip, but the alternative wasn't very pleasant of staying on in Corregidor. After all she was with her husband and going to a safer place in the end. I think



you will find there are a great many who have been very brave out there, and who have to take hazardous trips with their little children leaving their husbands to fight behind and if not to be killed to be interned if they don't escape. and also the chance of getting to safety for the women and children is not any too certain.

You mentioned in one of your letters having Jean make her visit to us this spring, it would really be best if she could come during the early part of the summer, though we won't be able to set a definite date for some time. When you realize that the trees don't bud until the end of May, you can see that we have a good deal of cold rainy weather to go through yet. Everything is so uncertain now-a-days out here that we just can't possibly plan so far ahead, in order to set a date. However as soon as we do know what our plans will be, I will let you know, and then we can arrange a time that will suit us all, you, Jean and Pete and I.

Your Sunday letter is late as the train hasn't come yet this morning, but Jeans arrived on time, so I guess it doesn't delay the mail at all having it censored. I don't see how they ever do it so quickly.

Loads of love,

Catharine -

Leary



Banff, Alberta.  
Canada.  
Monday, March 30, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

You don't stand much chance of a letter to-day, that is a long letter, for to-night we have our examination in Home Nursing and one must be prepared to answer all sorts of questions, so I expect to spend the afternoon studying to try and have the answers on my tongue tip. there are to be four practical questions such as bandaging, taking pulse, measuring solutions, and making a bed, and then two oral questions which cover an awful lot of things, and anything we all hate is the thought of answering orally. However one can only do ones best, and I will be glad to have it over with.

Saturday was a lovely day, cold in the morning but the sun warmed it enough in the afternoon so that I washed all the windows downstairs inside and out, (not the ones on the new addition) I used Methyl-Hydrate with water added. Its what you use in alcohol stoves I think. Pearl told me about it and it is the best stuff and quickest I have ever tried, it took me no time. Then I cooked a chicken too, so it was a fairly busy day, and Elizabeth Rummel came for a short call in the evening.

Yesterday we had thought of driving to Lake Louise (before the gas ration which starts Wednesday) but it was not a very nice day until late afternoon, so we stayed home instead. Pete cleaned brushes and made picture frames and I tried to study home nursing. Pete's mother brought us a delicious apple pie, and then let me practise bandaging her all up, then Eileen Harmon came in to get advice on log building, and when she left, Gray Campbell and Ted called, they were due at the Walkers for dinner at five thirty, but couldn't resist a piece of pie and a glass of milk at five, so I don't know how they managed to eat a Sunday dinner on top, except that they had to walk to the Walkers and so may have shaken it down a bit. They all came back just before nine on their way back to Calgary and returned the books and borrowed some more. We are glad to lend them for they take such good care of them all. Gray told us that one we lent Tony he wouldn't let anyone else even touch and insisted on turning the pages for them. They were crazy about the one you sent me last birthday, of France, with the etchings and photographs.

A nice letter from you and one from Russell via Shelbyville. I do hope that if you want to go, you can, to Washington, though I suppose there is a lot to do in the garden from now on, but it would be a good chance for you and it must be lovely and spring like in Washington.

I am glad that the rest of the dishes arrived, and that you liked them, I thought it an awfully pretty design and would have been nice for you to serve tea in when you had the blue porcelain in the living room. So Mr Bosley died, ten years he has been ill, I am sorry about Mrs Hudson too getting so weak.

Our Gasoline stations have been closed nights and All day Sunday's since last summer, and it didn't take long for people to get used to it, and it also saved the stations from a lot of extra work so it freed men for other jobs. We evidently have a good supply of tea in Canada too.

Lots of love

Catherine -



Banff, Alberta.

Canada,

Tuesday, March 31, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

I got three letters from you yesterday after writing you in the morning, but because of the Home Nursing exam I didn't get a chance to write you again, also I thought I had written you about Jean's visit in my letter last week, which would answer your question. but in case you are still uncertain I will try to explain why it would be better for her to come later on.

I can't write you all about Pete's plans yet, until they are really decided. You know how it was with Russell before he got into the Army Air Corps, Pete has tried several things, and as lots of others are doing, he must just be patient and wait until he hears. Because of the War in the Pacific, everyday in the newspapers there is some new regulation of plan, and you think "now we will soon know if this or that is to be done," for this reason our plans are very uncertain. We had hoped to get some skiing in the high country if only to get ourselves into condition and get browned up, and if we can get a few days later on when Pete can get away we will take advantage of it and go up to Temple. That is only one of the reasons why it would be a poor time for Jean to come in April.

Another reason is that it isn't a nice season for her to visit us or Banff, there is still quite a bit of snow in patches and it is muddy for walking, and it would be too bad for her to have to come when she couldn't see any of the "beauty spots". I am sorry that we can't work our plans in with yours, but as Jean usually takes her vacation early in the summer I imagine that she could do it again this year. I will let you know as soon as ever we know anything definite, and as soon as we can set a date we will, so that there will be plenty of time for you to plan when you can let Jean go.

I ~~am~~ do hope that you have gone to Washington for a visit, it should be lovely and springlike there and the change will be good for you after the cold winds and snow of March. It will be fun for you to see the children and Russ too, and this time I am sure you won't have a cold and so can enjoy it all. I do hope that Florida will help clear up Kittys ear trouble, the warm sunshine should help.

I must go now so lots of love and I do hope you understand how it is with us and why this year it would be better to have Jean come in the summer rather than now.

Loads of love,

Catharine



Banff, Alberta.

Thursday, ~~March~~

April 2, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

I am so glad that you have gone to visit Russell in Washington, and I am sure it will be a real nice change for you and I expect it is lovely and spring like in the Capital. You will have a quiet time I expect when the children are at school and a lively time when they are at home, perhaps they are having their vacation. It will also be a good chance for you to talk over all sorts of things with Russell.

Thanks so much for the American Ski Annual, we are always interested in what is going on in the Skiing line and as we have all the others it is nice to get this years copy too.

I don't know whether you have received my letters about Jean's visit yet or not, as they were sent to Concord, but I expect will be forwarded. Right now it looks as if Sometime in July would be the best time for her to come out, I can't tell you all the reasons, right now, but April is out of the question for us, and at first we thought the end of May or June would work well, but right now it looks as if July would be perfect and so much nicer for her. The war has made quite a lot of changes here, and to our plans, it is going to be very different this summer in Banff. The big hotel is to open but it is still uncertain whether Lake Louise will be open, though of course the small hotel will be, so you can still stay there. But no more hoards of tourists to see the Rockies in a day, and the only bus trips allowed will be between the hotel and the station. We have started on our Gasoline rationing with coupons, right now they are worth five gallons a piece, and we have a certain amount to last us for the period between now and July, but the amount a coupon is worth may be cut any time. to four gallons or possibly three. It seems as a very good system. We are hoping to get a couple of bicycles from Calgary. they make only two kinds now, a man's and a ladies but it would be nice to have to run up to the post office or down to the station, and in the evening we could take a run out the west road where it is paved, where we used to take the car. It also will be good exercise. We haven't gotten them as yet, but are hoping that we can. Pete got so enthusiastic about the thought the other day when we began thinking of the possibilities, and talked of making a two day trip to Lake Louise of them, that he had a trip to the coast all planned. but I really think we are wise not to think about what we will do until we have the bicycles! For the chances are we may not get them. We might get Jean to bring Nannies with her so she can go on a few runs too!

They are busy moving Mildred into the part made over for her, it really is awfully nice and people are quite envious I think, for it is freshly painted and so bright and sunny. the kitchen is a sunny yellow and the cupboards are all fresh and nice too. they moved the stove down this morning.

Sir Norman Watson and his friend Mr Asterhalter, from Iowa, but who has lived for the last 30 years in England, came down last evening and we had a nice chat. Sir Norman is stationed at the coast with the Air Force and has a leave right now which he is spending at Temple. He is still interested in the skiing there but naturally not much can be done in War time.



Red Cross this afternoon and First Aid tonight, so this is my busy day. I won't write more now but will Saturday and I'll send them Air mail so that you will get them in Washington, as I believe ~~you~~ expected to be there about ten days.

Tell Russ that I wish we could drop in on him and have a real visit, though I expect in his position he ~~can't~~ discuss World Affairs in case someone said, "Russ seemed to think such and such would happen and he should know for he is in the Air Corps etc." His position would give added significance to anything he might say. I try never to repeat anything unless I read it in the newspapers or hear it on the radio, and then only when I know where the information came from. That is one thing I like about the Canadian News Papers, it almost always mentions either the correspondents name or the news agency, and our radio news broadcasts are very good and reliable, they ~~don't~~ have to be sensational or scoops.

Well luck time, so lots of love to you and the family and I do hope that the warm sunshine in Florida will clear up Kitty's ear trouble.

More love,

Catherine .



Banff, Alberta.

Canada.

Saturday, April 4, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

I will send this Airmail to Washington in the hopes that it will arrive before you leave. We were much interested to hear of all the friends that Russell and Kitty are having drop in on them now that they are living in Washington. They will understand better than ever what we go through every summer and other parts of the year too, only they are getting visits from people they know whereas so many of ours are friends of friends. They are also wise to have no guest room. It isn't that you don't enjoy seeing the people but that it takes so much time. It is interesting to think so many we all know are trying to get into some part of the service.

106  
113  
219

Russell might be interested to hear that Norman Knight has arrived in Egypt and is I believe Captain of a Bomber Squad, at least it says that in the local paper though that may be the wrong way to put it. I just counted up the list of men and boys from Banff who are in the Navy, Army, and Air force, There are 20 in the navy, 12 in the danger zones, and 1 was killed. 86 in the Air force, 16 of which are overseas, 113 in the Army, 64 overseas. There are four dead and one missing. This is the number on Active Service and doesn't include those in the Reserve Army or those drafted for service in Canada, or those who are engineers etc. who aren't allowed to join up. Also I notice there are a few names missing. I think that is pretty good for a small town like Banff, of 2500. It also doesn't include those who have applied, like Cameron, who haven't been called yet.

It must be lovely in Washington and I wish we could be there with you, though to-day is lovely here, last night there was a cold wind and it looked like snow. Yesterday I spent the afternoon cooking a ham, I simmer it first and then remove the skin and make it look fancy with cloves and brown sugar, and bake it for an hour, Pete claims it is very good. Cis came home last night from a month at the coast, and we thought it would be fun for them to have a ham all cooked, so it was ready for them to pick up on their way home from the station. I divided it in two before baking, and so we each had a bit.

Yesterday was a holiday for us, the stores being closed, but ~~today~~ Monday I am not sure because of its being wartime.

Jean wrote us all about how much she enjoyed the opera and that she didn't miss any of it for she sat in the front row and that she enjoyed every single minute of it. I am sure that she did.

X I think this afternoon I shall have to try and prune the fir trees beside the house, so they will become nice and thick. You remember the group of little young ones that I used to water religiously last summer? well the darned Elk ~~xxxxxxx~~ walked all over them this winter and several have a couple of branches on the very bottom and then a bare spindle left on top, the rest of the branches having been rubbed off. we were quite disgusted. Also I am afraid that our danderlion coop won't be any use to the rubber situation, they aren't the right kind, but in the paper it says that they are trying to import the right kind of danderlion seed from Russia and if it comes in time, they are to experiment this year on the praries.



X Did I tell you about Pete teasing Davy the other day? He asked Davy if he would ~~sell~~ sell him his tricycle, if we couldn't get a bycycle to ride. and Davy said "No," he wouldn't sell his tricycle because he couldn't get another. so Pete said something about "Oh, I think you could." and Davy looked up at him in his funny serious way and said, "Don't you know about the tire situation?" The big word amused Pete, but hardly anything escapes Davy.

I got a little one of those dishes of china flowers that George Noble sells, five different kinds of flowers in a little tiny bowl, the whole thing would sit on a 50¢ piece, and am going to send it to Aunt Rhoby, I wish I had thought of it sooner, for it is so bright and pretty.

Lots of love to you all and I know that you are having a wonderful time and shall be anxious to hear all about it.

More love,

Catherine.

P.S. Please give my best to Hanna & thank her for the nice letter she wrote after Christmas. I shall soon have some more clippings collected for her.

glare  
shine  
kite  
sharpness,  
radiance



Banff, Alberta/.

Monday, April 6, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

I hope I haven't gotten you all upset about Jean's visit, for our letters sort of crossed, and then if you didn't have my letters forwarded to Washington you wouldn't get the one that did the most explaining. X If Pete's plans weren't so uncertain it would be far easier to plan. You see he has the chance of doing one of two things, both mean taking a certain amount of training, but if either chance does come through, ( which is not at all certain ) even then there is no knowing when or where the training will take place. It might be east or west or in Calgary, and if ( Its a big IF ) the opportunity does come---- perhaps I should say, if he receives a call, it will probably give him a day or two at the most to get X ready, for that is the way things are done. X Just as an example of how things ~~are done~~ happen. A Colonel in the last war who lives in Banff, applied early last fall in one of the branches of the service, and at the same time a friend of ours also applied, though for a different sort of job in the same force. he got about three letters in connection with his application which led him to believe he might get a call anytime, so he haunts the postoffice. The Col. on the other hand had about given up hope of anything happening, when suddenly his chance came, he was told to report in so many days, and given a much lower rank which he was willing to take in order to get in, and he has already left, whereas our friend is still going for every mail. So you see you never know.

In my last letter I wrote that July would be the best time for Jean's visit, but you write that earlier, preferably in the spring would be better for you. The best we can do right now is to leave it undecided, and the very minute we know anything definite about what we will be doing I promise to let you know. We hope to hear something in the next week or two, but its so hard to tell these days.

Yesterday was Easter Sunday, and I believe that it was Russell's day at home which must have been nice for you, wasn't it fine that he has been made a Major. He certainly is doing well.

We had a lovely spring like morning yesterday, and in the afternoon it was 55 about 3.30. I spent the afternoon painting a crib which we have borrowed for the littlest Baker-Carr girl, I thought as soon as I finished I would go out and prune the trees, when I noticed the leaves blowing by the window from the east. I had something to eat at four and noticed it was then 50 above, by 4.30 it was 40 above and by 5.30 it had dropped to 32. It was around 25 above when we went to bed and we had a real snow flurry after supper, about two inches of snow and this morning it was 18 above and looked like the middle of winter, however it is clearing off now and is quite nice again, though still cold. How funny that they had such a storm in Washington, but I imagine it has warmed up since. How nice that you could have Gale's room, for I am sure it must have made it more convenient for you.

Your second letter just came from Washington, with the one about D'arcy Baker-Carr being alive in Hong-kong. We are so glad, his wife arrives to-morrow evening. It sounds as if you were having a real nice restful time at Russell's and I know it is just the sort of visit you will enjoy most and also will make you feel fine too. I can realize how you hate to leave your own home, and isn't it nice that the children can be with you this summer.



I must go over and get us some lunch and it is so lovely out too right now.

Loads of love and I will answer your letters better soon.

More love,

Catharine



Banff, Alberta.

April 8, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

We are having one of those rather busy times. Yesterday was the day that Kay Baker-Carr arrived. We took the crib down in the morning and with Mrs Mattern's help set it up in the bed-room, we are not exactly experts on cribs. But we were well rewarded for any trouble we took getting it, for the minute little Ann, aged two, spied it from the front door of the place, she dried out with great glee, "there's my bed" and ran right to it. She is the dearest little thing and looks so like her father, I've never seen a child so amused at things, anything that strikes her as funny starts her laughing, and they said that last night when they told her that the shower was her bath, at first she didn't quite know, and then she said "bath," and the thought of a thing like that being a bath kept her laughing for the longest time. The older child is more serious looking and quite grown up for five going on six. They are both very friendly children. maybe you met them all in Concord last year.

It was funny as we were getting into the car at the station a young lady rushed up to say "hello" to Kay. They had met in Vancouver two or three times and this lady having lived in Canton, before Kay did. However, they had lots of friends in common. She is staying in Banff too and has a car so that will make it nice, and Kay's mother will come Friday. There are lots of mothers and children here now, and I think that they all have a good time together, for most of the husbands are in China or Malaya.

Just after we had gotten some food and the crib down to the house we were back here cooking lunch and George Eisenshimel dropped in to ask if he could bring a friend down to see us. The lunch was practically cooked so I asked him to have some and divided it up into 3 portions instead of two. I don't know why people come to see us between 12 and 1 or at 6 but they so often do. Then Pete had some things to figure out and it was soon time to go to the train to meet the Baker-Carrs. and then we got them settled and straightened out. This morning we went down about 10.30 and took them in the car to all the stores. We thought it would be easier to introduce her to the different people, even to the bank and the Doctor's and then we came round here and lent her a couple of things she didn't have. It took until after twelve and now we are wondering how to get out of the callers this afternoon. It is a pleasure to do anything we can for the Baker-Carrs and Kay is so very appreciative, but these other people are so apt to come just to kill time. Its a lady skier from the east and naturally she hasn't much to do on a cold snowy day which this is, where as we do.

By the way, did you ever hear any more about the cable that Mrs Motté Shaw received that was supposed to be from Kay Baker-Carr in England. This Kay said that the place the cables are sent from the Kit Baker-Carrs is called "Green gate" or "Green door" or something door, but would never be on any map, and she has heard from Kay by letter quite recently. Could you telephone Mrs Mott Shaw and ask her, for we are anxious to know.



Seems to me there is a lot more to tell you about But I can't seem to think what it is right now. Oh, the parcel for Cis Ward came the Saturday before Easter and Sam said that he would surprise her and give it to her Easter morning. ~~The~~ I will probably see her tomorrow at the Red Cross and hear about it. (The book of American humor hasn't arrived yet but perhaps you didn't send it after all.) We didn't see them over the Easter weekend. and we don't use the car any more than we have to. We couldn't get the bicycles after all, so if we do want to take a spin of an evening in the spring will have to rent one by the hour, and get our letters written in time to mail in the post box. I guess we don't really need one as badly as most people do, if they hadn't been advertised in the paper in Calgary we might not have thought of it.

Lots of love and I hope you had a Happy Easter, I even forgot ~~you~~ to wish you one ahead of time, but I know it was a Happy one for you with Russell and the children, for seems to me you said that Kitty wouldn't be back until after.

More love,

*Catherine*



Banff, Alberta.

Friday April 10, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

We have received your nice letters from Washington, and I am glad that you are having such a nice visit. It probably seems very quiet to you after all your rushing about in Concord, with so many things to think of and plan, but I am sure it is just the sort of change that will do you the most good, and make you feel the best. I imagine that after the long hours at the office Russell doesn't feel like doing anything but rest, for he must have so many big problems to solve and think over.

It was sunny to think of traffic jams, for we haven't seen traffic for so long that I had sort of forgotten there was such a thing. Even last spring at the coast there wasn't much, for there are comparatively few cars in the cities here. Banff is so quiet and so nice with lots of bicycles but few cars moving about. It looks as if we were in for a quiet summer, but I think a much nicer one without so many automobiles.

We got our bicycles, Jackie was real lucky and talked a man in Calgary out of two he had been saving with some others, to rent this summer in Banff. Jackie paid him cash and they arrived yesterday, much to our delight. They are both boys' bicycles, so I shall have to wear ski pants, but they say you have to anyway with skirts so short now. Maybe I shall have to come to slacks yet! Pete is all for taking the train to Lake Louise and riding back, but I shall wait until my legs are more used to it.

Yesterday morning I took Bubby and Harold over to the Baker-Carrs and left them to play. Pete was busy with the Boys Cadet band from Winnipeg. They are the May Cadets and had been playing in Calgary to raise money for something, and were here for the day. Pete with some others had volunteered to drive them to the Cave and Basin for a swim. One hotel gave them breakfast, the other lunch, and in the afternoon they paraded up and down the street playing and later did the hoop too. It was a beautiful day and all very nice, and they were fine looking young boys 13 to 16 I think in age.

Robin and Gale I presume were having their vacation and I am sure they must have loved being read to, I guess they kept you busy. I thought you said that you were staying until Tuesday but realize now you mean't Thursday, so even if you didn't get more than two letters in Washington direct from here, you should have one waiting for you when you get home.

The examination for Home Nursing was so simple that we all passed, and now a week from Sunday we take our First Aid one, which I think will be difficult, for the trouble is they have only six questions but you have no idea what they will be so have to know it all. How did Russell make out, and does he have a book to study from?

Pete wants me to go over and see how they have planned the new apartment, so this is all for now.

Loads of love,

Catherine -



Banff, Alberta.

Monday, April 13, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

Great excitement as we were having breakfast, Cam came down to show us the letter he had just gotten from the Air Force and he has a chance to be a pilot officer in a non flying capacity, (office work,) if he passes his exray test. so you can imagine how excited and pleased he is. I do hope his chest is O.K. and that nothing happens to prevent his accepting. If he does pass he will have to report pretty soon. I am so glad for him, as it is a real opportunity.

We have been bycycling. Saturday night we went a little way up the West road until my legs ached. and then first thing Sunday morning we again set out. It was a lovely morning and we went up about three and a half miles, the wind was awfully strong so it was rather hard work going up but we practically blew back all the way, so last evening we went even further about four miles and it seemed much easier. In the morning we didn't meet one car but last night we met four out for short drives, and several on bicycles. We saw lots of ducks and beavers, two Canada geese and a swan, a wild one and all white with the longest neck. We enjoyed it more than in the car and of course it is good exercise too which we feel the need of, as we aren't likely to get any skiing this year, what with the apartments and Pete waiting to hear. With the amount of cars there were last year it wouldn't have been very pleasant or safe, but this year it is lovely and quiet.

I am enclosing a rough sketch of the part above the store as it was and as it is being built. my proportions aren't exactly right but it will give you an idea of what was done. The Old Part had two partitions put in, to make a kitchen and dining room and to make a hall, also one to make a bathroom, all the fixtures were moved from the old bathroom down, also Mildreds stove as the chimney was there, and the stairs were taken out in what is now the living room and also the ones in the boys bedroom. The head room was used for a skylight. The kitchen door was put where a window was. In the other part where they used to live they have changed only a few things. They built a partition down the center, which makes four rooms across the back which faces west, and only one door has to be cut. Then the boys bedrooms were very flimsy partitions and when they came out it left a great big sunny space which we decided to make the living-room dining-room. It does mean crossing this to go to the bathroom, but it eliminates any hall, which would have been dark and waste space. Pete is so tickled to find that lots of the old doors and partitions can be used, and even one room that Mildred had doesn't have to be repapered. The two bathrooms had to be put in new, but being back to back saved a lot.

Saturday night George Clarkson came down to see us and brought us scones he made, he is Scotch and Fern his wife is away. Then yesterday Kay Baker-Carr and her Mother Mrs McBurney came around about tea time as I was raking the lawn, and George dropped in to for a book he had forgotten, so we all had tea together, Pete also managed before and after to finish a picture he was painting for Agnes, and I got the spruce trees partly pruned, I never can bring myself to clipping much off. Sam and Cis came down in the evening and she was tickled to peices with the knitting bag.

I must write some sort of business letters now and then go over town, so this is all for now.

Loads of love,

Catharine.



Calgary, Alberta.

Wed. April 15, 1942.

Dearest Mother, I should have written you this morning, but instead went over to help Pete decide on wall paper for the 1st apartment & it took longer than I expected and by the time I had done a few errands & met Pearl, who asked me to come down & practice bandages this afternoon for the 1st Aid Exam, the morning was gone! Also I had intended studying this afternoon thinking we were to get together tonight to practice. but instead several of us did it this afternoon.

You last letter had lots of news - Bob & Ann having a son and Frances to be married in Montana. How nice that I'd could get two weeks and also that Frances can be married at her home, so it will be so much nicer to have her father & mother be at one child's wedding - I wonder if they will shi. I expect so -

I had a busy day yesterday. Invited Kay Baker-Carr over to have her children play with Barbaras and then it got very stormy, so went over after lunch to tell her she better come another day instead, and had been there only a few minutes, so when the sun came out. So they came over & swapped on the swings and were quite funny playing together. & then had tea here. Barbara too, & all the children running in & out much to our distraction. However nothing was damaged.



We are going to Calgary in the morning. I to the  
dentist and Pete to see about wiring & other things.  
We have a long list of things to get & see about.  
and also a special train that is touring Canada with  
army equipment. tanks etc is to be in Calgary to-  
morrow & Pete rather wants to see it.

We must go to bed now as we get up early.  
Loads of love.

Catherine.



Banff, Alberta.

Saturday, April 18, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

To-morrow is the 19th of April and I imagine it is getting lovely and springlike in Concord. We aren't having very nice weather, at least not as nice as last year. It seems to cloud over a lot and look as if it would storm. The river is open in front of the house and the pussy willows are really out and the Aspens are beginning to have big pussy willows too, a few warm days would make them real greenish. The grass is even getting a tinge of green to it and our poppies and larkspur are starting to come up. I must rake the lawn this afternoon, I have been too busy the last few days to get at it and to-morrow is the 1st Aid exam so I will have to do some studying for that. I will be glad when it is over.

We had a very successful trip to Calgary, left here at 8 o'clock and though we can only drive 40 now we made good time, as a matter of fact one couldn't drive much faster with the frost coming out of the ground and making pot holes in the most unexpected spots. Pete was able to get much of the wire he needed for the apartment which he was most anxious about and I had my teeth cleaned by a very good dentist and he didn't find any holes which was a great relief after a year of not going. We also ordered some linoleum for the kitchens in the apartment and by getting a roll which is cheaper, we can get enough to put some in our bathroom upstairs and the toilet down in this house. It is a lovely shade of mottled blue, similar to what we have in the kitchen but a lighter shade. We did several other errands and you can tell Jean I sent off a few more packages to our friends in Scotland, and we were back home before five, spent the evening deciding where to put the electric fixtures in the apartment.

Yesterday went very quickly with out my doing all I intended to. We spent a good part of the morning trying to figure another small bedroom in the south apartment, as the new way of planning it gave us room to put a tiny single bedroom or dinette in next the kitchen, and the people who want the apartment wanted another bedroom if possible. It just means putting in a new window. Then after lunch I went down to see how the Baker-Carrs were getting on and stayed longer than I really intended to, and then just before supper Mrs Mack came on her way to the Mount Royal to dinner and told us about Mary's wedding in Montreal, and also asked to bring two Winnipeg friends down to see the Pictures, We thought after supper would be best and they came about 8 o'clock, they brought a young Norwegian lad with them who was alone in the hotel, and we discovered that he had stayed in his father's hotel in Trondheim. Before they left and after they had looked at all the sketches, Mrs Walker and Ted Marriot (the R.A.F. friend) dropped in. He is on Sick leave, had flu and they gave him that wonderful new Sulphur something or other, and it seems that after taking it you can't fly for so many days afterwards as the altitude effects one. So he is up here for a few days. It was a very interesting evening for the Norwegian lad could tell us quite a bit about Norway and the patts not touched by bombing etc. He spent 6 months getting to Canada in the most round about way and was in Iraq when War broke out there. He had had quite a trip.

I must go over now and get the meat and will write you after the 1st Aid Exam.

Loads of love

*Therese*



Banff, Alberta.

Monday, April 20, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

Again you are going to get a short letter that won't answer yours, for it is a lovely day and I am "in the throes" of Spring cleaning! It really isn't as bad as it sounds, for after my past experiences of getting a room all upset and then have some ~~spex~~ special person appear to see the pictures or the house or something. I now never attempt more than one wall at a time, or perhaps a ceiling. It is our first spring day, (except yesterday) and it made me feel real ambitious. However I didn't get such a good start, as first Ted Marriot dropped in to see if Pete would go up Tunnel Mt or something, and they think they will go to-morrow instead, as Pete has a lot to do to-day. Then Pete started cleaning the workshop and I had the vacuum so helped on the dusty parts and that reminded him that the filter screens in the furnace needed cleaning, so I did those also with the vacuum, so it was about 11 O'clock by the time I got started on my part. I thought I would do the big end of the front room before the partition comes down, and also we hope to have the Walkers and Ted and Kay and her mother down to-morrow night to see the slides and meet each other. It has been rather hard having people meet them for with the children tea is not so easy. However we can take part of the partition down and so show the slides.

Yesterday was the First Aid exam, and I studied it the night before and all yesterday morning, until I was dizzy, the questions I didn't expect would be hard but it covers such a tremendous lot, and you have to know it all equally well. I went over with Fern and George at two, George was paired off with another man and so Fern and I did each other up. I think we passed, but will tell you when our names are in the paper as having passed. To give you an idea of what we had to do. We had to give each other Artificial respiration, I had to put a tourniquet on Fern's arm and she had to stop bleeding from my hand. Then I had to put her forearm in splints, as a fracture of the forearm, and a bandage of the foot. Then we had hand seats, ways of carrying a person who is injured, and the oral questions I got were about circulation, which way does blood flow in the arteries, and to give an example of a Compound fracture when the bone doesn't protrude through the skin. That had me fooled, but what he meant was when there is a wound exposing the bone. Then we had tea at Fern's and rehashed the exam, Pearl, Mrs

Weldon and Fern and George. When I got back it was so lovely I fraked the lawn for an hour, and then we dressed and went to the hotel to have a drink before supper with Mrs Morrison and Mrs Baker of Winnipeg. They had come over in the afternoon and asked us when I was out. They were the same ones who were here the other night. We were late having supper and were in the midst of it when Kay and her Mother dropped in, having gotten some little girl to sit with the children. They went early though, about ten, so it was quite a day.

Now I shall try and finish the room so it will be clean for to-morrow night, and then mail this and perhaps will have time to bake some nut bread before supper. and this evening while Pete is at drill I shall rake the lawn some more. I like to fake in the spring.

Loads of love,

Catherine



Banff, Alberta.

Wednesday, April 21, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

I am not doing very well in answering your letters for now it is Wednesday and I must soon go over shopping, as the stores close this afternoon. and because we were up late last night we are a bit late this morning.

It is a horrid rainy or rather snowy day, I expect because the Gov. General, the Earl of Athlone, and his wife are here for the day. They came on the train last night having a special car in which they stay. But it is too bad when the last few days have been so springlike to get this kind of weather, for their day here. but at this time of year the weather is anything but reliable.

The evening went off very well last night. Mrs McBirnie and Kay came with a friend, Mrs Worcester, ( whose husband is overseas and who is here with her children for the summer ) and the Walkers and Ted Marriot, just a nice number to sit around. When we spoke of showing pictures we hadn't thought of the evenings being so light, as the extra hour makes quite a difference. luckily it was a dull evening and so we could show them about 8.30. They came at 8 and we talked for a while. Then showed the slides for an hour and after that lit the fire and had beer, nut bread, cheese crackers, cake and cookies, and tea for Mrs Walker. It was about eleven when they left. It was the first time that we had used the big end of the room by taking the partition down, and it works perfectly. You know the one we had when you were here was rather solid and up for the winter. But this one is made in sections, the three center sections with a square of glass to let the light through. Pete just lifted out two sections and stood them at the side, and we opened the door against the stairs, and there was the big room all one. This morning being damp and cold, he just lifted them back in again in about two minutes. It really is the best arrangement we ever had. Also the stoker has been wonderful in this kind of weather of first hot then cold, for it goes on very little, but just enough to keep the house even.

I am so glad that you had such a nice visit in Washington, It sounded as if it were just the kind that you like most, and such a good chance to see the family. What is the needle point thing that you are making ?

The little apartment or half house we got for Kay Baker-Carr is right back of the school but facing a sort of triangle of field, it is supposed to be lawn, but there is lots of sun and only the houses on either side. It is really quite near the stores and the King Edward where Mrs McBirnie is staying. There is a family who live near the back, the Mother goes out cleaning, and so comes once a week to Kay, and the little boy takes out her ashes and chops her wood and the little girl sits with the children when Kay wants to go out in the evening. So it works quite well. I think.

We had rather an amusing time over the big apartment, Dr and Mrs MacKenzie want it, but they have two children and a mother in law ( her Mother ) So when we planned two bedrooms she said she would like to have three, so her mother could have a room to herself. and then we thought that we might let them use one of the single office rooms in the front which is at present unoccupied. and also we thought it might be nice for Dr MacKenzie to have his home more to himself. Of course we didn't



say that. The new plan allowed two bedrooms across the West side and a really large space for the living dining room. Then Pete and I had a brain wave, and Sam thought it a good idea too. To put in a tiny single bedroom with a window cut, right next the kitchen. It could be either a dinette, or a bedroom and we thought that would help solve the room for the mother. So The men put it in and we all thought it was pretty nice. and Dr M. did too, but Mrs MacKenzie came up before the window was cut and was so disappointed that we had to take it out. She said that she had no single bed, and it was too dark, and worst of all she had set her heart on the big room. The Dr. evidently has little to say about the house. All the material could be used over again and the time and labor were the only things lost. However we thought it best to take it out. We shan't try any of our ideas again! But as Sam says we know how a room will work if the next tenants ever want one. They are getting on very well and laying the floor to-day.

It hailed hard at noon and now is snowing a little, not very nice weather, and cold out.

I am doing slides this afternoon, it takes about one afternoon to do a roll of twenty slides.

Loads of love,

Catherine



Banff, Alberta.

Friday, April 24, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

I didn't realize that it was so late in April and I mean't to have a letter waiting for Frances when she arrived in Bozeman, and now I am afraid there i sn't much time to get it there. I am glad that she got a dress that she liked and it sounded very becoming color. <sup>It</sup> s too bad that they couldn't get more than the week, but perhaps they will get another week later on. Every one is so busy now, not much time for leaves.

A nice letter from you written Sunday the 19th of April came this morning, and the one you forgot to finish. We are having cold rainy weather too. The day the Athlones were here was the worst of all. It hailed hard at noon, and the poor little birds were trying hard to get protection under the branches of the spruce trres. Then late in the afternoon it snowed hard and piled up quite fast. We took the car out for the first time in a weeek to take the laundry, mail a letter at the station and to see the train leave with the Governor General. However we were fooled, for the train was late coming in and instead of putting his car on the main train they ran it 20 minutes ahead on another tiny train, an engine and three cars, which pulled out from the siding east, so we didn't see anything after all. It was showing hard all the time, and we had three or four inches, but it was very pretty the next morning when the sun came out bright and sparkling. The snow melted quite quickly and there are only a few patches left now, but it is very dull and looks as if we might get more. The ground needs the moisture so we will just have to hope it will rain. The little junks and chick-a-dees are so busy in whole flocks, like tiny chickens the way they scratch for food under the trees. We wondered if they knew it was going to storm the other day. If they did they seem to be getting ready for another one this morning.

We have been busy as usual with all the things to see to. Pete isn't actually doing any carpentering at the store, as he did in the middle of winter, but there seem to be always to be so many people to see about one thing or another. Especially about some of the wiring that is so hard to get now. The hardest thing is the conduit necessary for the electric stoves, but he hopes to get some second hand, for there is none to be had in Calgary and he would have to write to the priorities board in Washington to get it. Doesn't that seem funny? The big apartment is getting on very well, the new floors are laid and the painter and paperer ~~are~~ is at work, the electrician has most of the wiring done and there is only the kitchen to do. Then they will move over to the other apartment and do that.

We went to the movie the other night to see "John Pulham Esq." I really enjoyed it more than I expected too. I wonder did you see it? I was interested to see how they did a Boston Subject, for some movies are so exaggerated, but I really think this was very good, though I didn't care for Pulham himself as much as some of the others, I thought the father very good. I don't think it would be as good if you hadn't read the book, and they left out a lot, but naturally couldn't include everything.

We had such a lovely long letter from Aunt Julie, so if you see her do tell her we enjoyed getting it.



The garden must be lovely, Mrs McBirnie was remarking yesterday how lovely the spring is in Vancouver and Victoria, and the things last such a long time as there is little wind to blow the blossoms off and it is not too hot to bring things out too quickly. The flowering things were all out before she left a week or two ago. Our Aspens are also getting a feathery look as they have sort of cat tails that hang down and are fussy like pussywillow, are awfully pretty with the setting sun shinning through them, but I expect it will be some time before the green shows.

I think your wire to Sam even better than his to Jean. We thought of you too when we realized what day it was.

How lucky that Ann and Bert found bicycles, for they are hard to get. The wholesale man was in the store yesterday and talking to Jackie, said that they were still making them in Canada when they could get the material, the fenders and one other part are evidently the things holding them up, but perhaps they will invent some new kind of fender. He also said that people using them to go to defense jobs or work of any kind have the first call on them, which is as it should be. In our case we really could get along without either a car or bicycles, but with the bicycles we save the wear and tear on the car. Pete uses his all the time now to go over town, and if Jackie can get me a ladies bicycle I shall use mine more/. He thinks he might be able to.

No. We don't hear "the Ontario Show" on the radio, but will look for it to-night. Did you hear Henry Aldrich last night? I think his program is one of the best, they do get into such mix-ups.

The New Yorker and Sat. Review come in good shape in the large envelopes and we will find lots of use for the envelopes as well as enjoying the magazines.

Must stop now, loads of love,

Catherine



Banff, Alberta.  
Monday April 27, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

To-day is the day of the plebisite, and we must go over and vote "Yes" to relieve the Government of its pre-war pledges. Out here I think that practically every one will vote "yes" but in Quebec I believe it is different, for there are so many French Canadians who are afraid of conscription for overseas, and it has been sort of a ticklish thing to handle because of the great populations in the east compared to the west. So far in Canada, all who go on Active Service go voluntarily, and I think it is quite wonderful to think of the thousands who have joined the Army and Navy and Airforce and gone overseas. The only ones who are drafted are the single men of the lower age groups and then it is just for four months compulsory training and the right of the government to keep them in service purely for the defence of Canada. About 30% of them have joined the Active service after their training. Some go into the Reserve Army, I believe they are all supposed to, but the reserve army is made up also of volunteers, as the boys here have joined. Now there is a new force being formed on the coast, calling themselves Rangers, they train with the help of the Army, but have no uniform, only an arm band to show that they belong, they also use their own rifles if they have them, and are for the defence of the Pacific coast. If they have to fight they become part of the army I think. They are much like the Minute men of the Revolution. but will be very useful in case of raids on the coast, as they will be so familiar with the country.

Yesterday was a lovely day but cold, Saturday there was snow in the air most all day and it was cold and overcast. I went over to Kay Baker-Carrs in the afternoon thinking it might be a horrid sort of day for her, I stayed until tea time and then her mother having come in the mean time, she walked home with me for the walk. I must go over soon and get them to go and vote as they have to have someone go with them to identify them or something.

Sunday morning we went for a bicycle ride up the West road, it wasn't very windy and so sunny, though only about 40 above. We were going up 7 miles but a bearing broke in Bete's wheel about 6 miles out, so we decided after fixing that that we had better start home in case another one broke. I was just as glad for 12 miles was really enough, it is two weeks since we went out that way, and yet the grass is hardly any greener than it was then. This cold weather doesn't help things grow much,

Cam leaves for Toronto to-morrow and I imagine there will be quite a bit of excitement in the family.

We had rather a quiet Sunday, after so much exercise in the morning, we had two callers in the afternoon, Verne Costello to see how the stairs are built as he has to build some similar for the Foreman's house, and then later Ted Paris and K. Jennings, Ted is on leave from the Air Force, has a week. and he told us a bit about how hard he had to study etc.

It makes one mad to think of the Nazi's bombing Bath in England, and Exeter too. just senseless destruction.

The work at the store is progressing well, and I should think that by the end of the week the big apartment on the south side will be finished, and they will start on the other one beside it.

I must go over now, so Loads of love

Catherine



Banff, Alberta.

Wed. April 29, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

My goodness, do you realize it will be May when you get this, the time does fly by so quickly. It is Wednesday and I must go over before long and get the Groceries. but I did want to get a letter off to you first.

Yesterday we made another trip to Calgary, and it was rather successful. We took Pearl and Edmee down with us, so they would not have to use their gas. and left about 8 o'clock, had four hours there and were back in time to go to the station and see Cam off on the train. We didn't stay to see the train leave, Lila was going as far as Calgary with him, coming back to-day.

I did quite a bit of shopping, it is very tempting to get things you see, for when you go into a city only a few times a year there is so much that is new and attractive. I even got a hat, that will do for another three years. I had the old one on and the girl noticed that it was one of their hats, and remarked how well it still looked, so I said " Maybe I don't need a new one after all if it still looks so well" and I think she thought I might not take the new one after all. I must say the new one isn't so very different, but the old one is rather bulgy. Then I got a pair of shoes with crepe rubber soles, which there will be no more of for some time, and which were left over from last summer. I looked at a raincoat made of Plastic, very nice and thin, like oiled silk. Maybe it is like a thin slicker material, but I was interested to see what a plastic raincoat would be like. It looked like a good thing. I imagine there will be all sorts of new materials now.

Pete did errands in connection with the store and then we all met at 2.30 to come home. It was cold and miserable when we went down but beautiful effects on the way back for it was clearing and great hail storms sweeping across the prairies and foothills. The first flowers are out, the pale lavender crocuses.

Last evening Mrs McBirnie came to return a book and stayed to chat a while, she is very nice and has travelled a great deal all over the world. I think has just a summer place to which they are going. She wants to bring a friend who paints, from Victoria, down to tea to-day and so I shall have to see whether they are coming or not. Fern was just in and wanted us to come up to her house this afternoon, so I shall have to find out what we will do.

A nice letter from you, enclosing the three others, from Mildred, Olive, and Cousin Alma! ( I see I am hitting all the wrong keys. That is because I am trying to hurry. How is Skies getting on, do tell us more about his visit? And did you ever find out from Mrs Motte Shaw about K. Howe Baker-Carr in England and the misterious cable?

The book came too, of American Humor, I thought it would have more drawings in it, but see it is mostly extracts of things. However I imagine if one feels in the mood for certain kinds it will be very good especially Robert Benchley and Cornelia Otis Skinner etc. It will be very good to lend a sick person, I should think.

I think I had better go over and try to catch the Baker-Carrs while they are shopping.

Loads of love,

Catherine -



Banff, Alberta.

Friday, ~~April~~ May 1, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

May day and still our grass isn't green yet, just in a few patches it is green and fresh looking. We have had rather cold weather and it can't seem to stay nice more than one day at a time. It was cloudy this morning, then cleared and now is overcast again and looks like rain, which would help a lot.

Yesterday was Red Cross in the afternoon, I spent the morning experimenting with different ways to clean, discovered steel wool was wonderful for the pipes in the bath room, our water is so cold in the summer that the fixtures sort of sweat, and the pipes get real mucky, but I really had great fun getting them to look like new. I don't suppose we will be getting much more steel wool now that I have discovered new uses for it. (This morning I started my real spring cleaning, not that it is so very serious, and am working on the bathroom. I was going up to Mrs Mack's to tea and take Kay and her mother and the children, but after it was all arranged at the Red Cross, we walked over to see if Kay could go, and Ann had a tummy upset or something so it seemed better to put it off until next week. We went over to the store to see how things were getting on and I telephoned Mrs Mack and of course couldn't get her, so later as Pete had to have the car out, we ran up there and made her a short call. It was a beautiful evening. The apartment should be finished in a few days now. It is always the finishing that takes the time, but two bedrooms will be papered to-day and maybe a start on the kitchen being painted, and the floors are to be sanded too.

Two awfully nice letters from you, telling all about Skees' visit, and Frances's leaving etc. I don't wonder that you and Jean have been busy with so much going on and to plan for etc. We got the wedding announcement and invitation to the reception, which I should think was an awfully good idea, and will be fun too, with the garden so lovely I do hope you have a nice day. Seems to me that would be a good idea for anyone, to have the reception after the wedding trip. I always remember how disappointing it was not having a chance to really say much to the friends who came to our wedding, and one has to leave to dress etc in the midst of everything, and all the excitement too.

We were interested to hear about Gid, I imagine it is a real opportunity for him, and that was where he went to <sup>medical</sup> school and where Isabel was too I think when they met. With Gasoline rationing and all, nine acre corner wouldn't be very convenient for a doctor, though of course they get more gas than others. I shall have to tell Kay if she hasn't already heard.

I shall have to show the clipping about Mr James to the Moores for I am sure they will be very much interested. Did you ever hear of a person who got himself into more trouble?

Well I guess I better get back to the cleaning, you would think that I was working hard to hear me talk about it, but most of the time I am figuring out what to do to make it clean easier, and then every little while Pete comes in and we have to talk over something to do with the apartments or he brings in the mail or 'Life' or something.

Loads of love,

Catherine .



Banff, Alberta.

Monday, May 4, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

If I hadn't been so darn lazy yesterday I would have written you and Jean, but I didn't. It rained and snowed most all day Saturday and Sunday, and was cold and miserable, but to-day is beautiful, the snow way down on Sulphur Mountain. It didn't stay on the ~~good~~ ground here at all, but must have stuck to the trees on the mountains for they are all silvery looking. Maybe we will have a little good weather for a change. It is quite interesting how the boys in the R.A.F. (who are all from the old country) miss the green grass. For in the British isles it is so green most of the year and here it is brown a good part of the time. At one of the Air Force Training schools on the prairie I noticed in the newspaper that the farmers and towns people near there are all contributing slips, cuttings and seeds so that the different men in the R.A.F. can have gardens and so feel more at home. The students aren't here so very many months, but the instructors are out for over a year I believe.

Saturday it rained quite hard all day, I decided to cook a ham and was coming home with it just in time to cook it, when I rounded the corner of the little road and saw three Air force men looking in the Garage, very bedraggled looking. It was Ted and Tony and a friend and having knocked to no avail they were looking to see if our car was out too. They came in and spent the rest of the afternoon, for after a while Pete came home and we had a nice chat together. The friend is a Doctor in the R.A.F. and had come over on the same boat from England last fall with the others, they hadn't seen each other since, but the friend had a weeks leave and was stopping off in Banff, walked into the beer parlor at the King Edward hotel and ran into the others. He was an awfully nice chap and it is always interesting talking to them all. I even managed to put the ham on to simmer, but we didn't ask them to supper as they had two other friends who hadn't come around thinking it would make too many, I think they like the feeling of having a home they can come to and they enjoy looking at the books and we lend them some to take back each time. Ted is very well educated and so is Tony, and great students.

Yesterday we never went out and the only person who came to the house was Jackie to borrow Pete's bike to run down to the Moores. I hear you are to have Gasoline rationing too, I wonder how much you will get? You have enough cars so that you should have plenty, but it won't be as easy for you to go to Boston next winter, unless of course you combine Symphony with shopping and spend the night every so often and do everything. We get more than enough to run around town doing errands and seeing people, but by using the bike for those short trips we hope to save enough for a few trips to Lake Louise or Bow Lakes in the summer, our distances are so far compared to yours.

The questions to do with the apartments still take a good deal of time, there is always so much to see too and little things to think of and plan but they really are coming on very well and we hope to have the big one finished this week.

Pete just brought a lovely letter from you and one from Mildred enclosed. The garden must be so lovely. Mildred sent us "London Pride" for Christmas and I read it, as it was so short. This season of the year when it doesn't get dark until after nine I don't get any reading done at all. It's too bad that Sandra is so sick and I hope that you can get someone to cook for the month she is away, for the house is pretty big for just Jean and Nanny to look after.



Frances and Gil will be back by the time you get this, and the tea is this Sunday I believe. I do hope you have good weather, for it will be lovely if you do with the garden at its best. Do write us all about their trip and their wedding etc. It must have been fun for the family in Montana. Doesn't it seem ridiculous to have so much writing back and forth for leave, seems to me it is a waste of time as well as paper to go through all that. Other things would seem more important. especially now.

I must do one or two things before the morning is all gone, so this will be all for now.

Loads of love,

*Catharine.*



Banff, Alberta.

Wednesday, May 6, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

Seems to me I usually write you on Wednesdays, for I often have ~~had~~ to stop to go over to the market. However it is half past nine now, and I am waiting for ten and the "news direct from London" when I shall do the dishes.

It is a lovely morning but quite a frost on the ground when we got up, as there has been for several mornings lately. It was nice yesterday too, but by afternoon was rainy and showery. It can't seem to get warm at all. The other day I noticed a cillar up in a garden, I don't know if that is the way to spell it, its that little bright oldfashioned blue glower. It is the first one I ever saw here.

Monday was not too nice, I went over to see Kay, as Ann had been under-the-weather for a couple of days, Day was out, but her mother was there, and Ann was herself again. Mrs McBirnie leaves to-morrow to get the summer place ready. Then I paid a few bills. We have had a law in Canada since fall, that unless you pay your bill by the tenth of the month you can't charge anything more until it is paid. Rather a good idea, I believe it doesn't apply to groceries and meat, as some people can't pay until certain seasons, like farmers and such. Your letter came about the President's speech, we didn't hear him, I've forgotten where we were. Did you know that his plan is based on the one in effect in Canada? Last fall everything was frozen so to speak here, at the price in effect in September or October, though it didn't start until November I think it was. some things I think had to go back to even a lower price. However it has worked in keeping the cost of living down in Canada. I believe it only went up a very very little in Jan. but this last period, it hasn't gone up a bit, which I think is quite wonderful. I shouldn't maybe use the word frozen, the prices are fixed but the things themselves aren't frozen. Last spring I thought of getting a rug for the bedroom, and had the price written in my pocket book, and when we were in Calgary I was rather surprised to see that the price of the same stuff I had looked at before, was exactly the same as before. The imported things from the states, which have gone up in price there but aren't supposed to be sold for more here, have to be subsidised by the Gov't. For instance fruit juice etc. The Gov't pays the difference so as to keep the cost of living down and figures it is worth it. For instance some magazines which have gone up in price in the U.S. are still sold at the old price here.

I have gotten off the subject of what we have been doing. I was going to do a lot /Monday but got waylaid and ended up having tea at Fern's. In the evening Pete had drill and I went up to Mrs Greenhams at the mountain School to a meeting of all the helping with the children. The Moores weren't there but, the Walkers and Dr and Mrs Atkin and Mrs Lonsdale were. We had a very pleasant evening and joked a good deal as well as listening to Mrs Greenhams report of things. It was eleven I think when I came home. But luckily Pete had been later than usual too. When you are used to going to bed early it seems a long wait for the other to come home.

Last night we went up to the Wards and had a nice evening with them, I thanked Cis for the seeds she sent you, and she said that they were some her sister had sent from England, so if you can remember, do let us know how they do in Concord. She planted half of them here, and I think said that she sent you the original package.



That was such a nice letter from Russell and it is always fun to hear what he is doing and all about the family. We had a nice letter from Frannie Hill too, saying that he had heard from Russell and just to tell us that after the war they were coming out skiing again. etc,

The New Yorker and Sat. Review comes regularly. Wouldn't it be just as easy to send the New Yorker as it is, instead of cutting out so many pages. I imagine that you do it to save postage, or is it to save paper? We find that it falls apart as we read it when the pages are torn and as it goes to several people after we finish with it, if you don't mind it might be better to leave it whole. Also we rather enjoy the Ads as well as the rest of it. After all the postage goes to the Gov't and so eventually to the War Effort and the paper is as valuable here as it is in the states. Also it might save you a lot of time. I always enjoy the articles you mark, and was interested in the ones about Nelson, there was a long one about him in Life too. Aren't Helen Hokinson's funny?

Guess I had better go, the news is over and the dishes done and it is now nearly eleven.

Loads of love,

Catharine



Banff, Alberta.

Friday, May 8, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

A nice letter from you to-day and one yesterday with the letters from Cousin Bert and Alma and Frances, all about the wedding. It really sounded perfect in every way except as they all said that you in Concord weren't there. I do think a small family wedding like that is the nicest kind, though it was too bad that Gil's family wasn't there to enjoy it too. Well Pete was in much the same boat as far as family went when we were married. But more swamped by my relations than Gil was. I was glad to hear what a good looking suit Gil thought Frances had to wear going away. I don't suppose the fact that Frances was inside had much to do with the looks of it, do you ?! We will be anxious to hear how the trip to Alta was, it sounds a wonderful ski place. And now the tea is to be Sunday and I hope it is a lovely day so you can be outdoors while the garden is so lovely.

We have had rather a hectic two days, at least yesterday seemed so to me, and so much to think of. In the first place the Mackenzies who had decided to take the big apartment and who we were rushing to finish it for, suddenly said that the rent was too high and that they had found a house for much less. We think that Mrs M's mother was behind it all. She lives with them ( I think there should be a law against mothers living with sons or daughters ) and between Mrs M and her mother, we have decided the Dr. hasn't a chance. We are pretty sure that the Dr liked everything about the apartment, but the mother-in-law didn't like the stairs, the high ceilings, the small sink and no yard. We realized that they preferred a house, but couldn't find one, and Mrs M. said that she would rather not move again until they had one of their own. We spoke of rents and they told us they couldn't pay more than 55 a month, and Pete figured out that even if 60 was what people told us it was worth that because he liked the Dr. etc. he would try to make it 50 and even let them use an extra room in the building for the mother. Suddenly he came around and told us they couldn't possibly pay more than 40 and that Mrs M. understood it was 35 which was ridiculous. I was here when she told Pete about the 55 and so was he, and yet they have evidently forgotten all about it. People are awfully funny about things. Pete was awfully good about it I thought, for I would have been provoked. The Dr. came to the door and I was in the kitchen so heard it all. I think that when they found they could get a house which they really had wanted all the time, and much cheaper, it was too much for them. If they had only come out frankly and said they had found a house, but to put it onto the fact that the rent was higher than they thought it was, made us a bit disappointed in them. What makes me sore is the amount we did just for them, like taking out the partition of that little room, which cost 35 or 40 dollars to put up and take down and now we haven't got it. They even chose the wallpaper and lots of things like that. I guess one has to expect such things. Actually if they are that kind of tenant we are lucky that they never got in, for the mother and Mrs M would have been an awful nuisance. Now we have new ideas of furnishing the rooms and letting them in the summer when one can get good rents. Anyway it takes lots of figuring.

Well I was starting to tell you about yesterday. In the midst of all this the Singer Sewing Machine man came up and I bought a portable sewing machine which I have been considering for a long time.



Marion Stockand has been taking Sewing in school and so have the other girls, and I thought that with a portable machine, they could borrow it when they want to make dresses etc. In that way I feel better about it, though I can use it a lot myself. Seemed as if I spent a good part of the day seeing the man and seeing if Lila wanted to turn in her old machine. Then there was the Red Cross and when I at last got there I found that Mrs Mc Birnie had come in to say good-bye to me and had headed for our house, so I came back here but she hadn't come, so returned to the Red Cross. Later I saw her just as she was leaving the Hotel. I had barely gotten home than the Simmons man had arrived at the store and could tell us what we could get in the way of beds and lounges. I looked at a lot as Pete had been cleaning the furnace and was too dirty, however I couldn't decide and so we went over in the evening and looked to-gether. So you see it kept us going.

I have had the help of Harold and Davy in writing this so please excuse its being disjointed. I must go over now. so lots of love and will hope to do better next time.

More love,

*Calistine*



Banff, Alberta.

Monday, May 10, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

I was going to write you yesterday, but no sooner had I started than Pete began asking questions about what was a hundredweight etc. and by the time I had looked up that and various other things and discussed a few general problems about the war, there was little time for writing! At least I couldn't concentrate any more.

It rained all day, a steady downpour, which was just the kind we needed for the ground and trees, as there wasn't much moisture all winter, you could almost watch the river rise, for it had been very low before, but it was a miserable day for the boys up from Calgary for the week end. We rather expected Gray Cambell and his wife who has just arrived from England to drop in on us, as we knew that they were coming up, as Gray has a week's leave. Pete finally telephoned to Mrs Walker and found they weren't coming until supper time so we didn't think we would see them until to-day, but they surprised us and made a short call before supper. Eleanor is awfully pretty, that fresh coloring that Adele Adams used to have, (maybe she still has it) In fact she looks a bit like the Adams girls. and Gray is so tickled to have her here. Other wise our day was uneventful and seemed to go too quickly, one would expect to get a lot done on such a day, but one seldom does. It rained so hard that there were puddles in the lawn, and the drive way was one large puddle. I hope that you had better weather in Concord for the tea.

Now I shall answer some of your letters and ask a lot of Questions no doubt. What part of the Army is Harding Newman in? and did any boys we know go with the Concord boys to Australia? I still can't help thinking what a trip that must have been for some of them who may never have been further west than Albany! I have been reading the letters in the Concord Journal. Oh yes. Could you please send us any clippings you see about Edward James? Col. Moore is awfully interested as they know Mrs Vaux so well.

I shall ~~return~~ <sup>send</sup> Cousin Bert's letter about the wedding ~~so that you can send them to Russell.~~ <sup>as you asked me to.</sup>

You spoke of Mr Webster using color film that prints can be made from. You can have prints made from the slides that Pete takes too. It is fairly recent but still quite expensive if you get many, and up here they only make two sizes I believe. but if there were any slides you wanted prints in color of, you can get them. I never saw anything like the the viewer that Mrs Howard has, with the little light in it, sounds very good.

Yes we do hear Charlie McCarthy every Sunday and also Fred Allen who is usually very good. I don't like Jack Benny though, the laughing is so artificial sounding.

It is nice of you to think of sending me a summer dress for my birthday but I really don't need one, as I have the one you sent last year and all the others too. I'll try to think of something I need.

It looks as if it were going to rain to-day too!

Yes, we do enjoy Stephen Leacock's things, some are awfully funny.

You must have enjoyed Skees visit, for he sounded like ~~like~~ very good company. Was it their Easter vacation or something?

Tell Mrs Shaw that the oldest Baker - Carr girl, Tricia, is still pretty sober, very serious and yet she can smile and laugh too.



but little Ann is just as Jolly as Tricia is sober. She was sick last weekend but has recovered and is herself again. It is very nice that Kay has a friend from the coast who is staying in Banff, has three children, one a little girl who goes to the Mountain School with Tricia in the mornings, and I think that Alison Worcester, the mother, drops in every day and as she has a car they can get about. It is a little difficult doing very much with Ann rather a slow walker and we try not to take the car out any more than we can help. I had thought if it was warm and sunny, which it really hasn't been very much since they came, I would get them over here and some friend with little girls to come down, and then have tea outside, but in the house it is too difficult and especially in this house where we have so much stuff that they can get into and a hold of, especially in the workshop. However I think that Kay has had a rather busy time and she has several friends who also are from the orient and here in the same way she is. They have a lot in common and also nothing else to do but live here. Whereas I never get time to do the things I should.

Are lots of people planting Victory Gardens with you? I know there is lots in the magazines and over the U.S. stations on the radio about them. The other night on the Canadian program "As a matter of Fact" which is gotten out by the government, it told the people in Canada not to plant vegetable gardens unless they were used to doing it, but to leave it to the farmers who would not only know how to raise the vegetables but would most likely get better results. They said that there was rather a shortage of vegetable seeds here, and so not to go by the programs encouraging gardens in the states,

I mustn't write more today.

Loads of love

Catharine .



Banff, Alberta.

Tuesday, May 12, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

Your letter about Mr Keyes came after I had mailed my last letter to you, It is hard to realize that it could happen so suddenly, and what an awful shock it must have been for everyone. and yet as you say it is far better to go that way than to have long months of suffering or sickness. I am glad that Mrs Keyes has such a fine family to interest her and to be with, though she doesn't seem like a grandmother to me, she seems too young for that. We will miss Mr Keyes very very much when we go to Concord, for he was ~~always~~ such a good friend and really interested in painting. I often think of the good times we have had, the picnics at Seal Harbor, the tennis they used to play and the trip to New York to ~~to~~ pick out paintings for the Art Exhibition in Concord, and ~~always~~ Mr Keyes was such fun. It is hard to lose so good a friend, though of course you don't really lose anyone when you have such pleasant memories of them.

We were interested to hear of Frances and Gils trip, what a time they had with planes and weather, but I am glad it all went well, certainly by the enthusiastic letters that we got from both Cousin Bert and Alma they showed how much it meant to them to have Frances come home to be married. Though it did seem a long way to go, I am sure they are glad that they did it. Had Gil ever been west before? Yes I did read about Sophie's engagement, and how nice that she is to marry a doctor.

How is your new leaf, that you turned over, going? Seems to me you haven't had much chance yet for the 1 hour in the garden and one of War work etc. Speaking of sugar rations, Gray's wife said that they get half a pound per person ~~per~~ week in England, and that last year their sugar beet crop was extra good which helped them out. I didn't realize that they got so much, We get three quarters of a pound, but are on the honor system, Rationing costs do much to handle I guess. Did you ever get your curtains for the dining room? I don't suppose at such a large tea many would notice if they are new or not!

I expect to be kept busy this week, for I said "yes" when they asked if I would help canvass for the Red Cross, as long as I could go with someone else. Fern and I go together and I am sure we got quite a large district for that reason, The first block took us all this afternoon, there were so many people living in double houses and cabins, or so it seemed, and most of them we have to go back to. So you won't get many letters this week.

In fact it is evening now and I am no good writing after supper, so I will call this a letter and read the news. We are still having cold rainy weather, it did clear a little off and on to-day but rained hard this morning.

Loads of love,

Catharine.

*7.5. Am returning Cousin Bert's letter about the wedding for you to enclose in a letter to Russ. I shan't have time to write him this week.*



Banff, Alberta.

Friday, May 15, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

The fifteenth and Jean's birthday, tell her that we are thinking of her. I believe that Ebbs birthday is around this time too though I can never remember just the date.

I am leading a very busy life largely because of the Red Cross Drive. Not that it is so much to do but when as a rule I have n't enough time to do the things I plan to do and should do, it makes it even harder having the afternoons used up collecting. and then yesterday when we had planned to go and do another block instead of the Red Cross sewing, it was so wet and snowy that we thought it would be too difficult dripping on everyones floors and when you put your head down the water would drip onto the cards.

Monday was the meeting to be told where to go and what to say etc. Then Tuesday afternoon Fern and I started out doing the first block each side of the street, but most places we have to go back to, after pay day or later in the month, Wednesday we were more fortunate and most people gave their donations then and there, We spent longer than we should have, seeing new houses and admiring babies etc, but it was fun and we had a busy afternoon. Then yesterday we awoke to find two inches of snow on the ground and it snowed off and on all day, very wet, and melted at times, last night the snow on the ground was gone but this morning there was another two inches, however it is clearing now and there are dozens of robins all over the lawn listening for worms. I did try to go collecting in the A.M. but it was too wet and so we both went to the Red Cross rooms in the P.M. now this afternoon we will be out again. I went around to see Ray after the Red Cross, just to see how they were, we haven't had time to really do anything for them lately but I think he is busy.

Your letter from Russell just came and one from Jean the morning of the tea, I expect I will hear all about it from you later. I was glad to hear it was clearing. when Jean wrote.

I was interested to hear that Russ had a bicycle, was it an old one? We suggested it after getting ours for it occurred to us that it would be such a good way for him to get exercise and also on the paved roads now - days it is so easy to peddle and no hills in Washington. Do you know if he was thinking of it before we wrote? With the last two weekends being so rainy we haven't been for our Sunday spin maybe we will have better luck this week.

Not much of a letter but it is now after lunch, and I have dishes to wash and then Fern and I will start out before it gets late.

Loads of love,

Catherine



Banff, Alberta.

Sunday, May 17, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

Thought I might just as well start a letter to you. We are having quite a nice day for a change on the weekend. I am so glad that it was nice for the tea with you last week, and that it went off so well. It sounded by your letters as if it was a great success.

Friday afternoon Fern and I started out on our canvassing again and went to 46 houses, we had a few short calls while Fern smoked a cigarette and one place we had tea which helped a lot, but I must say I was tired by the end of the afternoon, and so many were out where we will have to go again. Fern goes to Calgary to-morrow so I shall have to try my luck. We are quite sure that they gave us much too large a district, but there isn't much we can do about it.

Yesterday I planned to clean in the morning having neglected to do any house work all week, I had hardly started when Gray and his wife came around to borrow the bicycles and we got talking and the morning went before I knew it, then there was the pay checks for the men to figure out and subtract the National Defence Tax from, which always takes a little time. Then I noticed that Mrs Simpson was in town and so went over there to get her Red Cross Donation, and that took a little extra time and when I got back after twelve, Pete said that we were to drive to Lake Louise and be there at two to bring Sir Norman Watson down. We opened a couple of tins and had a quick lunch and had just time to get up to Lake Louise, the first time I have been since fall. We had intended taking Gray and Eleanor up for a picnic but they went with some one else to Lake Louise, so we still had the gas. It was a lovely afternoon and we met Watson allright and brought him down in time to talk to Jackie (who couldn't leave the store Sat. Afternoon) before his train left. They all came down here for tea and Pete took him to ~~home~~ he has been transferred to near Lethbridge. We did our weekend shopping before/ after supper, but no roast yesterday, then last evening a young Air Force lad came to call and it was 11.30 when he left. He was a commercial Artist in London before the war and now has an office job in the Air Force, but in his spare time does a lot for the Air Force magazine, he came to see if Pete would write an article about Banff for it, now don't laugh! I told Pete if you heard that he wrote a thousand word article you would certainly expect a letter from him.

This morning we were late getting up, and somehow the day has slipped by, it has been too cold to feel one must be outdoors, and we have even had a shower. Gray and Eleanor came to say good-bye, and we made them some soup and toasted muffins etc. and they showed us their photograph album of their wedding and honeymoon etc. They spent it in Devon at Lynmouth, they said that the Lee Abbey Hotel is now a boys school. It looked just as it was when we were there. That is the town did and the fields around the hotel.

Monday,

I never got this finished, Pete's mother came in with a fresh rhubarb pie for our supper and by the time she left it was time to cook our dinner and so the day went. This morning I must go over town and perhaps collect a few more Red Cross contributions, go to the bank and get some lunch etc. This afternoon I hope to finish up the collecting for now. Had I realized it would take so much time I think I might have said no, for I have had to leave everything here, but still one is only too



glad to do something for the Red Cross these days.

I am enclosing a few clippings I have cut out from time to time. thought they might amuse or interest you.

About the New Yorker, if it is easier to send with the Adds cut out why just take them out, especially the colored ones. I might send back the envelopes all in one, I have them saved for they are such fine ones.

We evidently get about 5 gallons of gas at present a week, but it may be cut any time, the east coast, (the Maritime Provinces) have had their cut and they don't like it with the rest of the provinces with more than they have, but the distances out here are so great for many people on ranches. We can't get even old tires or tubes anymore, they were restricted before but now we just won't be able to get them, only certain people like Doctors. You can't even pool them in a family. And as for buses they have been curtailed for some time, no sightseeing trips in Canada by bus, I hear that in Montreal they have tally-hos.

Must go, loads of love to all ,

Catherine .



Banff, Alberta.

May 19, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

We are going to Calgary at 7 A.M. to-morrow, Pete is the one who has to go down and was going with Jackie in his car, but Jackie doesn't finish very early as a rule and that means that Pete would have to wait for him to finish, but this way if Jackie finishes in time he can come back with us or on the bus or later on the train. We are also to take Col. Dingle who wants to be there early too. He is the commanding officer of the 2nd Battalion Calgary Highlanders, that Col Moore, Pete and Jackie are all in. Now-a-days one doesn't feel right to go down with an empty car but we will be full.

Yesterday I nearly wore myself out canvassing, I did one block in the morning with success and then started about two and finished up two or three other blocks, even making one call after supper, when Pete was at drill. It really is a tiring business but very pleasant meeting lots of people I see on the street but never knew their names. One lady who looks a bit like Cousin Emma is awfully sweet and showed me her son's photograph, he is only 19 and in the navy, was one of the guard of honor on the ship that Prime Minister Churchill was on when he went from the "Prince of Wales" to the President's ship, or something like that, she was very proud of him. We have admired photographs of a good many sons in the Army, Navy or Air Force. I think we have done very well and nearly everyone has given something though a good many can hardly spare anything.

To-day I made two more calls and saw Fern and we have decided not to make any more until Thursday and then go and do that instead of the Red Cross. <sup>perhaps</sup> I think we have called on a hundred houses. We went out to supper to-night to Cyril and Marys as they have just opened the tea room. Cyril is experimenting with his ice cream which he always makes himself, usually he has a 22 ~~fat~~ butter fat content, but now according to law it can only have 10 something butter fat, quite a difference and the ice cream was a bit sherbert like, but he hopes to do better next time. It is awfully hard to know how many tourists to expect this year, there will be hardly any American cars if any, for they can only get 20 gallons a year to tour in Canada and that will hardly bring them to Banff and back from the border. However I think there will be a few families spending the summer here, Allen has his suites at the boat house rented already and Jackie has got tenants for the big suite over the store.

I wrote to Mrs Keyes this afternoon, but I am afraid that it wasn't a very good letter, its so hard to express oneself. I tried nearly everyday this last week and just couldn't seem to get it written, partly because of this collecting. but I think she will know how much we will miss Mr Keyes, and all that we fell for here.

Bed time now, so all for now, Loads of love,

Catherine.

P.S. We are now in Calgary & I am waiting in an electrical store for Pete who is seeing his Uncle about drawing up a lease. I was a few minutes early. We left at 7 A.M. but at 9.30 but Col Dingle decided to accept a later ride I guess for he left a message at the hotel for us. It was just as well for more time where you



converse with someone you don't know very well  
all the way down - Jackie came through. It was a  
beautiful morning the leaves budding near Canmore  
practically out down here. The foothills tinged with  
pale fresh green.

I have managed to get a brain felt hat for  
summer if we can get paint. just what I  
wanted as my old one the crown was almost off the  
brain. It had been worn so much. Mrs Lindsay  
wore it when she rode horseback from Banff to  
Jasper. I also got an 8 foot pruner for dead  
branches on the Spruce trees. I've been trying to  
get it on for ages.

Ken's Piti.

Love Catherine.



Banff, Alberta,

Thursday, May 21, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

Our first really warm day, rather muggy feeling for here which it seldom is. Heavy feeling. It is now after supper, Pete is fixing the lock on the shed door and I have just come back from our last trip canvassing, a few people who aren't home in the day time. It felt so humid we just dragged around, our feet getting sore too. We have over \$200 dollars from 115 different people, and most of them couldn't afford the dollar they would often give, and yet they all wanted to give something. Canada doesn't seem to be doing so well, but 9 million is a lot of money for 11 million to give, and right after the War bond campaign where lots of people pledged a lot each month, and it is about all most can handle.

We went for a few calls this afternoon and then to the Red Cross rooms to sew, but we all felt too lazy to do much sewing. Our trip to Calgary was rather successful, Pete had a long talk with his uncle, who is now the senior lawyer in Alberta. He is quite proud of still practising, he tried to retire but due to the war he has had to keep on as so many lawyers are in the forces etc. Pete also picked out lighting fixtures, I did too, with him, for the apartment. The salesman we always used to have came in as we did, He is in the army now and had come home on leave and just in to say hello to everyone. Quite a comotion evidently he has been away for some time. I did a few errands too, and we were back here early, it was a beautiful day.

× Friday - Pete had a few little spruce and balsam trees planted yesterday, up by Fern's where some old straggly ones were taken out and one in front on the Crosby's side and now he is taking down one of the big trees beside the house, it has grown so and cuts out so much light and the roots are lifting up the lawn, also the grass won't grow under the trees very well. Then we will transplant one of the balsams and if it grows well we will small the fragrance perhaps in the bedroom window. May be we are a bit too optimistic! The Crosbys next door, took out several of their big trees this spring and so did the Simpsons, it seems to bad to cut them down, but they do grow so and take all the sun, We wish they were on the other side of the house.

✓ The big apartment is all finished and the other one will be about the end of next week I guess, however the painting and all takes longer than one expects, and the floors have to be sanded too.

As Pete was taking the tree down, Kay and Anne came along. We haven't seen as much of them lately for it means walking way over there and I have been so busy lately, but she sees a lot of the friend here with her children so I don't think she is at all lonely. They leave next week, going to Calgary for a few days with her aunt and then east the first of June. We all watched the tree go down and it really went very well. Pete chopped the roots first after attaching a rope half way up the trunk, and then pulled it over, the roots are so shallow here except for the short tap root and the weight of the tree pulled that out. The advantage is that there is no stump to take out later. It is now after lunnn and Davey and Harold are helping pull the roots up, working awfully hard, Pete cut the tree itself up this morning, I always hate to see a beautiful tree go but it couldn't be helped.

I must go over now, so loads of love,

Catharine



Banff, Alberta.

Sunday, May 24, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

This is our big holiday, the 24th of May, and as usual it is stormy, It often snows, and used to when they had the boat races, but they gave those up some time ago though it didn't help the weather much! It really is too bad for if it is nice, a lot of people come up from Calgary and the prairie for the weekend, and it always starts the season off here, Banff people have been saying that if there were lots up for the 24th of May this year it would mean a good summer, just why I am not sure, to-morrow is a holiday for city people. Yesterday it was very dark all day and finally started to rain in the afternoon and all evening, though this morning it looks more hopeful, as if the sun might break through the clouds, but it is too bad to have so many bad weekends.

Pete's uncle is coming on this morning's train to see Jackie and talk over how to lease the store space, there seems to be so many things always to talk over. We are trying to figure out a scheme, whereby Jackie and Barbara lease the building from Pete and the store business will lease the street floor, and then they will rent the apartments. We don't want to have to look after all the subletting etc. but with Jackie always there he is the best one to do it. It certainly would take a lot of care off Pete. and would be simpler all round.

We have had lots of nice letters from you, one yesterday with Russells enclosed, funny his running into Lew Gordon. By the way did you see the pictures in this weeks Life of Bishop Tucker (Mrs Lee's brother?) and Bishop Manning who used to go to Seal Harbor and Bishop Stires, who's son Ernie used to come out for Sunday dinner with Russell when he was in college. The only three bishops I ever knew the names of!

We got a lovely photograph of Frances's wedding, and thought it a really good picture. It was nice of them to send it from Bozeman.

It is too bad that you have had so much trouble with your accomodator having pneumonia, but lucky that you could get her to the hospital in time. I am sorry to hear that Uncle Marshall has had another upset again, I am glad that he has a person like Florence to be with him and look after him too.

I am so glad that you took Life again, for now if I see anything I think might interest you I can tell you to look at it. Some of the articles are very good.

The tea for Frances and Gil sounded so nice in every way and how lucky it was a good day, The cheese things you spoke of I have tasted, Asta made them for tea at Temple and they are delicious, I find the little cheese crackers as good as anything and easy to make in a hurry when someone drops in.

You all will find three gallons of gas quite a change from all you wanted. especially when you live several miles from the village, I wonder what people up in Carlisle will do, clud to-gether I expect. Wasn't it lucky Ebbs and Anne moved to Concord when they did. Have you figured out how many miles you can go on a gallon of gas? We get at least 20, but four gallons are bigger, you probably get about



17 miles on the Ford and 12 or less on the packard, but once you know then you can plan accordingly and can save up to drive to Boston. How do they work it? Do you have to get your 3 gallons every week? Our system is units. We have so many units over a period of three months, and each unit is worth at present out here 5 gallons but in the east it has been cut to two or three I believe. There is a Ration book and you tare out tickets worth a unit each time you buy gas.

I am sorry that I didn't give you a hint about the Sewing Machine, However had I hinted to you, the Sewing Machine would have been gone before I got it, for they are making no more portable ones. I wuldn't have gotten it if Marion hadn't taken sewing at school and can use it to make clothe for the girls. However I can give you a real hint, We need a new radio badly, the one we got two years ago is hard to get batteries for and also is getting weaker, and soon it will be impossible to get a new one. You wouldn't be able to send me one from the U.S. but if you are really anxious to give me a birthday present that is something I want more than anything else, you could send a check to Pete and he could get it for ~~you~~ for you to give to me. How is that for a hint? I also have been considering getting two or three small plain green rugs for our bedroom, but shan't be able to, and (maybe shouldn't during war time) as we are putting everything into the improvements at the store. As far as Dresses go, I have more than enough left over from last year and the year before, I wear one so little and wore them oftener when you were here than I usually do.

It is after lunnh now, and raining hard so I guess it won't clear after all. Uncle Clifford didn't come up after all, and Davey just brought our mail over with a nice letter from you, the one about Isabel and Gid, it is awfully hard to believe or understand, and we feel so badly to think that their home is to broken up. There is nothing sadder seems to me.

About the slides, I will look them over sometime and send you some more, I mean't to at Christmas time but didn't get them sorted. I am glad that you enjoy them.

Pete says he feels very important as he just got a form to fill out as member of the "Construction Industry" for the Statistical Dep't. It asks him to list all the mines he owns also ranches! I haven't seen it yet, something to do with the wages he has paid on the improvements I expect. and for the Provincial Gov't.

I mustn't write more now, on good days I always plan all the things I will do on the next rainy day and then when it comes I think how much easier it would be to do the things if it was sunny. and so it goes with little done, I haven't started that spring cleaning yet, it has rained so much lately, but we are glad for it may mean no forrest fire.

Loads of love,

Charmine

Monday. It is darker than ever & though not actually raining now. will pour in a sec. It did all yesterday & last night! We had a surprise fall in the afternoon from Merrill Chickadee who used to be Medical Officer in the Bahamas & now is a Squadron Leader in the Medical part of the Air Force. He was here for over night with 2 other officers. & we all had tea at the Moores. Then Sam & Cis came down last evening.

Mae Love

C -



Banff, Alberta.

Wednesday, May, 27, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

It is still rainy, one of the longest stretches I can remember. It rained hard Saturday and Sunday, not as hard Monday and yesterday poured all morning and a good part of the afternoon, and today it is evidently snowing up high, for it is whitish against the top of the mountains, and sprinkling here.

Sunday I think I told you that we were rather busy from the time Pearl Moore dropped in with Merrill Cruikshank and two other Medical Officers. We hadn't seen Merrill for seven years or maybe eight and hardly knew him in the uniform, for we are so used to people bringing strange Air Force officers around that you don't expect them to be old friends. They hardly sat down for the men were interested in the house and the pictures. Merrill's wife's twin sister, who lives in Calgary was with them. Then we went down to the Moores for tea, and Fern and George and Edmee were there too and Fred Brewster, so we had a very nice time until supper. Col. Moore told stories about Indians, and Merrill about Nassau and the Bahamas. That is one difference I notice about people here, they don't all talk at once just to be conversing the way they do in some places, but let one person talk at a time, and the story has to be pretty good to hold everyone's attention, but you never miss hearing things that way and it is much less confusing.

In the evening Sam and Cis dropped in. Then Monday Pete's Uncle arrived after all, and he talked here until lunch time which he had at Pete's Mothers and then Pete went over to the store with him and he came back here before going to the train, so Monday went pretty quickly Tuesday was yesterday and I had half promised to take Kay and the children up to Mrs Mack's for tea, but in the end it was arranged so that Mrs Worcester took her up and I spent the afternoon looking over things in the little room over the living room. I had never quite finished putting things away and marking them. Classifying them as you say. I have a lot of dark green boxes that shirts come in at the store and then Sam built me some shelves last fall that they just fit into nicely, and I have them all marked, old letters and photographs and travel folders and such things that we want to keep. I haven't looked them over, for there is hardly time these days but at least they are put away neatly.

Last evening Kay and a Mrs Locke from Hongkong came down, Kay had a lot of movies that D'arcy had taken in China to show us, but it gets dark so awfully late these days, and we got talking so it was nearly ten when we started looking at them, they were awfully interesting and I wish we could have seen more. At that it was quite late when they went home and one by the time we had glanced at the paper and gone to bed.

Now I must go over and get some meat as it is Wednesday, and try and decide whether to have my hair washed, to start cleaning the kitchen, to really finish the little room upstairs, to clean the downstairs toilet, or to look over our clothes for mending, or to write letters, most likely something will come up and I shan't carry out one of my resolutions! The real weather for spring cleaning was when we were collecting for the Red Cross and now with it rainy it is never as conducive to house cleaning somehow.

Kay hadn't heard about the deForrests, she asked me what I had heard from Concord lately or otherwise I wouldn't have mentioned it. She said that she couldn't believe it, are you sure that it is really a divorce and not just separating for a little while or something?



It seems awful to me to break up a family like that with so many young children, and yet one never knows all that may have made it difficult. Do let us know if they are really going to do it.

I am so/ sorry that Sandra is still sick and that you are to lose her and just hope you can get someone who will be just right for you, and also another girl.

Well I must go, so lots of love,

Catherine .



Banff, Alberta.

Friday, May 29, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

The weather is worse than ever, for now it is cold and even a sprinkling of snow on the roof this morning. It is a week to-morrow since it started raining and has rained or sprinkled ever since except for a few hours Wednesday afternoon.

We have just come back from seeing Kay Baker-Carr and family off on the train for Calgary where they are to spend a day or two with her aunt before going east for the summer. We also dismantled the crib and brought the things we lent back, they had been heretwo months which hardly seems possible and I think that Kay enjoyed it for she had several Vancouver friends with their children staying up at the White House Inn, (that sort of Spanish looking house near the Cave and Basin, that doesn't seem appropriate for Banff) They all have cars and with their children did much the same sort of things. Also without any house keeping they had more time to run around, so it really worked very well, for the people living in Banff don't have much time as a rule for sort of sunning around if you know what I mean. Everything we do is done on the spur of the moment more or less, but with children one has to plan more and arrange for some one to stay with them if you go out in the evening. I was sorry not to do more than we did, but I think it was allright.

It hardly seems like June On Monday, a few leaves on the Aspens are out and the larkspur is up about a foot and the grass very green but otherwise it isn't even springlike. I expect that the children will be arriving from Washington soon and you will have a lively household. I wonder are they ~~still~~ still planning on a month at the beach or have they given it up because of the Gas rationing, which would make it even difficult to move them down in the usual manner, also the black out along the coast wouldn't be too pleasant. I remember during the last war we spent the summer in Concord, and Miss Upton had her classes in the woods, do you remember that? I imagine that Russell will get some leave won't he, after working so hard and steadily he will surely need it.

We are now having tea and coffee rationing, still on the honor system though I believe by fall it may be by coupon. We are told to cut our coffee consumption by a quarter of what we used before and our tea by a half, in that way they figured it would be fairer. Some people use no coffee to speak of and others no tea so it would be very difficult to apportion it fairly. I'll send you the newspaper clipping of it.

How is Uncle Marshall getting on? Sounded rather serious to me, isn't it the same sort of thing that Mr Cabot had? and must be so painful too. How is Aunt Rhoby progressing, I haven't heard lately. I thought it was rather interesting that Mildred with all her troubles inside and her feet etc, was the only one who didn't miss any school last year.

This doesn't seem to be much of a letter but I think I will go over and try to get an appointment to have my hair washed, it is a miserable day to do much else.

Loads of love,

Catherine



Banff, Alberta.

Monday, June 1, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

Our plans for the next two months are fairly definite, as definite as plans can be now-a-days. and if Jean can make her visit the first two weeks in July, it will be just right for us, and also is a nice time to be here for her. If she arrived July 1st. that would be just fine. I hope that this will give you plenty of time to get someone to help in the house while she is away, but now that the children are a bit older they don't need as much looking after I expect and with Kitty and Hanna <sup>it</sup> is different from the times when Kitty and Russell were off on a trip. Anyway I hope it works out all right for you. I think that Jean will find it easier coming by way of Montreal. She can take the night train from Concord to Montreal, have the day in Montreal and change stations to the Windsor Station, where she gets the night train west. Of course you can decide that part, but I just suggested the night train from Concord as it would be easier now that you can't run into Boston by car the way one used to. Montreal is not bad for a day, and she could take a ride in a tallyho. I hear that instead of sight seeing busses they now have tally-ho for tourists to see around the city! There was some talk of curtailing tourist travel but the Canadian ~~Trains~~ Railways have their own sleeping cars and all, whereas the American ~~trains~~ have to use Pullmans, which is a separate company, and they haven't ~~as much~~ enough rolling stock evidently to take care of all the increase in travel. Whereas we are told that the C.P. R. has sufficient rolling stock. However they are unlikely to run special trains and cheap tours as they used to, but I know that the regular trans-continental trains will run, though they probably will be crowded as they are now, with Army, Navy and Air force.

Your letter just came, saying that you have someone to come while Jean is away, and I am so glad that the cook seems good, and you have a chance to sort of break her in before the children arrive. I am sure July 1st will be fine for us, or the 2nd or 3rd, depending which day is best for Jean ~~to~~ leave, Sunday in Montreal wouldn't be so good if she went on the night train Saturday, so perhaps Sunday night would be better, and she would get here Thursday the 2nd, any way you can be figuring it out for I imagine it will be wise to make a reservation a week or more ahead of time. The only thing we would like her to bring us is a bottle of that "Eucalaya" hair tonic, I believe Mrs Tracy has it, or Otis Clapp. in Boston.

At last we had a nice weekend, but not any too sunny and to-day it is raining again though warm. It was only nice Saturday and Sunday and even then we had a couple of showers. However we managed to tidy up the back of the yard, Pete moved the logs yesterday morning and filled in the hollow with the winters clinkers and I weeded the garden plots. Saturday evening Pete even got the grass cut for the first time this year, he left the cut grass on the lawn as they tell you to do and it wasn't sunny enough yesterday to dry it. Oh well, I have plenty to do on a rainy day.

Saturday afternoon Ted and Tony from the R.A.F. dropped in and I gave them tea, I think they rather enjoy tea and all the boys love to get into a house once in a while after living in barracks. Mrs Walker is awfully good to them, her two boys who are about the same age are both



away and she always has them stay with her. They thought that they were to get a few weekends but it has been changed again, so we won't see them until the end of the month. "Gray and Eleanor" ~~are~~ you asked about, Gray was a mounted Police here at the time of the Doukaboor affair and the shooting, and then joined the R.A.F. when war broke out, and is the one who brought Ted and Tony up first, Eleanor is his English wife who just came over and Gray had saved up his leave to spend it here with her.

Did you hear any more about Isabel and Gid? Maybe it isn't really true that they are breaking up, who told you about it? Perhaps it is just that Gid is moving to New Haven and Isabel is staying in Concord for the time being.

I gave the boys the Saturday Review and the New Yorkers we had read, to take to Calgary, and Mrs Walker is to read them first.

I mustn't write more now, Heaps of love,

Catharine



by comparison if you know what I mean.

Mary Simpson was here yesterday, she is down from Bow Lakes for a few days waiting to hear whether she is to get a new job coaching a skating show in Atlantic City for the rest of the year.

Banff, Alberta.

Wednesday, June 3, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

We had a nice day yesterday though it was cloudy in the afternoon, and to-day started out well but a sudden shower blew in and it poured for an hour. The leaves are terribly slow, and it looks like April in Concord, the aspens are quite green but the Balm of Gilliards near our house are just coming out, hardly enough to show green at any distance.

I expect that there will be a letter from you to-day and it may tell how Uncle Marshall is, I think that you said that it was the same thing Mr Cabot had, only as I understand it an operation is more serious for Uncle Marshall because of his asthma and general condition. I hope that he isn't to have a difficult time of it.

You must be having quite a time arrangeing trips up and down town, Why do you try to go to the Red Cross Dressings if they tire you so, I should think that you could do some other part that would help just as much, after all there are lots of people who can fold dressings but have no money to give. Why not give a bit more money to help towards buying the gauze ? and not try to do the folding. If you didn't have so many other things to do and think of it might be different. They are having the same trouble here about some people asking for higher rations and then using the gas for pleasure trips. I believe last week end they had the police stopping cars and asking the people where they were going and what they were doing and then looked at their ration books to see what category they came under, and if they weren't on business with a business category they are liable to lose their ration books.

I haven't yet found out whether one can send new clothes from here to England, I don't really know who to ask, but will try to find out. Jean might send a handkerchief in her letters home everyonce and a while, for I know that they have to use coupons to get one other wise.

Are the Kenneth Hayes the ones who lived in Miss Prides house ? Janet Wilson who was ? the ones who shifted husbands and wives ? You will have a fourth for bridge very handy ! You should get Kitty to bring her bycycle with her when she comes to Concord, It certainly is going to make a great change for Concord people who are used to driving about the country to see people, it will be like the days when you first moved up there with only a horse, Actually I think most of us had gotten into an awful habit of rushing about without thinking why, and a lot of it was unnecessary. I shouldn't think that Mrs Keyes would get many this summer at the Mance as I expect even the sightseeing busses have stopped running as they have here.

The " We the people " program we have heard once or twice, but often people drop in Sunday nights. The one from Ottawa was probably just from Canada that one night. The Canadian program you may have been thinking of was called " WE have been there " but is not on any more.

They will wish now that they had a movie house in Concord with gas rationed. It is almost easier to take a train in to Boston, or to Waltham ! That was a nice letter and picture of Louis Blymyer. We always enjoy the enclosed letters, though the thank you notes sound so perfect that it usually makes it impossible for Pete to write you his thanks for things, what ever he would write would sound so little in

( read up above now. )



I am sorry that I made such a mistake, but got quite a surprise as I wrote and suddenly " Banff, Alberta " appeared on the paper and I discovered that I had forgotten to turn the page over!

I was writing ~~my~~ about Mary Simpson. Don't feel badly that you missed seeing her last winter, I know that she was terribly busy and also that she spent a lot of time with the in laws, so she couldn't have had time to feel lonely. When I first wrote it was because I thought that she and her mother might want to get a way for a little from the associations with Margaret.

Well I mustn't write more now,

Heaps of love,

Catherine .



Banff, Alberta.

Sunday, June 7, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

Summer came suddenly yesterday, it was lovely and sunny and the leaves started to shoot out and it felt like summer for the first time. We don't really get much spring here, a few very warm lovely days in March or April and then nothing happens for such a long time, but now it is summery feeling and we have even let the furnace go out. The Banff Springs Hotel opened last evening. The draw for the Spitfire pictures took place at the dance about 10.30 and everything went very well. Needless to say you didn't get any of the paintings.

We went down to Pearl's the night before, Friday, and she had an old friend there who had arrived a week later than expected just in the midst of all the excitement of the arrangements of the draw. Pearl was cutting out the coupons in the books and I helped and happened to notice that some of the people who had filled in the names had neglected to put the city on the slip and after all if one was drawn with just a street address it might prove disastrous, so we went over all the thousands of slips very quickly and found quite a few like that. So it turned into an evening. The friend was quite interesting, she was overseas in the last war with her husband and that was when Pearl knew her. Now she is studying to be a radio technician and is half through her course.

Pearl asked Pete to help hang the pictures at the hotel yesterday morning and so we went up armed with easels to set them on as Pearl was pretty sure that they wouldn't let them put nails in the walls. It was the opening day and everyone saying "hello" to those they hadn't seen before. Some of the Lake Louise staff is here and Pete spent quite a while showing Bob, the porter who has been at Lake Louise for years, around the hotel for he was completely lost in the underground parts which are very confusing. Miss McGowan is back and Mary Campbell who was in the Wilson store, but much to our disappointment Frances Ames and the trio aren't to be here this year. The manager seems to feel he is saving a heap of money by not having them and instead they have two girls one plays the organ, the other a violin, and it will sound like a church I am sure. We don't like the idea, for the trio had been here a good many years, and this is one year they need pleasant music, it wasn't as if the men in it could be doing war work in any case. but the hotel isn't run as it used to be.

Well anyway we had quite a time getting the pictures put up, the easels were too unsteady on the slippery floor into the ballroom, and in the little library the lights weren't all working and we all thought that the best place was just as you go into the ballroom, as there were three mirrors hanging on the wall, we were sure if they were taken down three pictures could be hung in their place. Pearl asked Mr Meredith, who is assistant manager, (was manager at Lake Louise for several years) but he said he couldn't give permission, we would have to ask Mr Dyell. It was really funny how we got around the later when he came along, for we knew if we asked outright he would say "no" it would have to be his idea. We set up the flimsy easels in the library, tying them with string and spent no end of time palcing the pictures on tables etc, and I think



it was finally Pete who sort of looked behind the mirrors and wondered how they were hung, knowing quite well all the time they were on nails, Then Mr Dyell had the brilliant idea of how would the pictures look in place of the mirrors and we all pretended we had never thought of it and soon the pictures were up and the mirrors down. So it worked out very well but took most the morning.

Before we had finished a late lunnh Fern came in to see if I would like to go around with the Red Cross receipts as it was such a lovely afternoon, We did very well and delivered them all in about 1 1/2 hours as most people were home and other places we stuck the receipt in the doors. We both had Hams to cook and so wanted to be back early.

Then last evening about nine thirty we went and picked Carl Rungius up and drove up to the hotel, all dressed up for the first time since Edmees wedding. At least I was more or less dressed, having discovered that a dress I bought in Scotland in 1938 is now in style again, at least I have seen pictures in Vogue just like it. very convenient! I don't know how many of the people dancing were hotel guests, but a good many were local people, and most of the men were Air Force and Army, even some women in uniform, it was all very friendly and nice.

Col. Moore did the speechmaking and handled the draw, they had six Air force men, an Australian, New Zealander a Pole and a Londoner and tried to get a Norwegian but I think the other two were Canadians. They had the tickets in a big drum which was turned around to mix them up, then an Air man drew a name and at the same time out of the Prince of Wales Cup ( for Gold ) Vivian Leigh's daughter Suzanne ( who goes to the Mountain School and who's mother is a great movie star, Scarlet 'oHara,) drew the name of the Artist. It worked very well. A Miss Sothern from New York got Carl's painting, she comes here often and so that was very nice, then one of the Harbison girls also from New York drew Mr Gissing's picture, Then a lady from near Cochrane drew Pete's. she is an oldtimer and Pete knows them from a way back, so that was nice. Then if Miss Harbison didn't draw another picture, this time Ronald Jacksons of the ducks, There are two sisters and we thought each had drawn one, but I believe one drew them both, They had bought heaps of tickets too. Then Mrs Nickels who you met at the hotel last summer from Philadelphia drew the Indian portrait, they had also bought an awfull lot of tickets, and a Winnepeg man drew Belmore Browns, so they were pretty well divided.

After the draw we all went up to Mr Dyells and they had sort of a party for the people connected with the Spitfire thing and then when we took Carl home we had another party there with Edmee and Charlie and a Beth Thompson, It was late when we got home, and we slept late this morning now it is nearly noon. and looks like rain again! It was sunny earlier.

I haven't even started to write the part I wanted to most, and that is to thank you for the wonderful check to get us a radio for my birthday, The day it came our radio quit, so I think it is badly needed It was funny for when we turned the radio on at supper time there was the usual hum and no station could we get, We began to think that perhaps the stations had been ordered off the air after the Dutch Harbor thing, but found later it was just our radio. One trouble with this one is that it has to have a battery to turn it on and you can't get any more batterie like it, so we don't like to turn it off and on too much, whereas one that you just plug in would last us well. It really is important to have a radio these days to know what is happening. We will be able to get an awfully good one with your present and will enjoy it all the more because it is a present from you. Thank you ever so much.

Also thank you for the photograph that Mr Webster took, I don't think any one with a stride like that looks a hundred, I showed it to Sam and he said he bet you wouldn't be going quite so fast uphill.



He also remarked what a pretty spot it was, and said that their yellow ellysum is just out and our trees look about at the same stage as those in the picture.

Any more about Mr James ? Do send us all the clippings as the Moores are also interested.

I noticed in 'Time' that though travel in the states has gone up 50%, that is civilian travel, there is no restrictions to travel as long as you can get the accomodation, but they will cut down on parlor cars and such. However I don't think Jean will have any trouble coming out, There is a very comfortable day coach on the day train to Montreal from Boston, and if she wanted to I suppose she could take that after spending the night in Boston, that is if it is too difficult for her to catch the train otherwise.

This is quite a letter so I had better stop now.

Many thanks again for the grand birthday present, for it is just what I wanted most of all.

Loads of love,

Catharine .



Banff, Alberta.

Monday, June 8, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

Another lovely June day, We went up to the hotel this morning and brought the pictures down for Pete to pack here for the last time, in fact Agnes came before lunch to take Pete's painting down to her neighbors who won it, she said that they had a ~~raft~~ <sup>raft</sup> for a horse for the Spitfire a little while ago and that the husband got that and now his wife has won the painting of Pete's. I am glad that it is to go to someone who lives near here.

We also washed the crib that Ann used, it was funny for Pete was sure a little naphtha would take off some brown stuff that was on the back of the runs, but it wouldn't budge it so I suggested good old soap and water, and it came off like magic, it was evidently chocolate! then we delivered it to Miss Hurcane who lent it to Pete. We also went to see Mr Nudd who upholsters chairs, we have at last got some material to cover the big chair that the springs were coming through. We tried to get him before and he couldn't seem to get here so he said he would pick up the chair this afternoon but he hasn't showed up yet so I wonder if he will. I hope so. We got the material when the man from Simmons was here over a month ago with pictures of beds and chairs and lounges etc. and he had a lot of samples to choose from of material to cover the chairs. One was sort of a blue, a soft medium blue, with bits of red yellow and white running through it, giving a homespun appearance, it really is awfully pretty and just right for our house and sort of will tie the front room in with the kitchen linoleum, the traveller said he didn't know if he could get it but he did, so we were lucky, I guess they don't need it now with less furniture to make up.

At last I started to clean after all my talking about it. but I didn't get very far, Pete had to go over to the drill room to do some work and now he has gone to drill to-night.

Two nice letters came from you to-day, also one from the Manierres, at least an invitation (not a letter) to the wedding. Do you know the Footes? the name sounds very familiar. Aren't they from Boston? I was glad to hear that Uncle Marshall was comfortable and do hope it all goes well with him if he has to have an operation, now-a-days with oxygen tents and one thing or another they can do so much for a person, and in my letter from them they spoke of his constitution being good. I will enclose it. *be better not his constitution.*

I still think it is strange about the Deforests? it sounded funny when you said of course you couldn't speak of it at the bridge as Mrs Shaw was there, and who would know more about it than she. It is too bad that they don't just separate for a while and maybe they would feel differently later on. That is one thing in Canada it is very difficult to get a divorce and I don't know but it is better in lots of cases.

I was glad to hear too that Miss Annie Agge is feeling quite well now, too bad that they missed the spring up at Topsfield, Mildreds was a nice letter, maybe she thinks that Russell and Kitty are to be at the farm with the children and so will look after it this summer, or that John and Bunny are to run it, I didn't realize that you had given up both cars the big car but it doesn't go far on a gallon of gas and you have the Station Wagon. as you say it just takes a little more planning, but in lots of ways we find that we don't rush here and there as much and get a along much better.



I imagine that there is a great shortage of house and apartment accomodation in Portlând as there is in Calgary, and that would be the reason that Mildred and Wadsworth could buidd an apartment, it would be a sort of investment I expect. for them. I believe that they still will allow building when it is in a place where it is badly needed.

A nice letter from Mrs Wayman and the picture of Grandpa is awfully good. I wonder if he would have felt about the Japanese as he did about the German's in the last war, for I remember in spite of his many friends in Germany, he would have nothing to do with anything German when the War started. I can't believe that all the Japanese want this war or approve of the awful manner in which the Japs are conducting it. After all there were a good many Japanese murdered in Japan for apposing this military clique that is in power now. Baron Dan was one, and Dr Nitobe had to leave Japan as his life wasn't safe there I think. It does seem awful, for the innocent have to suffer with the guilty. I imagine that while they are winning so much that they sort of overlook the things being done that they don't approve of, but later they will be sorry enough.

I expect to hear soon about Jean and just hope that the first of July suits you, it is much the best time for us, I can tell you why later.

Must wash the dishes and listen to the news, then read the paper and by then Pete will be home.

Loads of love,

Catherine



Banff, Alberta.

Thursday, June 11, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

Another rainy day, it showered a bit yesterday but today it is raining hard enough to make puddles and it is snowing on the mountains and probably as low down as the upper hot springs, so it is nice and chilly, 38 this A.M. We let the furnace out the other day but are thinking of starting it up again. The leaves are out though.

Your letter came yesterday saying that July was O.K. and we are so happy that it will fit into your plans alright, as it is by far the best time for us and also the nicest time for Jean to be here. I will send the slides back with her as I doubt if I will have time to go through them before that. It is so hard to decide which ones we will want to keep for reference in painting etc, but I am sure we have quite a few.

Great excitement yesterday, for we got the new radio thanks to you and also Pete decided to add his birthday present to me to it. So it is a very good one. We would have to wait for three months to get a small table model, but this one they have had in the store for some time and several people have looked at it without being able to decide whether or not to take it. I believe you used to be able to get the same radio in a small cabinet similar to yours, but this is a real piece of furniture, about four feet high and three feet wide. But when you look at the back it is practically empty, the radio itself being about one by one and a half feet in size, there is a little sort of antennae and a loud speaker thing, otherwise it is all waste space, room for a couple of cases of beer! We think we will put it in the front room beside Pete's chair (about the only place there is room) and then we can tune it while sitting beside it. It has five buttons to push, (which we haven't fixed as yet) then there are six bands, five being short wave, and marked with the approximate positions of the stations all over the world. During breakfast this morning we got Australia clearer than Calgary, and I listened to a nurse from Lowell, Mass. speaking from Australia to her home town, to-morrow if we are interested we can listen to a young lady from North Billerica and another from Littleton, also speaking to the folks at home, its quite wonderful really and in the summer when ordinary reception is poor, short wave is better. I am sure we will get a lot out of it, and one does need a radio these days. Jackie said that if he could get a small model in three months we could change this for that. However this wasn't so very much more than the amount you sent with the exchange added, so we are really lucky.

As I was writing this Sam came over to discuss the cost of finishing three more rooms above the store, and whether it would be worth doing now or not etc. As we were talking I heard drums and bagpipes and that ended any conversation for we of course had to go up and see what was going on, it was bagpipes alright and quite a lot of soldiers marching past Lila's, the drummer with a leopard skin and all, it certainly sounded grand and they marched very well, they were evidently stretching their legs and walked up by the Banff Springs and around the town, were here about an hour I guess, there were also a lot of nursing sisters looking very smart in their dark blue uniforms, but they didn't march, In the midst of it Col. Moore came down and Pete went over to the Drill Hall with him, Pete is Acting Quarter-master Sergeant of the unit here,



and has charge of the stores over in the drill hall etc. Bill Jamison was before he joined the Active army, Sometimes there is quite a lot of work connected to it and not many want it, However if you are willing to take the responsibility it is to your credit.

I went over town to hear some more bagpipes and so the morning has gone and it is nearly lunch time already. Yesterday I tried cleaning some of the beams in the kitchen with blue cleaner, a fairly new thing instead of soap, it is harmless but cuts any grease and seems to work well. I did fairly well considering that Pearl came down and also Mrs Walker for a few minutes, and then in the afternoon Mrs Mack came to tea with her sister and I couldn't do much knowing that they were coming, they were late too, so we went out for supper at Cyrills and Mary Paris came back with us to see the Spitfire pictures still unpacked.

You can let us know when you decide the day of Jean's arrival for it won't make much difference to us as long as it is approximately July 1st. We are so glad that she can really come at last and at a season when it is nice here so she will enjoy it all.

Lunch now,

Loads of love,

Catherine

P.S. Some clippings enclosed. the one about the "Pike Granite House" was in the Sat. Review. can you imagine it? They have had several floods in High River this year the whole town under several feet of water for about a week. Truly smart ones!



Banff, Alberta.

June 13, 1942.

MacArthur Day !

Dearest Mother,

MacArthur Day is proving to be very nice indeed. It was lovely and clear this morning though only 42 out, but has clouded up a bit this afternoon, however it is really a nice day, typical June. Pete's mother just brought a wonderful cake down, I think that making birthday cakes for the family takes her whole sugar ration, for she has made ten already this year. By the way tell Jean she needn't bring her sugar card for we have plenty. I still have a good deal of the ten pounds I bought around Christmas time and a box of lumps nearly full. We use very little. Anyway I don't know if her card would do any good here even if we have cards by then.

Such a lovely birthday, the book about "Bali" I had to open at breakfast time, (it came the other day) and really I think it has the loveliest pictures of any of the Bali Books, the big one you sent before was of course mostly dancing but this has such really beautiful photographs of all aspects of the place. I was interested to read about the man who wrote it and took the pictures, it said that he went to several of the private schools in the east but ~~did~~ went for a trip to South America instead of going to college. I often think that the boys who don't get on in school and don't like college often do more interesting things than the average person later on. They are probably more individual. You were awfully good to get it for me, I hadn't even read a review of it. Lots of the people in it we are sure are ones we have pictures of.

Then later this morning an airmail letter from you written Tuesday and another package, this time the catalogue of the miniature rooms and the studio. We are so glad to get the Studio for we do enjoy it and the miniature rooms are fascinating, I remember the ones at the Worlds fair, but how do they ever make them so perfectly, they must have lots of people working on them. I think these rooms are even more interesting than the first lot, and I know I shall enjoy looking at them.

I shall see about the soldiers for Robin the first of the week, I know how Russell feels about his toy ones, for he had them when he was older than Robin and probably thinks that Robin will take better care of them later on. Its the same way I felt about Gale playing with the doll house things that I took such good care of, and which I was so fond of, a little child getting a lot of things to play with is much more apt to break them than when they are a bit older, don't you think so? You remember I was only allowed to play with your dolls on very special occasions, when I was sick in bed, until I was old enough to really look after them. So I imagine that Russell wants to wait until Robin is nine or ten or until he is with him. When does Russell get his vacation?

I must go over and do the shopping, but I did want to tell you how much I loved the books you sent. We are also getting a great kick out of the radio, we even got China direct at lunch time, a news cast. It was far clearer than the Calgary stations which seems funny. But they say short wave is far better in summer. We get Boston too and soon will know when to listen to what.

Lo ads of love,

Catharine



Banff, Alberta.

Monday, June 15, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

It only showered once yesterday and before we were up this morning though it is overcast now. However it ~~was~~ was nice on the whole Sunday, we slept late and then after lunch decided to take Pete's mother and Mrs Paris for a little drive, it is about the first we have taken since rationing, but we haven't used half of our coupons and thought it wouldn't hurt to take one gallon of gas as we even have a full tank. We drove around by the dam at Minnewanka to see how much the water had risen, last year they were worried as it rose so little and they were afraid it wouldn't be high enough by this year to run down the canal, but with all that rain this spring it rose 8 or 9 inches a night and they were worried then that it might get ahead of the work, and break through the control dam before it was finished, however by the looks of it it is just right, and they will be able to keep ahead of its rising.

Yesterday Pete discovered a pool of water down in our front yard, and it evidently is a burst pipe underground a sort of slow leak and must have been there for some time, He asked about it this morning but the plumber is away until to-morrow and he was advised to leave it, We may have to run the water temporarily across from the garage until the river goes down and we can dig up the pipe and not have the trench fill in too deep with water. Just now we looked again and it is bubbling up like a spring, but is good for the trees and grass. they are so green around it, so I guess it must have been leaking slowly for a long time. Just one more thing to have done.

The deer with the triplets has just had three more this year, we haven't seen her yet but hope to have her on hand to show to Jean, this is the fourth year now she has had triplets.

What a tremendous parade they must have had in New York, like the cartoon in the New Yorker of the whole town parading except the old people in wheel chairs and the babies in baby carriages. Pete thought so much effort might have gone into something more useful, but I suppose they feel it helps to make any that aren't doing something already, feel they ought to get in and help too. The United States are the greatest ones for showing patriotism, even the radio programs reflect it in the songs and speeches. Up here everything is done so quietly and without any fuss, it's just a job to do and the people go ahead and do it. You would almost think that there were more heroes in the U.S. forces than in the British, and they make so much of the mothers too. I really think they do too much in that line, but there has always been a certain group that can't do anything without showing beautiful girls and their legs, no matter whether they are appropriate or not.

This isn't much of a letter but I think I had better go over now and get Pete to help me pick out Robins soldiers I forgot to have him look at them this morning. I'll get a couple of boxes to be there for his birthday.

Loads of love,

Catherine



Banff, Alberta/.

Wednesday, June 17, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

I don't know why I was so stupid about the train that Jean comes on, I had forgotten all about Lowell and that one could get on there, for I have always gotten on in Boston I think, except the last time you met me in Lowell. but of course that will be the best and easiest way for her to come, and saves the trouble of changing stations in Montreal. I think you said something about her leaving Concord Monday morning, that would be June 29th and she would get to Banff Thursday July 2nd. which will be fine for us.

I am at present in the throes of house cleaning, in spite of it being dark and cloudy yesterday I managed to clean the kitchen cupboards under the window, it took longer as I waxed the drawers and had to let them dry first, so a good part of the day things were scattered all over the kitchen, somehow things out of a cupboard take up so much room anywhere else. Now I am trying to clean the other corner back by the chimney, I have found that liquid wax is fine for the logs and after two coats a dust cloth will slide over the logs so easily and the dust doesn't stick as it did before. but before I put it on I wanted to get the logs as clean as possible which means it takes longer. Pete had to go over to the drill hall as someone came up from Calgary unexpectedly to show him how to do the work, so he was there until late this morning and will be there all afternoon, in the meantime there have been a few interruptions such as Mr Waterworth about the plumbing, and then Steve Hop to turn the water on at the street for the garage part, then Fred Waterworth will come later to fix a connection with this house until we can dig up the front yard when the river goes down. However there is a valve broken on the garage water main which will have to be fixed first, all very confusing.

They are getting on well at the store, have the other apartment finished except for the wallpaper, and the two rooms in front completed and tenants in one and soon in the other. Jackie has leased the whole building from Pete for five years, and will sublet any part of it as he likes, but he will take care of the heating, water and sewer taxes etc. and the maintenance and small repairs. All Pete will have to do is pay the taxes, lot rental and insurance, and as he does any major improvements they will adjust the rent etc. It really is much the best way, but they never would have been able to build the apartments and all the rest as Pete has done. Jackie and Barbara are furnishing the two apartments and even have them rented to two ladies here with their children for next winter, the children go to the mountain school. Pete is going to have them finish one more suite, without the heat, just as a summer proposition. for we have the men and they think it will only take them a couple of weeks to do.

I was so sorry to hear about Mr Rolfe, and miss Pride not being well. I never realized that Mr Rolfe was so old. I thought that he was your age.

I have the soldiers and will try to get them off soon. two boxes of them, will send them to Robin in care of you, so you can be on the lookout for them. Will mark them as a birthday gift.

Will let Pete take this over,  
Loads of love,

Catherine



Banff, Alberta.

Thursday, June 18, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

Jean will be leaving in about a week after you get this letter, I hope you had no difficulty in getting her reservations, if there is any delay I think that if you telephoned the Canadian Pacific office on Boylston Street, ( if it is still there ) they would fix up her reservation, for I don't think there is any great trouble in getting a berth on the trains in Canada. for there isn't the great movement of troops there is in the states, a good many of ours are overseas. and there aren't as many as there are in the states. When you do get her ticket could you write us the car number and berth number ? There is just a possibility that we might meet her in Calgary though it is not very likely. There is also a possibility that Pete will be going to camp for the first two weeks in July, as he did in September two years ago. and if he does, we would want Jean to stay until the 22nd. or 23rd. They won't know for certain about camp until too late to let you know, but I am sure we can fix up her reservation to go back after she gets here. It would give her about three weeks here.

We were going to do so many little things to have the house looking nice before you came and didn't get any of them done as Pete hurt his hand, and now we are trying to do the same things for Jean but I am afraid it will be the same story, I can't even get the kitchen cleaned, its partly the weather as it is still cold and rainy, we haven't had any real warm weather yet, 40 again this morning, however I prefer it to 90 or over, what a spell you are having .

Last night we drove down to Canmore after supper as Pete had to pick up some uniforms of men who have gone into the Active Service and so are turning their Reserve Army uniforms in. It was a lovely evening and we enjoyed it, we had to drive all over Canmore, the little town I drove you and Mildred down to last year. Pete spent most of the day over at the drill hall and if they go to camp he will have a lot more to do.

Jean asked whether or not to bring her sugar ration card, and I said she wouldn't need it, but on second thought it would be a very good identification card for her to have with her. We will also have sugar rationing cards by July first.  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound per person per week. They aren't allowed to put sugar on the tables any more in restaurants, you can have it if you ask for it. Our gas ration wasn't cut in the the prairie provinces but pleasure drivers are to be cut sometime soon.

Your short note written on my birthday came, you shouldn't have given yourself away as not remembering when you timed a letter and a package to arrive on my birthday here !

I do think it is too bad about Isabell, I remember that she had a nervous breakdown before she was married, maybe two mother-in-laws in Concord was too much for them , and maybe they won't get divorced in the end, it is so hard for the children I always think.

Those were nice letters that you sent, the one from Cousin Kathie full of Mary Janes wedding, and how pretty George's wife and little girl are ? Quite a wedding it will be, but I really think that Frances was in far better taste for these times.

I don't know where I put your letter about Uncle Marshall, I didn't realize that they had decided to operate, but trust it is going all right now, it sounded like a close call. So let me know what you hear.



Did I thank you for the little book about Concord by Allen French?  
I haven't done more than look at the pictures which I think excellent.  
The one of the mill dam is just as I think of it. Tell Jean I will read  
it to her when she comes and so to myself too, that is if she wants to  
hear it read.

Also you didn't write what Aunt Julie and Uncle John had  
to say about the James trial. thanks for the clippings, we will pass  
them on to the Moores.

The paper will soon be here it is after eight so I won't  
write more now. I wish you were coming too this summer for a visit, but  
wasn't it lucky you came last year when things were sort of more normal  
and we could drive you about with out a guilty feeling. Maybe we will  
get a trip east sometime soon, one never knows. Its best not to count on  
it but to take the chance if it comes.

Loads of love,

Catharine

P.S. These feathers were in the yard. I expect from a blue  
bird. Gale & Robin might like them.



Banff, Alberta.

Sunday, June 21, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

I expect that this will be the last letter that you will get from me before Jean leaves. I am glad that she got her reservations all right and we will be on hand to meet her Thursday morning July 2nd. I wrote you that there was just a possibility that I might meet her in Calgary so we could drive up to Banff, Pete might have to go to Calgary July first and if so we would stay over night and I would be able to meet Jean early in the morning. But if I do meet her in Calgary I will wire her the evening before on the train so she will know. They stop in Calgary ever half an hour so there will be lots of time.

We are having another rainy weekend, Friday it rained and yesterday, and this morning is trying to clear, there is fresh snow on the mountains and I hope we have a bit of summer soon. I have worn white shoes just once so far this year. I hope it warms up a bit for Jean, though I guess she doesn't want it too hot.

I am glad that the children have arrived and had an easy trip of it, how lucky they were not to have the real hot weather you did. I guess you will have a lively time of it but I know how you will enjoy having them there.

I judge by the letters from Mildred and Cousin Jane that Uncle Marshall is getting on well, especially if he is up and not in bed all the time, and also that his spirits are good, I hope it means that he will be feeling better all the time and that he doesn't have to have another operation.

We were interested in the clipping about Stanley Woodward. I imagine he may be connected with camouflage for seems to me it is quite a jump from corporal in the last war to a Captain in this, unless they can use his profession. They certainly hand out commissions in the United States, but I expect it is because they are enlarging the Army Navy and Air Forces so rapidly down there. Up here it has been quite different, Nearly every officer from the last war had to step down a rank to get into this one, and some even have become privates in order to get in. Like Col. Moore, he was a major, until recently I think he has been promoted to Col. again. They prefer to have everyone work up from the ranks and I don't think you can go higher than a lieutenant unless you have served overseas or on Active duty. In the Air Force they have different ranks, Pilot Officer corresponds to 2nd lieutenant etc. A dentist or doctor or business <sup>man</sup> can become a Captain or Major or any rank because of his ability in that line. *he is to work in -*

Don't shrink too fast, but I guess you are right about it, some people do get tiny as they grow older. I often think of those great big fat Indian Squaws, they shrink to very tiny thin people, but it may be the contrast that makes it so noticeable, however as they are still as active as ever and ride horse back etc, I don't believe it hurts them at all. I believe they are better for it.

I thought that from the way Russell wrote in his letter Ledlie Laughlins husband had been lost, but from what you write he evidently was on his way to Egypt. Up here they have a regular way of listing casualties, and seems to me it is rather good.



from

Every few days they are listed in the papers, of casualties all over Canada. There are those "Killed on Active Service" then "Missing after Air Operations" and when they think a person has been killed but have no definite proof they list them "as" "Missing presumed dead" etc. However the next of kin is always notified before it appears in the papers or over the radio even in air accidents. I think if a person has been missing for so many months without being heard of as a prisoner of war then he is presumed dead, though quite often they turn up later as prisoners of war. The Japanese have given out no lists of prisoners, so I should think that anyone lost in the Pacific war might turn up later. Where was the Cook boy supposed to be lost?

The mother deer with two tiny little fawns came yesterday, she hid them in the grass. In the afternoon a car full of people rushed up and they all piled out to get pictures and what not, there were some other little deers, maybe last years or two years ago, and they ran around to try and distract the people from going where the babies were, we thought, but just then Harold and Davy came over to where the littleest one was, and it got up, we were afraid that the mother deer would go after the people but they wouldn't move and only tried to get closer which got all the deer more excited. Pete was awfully provoked. Some children at the park were chasing deer one evening and Harold got the idea from them I am sure for he goes up to them and tries to scare them, so Pete just walked over and picked him up and carried him back to his yard, Davy knew it was wrong to frighten them and ran back. Meantime the mother deer had chased the other grown deer way off and came bounding back again, If they are cornered they will strike a person with their two front feet, and Pete was afraid that in protecting her young she might go after the children and she could really hurt them. There was a little girl with the people in the car, and we called to them to go back which they of course wouldn't do and then when the deer went running towards them, we called then to "watch out," they ran back and left the little girl (aged three about) standing out in front, luckily the mother deer didn't do anything, and I suppose the people thought we were crazy to yell at them, but it made us mad to have them scare the deer in our yard. for we like them to come. However they went away and the mother nursed the little baby for a while and the little one having got the feel of its legs began gambling about. A man staying at Jackies came over to take a picture but was very quiet about it and so didn't frighten them, then Davy and Harold began running about their lawn to show the people how the little deer jumped about, and the little baby went over and seemed to be playing with them, for he ran towards them as if he were trying to scare them and then capered all over their lawn, as if he knew they were children and would play, he is only about two weeks old, and not more than a foot or two long. Later the other little one appeared, and they were round the house and our lawn all afternoon until the mother finally took them away to hide them again, we haven't seen the third one yet. but hear there is one. Jean will love seeing them.

Lunch time, Loads of love to you all and tell Jean not to bring us anything as I don't think they want people to bring a lot in with them. and we certainly don't need anything.

More love,

Catharine

P.S. I sent two small boxes of soldiers to Robin in case of you & marked them "birthday gift". so you can be on the watch for them & keep them to give him them.



Banff, Alberta.

Tuesday evening,

June 23, 1942 .

Dearest Mother,

Thought I would start a short note to-night, as to-morrow I expect to be busy finishing cleaning the logs in the kitchen. I did very well to-day at last and Pete cleaned the studio which was even more of a job, he has cleaned all his parts, the workshop, dark room and shed. but I seem to always have so many interruptions. I hope to wax the logs soon with liquid wax and then they will be easy to dust every year.

This spring when we went up to Edmees to help paint furniture a man was pruning some willows, and he gave me some little eight inch long bits and told me to heal the end by burying the rest, or covering it, I couldn't dig into the dirt at the time so buried them in a snow pile for a month or so upside down, then they lay at the back forgotten after the snow melted and then not long ago I stuck them in the ground, expecting they were quite dead, however a bud sprouted and so I stuck in the rest. To-night Davy and Harold came over with some lead soldiers with handkerchiefs tied with strings onto them making parachutes. you throw them into the air and they float down, (Gale and Robin might find them ~~found~~ fun) Davy and Harold were much excited each time we threw them for they couldn't get them up so very high. Pete pointed out my little twigs and so they wouldn't step on them and they were quite interested in the little leaves coming out on one, and then Davy pointed to the other recently planted ones and said " they aren't working are they ? " somehow I thought that quite discriptive.

Yesterday morning I had great ambition, but hadn't started when Ted and Tony dropped in on their way to spend a few days leave at Bow Lake, they had a beautiful day, one of the few, it was cloudy again this morning and almost rained to-night. Cliff also came in after the boys had left and said it had snowed every day last week at Temple and that when he left ~~that~~ morning it was pure white right up to the pass back of Temple, you couldn't even see a stone. It has been a very backward spring, but maybe the Glaciers wont melt. Why don't the Bartletts come out to Banff and Temple and Bow Lakes, there is plenty of room on our trains I believe if you reserve in advance. the change would do them good. and we would love to see them.

Pete was at drill last night until late, but I was kept busy as the men came to dig up the water main, and it certainly was a mucky job for the water seemed to seep into the hole, as soon as they got three feet down, as fast as they could ~~fill~~ bail the water out. the pipe was a good eight feet down, however they managed after they had built cribbing around the hole and then the broken pipe turned out to be just on the outside of the cribbing, however by taking one board out they somehow fixed the pipe, took a section out and the hole was about as big as this O or this o, maybe even smaller. They didn't get it filled in until ten, having worked four hours but it was still quite light. I had the job of turning all the taps in the house off and on as they wanted it and of course lots of dirt came through in the end, but we are glad to have it fixed if it only lasts, for the hole had evidently worn through and another might do the same. I certainly hope not.



I forgot to mention about where Jean will stay, but think that Barbars will be nice for her and they aren't apt to be filled up the way they were last year.

I am glad that Uncle Marshall seems to be getting on well and am glad to hear any news you have.

All for now,

Loads of love,

Catherine .



Banff, Alberta.

Friday, June 26, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

It is early and I was all ready to clean the bedroom to-day, starting right after breakfast, but as usual it is raining and so dark that it is too hard to really see what one is doing, so I thought I would write you a short letter and maybe by then it would be brighter, if not I will dust the living room with a lamp in one hand! This is the second rainy day of this spell. It poured all night Wednesday and yesterday and is a fine drizzle now, with white clouds like wreaths around the mountains, and for a few minutes we could see fresh snow on the top of Sulphur, the trees being white with it. Every ones chief topic of conversation is the weather, and really it has been rainy for the last three months, people here aren't used to it, but everything looks so green and it will be wonderful for the trees.

I went to the Red Cross yesterday, told them I wouldn't be there next time, for that is the day Jean arrives and I shall forget all about it in the excitement. It doesn't look now as if we would meet her in Calgary but I thought it was just as well to warn her. By the time you get this she will have left.

This morning the mother deer and the "deeries" as Harold and Davy calls them, were out again, just two little ones, she waited until they had gone into the long grass and then strolled away, I expect they will stay there until she comes back for them later on. We haven't seen the third one yet. I just looked out and she also is in the long grass.

I expect that you are kept busy with the children there and how nice they can be with you this year when you can't go about as much with the car, for you won't have any chance to be lonely.

We looked up that joke (?) in the New Yorker about the water running over and didn't think it funny at all. I suppose it was meant to be that like letting the water in the Bath tub run over but this was a dam he let run over while answering the telephone. May be it would appear more funny if one was in the habit of letting baths run over. We do enjoy the New Yorker though and the National Geographic too, I think the latter has improved immensely, perhaps because the pictures are of places you find that are in the news.

That was a very good house that Gale drew on the top of the letter you sent the other day, and the little deer too, wasn't that exciting having a deer in your pasture? Maybe Pietro doesn't know what deer tracks look like, they are like tiny hoofs, like a calf.

Would you like to pay my Vincent Club dues again this year? It goes to-wards the hospital I think. It is ten dollars and I will enclose the notice and the part you send in with the check. Do you think I should resign or continue?

Do you remember when Aunt Mary lost her petticoat in the North Station, I hope you won't get so thin that you will be in danger of dropping off your panties!

What a thunder storm you must have had, luckily we don't have many here. I didn't realize that Mrs Smith had been ill for so long, that is the mother of Helen and Russell and Peggy isn't it? She was always so nice.

It's a little lighter so I better get to work, I hope to have things in fairly good order when Jean comes so she won't think I



am too poor a house keeper, I am trusting her eyesight is poor enough  
so she can't see dust very well !

We had to put the furnace on again yesterday it was so cold  
and damp/.

Loads of love,

*Catherine*



Barff, Alberta.  
Sunday.  
June July 27 1942.

Dearest Mother.

We are having summer at last! I have even a gingham dress & white shoes on, and it hasn't started to rain! and we lit the furnace out this morning! We had to put it on again a few days ago when a north east storm blew in, but now it does look as if summer were here at last. It cleared yesterday morning only to rain in the evening, most discouraging, but to-day is clear as a bell, such a warm sun, a cool breeze, 72° out - but I guess you are tired hearing about our weather when the last I heard from you, you were having weather trouble yourself.

All must be excitement in Concord to-day with Jean leaving to-morrow. It is hard to realize that she is really coming at last. We will be meeting her here, and then Pete has to go to camp for two weeks, leaving next week end. It will be nice to have her staying here while he is away, and maybe we can go up to Temple for a few days. I think she would enjoy that for a change.

I didn't tell you about the start of the tourist season. Friday it was cold and a pouring rain. Pete went over to the store and found them quite busy with a Greek, who seemed to be making large purchases. Tom Kelly had sold



him 70 neckties, socks and shirts and was busy doing them up in a large bundle. He had also bought three dresses for his wife, and as Pete went in was trying to get six pairs of white shoes from Jackie, size 10 1/2. They evidently knew him and he had just returned from a winter in Vancouver. He left the store, signing the bill and saying he would pick them up later. They were quite elated making such a good sale on such a miserable day.

Pete went on down the street and found him in George Nobles trying to buy opera glasses, and a couple of cameras worth 90 dollars. He already had bought 7 dollars worth of postcards and the girl was busy wrapping them up. However as soon as he left and Pete told George Noble that he had been in the store, and how much he had bought there. George telephoned Gus Barrabes who has a restaurant. (is also a Greek & knew this man from Calgary) Gus told George to keep an eye on him & he'd come right up. That the man was crazy, had escaped from a person who was escorting him back from the coast. They got told of the police & Pete went into Harman's to warn them as Gus didn't want the man to see him. When Pete got to Harman's the girl was wrapping up another large bundle. This time it was six boxes of Kotex! The Mauntie arrived soon and very diplomatically invited the man to accompany him to the Barracks. The Greek went ~~with~~ quite calmly but told Bill (the police man) that if any one ever tried to arrest him it would take at least



three men the size of Bill. However he was  
looked up after his great shopping spree. The  
store spent the rest of the morning putting away  
his purchases and the things he had looked at,  
and the lady in George Noble's had to resort all the  
dozens of post cards. The folks must have quite  
enjoyed himself for his hour or so of buying every  
thing he wanted, but I did think it a joke on the  
shop keepers thinking they had made such a  
wonderful sale.

Monday. Its lovely again this morning so I  
guess our rain is over for a while. I cleaned  
the bedroom & after a trip over for meat etc. will  
finish straightening it up. If we had only had  
more sunny weather I would have done quite  
well.

Lots of love  
Catherine.



Banff, Alberta.

Thursday, July 2, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

Well Jean has arrived and all is well, The train was a bit late, We went down early to meet it at 11.10, no buses or cars so we suspected as much, it was over an hour and a half late, coming just before one, so we did a few things around town and had our lunnh and went back down. We found out where they would stop Jean's car and so were right on hand. She looked fine and her hat was on quite straight even after we had all had a kiss! It was a perfect day though it is 80 and feels pretty hot as this is our first hot spell.

Mrs Hall's son, who you may have met, Henry Hall, was on the same train as Jean from Montreal and sat across the aisle and was awfully nice to her, pointing out all the mountains as they came up from Calgary (and Jean says that she can see them very clearly, its only things right in front of her that ~~are~~ hard to see) We had a chat with him on the platform until the train left, I had never met him before but Pete had though we wouldn't have known who it was if Jean hadn't introduced us, for we were so busy saying hello to her. Jean said that there was an awfully bright young girl also on their car, who got off in Regina and Jean said she was so bright to talk too, and Henry Hall told them about his climbing trips and they had a fine time by all accounts. I think Jean enjoyed the trip, didn't think it a bit long either.

We made some tea and a light lunnh and then we unpacked her things and are taking it quietly to-day. Pete has to go to camp tomorrow night for a week or two and so Jean is going to stay right here. and it will be nice for me having her company while Pete is away.

Barbara and Jean are now talking a blue streak and so this letter is getting a bit mixed up but I did want to thank you for the wonderfully thoughtful presents. What a clever little gadget that is for viewing slides and I know we never could have gotten one here, I have never even heard of it. and what lovely slides of the garden, The colors are so good and the flowers show up so well, I haven't really had time to examine them closely yet. Also the stockings are just grand to have as you know, and the candy is just fine, we do like it for desert.

I mustn't write more now so that this will get in the mail, Jean was working on a letter too until Barbara came, but we will send them along and try to do better in a day or two.

I waited to write so as to tell you of Jean's arrival. Oh yes and the envelope of left overs from your trip last year is also very nice to have, we will put it to good use.

Thank you again for all the things and I only wish you could have come with them yourself, but I know its a hard trip for you and perhaps we can get east before long.

I must go now, loads of love,

Catharine

P.S. Jean said that Kitty is still having trouble with her ear. I do hope she can find out what causes it & so get rid of the trouble.

Love to all. Catharine



Banff, Alberta.  
Sunday, July 5, 1942.

Dearest Mother.

This won't be any sort of letter I'm afraid for this morning we heard that we could get a room at the Palliser Hotel for to-night. so we can see the Parade tomorrow. We are using your present & Jean, Peter's mother & I are going down to the Stampede.

It's been rather a busy day. Just here Jackie came in and there wasn't time to write more. I don't know where to begin to tell you all we have been doing. I'm writing on my lap with only a pocket book underneath.

When you mentioned how little Jean could see we thought we had better wait until she came to find out if she could enjoy the Stampede Parade before making a hotel reservation. When we tried to get a room at the Palliser of course we couldn't get one. When Jackie took Peter down Friday night I asked him to see if he could get a room for us at some hotel & he was awfully good & went to 3 only to find that there were no rooms & long waiting lists. However he told them to let him know not later than Sunday noon if anyone gave up a room. We gave up any hope of going & then this morning about 10 o'clock Barbara came over & said that 2 were had come & we could get rooms at 2 hotels. We went up fast & asked Peter's mother if she would like to go. as I knew she had always missed the Parade for one reason or another & she was quite tickled. She loves to go places anyway. & then we walked to the station to send a wire to cancel our reservation & the man was awfully nice & telephoned to the Palliser to be sure we had the room there. Jean & Darry were sitting in the waiting room & a man went into the men's room - Darry in his very audible voice told Jean & the rest of the people in the waiting room "Know what that man was going to the bathroom".

We were just finishing lunch when Sam & Cis came to ask us to have supper with them at the Mt Royal. and then said they would come back & drive us to the Station at five. It seemed to take us all afternoon to get things together & get dressed etc & in the midst of it the little deer you saw last year, now grown up, came along & laid down in the grass. Harold & Darry took Jean to it & the deer wasn't a bit frightened. Let Jean pet



it even let the boys put their arms round its neck. Later  
two beautiful big buck deer came by. One looked  
right in the kitchen window. made me almost jump.  
We had Jackie to take us down too but went with  
Sam. We found the Station packed with people. These  
who had come for the week end to Banff & were from  
Banff going to Calgary. Jackie asked the Station Master  
where an empty coach would be on the train with the best  
chance of getting a seat & he said there were only 30  
empty seats on the train coming in & we would just have  
to take a chance. Though we could wait until a later train  
at 7 o'clock. It was then 5.30. We tried to get on with  
the other 400 or 500 people. I'm sure there were that many.  
& after struggling through a couple of cars thought it hopeless.  
So got off again. Then some conductor or trainman said  
there were some empty seats in the last coach. which  
was at the other end of the train for us. It was a nice hot  
day too & you can remember how hot that Station Platform  
can be. Well we tore down knowing with so many still  
on the Platform that it was pretty hopeless. Only to find  
that the open observation car on the end had quite a  
few seats. We could hardly believe it. but got on &  
even all sat together. I think Jackie & the Wards were  
as surprised as we and we can hardly believe our luck  
yet. It would have been such a hot wait had we had  
to jam onto the next train & even had we gotten into a  
crowded day coach it would have been hot. but here  
we are on the best car of the lot. Had we known we could  
have gotten on so easily in the first place. I hope  
our lunch holds as well for the rest of the trip.  
Will write when we get back Tuesday to  
Banff. Hope you can read this. but the train  
was too jiggly & I didn't dare attempt ink.  
How is Betty? Jean told me she was planning  
to go to the Phillips House for observation. So let  
us know what they find is the cause of her  
ear trouble.  
It's been lovely & hot. 80° in the day  
time since Jean came but cool in the evenings.  
We listened to a band concert in the park until  
10.15 last evening. It was still light.  
Loads of love.  
Catharine.  
P.S. We are just between Cochrane & Calgary &  
they have had a hard frost by the amount of water  
frozen down. The fields hail too like snow on the  
ground. It's quite exciting.



Banff, Alberta.

Canada.

Tuesday, July 7, 1942/.

Dearest Mother,

We got back from Calgary this noon after a real spree. Jean and Pete's mother had a wonderful time and so did I. I guess you got our scribble on the train, just when I finished it and sealed the envelope we got held up by the water running off the hills near Calgary and were half an hour at a washout, the water was over the tracks in some places and they just crept across the ~~tracks~~ part undermined by the water, it was quite exciting. They had quite a storm in Calgary, hail stones the size of marbles and the intensity of the storm was the greatest in 15 years, that is the greatest amount of water in a certain length of time fell. It really must have been quite a storm, there were even water falls over some of the hill sides and we passed a whole lot of picnickers soaked to the skin their slacks just sticking to them. Gardens were under water and in Calgary there were tremendous puddles, some streets had water from curb to curb and the subways under the tracks were full, four feet of water. Luckily by being held up the half hour it had stopped raining when we got to Calgary, such a crowd as got off the train, we went right to the hotel and had a large room on the first floor, a bit noisy but we could watch the cars going down into the deep water under the tracks, and later little boys on bicycles coasting through with the momentum from peddling down the hill fast. *The subway is where the road goes under the tracks.*

It was about nine when we had our supper and then we sat in the lobby a while to watch the people before going to bed, the street cars made such a noise we didn't think we could sleep, but I heard Jean sort of breathing heavily in no time and she slept right through and so did I, Pete's mother is a poor sleeper anyway, but I think that she sleeps more than she thinks she does. We had great fun together and teasing one another and I am ~~about~~ speaking with a Scotch accent by this time.

Next morning was overcast and looked like rain, but it turned out to be fog and burnt off and was a most beautiful morning. Our luck held right through to getting seats on the train when a Jewish girl pushed Jean and Mom out of double seats by throwing her bag in as they were about to sit down, this was on the train this morning, but it didn't matter except that we all had to sit separately, and she was so awfully rude and pushing as they often seem to be. To go back our luck was wonderful the morning of the parade, I thought we might get a place near a window, for to stand an hour before the parade even started was too much. However there are two sort of balcony's on the Palliser and they had a row of chairs with the row of windows open, and we just sat right in front and looked down on the street with no more trouble than that. It was great fun and we wish that you could have been there to see it, you would have loved it, Jean can see best looking down and it was perfect for her. It was a good long parade, Navy, Army, and Air force, followed by all the regular parade things, including Indians and cowboys chuck wagons and floats and 20 bands. It was lunch time by the time it was over, and we were almost tired from looking so hard. It was a pretty hot day so we decided not to go out to the grounds until late and I did not think that Jean could see the events well enough to enjoy that part, so we did errands instead, and she sent parcels home to Scotland.



and I got several things I wanted, then we changed our clothes and went out to the exhibition grounds, Pete's mother wanted to go to the oldtimers hut, and we had tea there which impressed Jean more than anything for it cost us nothing. The groups of Oldtimers take turns on different days serving tea, donating various things, and then the various people who came first to the country congregate there to see each other. and that was how we could get in, I guess any one can go really that is interested.

"e also met David Bearspaw who asked us to his teepee and so we took Jean in there, they had six inches of water after the storm, poor things. It must have been awful wet and I wondered how Pete was getting on. they also are in tents and at the bottom of a hill.

We took in the handy work exhibit and the Art exhibition and a few other things and then went up to the Grand stand to see the evening show, the chuck wagon races, and a very good show ending up with fire works. When it was dark and they were killing a little time between the end of the show and the fire works the master of ceremonies remarked on how pretty the light was as the people lighted their cigarettes and said now when I count "one two three," each one of you light a match on "three " and they did it and you have no idea how lovely it was to see, we had come down to the bottom and so could see it all. It only lasted a minute.

It was midnight when we got home, but we didn't seem to be too tired at all, and we really had had great fun.

I mustn't write more now if this is to go in the mail to-night. There were two nice letters from you here when we got back, what a shame about Maylo, and Jean said too that she was such a rabid Christian Scientist, It just doesn't seem right.

Loads of love and I will write soon.

*Catherine.*



Banff, Alberta.

Thursday, July 9, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

It doesn't look as if you would get much of a letter this morning, I don't know where the morning went, except that we slept rather late and then Jean kept me dusting this and that and thought we should wash the breakfast dishes which I often leave till lunchtime, and then Sam came over to get some lumber and we hunted for that and I took it over in the car for him, all of which takes time. there is a white elephant sale on and I looked in to see what kind of things they had so as to take some things over, and here it is 12 o'clock and we go to the Red Cross this afternoon.

Yesterday we had rather a quiet day, cleaned up a bit in the morning after sleeping late and then in the afternoon took up Jean's bundles to mail to Scotland, we walked all around the gardens and it was a lovely afternoon and the flowers are lovely especially the poppies, We met Barbara on the way home and all had ice cream together, and so the afternoon went. The evening before we went up to Sam and Cis to take a hat to her we had bought in Calgary, a garden hat, and had a nice evening there. Now we are wondering if we can go up to Temple to-morrow for a few days, and then next week is Indian days. so the time is just flying by.

Jean was glad to get your letter yesterday and I got all mine in a batch the day before. I am glad that Kitty was all right, for there was no mention of the hospital, but rather a night in Dedham, I expect it was to visit Hanna and Dick, how are they all? It was lucky you saved enough gas so Kitty could drive over it is such an awkward place to get too and would take most all day by train I guess. It must seem so funny not to be able to just run here and there as one used to before the rationing.

Jean has had lovely weather since she has been here every day sunny though it looked showery yesterday and we had a few drops of rain this morning, last week was hot but it is nice and cool now, and she is enjoying it though we haven't done such an awful lot.

I must go so loads of love and I will try to write more soon though with the children and Kitty there you won't feel the need of letters so much, I am beginning to express myself like Jean from talking with her so much!

Loads of love to you all and wish you were here.

Catherine



Dearest/A

Banff, Alberta.

Saturday July 11, 1942.

Dearest Mother, You can see that I too break up at times, starting

the letter instead of the date, then forgetting to drop down a line and then missing out a letter or two, maybe it is because I am trying to hurry a bit so as to write you a fairly long letter.

Jean is having a grand time so she says and thinks that the time flies by here faster than in Concord. she remarked this morning that at home she usually has time to look at "Life" magazine, but here she hasn't even had time to look at last weeks before this weeks copy arrived. and I haven't read a newspaper hardly since she came.

We had planned to go up to Temple to-day for over the weekend and if the weather was nice to have maybe stayed longer, We sort of talked Cis and Sam into going with us and Sam was going to take his car and drive us up, also take to-day off and maybe Monday, and they came down last evening to see what time we would start etc. They had just left and we were in the midst of getting our clothes together when Mrs MacDonald dropped in about getting some of our hay and she stayed until ten. for we haven't seen her for quite a while, she wants me to bring Jean up some afternoon. Mary and her husband ( a pilot officer in the R.C.A.F. ) are there, he had 48 hours leave and came down with the mumps, just got rid of the mump on one side of his face and now has started on a mump on the other, rather bad luck. So Jean and I got to bed rather late again, for we wanted to get things more or less packed and I had planned to take my paints and had to look through those. Jean had us up at seven this morning only to find the sky very dark and rainy looking. After breakfast I went over to see what Sam thought and he agreed the weather looked anything but promising, then Jackie thought we had better wait until about ten and see if it would clear, but it is raining now and I am afraid it won't be very good over the weekend. However Maybe we can go later on, at the beginning of the week. We probably should have gone when we came back from Calgary, but we seemed to be so busy doing one thing or another.

Yesterday we had a busy day doing errands, Pete's mother brought Jean some Scotch scones for lunch and a rhubarb and raspberry pie she had just made and then stayed to have a picked up lunch with us, the children also came over and we had two lovely buck deer around all day even lying on the front lawn, much to Jean's delight. Jean did a bit of present shopping and then we had an ice cream.

Thursday we went to the Red Cross and Jean knit while we sewed, she enjoyed that, as we were finishing supper we heard a band and went over town to find the Edmonton High School marching up and down the main street and then over to the park to play for about an hour, we picked up Pete's mother on a corner and Cis came and sat with us in the park and then we came back here for some Apple juice and they stayed for a while, It has been eleven nearly every night when we have gone to bed so you can see we have been busy.

It looks a bit lighter so I think I had better go over and get our car in order in case we do decide to go and take our car.



If it does rain over the weekend I will try to answer your letters really well.

Loads of love to you all and I know you must be enjoying having the children and Kitty there with you.

More love,

Catherine



Banff, Alberta.

Monday July 13, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

Well we never got to Temple after all. Jean had me up at seven that morning and it looked pretty overcast, but so had it ~~to~~ looked the morning before ~~when~~ it rained but cleared off. We had had a busy evening, we were trying to ~~pack~~ and first Cis and Sam came down to arrange when to go, we did a little packing and then Mrs Mack came in and ~~stayed~~ until ten, so it was after eleven when we finally got to bed. We had planned to drive to Lake Louise, Sam and Cis going with us or we with them, and then meet Cliff at noon. When it looked so stormy after breakfast I went over to see Sam and we decided to wait ~~at~~ until ten to decide definitely whether or not to go. It wasn't hard to make up our minds as it started pouring about ten thirty and never let up until evening, such a rain as we had around noon. We put a fire on in the kitchen and living room fire place and I put the partition up again so we were quite cozy. I took Pete's mother up to the Salvation Army but they have just opened for the boys in the forces to have a place to go. she was hostess for the afternoon. We planned to write letters and do all sorts of things but with one thing or another we didn't get any written after all, and went over to Paris's for supper at night, as we thought if it did clear Sunday we might go up to Temple after all, however Cliff came down later and said that the road would be bad until it cleared up and had a chance to dry.

At five o'clock yesterday morning ~~Jean and I~~ <sup>Jean and I</sup> both woke to hear something falling on the roof, and it was Pete, ~~he had come up on a~~ <sup>he had come up on a</sup> late train to spend Sunday as they had ~~had~~ to call off the church parade on account of rain in Calgary and he thought he would take the chance to come up. We all went to bed again until nearly nine and then had a rather busy day not ~~doing~~ a great deal, but he wanted to see how the work was getting on at the store and things like that. Pearl Moore and Gray Campbell came in in the afternoon and then there was just time to get Pete a bite to eat before the train left a little after five. It was a nicer day but not too sunny, however it is lovely to-day though cold. Pete expects to be back Saturday, we will probably drive down to get him in Calgary, and then we will go up to Temple with him which will be much more fun.

I am still not answering your letters very well, but I don't think that there were many real questions, we enjoy your letters as you know and all that you write about. I guess that you are having a lively time with the children, I know how noisy they must be, for when we get Harold and Davy over here running around it can be very confusing, we don't let them run around and get into things when we are here alone but it is always awkward when their mother is here and doesn't check them up at all, I can't very well tell them not to do this and that in front of ~~her~~ her, when they are here by themselves they will do anything I tell them to as they know that other wise they go home. I suppose you never notice your own children's noise, sometimes I think that Barbara is a little deaf.

I must go and do lots of things, mail, pay bills get gas in the car, take the laundry and a dozen other things, so if we are to do them all I guess I had better start. Jean hasn't done very much yet what with getting Pete ready to go to camp and then yesterday his being home and with the rain, but Indian Days is this thursday and she will enjoy that I am sure. I think I will drive her around this afternoon a bit ~~is~~.



if it stays nice.

Loads of love,

Catharine .



Banff, Alberta.

Canada.

July 16, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

This is Red Cross Day and it is dull and looks like rain so I think that Jean and I will go this afternoon. Indian Days is shorter this year and starts to-morrow instead of to-day as we thought it would. Yesterday was lovely with big clouds and I had the bright idea of going down the road towards Morely and taking pictures of the wagons and Indians riding up. We had a lot of little things to do in the morning but drove down to the camp ground just before lunch to see how many had arrived and found no more teepees up than those that have been there for several days while the men cut teepee poles. So we came back for lunch and went down after lunch again, still no Indians. I couldn't understand it, and then found out later that it is to-day they come. However Jean and I had a nice ride, its only the second one I have taken her on. Pete drove us around the golf course the first night she was here, and the other afternoon I took her up to Sundance canyon, where we got out and walked up a way, we also stopped and went into the cave at the Cave and Basin, that same day. I am glad we drove around Tunnel mountain yesterday as otherwise we might not have gotten there with Indian days coming and now bad weather. Last evening being rather dull I sorted out slides, and then we looked at the lovely ones of the garden when it got dark enough. They look so well in the projector. At first we couldn't figure where the little path was through the woods, I thought it was to the pool, but Jean said "no" she thought it was the one up the hill, and of course I could see it was then, for when you take a photograph from the bottom of a hill it always flattens out the hill. I didn't realize it was so grassy up there and how pretty the white birches are. The white peonies are lovely too and the red flower shows up so well, they are lovely to have and show such a variety of views.

I wrote Pete yesterday and am in the same boat as you, can't remember to which I wrote what. We had a very social day Tuesday, Pete's mother came down before lunch to ask us to supper and we made her stay to lunch, then we were just on our way up to the post office when Fern came in to ask up to tea, she also was on her way to the post office so we walked up together, landing back at her house for tea, George being very Scotch he and Jean had a lively time swapping Scotch jokes and talking about places in Scotland they both knew well. so we had great fun. We had to walk over town to get an appetite for supper and ate much too much up at Momm's, Lila was there too so we had a nice time. We sat drinking tea after dinner until we heard band music and then sat for an hour in the park listening to the concert, a young boys band. That is the fourth concert since Jean has been here and the third we have listened to.

Jean claims that this place agrees with her. She sleeps until nearly nine every morning much to her embarrassment I think, but she finds it hard even then to wake up. and she also says she eats too much. She is enjoying everything though we haven't done very much, maybe next week if the weather only clears a bit we can drive to Lake Louise, spend a night at Temple and maybe go to Bow Lakes, we haven't been up there yet this year. but it will be more fun to have Pete along.

To-morrow after the parade Jean and I are to drive to Calgary to meet Pete at the camp and bring him back. as his camp is all over this weekend.



I must go over town now to get some lunch and the mail etc.  
goodness knows when you will get more of a letter than this.

Oh, the book of sugarless receipts arrived, it looks  
awfully good and ~~will~~ be a great help in knowing what one can combine and  
yet get more or less the same results.

Loads of love to you and all the family.

Catherine.



Banff, Alberta.

Monday, July 20, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

The latter winter seems to be suffering a bit, but you may remember what a busy time it always is during Indian Days. Jean & I saw the parade Friday morning, but it wasn't nearly as large as one as last year. Also it was cold and looked like rain. In fact when we started out for Calgary it poured. But I believe cleared up later in Banff. We left here about one thirty and reached Sarcee at about four thirty and as Pete was all ready we were back in time for a late supper. We ran through one bad storm going down but it was clear coming home. Pete was glad to be back for their training was pretty strenuous, 5.30 A.M. to nine every evening, and doing something all the time. However he found it all very interesting & feels he hasn't a lot.

Saturday was not much warmer, occasional sunshine but no rain. We watched the parade in the morning and went down to the grounds in the afternoon, much as we did the year before. In the evening Jean & I went to the concert at the hotel and Roy & Harold went with us, getting pretty sleepy towards the end. But they were very good. It turned out to be a wonderful evening. Pete had rather a poor evening in the end, for an air force had came to call & he is the only one that never knows when to leave. Can't seem to make



the door without numerous false alarms first. He was here when Jean & I got back & stayed until nearly midnight. so we all slept late Sunday morning. Again we went to the Indian spots in the afternoon to see the Bow & Arrow & Teepee Pitching contests. Old Mrs Price well over eighty was in the Teepee pitching with another old squaw & they would have won but forgot to bring the door-flap. She was also dancing at the hotel! Mark too. Mark appeared Friday as we were getting lunch to go to Calgary. wanted to have Peter's Teepee pitched on our front lawn & stay there. also wanted lunch for himself & three other Indians. So I had to take them over to Cyril in the end as we hadn't time.

When we came back yesterday afternoon. Pearl & a lady we used to know came down with the Harbours from Philadelphia who won the Spitfire pictures & wanted to see them. (and we have them here) also about four Australians in the Air Force and two Canadians also in the Air Force and a Mrs Henry. anyway there were 10 or 11 of them. Luckily we had enough apple juice & cake to go round & they were very much interested in the Indian things we have. They hadn't been gone long before Mr McQueen, an old friend from Calgary & Vancouver dropped in. then we had supper & were just washing up when Jacob Two Young man & his wife came. I forgot he had called in first after lunch too. They had presents for us from Mrs Price. so then we got the car out again. went in search of Jackie. got a blanket at the store & took it down to the camp. We met Dr & Mrs Thornton (two of the people who came that



evening Mr Weed was here. & they drove down  
with us to the camp. So it was quite a day  
& we were all in bed by ten.

It's a lovely day to-day and we may possibly  
go up to Lake Louise this afternoon it all depends.  
Pete is over town now & will know when he comes  
back. Here he is now. Looks like a letter in his  
pocket. no it wasn't. but we are going to Lake Louise  
this afternoon so Jean will surely see it in good  
weather. for we have had such poor weather the last  
week or more. The Laughlins come tomorrow to go out  
to Erhuips. & the Rumpmans come in Thursday. Jean  
will probably leave Friday. then we will have a  
chance to go on a painting trip - as there is no  
dill for a while.

Time to go.

Loads of love

Catharine -



Banff, Alberta.

Wednesday, July 22, 1942

Dearest Mother,

This will be my last letter until after Jean leaves. for she goes Friday afternoon about six, will reach Chicago on Sunday, in the afternoon and I think leaves there Wednesday and gets to Concord on the Minute Man I think it is, anyway they have arranged to have it stopped for her to get off in Concord at about four-thirty, (maybe it is earlier,) they should be able to tell you at the station. That is Thursday afternoon, July 30th. We got her ticket yesterday afternoon, so she will definitely arrive Thursday.

We are having rather a busy time. the Laughlins arrived yesterday, Erling told me when they were coming so we met them and drove them up to the hotel, later in the afternoon about five they came down and we had a nice visit, they are coming to have steaks with us to-night when Jean is taking Pete's mother out to supper, for she had invited her and said she didn't want to be here very much. The Laughlin's go out to Assinaboine to-morrow morning early.

Monday was a beautiful day with lovely clouds and after a busy morning doing odd things we drove Jean and Mom up to Lake Louise, the later hadn't been there for years. It was warm, a real summer day, We met Mr Gibbon up there and so arranged to drive him back down and then he told Pete that he expected us on the Trail Hike, so now it looks as if we would be going on that. It starts next Friday. for three or four days. Some will go to Sunshine camp and others up to a high lake which will be fun. We will go to the high camp.

Yesteray afternoon we all hayed, Jean included. Bill had cut our long grass and then as usual the people who wanted the hay couldn't come for it when we hoped they would so we had to rake it up ourselves, the children all helped, if you would call it help, but they worked hard and so Pete took them all over to have a soda afterward at Cyrils while I took a shower instead. In the evening Sam and Cis came down for a while and Sam told Jean some of his recitations and we had great fun. Now this afternoon we are going up to Cis for tea, it looks a bit like a thunder storm.

You must be having a busy time, I hoped that the Laughlins had been able to take in the supper of 25 before leaving but they hadn't I expect to-morrow we will hear all the details, It must have seemed an awfully short 24 hours for Russell. but no doubt a full one, won't he get a leave this summer? Jean got a lovely letter from Aunt Julie this morning telling about Eileen and the children being there and that Edith has had another son. so that is nice. Jean also got a nice letter from Nanpy, and Irma so we are hearing all the Concord news one way or another.

I must "tidy up a bit" or Jean will be awfully upset at the way the house looks with company coming. and it will soon be time to go to Cises.

Loads of love to you all and don't try to do too much to tire yourself all out. Couldn't you give up the Red Cross for the summer and that would be one less thing to do.

Lots of love,

Catherine



Banff, Alberta.

Saturday, July 25, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

Jean was really lucky to have left yesterday for it rained all last evening and is rainy to-day and cold and there isn't much to do in this sort of weather. We were sorry to see her go for she did enjoy everything so much and we enjoyed having her here, she seemed to think everything was allright including scenery and food and I think it made a good holiday for her. I wish she had had a more cheerful evening to leave in but perhaps when she got near Calgary it wasn't as stormy.

Thursday I took her up to the Banff Springs hotel in the morning for she hadn't been inside before. I was surprised how few people there were about, no one inside at all and only about a dozen on the terrace and it was a beautiful day to sun. We went all through the Mt Stephen Hall the Ball room and all, looked into the dining room too. I was quite interested to see all the bright purple Browellias, that you have in the house in the winter, in the conservatory. They had lots of it, do you remember there having it last year? We also looked at the swimming pools and met several people as well. It seems funny without the hordes of people that come on tours most years. The Laughlins were crazy about the hotel as a place to stay this year, and can't get over how nice it is with out the mass of tourists. They went to Assinaboine Thursday and got two rather nice days to go out in thought to-day must be nice and rainy there as well as on the Trail ride which left yesterday morning.

Thursday afternoon from a clear morning without a cloud changed to a rainy looking afternoon, so we decided to go to the Red Cross as Jean seemed not to mind. She was very helpful and turned belts inside out for the ~~hospital~~ gowns we were making. In the evening we took her and Pete's mother, Harold and Davy up to the Green spot for a ride, we even drove around the ski camp for Jean to see that, I think it was barred off last summer, but this time we just drove right around the building so Jean saw where they ski at Norquay. When coming down Pete drove off the road and down the lower part of the ski trail. Pete's mother didn't like it very well and neither did Davy. When Pete teased them and suggested we go back up and do it again, Davy insisted that it was time that he and Harold go to bed, it was way past their bed time etc. However when it came to seeing the bears at the Garbage dump it was a different story. We also saw the little fawn in the woods beside the road, the mother never brought them down while Jean was here much to our disappointment, but she saw plenty of other deers.

Friday we had Jean's bag examined and checked through to Concord, I imagine it will reach Concord a few days ahead of Jean, maybe Tuesday. We really didn't do a great deal that day, said goodbye to the Wards and the family and then she left at 6.15. We went to the station in a thunder storm and downpour but it had stopped raining by the time her train came in. The porter on her car seemed very nice so I hope she has a pleasant trip back.

We got your letter about the big weekend when Russell was home, what a shame his plane was late and he missed some of the party, but I should imagine that it was nicer for you as other wise you would have seen little of him and



you did get a chance to visit with him a little on the ride out from Baos Boston. It must have been a lively weekend just the same.

I must do a bit of bookkeepeng now for I have rather neglected things since Jean came and I owe dozens of letters.

She will be home soon after you get this and will tell you all about the visit in her own words which will be far more expesive than mine.

I sent you two dozen slides with her, six of which Geroge Noble took as we hadn't any of those subjects. I am sorry not to send you more but these are mostly duplicates of ones we have or similar to ours, It is not going to be too easy to get film and so many of the ones we have are useful in painting, but we are glad to have you have them, to show.

Loads of love,

*Catharine*



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Loads of love,

*Catharine*



Banff, Alberta.

July 28, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

You nearly bowled me over, as the saying goes, by the tremendous check enclosed in your letter. I never got such a surprise, nor could a present have come at a more opportune time. In fact Pete and I had spent a good part of the morning trying to figure how we would work out a way of finishing the job at the store. It isn't that we haven't enough, but we didn't want to take any chances of running ourselves short, and I have to be sure and save enough ahead as the Canadian Income taxes are to be paid quarterly this year for 1942 and the first payment of I don't know how much, comes due in September or October. At first we hadn't intended to finish the fourth apartment. You see first we did the little one in the wooden part for Cliff and Mildred to move into so that we could finish the other two where Mildred and Cliff used to live in one. Then when they were finished, there seemed to be so many prospects of tenants both for winter and summer, it seemed too bad not to complete the one in the unheated part of the store just for summer occupancy. Now that it is finished it looks so nice that everyone wants that one for the winter if it only had the heat. We don't like the idea of borrowing in these uncertain times, or any times and prefer to do it as we have the wherewithall, but in another month or two it may be impossible to get the materials or the men. They think that they can re-arrange the heating system and so heat the newest apartment over the grocery side, for it has a warm floor. and then the space in the building will all be utilized. It was awfully good of you to send it and I assure you it will be more than handy. I wish you could see all we have done, but Jean will tell you what it is like.

Did I tell you what we did with the Canadian money? It was thirty-nine dollars I think, and we used it for the trip to the Stampede. I didn't expect our trip to cost just that, in fact I thought it would be more, but we spent exactly 36 dollars and that included a supper Jean paid for and the taxis that Pete's Mother insisted on paying for. I signed for all the four meals we had at the hotel so there would be no argument and we did get a free tea at the Old Timers Hut, but with your present we bought the three round trip tickets on the train. That was \$9.90 and then there was the two nights at the hotel, three in a room, but an outside room, lots of noise bt fresh air two and a bath. and most people couldn't even get rooms. Then there was the entrance fee to the grounds 25¢ each and to the show in the evening, seats in the grandstand to see the Chuck Wagon races, the floor show, and fireworks all for 75¢ each. so I think we did pretty well for 12 dollars a piece, a regular Scotchman's holiday! We didn't try to save either, it just cost that much.

What fun it must have been having Russell home and I know how you all enjoyed it. and now you are off to York Beach, I know how much you like the Marshall house and as I remember it has a lovely beach, so maybe you will stay even longer than the week and it will be a nice change for you all. and how the children will love the ocean and you will have the fun of seeing them enjoy it.



We go out on the Trail Hike Friday, or maybe Thursday and it will be a nice change for us too, I just hope we have good weather, It rained here Saturday and wasn't too nice yesterday, this morning it was 45 and clear but looks like showers now. Jean had the best weather but I am afraid it must have been rainy on the train for her.

Yesterday being Sunday and dull we sat a good deal and I read a book the Laughlins left us, I liked it ever so much and think that you would enjoy all but the part with the figures. It is "Behind the Urals" by John Scott, about his years in Russia and gives a most interesting picture of the life he saw.

Thank you again for the wonderful present and we certainly will put it to good use.

Loads of love to you all and I hope you have a lovely time at York Beach.

More love,

Catharine-



Banff, Alberta.

Wednesday July 29, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

We don't know yet whether we will go out on the Hike to-morrow morning or whether we will go with the whole gang on Friday morning early. It depends largely on the weather. We certainly are having a cold and wet summer. The Larkspurs tell the story pretty well, One group near the kitchen door were just starting to bloom the day Jean arrived and they aren't faded yet, a month tomorrow. Only the middle spire has blossomed, the side ones are still buds. and again we have a great tall one that almost hits the eaves, its right Beet already, just one stalk. They are awfully late this year compared with last year, and if this weather keeps up it looks as if some wouldn't even get a chance to bloom.

This noon is the Trail Hikers lunch eon up at the Hotel for all past presidents and wives etc. Its at one and soon I must change my clothes. We thought it would be fun to go a day ahead but unless it clears up we will go with the rest.

We have been quite busy with little things. Henry Kingman and Dr Thorington came down the other evening to return a borrowed sleeping bag and then we also took Pearl Moore and Mrs Gosling ( Col. Moore's sister you met last summer ) out ~~for~~ to see the water in the canal near Minnewanka, it was such a lovely evening. Then last night we went up to see Sam for a few minutes as he wasn't feeling well and stayed in bed, a very unusual thing for Sam, he got a cold in his back and had a couple of teeth outso I guess it was a combination of things. but he is up today and will be going on the Hike.

Last night we had a bear upset the Garbage and strew it all over the driveway, and this morning the little fawns were here, just two of them, we haven't seen the third one yet. They were awfully cunning and stalked the cat that was under the trees. The cat stalked them and each seemed to be equally ~~cun~~ious and timid of the other.

I have a feeling that there is more to tell you about and yet I can't think what it is, maybe because I have been thinking so hard of all the things to take with us on the hike, the first trip of the season is always harder because you can't find things like tin cups and folding lanterns that you always take but just laid down after the last trip last year,

I will mail this when we go to the hotel. The Laughlins may come in this afternoon from Assinaboine, either the weather is so lousy that they are fed up or else it is nice enough so that they have decided to stay hoping that the next week will be better.

His is hardly worth mailing. Did I tell you that the Trail Hike this year will go to Sunshine camp not very far from Banff, some will stay in the chalet there and others ( we among them ) will go two miles further up by a little lake at tree line to camp. It should be fun.

Loads of love and hope you have a lovely time at York Beach, maybe you will stay longer than the one week.

More love,

Catherine .



Banff, Alberta.

Tuesday, August 4th, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

X We are back from the Trail Hike after a very good time and a real change, I am sure it was good for every one, for out in the mountains the news hardly reaches one and it doesn't seem to effect one in the same way, it is hard to realize a war is going on, the most important news to reach us was the rationing of tea and coffee, which was announced on the radio Sunday night, going into effect Monday morning. It is going to be felt more than the sugar rationing and especially by the tea drinkers. We have the same ration in sugar that they do in the British Isles, but we are to get half their tea ration, and they aren't rationed on Coffee as they drink so little. Here we are to get either 4 ounces of coffee or one ounce of tea per person per week, but not both. We already have cut our coffee by a third and now will take one tablespoonful less a morning. A pound of coffee at present lasts us ten days but we have to do better than that for we will get 2½ pounds for both of us to last the next five weeks. They were quite clever and on the sugar ration cards put five coupons marked A.B.C.D.E. and we are to use those for the tea and coffee. a child's card under twelve can't have coupons used for tea or coffee. Are you rationed yet?

X We found two nice letters from you here yesterday. I also got one from Jean from Chicago before we left telling that there had been a mistake made by the ticket Agent in Chicago and her reservation was for the 30th instead of the 29th, I just hope it didn't upset your plans which of course Jean knew nothing about, in fact she only knew of the shower for Ann Tracy on Thursday which she probably thought she wasn't interfering in after all. I doubt if she could have had her reservation changed any way as it is so difficult these days, but in her letter she wrote me she said that as long as they had made the mistake, she would just stay another day with her cousin and not land in Concord on the day of the party, never thinking that you all were going away, for of course we never thought of that possibility. I hope you weren't planning to use the big black suitcase!

X We had very good weather on the whole for the Hike, It was a beautiful morning Friday for us to start out in, cold and clear with a few clouds lifting out of the valleys which made the effects lovely. We started from the Mount Royal Hotel in busses, they were to leave at eight. and we were up early, soon after six, luckily too, for we didn't realize until we got up that the electric power was off, then we remembered that someone said that they had missed the bus to Calgary one morning as their electric clock had been over an hour slow, the alarm waking them late too, so that when they got to the bus station they felt rather foolish to find that the bus had left over an hour earlier. We managed to cook our coffee and eggs over two sterno's in a basin with a toaster to hold the coffee pot, it only took about 20 minutes to boil the coffee which I thought pretty good. The electricity came on about 7.15 so we would have had a rush had we waited for that. They are fixing the machinery or something at the new power house and so the power has to be off a certain length of time each day.

X We got off about 8.30 in the bus and drove up the Sundance Canyon Road and in the gate another three miles to what is known as the



Game Wardens cabin at Healey Creek, a distance of about six miles from town, then we hiked the next six miles to the lunch place and had a stiff climb, for a road, for another 2½ or 3 miles to Sunshine where the camp was located. It was a nice cool morning so we made good time, there is quite a rise all the way, though the steady rise is the last 2½ miles. They had the lunches at the stopping place also ginger ale and coca cola, which tasted very good. We don't like to make too long stops as one stiffens up, so we went on after a ten minute rest, and ate our lunch beside a stream within sight of the buildings at Sunshine. The clouds were gathering and a good many of the slower ones got caught in the rain and showers later on in the afternoon. It was after one when we finally arrived, and we spent a good part of the afternoon sitting around and when the duffle arrived putting up our tents. There were nearly fifty on the hike, about three quarters of them having been on previous hikes. Some stayed in the lodge and others slept at the teepee camp and the Wards, McGowans and we stayed in our own tents which we put up near the Sunshine Lodge, we all had meals in the lodge and they were excellent ones, the cook from the Mount Royal having gone up to do the cooking.

The first night was rainy and the next day was rather misty and rainy at times, but no one seemed to mind as 45 lunches were taken out, some took short hikes and others longer ones and still others fished in the little lakes about two miles from the lodge. The second day, Sunday, was beautiful, with lovely clouds and warm and sunny, it is beautiful country to walk in, so much of it is uplands and above the tree line, and a few little lakes. We didn't go with the others as Pete wanted to take pictures and the crowd walking together are awfully slow and invariably one gets with the person one doesn't want to be with, I don't mind, but if you want to take pictures it sort of puts one off. So we climbed up a small mountain but with a good view and tried pictures of Assinaboine in the distance. We got pretty well sunburned, but it felt good after so much rain as we have had this summer.

Yesterday we came home, leaving about ten. we didn't want to wait around for the busses at the bottom and so walked most of the way in, being lucky and getting a ride from the gate in, though we had to walk the last couple of miles at a good clip to keep up with the three men who had ordered the car, however it was worth it, for we were home by 2.30 instead of 4.30. when the busses came. It is a lovely day again today.

As usual there are lots of little things to be done. We hope to get out and do some sketching, but it now depends on what Pete has to do in connection with the Reserve unit. Col Moore is back and we saw him yesterday, and he will let us know as soon as possible what all Pete has to do, I hope it won't keep us in town too long with the weather so nice.

Heaps of love to you all and hope you had such a good time at York Beach that you stayed even longer than you expected to.

Loads of love,

Catherine -



BANFF, ALBERTA  
CANADA

Wednesday, August 5, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

Your letter came this morning, just before leaving for York Harbor, I hope that you didn't have awful weather, it didn't sound too good starting out in a fog, But perhaps it cleared before long, We are having much better weather, though each day it gets quite cloudy by noon, great big soft thunder looking clouds, but it hasn't rained for several days. Pete has to be here Friday and Saturday for some inspection and so we shan't be able to go out until next week, I hope we do get a few weeks, but of course one can never tell these days with everything so uncertain.

To-day we didn't get a thing done in the morning, first Sam came as we were having breakfast and we discussed besides the Trail Hike, a good deal about the store. They have finished most of the work, but Sam will stay on to make storm windows and the shed at the back and odd things that always takes time, There is also the question of heating the last apartment for winter by adding two extra boilers to the furnace. Sam had hardly gone and I had the bed half made when Cliff appeared, we haven't seen him for a long time and he had to tell us some of their plans up at Temple and how the road is and all the other little things, and it was lunch time by the time that he had left, This afternoon we did all sorts of paying bills and going to the bank all of which takes time. General MacDonald and his brother (who we have never met before) came in the house down as I was making blueberry muffins for supper, so they didn't stay very long but want to come again to see the Sketches as the brother's wife is an artist, also the daughter.

Yesterday afternoon we had Col Moore and Fred Waterworth about the plumbing, and so it goes. To-morrow is Red Cross and as long as I am in town I like to go. Tell Jean the Surgical coats are all finished and I managed to make a whole one last week.

It is too bad that you missed the first excitement of Jean coming home but I expect she can tell you just as much later on about her trip. and it will give her a chance to settle down a bit before you all come home.

Oh. Yes, I forgot, the Laughlins came in on their way to the train to say good bye. They were afraid to stay long for fear the train wasn't as late as they heard it was, and also we were starting to cook potatoes which I am afraid scared them a bit. so we didn't hear as much as we should have liked to have about their trip. They said that the weather hadn't been too bad.

That was a nice letter from Mrs Wayman, and all the others I have enjoyed too, about the wedding in Milwaukee and all the others, Will be anxious to hear how you find Uncle Marshall, I am glad he seems to be getting on so well.

Won't be able to write more this time but will try to do better soon.

Loads of love,

Catherine.



BANFF, ALBERTA  
CANADA

Saturday, August 8, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

We really are having lovely weather at last, real summery looking though you probably would call it cold, it gets up to 70 every day, but like this morning starts out at 48. The clouds have been beautiful and it makes one wish we could be out painting, but such is luck, Pete has to be here for inspection over at the drill place, and there is not much one can do about it. Col. Moore was down twice yesterday and Pete was working from one until nearly six on the job, and is over again this morning. However He hopes to be able to go out by the middle of next week, I am using the time to sort of get things in order, and I should write a lot of letters I have owed since Christmas, but it is hard when the weather is so nice. Of course I might sketch around here if I could get started, but there are so many interruptions and so many little things to be done it is hard to find undisturbed time these days. The Links are coming through on this mornings train, and we are to see them for a few minutes at the station. They want us to be up at Temple when they are there this coming week, but we are rather anxious to have them get settled there first and like it on their own, Mr Simpson is up there now and they are great friends from Lake O'hara days, so he will be able to initiate them into a new place, really better than we could, for we would be so anxious that they like Temple that we would feel sort of responsible. Cliff said that they have had a better summer already than they did last year, there have been several people staying for a week at a time. Just now there is a Mrs Richards from Boston there, her husband is a Dr Richards but they don't really come from Boston having lived all over the world.

I hope you are having nice weather at York Beach, or rather did have, I expect there will be a letter from you this morning telling about it, one came yesterday from Jean written after she reached Concord, no it came Thursday, You spoke of bridge at Mrs Motte Shaws, how is Isabel ? and also how is Mrs Motte's exzema ?

We haven't any public library here and the lending library has so few new books that I never even try to get one there. However I have so many books to be read myself that I shall be busy if I have the time.

No letter came from you this morning and I expect that you were busy the first weekend at York and didn't have a chance to write, perhaps there will be one on this moon train.

I went to the station and saw the Links, they were on the second section so it took nearly an hour before I got back, but Sid Graves who used to run Lake O'Hara was there for the same purpose so we chatted until the train came in. Pete was busy and it looks as if he would be for several days. and the weather still lovely, well it can't be helped. We have had so much rainy weather that perhaps now it will be nice for the rest of the summer, I hope so.

Loads of love,

Catherine



BANFF, ALBERTA  
CANADA

Monday, August 10, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

Your first letter from York Beach came this morning, and I was glad to hear that you were having nice weather and ~~and~~ it sounded as if you were enjoying sitting on the piazza and the children on the beach etc. I hope you decide to stay longer than just one week so you will have a real change, a week isn't ~~very~~ long.

Pete has been busy with the inspection they had at the end of last week, ~~When~~ he took over the Quartermaster job he got in for more than he expected in away, he is only acting so hasn't received the rank to go with it, but I suppose it is all to his credit having done the work, there is lots of bookkeeping with it. He went over several times yesterday and has been there all this morning with Col. Moore and the Sergeant and will be there this afternoon and evening. We are also trying to decide whether or not to put in extra heating into the newest apartment and all the questions connected with that have to be settled soon, there is always a lot of little things like that to be done and since the war so many letters to write about this and that to various Government agencies. Just for the Improvements we have made at the store we have to open an account with the Workmen's Compensation Board giving an estimate of what we expect to do and when we expect to have the work finished, as we have done more than we originally intended we have had to write them three different times lately to say it will be another month etc. They make an assesment on the payroll, but besides that there is a medical ~~don't~~ fund ( a deduction of 5cents a day from each man working on the job ) which has to be sent in quarterly. Then there is the National Defense Tax, 5% subtracted from each mans wages each two weeks and sent in to the Income Tax Branch every month, There is also the un-employment Insurance books to be stamped. Each man has a book which had to be sent for if they didn't already have one and then we had to get an employer's number in order to buy stamps to put in the book. These stamps are put in every week, one for each day a man works. The stamps are special and are bought at the postoffice after filling out a paper. Then we have to write to the priorities board if we want certain materials ( electrical ) and now if we let a man go or employ a new one we have to inform the unemployment Insurance board and get their permission. So you can see it keeps one fairly busy. But there isn't much more to be done, only a coal shed, storm windows and the heating to be put in, but there is always a lot of discussion on any new venture.

I must go now and pay the bills that have to be paid by the 10th of the month.

I have a card from Edith to Jean and if I can find it I will enclose it in this letter, otherwise will send it in my next.

Loads of love,

Catharine -



Banff, Alberta.

Canada,

Wednesday August 12, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

Your letter with the postcard of the Marshall House arrived. Didn't it burn down a few years ago? I have sort of forgotten, and I can't really remember it, I do remember the river that the road to Portland crosses, but it has been a long time since I have driven around by the various beaches, Isn't York Beach where we used to stop at a little tea room for lunch years ago, and then the Harbor is still a different place. Your rooms must have been lovely out on the corner looking both ways, I don't see why you don't stay more than just the one week when it is all so nice and Kitty has so many friends right near too, and the children can enjoy the beach, why not go back again this month? I really remember Orgunmit better. Is it a wooden hotel?

Our good stretch of weather is over, We have had an unusually number of thunder storms this year, not right here in Banff but we hear the thunder, then last evening after rather a nice day it clouded up and this morning the clouds were blowing in from the west, scurrying across Sulphur Mountain, it has rained most all morning, a very fine misty rain, I don't mind for now there is no reason to wish that we were out in the mountains painting. It was too bad that all the work to be done over at the drill hall had to be done during the best weather we have had all summer, but it couldn't be helped. Pete had to be there all the time and they have worked hard, there is still a lot to do, certain equipment has been called in and has to be collected from men who are working out of town during the week, We drove to Canmore Monday afternoon to pick up some things and then yesterday Pete had a lot to see too in connection with the building at the store, Sam hasn't been working for a week because of a lame back, but yesterday he and Pete tore down one of the two sheds that have to come down, a new one to be put up in their place that will be much better in every way, perhaps that is the reason for the rainy day! The door into the Grocery cellar is now unprotected until they get the new part finished. I have been looking over old letters and shall try to answer some this afternoon.

Have you heard any more about the deForests and how Isabel is? You spoke in one letter about Harding Newman having a hard time getting his blood pressure down, Cameron Stöckand's brother, Bill, told us that he has had three or four medical exams for some part of the services, I forget whether it is army or navy or Air Force but the thought of taking the exam makes his blood pressure or his heart act up. I guess the harder he tries not to have it go up the higher it goes, so may be that is what happened to Harding. Bill knows his isn't really high normally for I believe his own doctor finds it normal.

Pete says that they are getting on well with the shed but because of the rain don't dare take the other one down. Its not raining so hard now so think I will go over and mail this

loads of love to you all,

Catherine



Banff, Alberta.

Canada.

Friday, August 14, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

I was glad to get your letter yesterday about the trip to Portland. Glad to hear that Uncle Marshall is really feeling better and also that Aunt Rhodie seemed as well as she did considering all she has been through at her age. I imagine that the reason they don't want her to see friends is perhaps the effect it has on her later, maybe she doesn't sleep as well or something like that that just makes it that much harder for them to look after her. but it was nice you could see her for a minute anyway.

I was particularly glad that you have decided to stay over the extra weekend at York Harbor, for it does seem too bad to go back to Concord when you are all enjoying it so much at the beach.

It is again nice weather after a half day of rain. I went over to Barbaras to tea to meet the Knoxe, at least to meet Mrs Knox who has just come out from England with her two year old son to join her husband, John Knox, who is a navigation instructor at one of the R.A.F. schools. They are having a lively time at Barbaras, as they are staying there and little Johnny in age is just between Harold and their Johnny. Tea was a bit confusing to me with all the children and then some other friends from Calgary dropped in too. That evening Pete and I drove to Canmore to pick up some Army things and after the rain it was a lovely evening.

Yesterday the MacDonalds came to tea with General MacDonalds brother, who I think is some sort of scientist. He was a great friend of Sir Hugh Banting, who was killed in one of the few Air crashes on the way to Britain. (He was a very famous doctor of research, seems to me discovered insulin) anyway this brother of the MacDonalds wife paints and so he wanted to see the sketches, or maybe I should say that Mrs Mack wanted ~~to see~~ him to see the sketches, for they asked to come. He seemed to know a lot about sugar cane and such things, and I think live in Philadelphia.

Last night Pete had to go over to the drill hall to work all evening, he certainly stepped into it when he took the job of acting quarter master, no one else would take it and some they didn't want to give it to, as it is being in charge of all the stores. and you have to have a very reliable person naturally. At the time they didn't think there would be much to do this summer, but first they had an inspection and then some of the equipment was called in and that is what is taking the time now. It makes me sort of provoked with all the good weather and no chance to get out and paint. We rather hope it won't take much longer. In the meantime Pete has been working with Sam over at the store and trying to decide what to do about the heating plant. They are making a new shed at the back instead of the two old ones that were rotten and falling apart. Of course all along we have been saying that we wanted to do something to help the war effort, so I guess we shouldn't complain when the chance comes. The thing that provokes me sometimes is that because Pete doesn't paint during definite hours people get the idea that he has lots of time, never realizing that you can't paint for an hour and then suddenly lay off that and do an odd job for someone else. To do worthwhile painting you have to give all your time to it at the



time, and must have nothing else on your mind. Well maybe we will get a week or two later on.

Lots of love to you all and I expect you are in concord again by now,

More love,

*Catherine*



BANFF, ALBERTA  
CANADA

Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup> 1942.

Dearest Mother,

I am so glad that you had such good weather at York Harbor, all but the one day, and that you stayed over an extra week-end, but I know how much you would like getting back home again.

We are still in Banff, for how much longer I don't know but evidently there is still quite a bit of work to do for Pete. He and Sam had a new idea the other day about heating the newest apartment. First Fred Waterworth with an expert from Calgary figured up what could be done by extending the present system and adding another part to the boiler, but it came to so much it hardly seemed worth it, so they wondered what kind of an auxiliary system could be put in, and arranged to have Willard Neilson who did our furnace come up and figure it out, to-day.

They came about an hour late as we expected them at ten and Sam came down then, so we three sat out side in the sun until Willard arrived. He brought his wife, mother-in-law and the baby. The house was still chilly as it is in the morning and so I got some chairs and we sat in the sun. with the baby he was far happier outdoors, he is a large child and so husky and good. We had quite a sit, Barbara came over with her children to see Mrs Neilson who she knows too, and it was all very pleasant though a tiny bit weirsome, for it was one thirty when Willard and Pete returned. However I was glad that they all stayed out side when the children are all here for you have to watch the baby every minute and when Barbara is here, her children get into far more than when they are on their own.

We also had Mrs Knox over before that and there are two Calgary boys coming back to see Pete after a trip on the river, so this may be one of those days when there is a steady stream of people, we did manage lunch with out interruption.

X Yesterday we invited the Philips's (and a Mr Jones who is head of the summer dramatin school came with them) down for tea. He is the Artist who did the wood blocks that Frances and Ebbs have, and just as fine a man as you could find anywhere, his wife is awfully nice too and very capable, and the youngest daughter came too, they have six children I think. We had a very nice time, they looked at the sketches and he brought his various wood blocks for us to pick one from, as we had made sort of a swap with him for a few days sketching at Temple. which he had last winter. we now have a wonderful one of his done on the coast of Vancouver, a few buildings and a snow storm, it was hard to choose there are so many lovely ones. X They came at four and it was 6.30 when they left, we were just cooking supper when Mr Broderick from Canmore arrived with some Army things to turn in and Pete ate quickly to go over there and so the evening went.

I think I will finish this in the morning,

Monday, We had rather a quiet afternoon and then about five thirty two young lads from Calgary came to see Pete. One is just through high school and was going to University this fall, but it seems that he can't get deferment even if taking a training course while at the University, so he is joining up in the 1st Battalion of the Calgary Highlanders which is overseas, he would be one of the reinforcements, trained here and then sent over. He said that there is some scheme whereby your first year at University is paid by the government after the War is over. The other lad has one



more year at high school. Gordon McLean was in Pete's tent at Sarssee Camp, an awfully nice lad, in fact they both were, and so keen, They also are awfully good shots.

By Madges letter you enclosed I judge that Flick is in Concord with the girls, you will have first hand information of the Manierres and all the weddings, so you must write all the details and perhaps they stopped at Detroit on the way and so you will hear about those relations too.

You spoke of the Wheatlands being at York Harbor, I used to know Martha Wheatland who I think was a daughter, she was just as nice as she could be, and David Wheatlands, the son, married Dana Hinckley's sister and they lived in Marblehead. After you difficulty in finding the Lees for tea, it doesn't seem so strange that the Newbury's got mixed up so that time when they were so late for Sunday several years ago.

1893-94 was the first year you evidently took the Studio for that is the earliest volume we have bound.

Must stop now,

Loads of love,

Catharine



Banff, Alberta.

Wednesday, August 19, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

A short letter from you this morning with lots of others enclosed, you were busy arranging flowers for Ann Tracy's wedding. It is too bad that they don't stick to the old custom of having the brides girl friends do the decorating of the church! I really think you were much too good to go to so much trouble arranging flowers when you have so much to do and think of, but I know you like to do it.

I didn't know that Mildred was to visit you until her letter from Concord came and yours saying that she had arrived. I somehow had the idea that when you had only see her in York Beach on a Saturday that you wouldn't see her otherwise, but of course you meant that was the only day that she and Cousin Jane could drive down there to see you. It is too bad that she is having rain in Concord, but perhaps you all feel as we do that the rain is good this year to keep down forest fires. We have had no rain to speak of in the last two weeks and yesterday was really hot, up to 80° anyway and awfully hot in the sun.

I can't get used to summer and so few people dropping in on us, There are quite a lot of tourists in a way, the accomodation in the town over the weekends has been full up, though I imagine there is plenty of room at the big hotel, they have some three hundred staff and between one and two hundred guests I think, we haven't been up since the trail hike.

You haven't mentioned Flick and the girls, I wonder have you seen them yet, and here I was hoping for all sorts of news through them. That was a wonderful long letter from Miss Annie Agge, I am always interested the way she speaks of Miss Emily's great age as if she and Miss Chatarina were quite young, perhaps that is what keeps them so young. Aunt Rhoby certainly is remarkable, imagine her reading aloud.

I am real selfish and glad that Kitty has gone back to Washington for a while, for now the chances of getting a letter from Russ written to you are so much better!

Pete and Sam were busy yesterday putting a sort of "fire reppellent" finish on the back shed at the store, It was a pretty hot day and so good for making the stuff stick, they hope to finish it to-day. It is red the same color as the bricks and when the trim on the door and windows is painted white it will look quite neat and nice, They are rather waiting to hear about the heating before deciding what to do next, but there isn't a great deal to be done, Pete can't go far because of the Army thing, they are sort of waiting on that too, so he is doing what he can about the store building, They have several people wanting apartments for the winter and could rent the new one if we can get heat into it. There seem to be lots of people wanting to live here this winter.

Davy has gone up to Temple for a few days, he was awfully funny the day he left for we met him headed for the store with two empty gingerale bottles and he came back with a small one full which he took with him to go with his picnic lunch, he was so excited to be going and kept showing us the gingerale he was to take with him, I imagine he will be real good up there for he has very good manners and when Harold isn't with him they seem to get into less trouble.

Lots of love to you all,

Catherine



Banff, Alberta.

Canada.

August 21st, 1942.

Friday Morning,

Dearest Mother,

Yesterday it showered in the afternoon but this morning is cool and lovely, and also we feel better for the Army orders have come and now Pete knows more or less what he has to do over at the stores, at least which day the Sergeant will be up. It is the waiting and uncertainty that is hardest. Pete is glad to do the work but doesn't like waiting round when we might be doing something else. It probably will take until the end of next week or longer before we can go out of town, but with all the rain and luck too, we may get extra nice fall coloring, it was so disappointing last year.

Day before yesterday we had a pleasant surprise, it was quite hot and I was looking over old letters in the kitchen, (Pete has been having trouble ever since Sarsee with a sort of stoppage in the channels back of his nose, I don't know what one would call it, but he was beginning to wonder if it was a sort of sinus trouble and went to Dr Mackenzie yesterday, who gave him drops and for the first time he said this morning he could breathe easily through that nostril) Wednesday he had a swollen jaw and so was having a sleep in the afternoon, it effected one eye too. and all was quiet in the house, I suddenly thought the sprinkler had been on one part of the lawn a long time and went out to move it, meeting a young couple coming up the walk. I was quite surprised for my thoughts had been sort of on the letters and all. The man asked if he could see Mr Peter Whyte, and I hated to wake Pete so said he was busy, then the man asked when he could see him so I said to wait a minute and asked his name, it was familiar so I woke Pete, (he was really waking by then) and I think we both must have appeared rather dum. Any way the young couple came in and before sitting down I said "perhaps I had better change the sprinkler after all" and when I came in Allan McNaughten was introducing his very new wife to Pete and said, "This must be Mrs Whyte then" to me. I am sure he thought I was the ~~old~~ maid or Pete's housekeeper. and I don't wonder. I somehow thought they might be just another couple looking for a house to stay in or directions to someone else and wasn't very bright when I first met them for I was so surprised. They were awfully nice, he used to work at the Chateau at Lake Louise and Pete knew him then, he lives in Montreal and his wife is from Cleveland, a relation to the Whyte sewing machine people. They were very much interested in Pete's pictures and looked at all the sketches and in the end bought one, which was the pleasant surprise. and the funny part was that they kept apologizing for taking our time and thanking us for letting them see all the pictures etc. yet so many come in and take twice as much time and never even admire the pictures.

Yesterday I went to the Red Cross, you can tell Jean that only Pearl and Mrs Macauley were there, but we worked until five on silly - I probably shouldn't say silly - but little bags that they use in the hospitals for patients possessions, a bag about a foot square, with a label and strings to draw it up, but the seams have to be double and the things look so simple but take quite a while to sew up until you get onto the them



Maybe they are so simple you get careless and forget to do things in the right order.

We have been doing much listening to the radio lately because of the Dieppe raid. The Calgary Tankers were at Sarcee the first year Pete was there, (two years ago) they were also a reserve unit then as ~~they~~ was the unit Pete is in was. However they were mobilized soon after camp, (and then they take all those who volunteer for over seas service) and I am no sure when they went over, after a certain amount of training here I expect. Maybe you didn't hear, but they were the ones to land with tanks on the raid.

Sam and Cis have sold their house, A lady who has a big house at the coast took a great fancy to it and will pay cash, which is quite something. Sam and Cis are to move into the little cottage they own next door. I think it is quite wonderful to be able to sell your house like that, I mean to be able to make up your mind to do it. But they have been considering for a long time selling it, as the house and garden was more than Cis could handle, If she worked in the garden she couldn't do the house work, and she doesn't like the cold winter weather and would prefer the coast, this way they can leave the little house without feeling they should be renting it.

All for now

Loads of love,

Catherine



Banff, Alberta.

Monday, August 24, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

Your letter came Saturday written after Ann Tracy's wedding, I am glad that it went off so well, it did seem a funny hour in a way, but perhaps it was because of where they were going afterward, and I am sure the vestry must have looked lovely after you arranged the flowers and all. I am also glad that you liked the slides I expect Mildred was there to see them, for you didn't mention her again.

It looks now as if Pete would be able to finish up his work over at the drill hall this week, for they had word Saturday that Seargent Caskie would be up with someone else the middle of the week to finish the work they were doing before, when he was called away in the midst of it. I think they will all be glad when the work is done, and we still hope to get out in the mountains, the summer has gone so fast, first with so much rain and cold weather and then with Pete having to be in town and the uncertainty of things, however he has been able to do quite a bit around the store building, though we haven't yet decided what to do about heating the new apartment, Yesterday we went up to Lake Louise after lunch and met Sam there, so Pete could look at the heating system they have in Deer Lodge. Willard Neilson figured out a hot air system but though we can get the furnace it is very unlikely that we could get the sheet metal for the ducts. Now that Pete has to be here another week we are going to get the man that redid the Deer Lodge heating to come up and look it over, that is if we can get him. Even if we can't get the heat into the place this winter we can always use it for the summer months so it isn't too serious a matter.

Another letter just came and what hot weather you have had, of course I am not so surprised for I well remember Concord as being hot in summer, We too have had a lot of thunder storms this summer, very unusual for us, but they are never very **hear** or real crash bangers,

It was a beautiful day yesterday, the clouds not coming up until afternoon, We found that Sam was going up with Cis and some friends from McLeod, (a man he knew as a boy in London and who came to Canada before Sam did in 1908 ) so we arranged to meet them at 2.30 Or 3 o'clock at Deer Lodge, we got there first but it didn't take long for Sam and Pete to look over the heating system and then we finished a roll of colored film we had in the camera, only a couple of pictures. and then came on home, We offered a young air force man and his equally young wife a ride down the hill and as they were coming to Banff we brought them down with us, putting the top down. They were about as appreciative a couple as you ever saw, come from Port Arthur on Lake Superior and it was their first trip to the mountains, he is at the Wireless school in Calgary, they said they had seen pictures of the Rockies but never realized they could be so beautiful, had walked up to Lake Agnes above Lake Louise where you went. Lots of people see the beauty in the mountains but they noticed all the spots of light and shadow and kept turning around in the car to see behind as well, we were glad that we could take them down for they did enjoy it so much.

When we were having an early supper the young boy who came to see Pete last week came with his family and Pete thought he wanted to *have* them to see the house so they all came in, they are awfully nice people



and they had some friends with them equally nice. Gordon Mclean is about 20 Pete says, and he was in Pete's tent at Sarcee, calls Pete "Corporal" and evidently thinks he is all right, Mrs Mclean told me they had heard so much about "Mr White" in fact Gordon had talked of a little else since he came back from Sarcee, It seems that Gordon was sent out to Sarcee with the advanced party and there were some other young Calgary boys in camp that were pretty fresh and Gordon was afraid he was going to be put with them so asked Pete if he could come in with them, which he did and I guess they all got along pretty well together, for young Neil Broderick from Canmore was also in their tent.

I must go now as we have to get to the bank before it closed.

Loads of love to you all,

Catherine.



Banff, Alberta.

Wednesday, August 26, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

We are having a nice rainy spell, perhaps because it is Golf week at the Banff Springs when they have the usual golf competitions. People used to come from far and near for it but now it is mostly from near I expect. It started Sunday which was a lovely day until evening when we had the thunder storm, Monday it was showery and yesterday it rained except for two glimpses of the sun and to-day it is dark and raining steadily. We usually are up at Lake O'hara at this season and get a storm like this, so I guess it is to be expected. and now we don't feel so badly being in Banff and not out in the mountains. We hope for a good spell of weather later on. We did have three weeks of nice weather this summer! One thing it has kept the ground damp and no forest fires this year which was a great relief.

Your nice letter came yesterday and one the day before, and it was nice to get such long ones for lately you have been so busy it was hard I am sure to write. I have just looked that the Studios again for I didn't realize that it only started in 1893. The first one you have is for April 1893 and it says "1. No. 1 - April 1893. " the next copy is "11. No. 7 - October 1893" then No 10 is missing, but I think all the rest are there. Perhaps Grandpa got the first issue and then decided to subscribe and so you really began with No. 7 and No 10 was lost before it was bound. Why not have the four that are the old size bound in a smaller even if it does make a small volume, for otherwise they get lost and destroyed, and if the size is changed there is not much use trying to bind them with the next ones. We haven't received any Saturday Reviews of New Yorkers for a long time, but I thought it was perhaps because you were so busy you hadn't time to read them. We have the July 4th New Yorker but I can't seem to find that Review. but then you would have no extra Saturday Reviews. We haven't any other New Yorkers for July I am sure. We don't mind how old they are for we do enjoy them. It is better if you can have the Studios bound in the east for otherwise they wouldn't go together so nicely or look the same, as they do now.

Did the Bartletts have a nice vacation? The Simpsons have been pretty busy at Bow Lakes considering how hard it is for people to get up there, we haven't been up yet this year but certainly hope to before the end of the season.

I didn't realize that the Marshall House was brick from the photograph on the postal. It looks like an awfully plain building but perhaps when you get near it and see it not just in a picture it is more attractive. Of course its hard to make a large hotel of that type both convenient and attractive. I wonder that they don't put more balconys on hotels in this country as they do in Europe, especially on summer hotels.

Yesterday I cleaned part of the Studio which I haven't done for months, until it was really too dark to see, somehow rainy days would be fine for cleaning but somehow one never feels so enthusiastic about it without a bit of sunshine. Now I must make some curtains for the windows. It is terribly dark to-day.

Last evening we were sitting by a fire in the fire place when Sir Norman Watson came over to tell us a bit about their plans at Temple. He has just returned from a few weeks at Rochester Minnesota and is ever so much better, not as nervous as he was when he was here before. He is out of the Air Force and is planning to be in the mountains for



several months. His great friend and I believe a person who has looked after his affairs, has come from Iowa, with his father aged 88 Or 89, and they too are at Temple. Between them they have a certain amount of money to put into The ski thing and we hope they will really get it straightened out. They are awfully interested and have all sorts of ideas of what they want to do, if they can to make it right. We probably will go up for a while later on as they seem to want our ideas on the subject. We rather wish they had thought that way before they started Temple for we might have saved them a lot at that time.

It was too bad about the Duke of Kent being killed in a plane crash. It was just a year ago that he was in Banff and in the store, and bought two sweaters from Jackie.

All for now.

Loads of love to you all, I expect that Kitty is back again with you, how long do the children expect to stay in Concord, until school starts perhaps. That was quite a letter from Margaret Watkins, I remember how they used to tease her years ago at Seal Harbor, especially Jim Angell for they said she always planned what they should all do, and this letter certainly sounded complicated to me, I expect she wants her children to know Concord and love it as she did the same way as Flick feels. and I don't expect Margie cares so much. We will be interested to hear if Margie goes.

Lots of love,

Catherine .



Banff, Alberta.

Canada.

August 28, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

We are still having rather cold stormy weather, not rain the last two days but overcast. Yesterday I spent the afternoon at the Red Cross though there was little to be done and only three of us there. I came back early as the McNaughtons were coming down for the picture they bought and to arrange about having it sent etc. However they didn't stay long and had gone when I got back. We half expect Erling with a Miss deCosson who is a British skier and is in Washington ~~at~~ the British Intelligence Dep't. But they may not get s down.

Barbara has been sick the last couple of days with a sore arm, the doctor says it is being overtired and I don't wonder for she does look after an awful lot, if it weren't for her taking things easily and in her stride she could never do it. Four children and three rooms rented and the apartments over the store to look after too. Pete's mother was there yesterday helping and Shirley (who is a 13 year old girl who lives next door) comes every morning to help with the children, principally taking Johnny out doors, which gives Barbara a chance to do things inside. They haven't been able to get anyone to help for it is almost impossible to get a girl, they all join the army or Air Force now-a-days. and in Banff there aren't even people who go out for the day working, or very few, I don't know of any. I went over this morning and helped wash the dishes and shelled peas but I am afraid I am not much help either.

Pete is waiting to hear when the Sergeant and another man arrive to check over the stores in the drill hall and then he will be kept busy for two or three days. they were to come yesterday and then word came it would be to-day so I hope they don't put it off any more.

Your dinner party for the Old Ladies sounded very jolly and I am sure it was fun. Kitty will be back with you now I expect and hope you aren't still struggling with the heat. Did you listen to Henry Aldrich last night? it made me hot to listen! What would make a wonderful play wouldn't it?

Just after writing you to send the magazines a whole bunch came, but none of the July ones, mostly August New Yorkers, so we would be glad to have any of the July ones you still have around. Did you read the article in the National Geographic about Alaska? I thought it very interesting. I think it has improved a lot lately, perhaps because the places described are usually those in the news and ones we are interested in hearing about.

I think maybe I had better not write you more now but go over and see if I can help Barbara a bit.

Loads of love,

Catharine



BANFF, ALBERTA  
CANADA

Sunday, August 29, 1942.

Dearest Mother,

We are having a rainy weekend, this is usually the Labor Day weekend when we are up at O'Hara, and the last few years it has always been stormy. So we are just as well to be here.

After writing you on Friday I never got it mailed that afternoon, Pete was looking for the Sergeant who was due to clear up things at the drill hall, but he didn't come early. After lunch Pete went to look once more and Agnes Hammond came in, stayed about an hour or more. She has a wonderful crop of hay this year on her ranch on the way to Calgary but it is so hard to get anyone to cut it for her. She says that she and a young girl she has helping her could cut it but they can't stack it and that is the important thing so that it will keep. Now since the rain it has all flattened down, she said that it started at one end and gradually flattened right across. She also said that her sister is having such a time trying to get a girl to work for her. They have a big house on the way to the Banff Springs. Gwen came over from England two years ago with three children, two tiny, and Agnes says that she thinks she would do better to give up the ranch and be a maid, she is sure it would pay better! As a matter of fact I believe they are rather hard to work for, for they have a hard time as a rule getting anyone to stay very long. But some people are hard to suit and demand a lot. Well anyway we had a nice call from her for Pete came home shortly and so she stayed a bit longer. Her neighbor who lives also on a ranch was the one who won Pete's picture in the Spitfire raffle, and she wrote last week wondering if she could exchange it for a smaller one as there was no room in her house for it. so we are glad to do that,

When Agnes had left we remembered we were to go to the Art schools exhibition of their work at the summer school, it was really very good, mostly water colors, and we met the three teachers, Mr Phillip who we of course know and Mr Pepper from Toronto and Mr Glyde from Calgary. We had hardly gotten back when Erling Strom arrived with Rettle de Cosson, who has been staying out at Assinaboine with him. We had never met her before though we saw her ski at Engleberg in Switzerland. She is with the British Press or something like that, and was in New York but now is going to be in Washington. We gave them tea and then they had to leave for the train. We also went down to the train later, first going once more by the drill hall this time finding the Sergeant's car there. So Pete found out what was expected of him. We got to the station in time to say good-bye to Aunt Julia (Col. Moore's sister) who you met last summer at Indian days, very dressy I guess you would say, rather made up. but lots of fun. Mr Simpson was also going on that train, and we had a chance to hear about his trip with the Links to Lake O'Hara etc. So in the end it was quite a full afternoon, I mean't to mail the letter at the station and forgot.

Yesterday Pete left right after breakfast and worked all day until five-thirty except for lunch. and now he has been there all the afternoon too. It is in the basement of the Mount Royal and no provision for ventilation so it makes it tiring working with musty uniforms.



I cleaned the house which I always do a bit more thoroughly Saturday mornings and then went over to Barbara's to hang her wash. She is feeling all right but when she puts up her arm it sort of gives way or something, sometimes she can't do her hair. However she hadn't finished the washing so I went over to the meat market and got our lunch meat and hers then hung half her wash, which is pretty large with four children and linen too, Pete came back before I finished so I rushed back and got his lunch, finishing hanging the cloths later. About three I was on my way over town when it started to rain so I helped Barbara take the dry wash in ( it dries very quickly here ) She wanted meat for Sunday so Harold and Davy went with me to bring the parcels home. a great help really. They each have a carrier for a bicycle fixed on the back of their tricycles and can carry quite a lot. in fact Barbara usually telephones for the meat and then they go down alone and get it for her. (We are restricted on deliveries and I think have to get your order in before a certain time to have things delivered.) Well any way when we got back and the boys were just coasting down their driveway on their tricycles, Harold said " You're working for us now, Aren't you Catharine ? "

This morning Pete made a good many trips over town to see if the Sergeant wanted to work. Ususally when they come up from Calgary to do work here they are so glad to get away from regular hours that they are just the opposite. They were having breakfast around ten, but Pete found that Billy Kien was looking for him, and so Pete found him and brought him down to the house for a few minutes. He painted here in 1926 I think it was, painted the Indians and very well too, the last time Pete saw him was in the Grand Central Station in New York years ago. He is awfully nice and as they were going to Morely yesterday to see his Indian friends he is bringing his wife down to tea to-day. He has been on a trip to Alaska just now, and before that he did quite a few pictures that were reproduced in the National Geographic of Nov. 1940. They are very strong and colorful and decorative.

I must go over town now. Pete worked all yesterday afternoon and I expect will be busy all to-day, for they are anxious to clear every thing up. The D company is to be moved to Calgary and that is why there is all this work. At one time there were over a hundred in the unit here and then with enlistments and those unfit it has dwindled down to a handful, so they are to move all the stores to Calgary. They were well equiped here for anything and all last winter and spring were ready had they been needed to go on two hours notice. They asked Pete to stay on but it is questionable, as it would be too difficult for him to attend drills in Calgary.

Lots of love,

Catharine