

3auff, Alberta
Sat June 3 1944.

Dearest Mother.

It seems so funny to think that Pete is in Concord with you & Jean and I'm out here with his mother. It was nice they gave him time enough to go down to see you and he can tell you everything first hand. How I wish I were there too. But I suppose had I gone east, he would have been kept there for the summer & no chance to get things he needs for his work, that are here in the house. Also there was quite a bit to see too. work in connection with the store thinking that doesn't get done unless one sees to it ones self.

much as I would have liked a visit with you. still it would have been so unsettled not knowing how long I could stay and having to hurry back in less than a week. Now I've been able to get the water fixed (our main from the street broke last fall) and the house sort of opened & in order. Its so hard to get a plumber & Mr. Watt & Sam came down together last night after supper & worked until nearly ten. for it stays light late now. and the water is on. piped from Sila's outside tap to an outside tap.

They couldn't have done it if I hadn't been here. I'm so glad Pete is to be working near here. It sounds too good to be true & I can hardly wait to hear the details. Will go to Calgary to meet Pete on Thursday.

Yesterday was rather a busy day, went down to the Moores on my bike before lunch & they asked me for dinner at the Mount Royal last evening, which I did & they came back here after ward. Then Edmee asked me for tea in the afternoon at Paises so I was quite gay. Am going over for supper with Mary & Cyril tonight. Then I think I'll garden in the cool of the evening. The tulips are way up & so are the weeds.

Have had several nice letters from you from both directions. The ones forwarded from Vancouver as well as those from the east. Also one parcel has come. a long one from Jean in Cousin James' hand writing. If there is duty to pay on the other it may be delayed a bit but it should reach me allright.

Am so sorry to hear about Mrs. Moth. When I wrote all that I thought she was on the mend. Do hope this doctor in Boston can help her. What an awful thing it is. I think you are right to keep

going even if you do get tired. You not only
give a lot of pleasure & help to others but
it keeps you thinking of things other wise
one's aches & pains get the better of one.
I often think that if old people who are
lonely could only invite anyone in for
a meal. & even if it is an effort they
would be rewarded by the fun of talking
to some one.

I must run over & mail this & do
a bit of shopping. Will send this air-
mail but my next will be delayed a
few days as it will go ordinary mail.

Lots of love & I can just imagine
how busy you are feeding Pete asparagus
or some fresh vegetable. I hope its not
too hot but perhaps you are at least getting
rain.

More love
Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.
Sunday, June 4, 1944.

Dearest Mother.

It seems so funny to think that Pete has been with you to-day, I can hardly realize it and envy you both! It has been a quiet day for me, rainy all day, not hard ~~and~~ intermittent. but rather chilly for it snowed in Calgary, melting as it hit the ground, perhaps by to-morrow morning the ground will be white here.

I was up fairly early and had a big breakfast, then about ten Mom came down to see if I would have a bite with her so went up for a cup of coffee, we talked a while and then I washed out a lot of stockings and it was time for a bowl of soup for lunch, wrote one letter before and two after which I was glad to get done, then Mom came down for tea and I lit the fire in the fireplace so it was nice and cozy in there. She stayed until after six and I mended stockings. She sings in the choir at church every Sunday night, told me she sang a solo Mothers Day, the first for several years. It is nice for her because as you know Sunday is the lonliest day. The family is all around her but they don't drop in to see her regularly, you know how it is, like your not seeing Russell when he is at the farm, usually when anyone does think of going in it is all the same day. It is nice for me, and we have a good time to-gether, for Mom is fun.

Yesterday I dusted a bit downstairs, am not going to scrub until I know how much we will be here this summer. I went over town in the afternoon which always takes quite a while, you run into so many people you haven't seen before. Then I had supper with Cyril and Mary Paris. they said to come any day when they eat at 12 and 6, so think I will when I am alone. Then after supper I gardened, loosening the earth around the plants, Betty Stickand came along and talked for a while and then when she left Harold came and wanted to weed, nly trouble was he weeded plants and all. I was just starting to come in when I heard the dogs bark and a great rushing, I ran for the door expecting a bear to be chased around the corner of the house any minute, but found they had him up a tree. It is a cub and he wanders around any time of day and I suppose at night too. however it stays light until after ten now.

You can always remember the weekend that Pete visited you as the day Rome was liberated, it came rather quickly in the end, but I am glad that they don't have to destroy it, there is enough destruction as it is.

Now to answer some of your more recent letters. That was a nice long one from Mildred, will she be making you a visit this summer? What does all that mean about Gorham Maine being filled with laboratories. Do you suppose it will really happen, sounded too big an undertaking to come true.

And so Miss Emily died at last, you have always said you hoped you would go quickly and I hope you don't have to linger the way she did, I don't think you will for I have an idea that a person that stays active and full of life as you do, keeps going full pitch until the end, like Grandpa. How is Miss Annie, I hope she can recover enough to enjoy life a bit with Miss Chatarina.

What a strange case, that Miss Day who had sleeping sickness, she missed a good many days! I wonder if that sort of thing was what started the story of Rip Van Winkle. 20 years is a long time to miss.

The scouts must have enjoyed their visit to the garden and the food. I can just imagine them, yesterday David and Donny cut our lawn with a lawnmower each and I gave them grape fruit juice and chocolate cookies and the way the cookies went down was amazing.

At the Devonshire we had one large room and a kitchenette, a bath and a sort of dressing room or large cupboard into which the folding bed disappeared during the day. It was nice though.

You are lucky if only some mornings you can't spell, nearly every morning I find it hard.

I do hope Mrs Motte is better, seems to me she is having it even longer than you did.

What a nice time you had going to Mrs Browns house, a real treat to have such a long ride. We may use our car this summer if Pete goes about the country, I am wondering if I will be able to go with him.

Think I will go up to Mom's to listen to the Quiz Kids it is more fun with someone else than listening alone. Later - - Mom wasn't back yet and the bear was wandering around so I came home and will listen here.

Guess my letter about coming home did sound funny, what I had in mind was to try and plan my visit so that I could have you alone for a while and then be there for a time with the children, after last summer when I might have seen Russell had I gone later, I was trying to plan it better this year, now if Pete is to be around here for three months it will be fall before I get to Concord, Actually it will be better for me as you know I don't like the hot weather very much.

Monday. It has turned lovely again & quite warm. The other parcel arrived for my birthday. Marked \$5.00 & neither of them were opened. Too small to bother with I expect. I'll be here for my birthday this year & not on the train.

Must bike down to the station so this will catch the mail out today.

Loads of love.

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Tues, June 6, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

7 I am all excited to-night, not just about the invasion but because to-morrow I go to Calgary to meet Pete. I plan to take the ten o'clock train getting in about one, but I just thought that all the stores will be closed because it is Wednesday, well there wasn't much I had thought of buying. I have to go to the bank and to see Pete's Uncle, and there is an old movie "Mr Deeds goes to town" I have never seen and might take in. Pete gets in about 9.20 Thursday morning so I would have to go down on the night train anyway.

When did you hear of the invasion? Cis came down last evening wanting me to play a game of Rummy with Mom, but I was too sleepy and didn't want to stay up late, so went to bed early and didn't listen to the radio after the 10 o'clock news. There was a rumor after eleven I believe and some people listened until all hours of the morning, even waking friends up at 2.30 and 3 to tell them. I woke early and turned the radio on at 7.30 to hear a comentator telling about the landings near La Havre and Cherbourg in the most matter of fact manner as if it had happened ages ago, so I pricked up my ears and heard the tale end of a broadcast that had been going on all night, it was very interesting though. Have been listening all day to short wave or any other news, but a good deal is repetitious.

Yesterday morning Sam came over to take off the shutters on the Studio windows, needing a ladder to do it, he also took off a storm window and even washed those difficult ones to get at, I thought it awfully good of him for I can't reach them very easily and Pete won't have time for such things. In the afternoon (I had lunch with Mom and helped eat her left overs as she has gone to Lethbridge for three days) I cleaned the bathroom and the windows in the bed room etc. and to-day I put the curtains up in the studio, so the house is in pretty good shape. Had lunch with Barbara and the kids as Jackie is in Calgary.

" nice letter from you to-day, what heat I would have landed in had I gone with Pete, and it would have been a poor week for me too. (90° sounds hot.) I wish I could have been with you even for a week but will make a longer visit later on. It will be nice to hear all about you from Pete.

So glad that the new treatment is helping Mrs Motte and I hope that she will

continue to improve. It is too bad that Miss Spiers couldn't help her, but then what helped you might not help her.

I won't write much more to-night as I have to get my things to-gether, I don't know whether it will be hot or cold but guess I will take a chance and wear my suit.

I told you that the two packages came and both unopened. *Thanks very much*

This doesn't seem to be much of a letter but I keep listeneing to news out of one ear while I am writing. A good deal is repitition but some of the reports of the men on the spot were interesting. and then The King and Roosevelt and you never know who next. The radio is a wonderful thing.

Loads of love,

Catherine



HOTEL PALLISER
CALGARY, ALTA.

Canadian Pacific Hotels

Friday, June 9, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

✓ Pete arrived OK. yesterday morning, and you
can imagine how good it was to see him and hear all about
✓ his trip and how you & Jean were and the others in Concord.
We talked all morning & then he reported after lunch to #4
Command. The officer he ^{was} taken to was a W.D. which is
a woman, but he liked her & found her very efficient too.
✓ She arranged for him to go out to Currie today, which he
did this morning. He will be there for a few weeks if
he likes it and finds he can get work done and said they
were all very nice & seemed anxious to cooperate. He
shares a room about 9 x 12 with another Sergeant who
lives off the station, so really will have the room pretty
much to himself to work in if he likes. It will take a
few days to get started but he was quite pleased

with everything so far. He wants to live on the Station
for other wise you can't possibly get the feeling of the
life, & as he said it will be quite new to him for its
a training station and at the coast all the stations
he was on were operational. so this will be a bit
different. Also the best effects are usually early in the
morning & late at night & its a good idea to be on the
spot. Its on the outskirts of Calgary.

We are going up to Banff tonight on the late train,
and he can get his equipment organized & then drive
down Sunday afternoon or evening. I don't know how
often I shall see him but can come down to Calgary
off & on for a night or two. There is a lot I can do in
Banff and perhaps I shall be able to do some painting
too.

Fred has told me all about the wonderful time he
had in Concord and how you arranged for them to meet
so many of the family. He said you looked better
than he had seen you look for ages and thinks maybe
the gas rationing has helped keep you from doing too
much! Said, "your mother should live to be 100 and
I hope she does." He told me how Jean washed all
his dirty clothes & laid them out on the bed, and how
you went up to see the Laybells, and the house, &
how he saw Ed & Cal & Willie & all the Newberrys
and the Moores, and they had supper with Frances
& Gil & Gil even insisted on carrying his bags
to the train. In fact he enjoyed it all.



HOTEL PALLISER
CALGARY, ALTA.

Canadian Pacific Hotels

He certainly spent a good part of the 2 weeks on the train but the trip back was a welcome rest. He did well to even visit

the art school for a few minutes, but said the subway was about all he saw of Boston. I'm sorry I couldn't have been along but with the heat I'm sure I would have been done in. & it would have seemed so short. Also it might have been hard getting space on the train.

Yours & Pete's air mail letter came & thanks so much. There will be others when we get back to Bayff. Pete has gone to see Sgt Caskey who was in charge of the boys in the Reserve Army & taught them their drill & all. He was decorated recently when the Eagle of Allfane was here. for meritorious service. He is such a good Sergeant (Quartermaster Sergeant) that they won't give him a commission. He's far more useful where he is. Last time we saw him was when he was on leave in Victoria last fall or summer.

Mom came in after lunch on her way home from Littlebridge. She is going back on the bus but it was too crowded for us to get on. so we decided on the train.

Last evening we had a tremendous dinner. really more than we wanted. but Pete thought we might eat in the regular dining room so as to meet Mr Carmine the head waiter & then if we had one thing, for a little more you might as well have the whole dinner. You know how it is. So we had seafood cocktail, soup. Roast beef & fixings & ice cream & then felt too full the rest of the evening.

Called up Eleanor. Gray Campbell's wife, & she came in to see us. He is the one who used to be a mounted Police in Banff, was on his way to join the R.A.F. the day war was declared. was trained as a pilot over there & then sent to Canada to instruct. Was married ^{in England} & Eleanor followed him over here. They were on the praries a couple of years & have a 5 months old son. Suddenly he was posted overseas again & here she is all alone so to speak. His family is in Ottawa & she doesn't want to layd in on them, & first now she is staying with friends here & trying to get a little place for the summer. We took her home in a taxi & are going to try & find her a place in Banff. It's hard for her to know what to do. Her sister died recently leaving her mother alone as her father is away in the army so died rather like to go back. Will write again Monday after the weekend.

Goodso of Love

Catharine



HOTEL PALLISER
CALGARY, ALTA.

Canadian Pacific Hotels

P.S. The writing is going to show through so will add a few more lines.

I came down on the train with Ruth Mae Culbert (her husband is in charge of the golf course in Banff). She was coming down to be a million of honor to a girl from New Brunswick she hadn't seen for years, who is in the U.S. Army as a nurse & marrying a Canadian officer. She knew no one here so wrote to Ruth. It was all rather funny & I guess Ruth enjoyed it for I never saw her later on & she was to come to my room if she wanted while she waited for the train ^{going home}. I went to a movie "Mr Deeds goes to town" an old one but very good & I enjoyed it.

It's nice weather, a warm sun but cool air, though it rained the day I came down.

Better call this a letter.

More love

Calthamie

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Tuesday, June 13, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

My birthday to-day. Mom remembered and has asked me up to supper to-night. She and the Wards were going to surprise me after supper but were afraid that I might go out, so decided to tell me, we have a big Rummy game on for the evening.

Sunday night we decided to celebrate my birthday as Pete knew he couldn't be here to-day, and he was anxious for me to look at the books when he was here. So about midnight I opened the presents and we had a drink of Concord wine together. The books are really wonderful and so typical of country people like that, and the pictures too are perfect for the "ideas", they certainly are well gotten up. Mom read them through when she came down this morning, and enjoyed them too. the suspense of turning over another page to find the answer makes it sort of surprising. They will cause a lot of amusement.

The other presents were really wonderful and every thing I can use. The bag is a beauty and the size I like, also is nice to hold under the arm, Mom liked the way the two purses are attached so you can't lose them. The color too is just right for I have a dark blue summer coat and dresses and usually like black to go with my suit for winter. The color seems to be a very dark blue so is perfect. Thanks ever so much, you couldn't have sent me anything more useful when I am moving around so much these days. The bag Jean sent will be just right for going over town shopping for mail etc. for it is strong enough to hold things, and I know I shall use that a lot this summer. The little purse I have put to use already for change and keys. Thanks ever so much for the white slip, it is hard to get really nice ones these days and I don't like them when they are made on the bias, for they wrap around one when you walk. so all in all it was a very happy birthday.

We certainly had a busy weekend. I think I wrote you on Friday from Calgary. We were coming on the bus but decided on the train which was just as well, for Cam, though he got a ticket, had to stand until Canmore, two hours. Also Cliff was in Calgary on business and called us up, so we saw him for half an hour or so before supper. Then in the evening we checked Pete's baggage and sat in the room until after ten when we went to stand in line by the gate at the station. It was so crowded with service men and women coming to Banff for the weekend that they put two extra cars on the end of the train. We rather enjoyed the people for there were all kinds, Australians and New Zealanders, army and Air force, old and young. It was a very jolly though quiet crowd and no pushing. Being early we got through the gate when it first opened, I was a bit ahead of Pete and so walked straight to the last car and had the seats all saved by the time he came along. Cliff stood up all the way for he evidently was later getting to the station and went up to the forward part of the train where the regular coaches are, and we never saw him until he got to Banff. It was too bad for I could have gotten a seat for him as easily as not. We were in what used to be a colonist car. The kind that Pete used to come out in when he guarded the chinamen.

In the old days. It has leather seats and isn't smelly and has regular berths. There was such a crowd that the boys pulled down the upper berths and sat up there, an army lad across from us stretched out and read a magazine and later had a good sleep. Several Australians took off their coats and shoes and slept head to feet, and one boy seemed to think that his small suitcase opened made a good pillow, he had his head right in the suitcase and when we struck a bit of bumpy road bed the lid would bounce up and down on his head! It was a real experience though and we were glad to see it. Two girls in the Airforce sat opposite us in the double seat and I was much amused by the way they always addressed Pete as "Sergeant!" Evidently anyone who is a little older is treated with great respect when he is a Sergeant, more so than the younger officers.

We walked up from the station and found the house fairly warm. Saturday and Sunday were both sunny and warm the nicest days we have had which made it nice for us, but what a busy time we had.

Got up late ~~Sunday~~ Saturday morning, as it was after one then the train got in. Did lots of odd things, Sam came down as we finished breakfast and Mom ~~with~~ as we started over town, (Pete never did get a chance to see her again.) We went to the store, saw the odd person and got lunch. Then as I did the dishes Pete said he would just ~~man~~ around to see Bill Bunn and of course saw numerous friends on the street, stopped in to see Cyril Paris and had to help dry dishes at the tearoom. then we went up to see Mary MacDonald and we saw the Moores too, had tea there leaving before six as the stores close now in the evenings, even on Saturday, it being too hard to get help. We went up to see Edmee after supper, and she was away but the Moores were there putting in plants, wanted us to go to see Mr Allen the U.S. Consul in Calgary who was up for the weekend and bring him down to the house. but we didn't find him in the end and so the Moores came down here, they usually go to bed early but Saturday night we got talking and it was nearly one when they left. Another late night and so we slept in Sunday, later than usual, it was about eleven when we were finished breakfast and I had told Peter Sunday was a quiet day and not a soul would come in the morning so it would be a good time for him to pack. However Jackie appeared as we finished breakfast and we sat out in the sun to talk over business connected with the store, the kids all came over ~~late~~ later and Barbara, and it was time for lunch when they left. We decided to have ours and then Pete could do his unpacking and packing, but we were just getting up from the table to wash the dishes when Barbara came over with John Knox and another R.A.F. Officer. They were in Banff for a day on their way to the coast. Pete hadn't seen John for a year at least and the friend hadn't seen the house so another hour slipped by.

It was about three when Pete started on ~~the~~ sorting his stuff out and a little after four Lila and Cam came down and then Fern. she satyed after they left as we had promised her a bottle of beer for ages and also wanted to talk. It was supper timewhen she went. We were in the midst of supper when Mr and Mrs C.M. Walker came down to congratulate Pete, It was nice of them to come and we like them a lot. (You know the one who invited us to tea, with the larkspur.) It was after eight when we finished the dishes and as Pete wanted to see Sam and Mom was at church we decided to run up to Sam's. Were about ready to leave when we had a terrific thunder storm for Banff, it rained in torrents. We were having gingerale and cake when it let up and before we had finished there was another bad one, however this one we came home in, for it was getting near eleven.

Yesterday morning it was so rainy theat Pete decided not to hurry down to Calgary and so it was after ten when we left. I drove down with him and then came back on the bus last evening. Was home by 8.30

Now I must do up an alarm clock he forget and go up to mail it

Loads of love

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. June 14, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

We have had three rainy days and it is just clearing late this afternoon. Actually it is good for the country to have so much moisture, over an inch in most districts.

I had a very nice birthday, going up to Moms for supper and having steak and baked potatoes and a really wonderful birthday cake she made yesterday. a white layer cake with white frosting, I am the only member of the family she has made a cake for this year, so you see how lucky I was. Sam and Cis came down later and we had a few games of Rummy and then tea and sandwiches and more cake. They brought me a lovely bouquet of lilacs and poppies.

By the way the history book came for Pete, I opened it and it looks interesting, did you read it ?

I haven't done very much this morning or afternoon. I couldn't seem to get started and when it is raining one doesn't want to ~~clean~~ much, I want to clean the house before starting to paint, and there are so many little things to see to. like washing out stockings and putting things away, and I sort of forget where things are. had to go and tie up the larkspur as they were growing quite high and I was afraid the first wind would blow them over. Intended to get some stakes to tie them to but it means ordering the wood from the lumber yard, cutting it to the right length, getting green paint and painting them and by that time they would be way right so have tied them as usual to nails in the logs.

A nice letter from you yesterday, I am glad that you like the thought of looking forward to a visit from me in the fall, for if Pete is sent overseas I will be able to make you a real ~~long~~ long one then. and ~~you~~ as you say had I gone now the visit would have been all over, and it would have been ~~an~~ awful short one in June, and I hate to think how it would have been landing in all that heat.

I don't know why but I have been killing flies all day, big noisy ones, I put them down the W.C. so they can hardly come back again, I really think they came down the chimney for a while but have shut that off now.

This isn't much of a letter but I hope to do some cleaning to-morrow morning and then go to the RED Cross in the afternoon so there won't be much time to write then. Now I have Pete to write to too.

Will try to remember to return the very interesting letter of Russells about his trip. Looks as if you wouldn't be seeing the children until later this summer, I know how you love to have them and will be disappointed not to see them sooner, but perhaps you won't get too tired this summer, last year it was hard me having meals and you having no cook.

Must cook my liver and bacon for supper as I am getting hungry.

Loads of love,

Catherine .

Banff, Alberta.
Friday June 16, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

Such nice long letters from you and I do enjoy hearing about all the little things as well as any news. I can just see you and Jean cutting off the dead flowers etc. you will have to get Gale and Robin to pull the wagon for you when they come. The end of July sounds nearer than the first of August and it sounds sensible for them to go to the beach first instead of trying to arrange it when they are in Concord. Will you be going for some salt air too? Why not go to a place like Rockport or Annisquam where you would be near Mrs. Mayor and other friends, or would it take too much gas? I expect you really like Concord best but it would be nice to get a breath of salt air. Too bad one can't take boat trips which wouldn't use gas.

We had almost the same sort of rain you had, starting with a thunder storm Sunday night, only it hasn't really stopped much since, the clouds being low around the mountains, and we have showers frequently. In some parts of the province they have had too much all at once and flooded creeks and washouts. Heard twice from Pete to-day, the 2nd letter coming before the first. They had one windy rainy day in which he looked about and then started painting Wednesday, it is a bit confusing at first I guess, he met a Corporal and an L.P.A.C. who had been at Tofino and though they admit the station in Calgary is clean and nice they liked Tofino best. I think the boys got sort of attached to the bush stations, Jimmy Beatty who used to be our paper boy, but joined up when he was 18 is down at number 3 too, Pete has seen him. Says the boys are interested in his work and give him helpful tips about things he has left out on the planes he was painting. He also said the skys were so big it was hard to get the proper relation.

Have made a few stabs at cleaning, I think Banff an awfully hard place to do things in, if it rains and is cloudy you can't seem to get much done and then if it is nice you hate to stay inside. I did clean the big end of the big room this morning but it wasn't really dirty enough to feel I had done much, and yet there is a lot to do, some day I hope to get the logs scrubbed and waxed, but it will take a painter to do it with his high ladders, and also after the war when people will maybe have more time.

Went to the Red Cross yesterday

afternoon and made little pink bloomers and shirt they are easy to do and rather fun. Then Mom came down for supper and I went back up with her as she half expected a friend, came home early and took a bath and went to bed.

How is Sam Manierre's article ? interesting it should be in the London Studio. If I ever get around to it I will send you a couple of copies of a Canadian Art Magazine which is new. I can't seem to get things done maybe it is because there are always so many little things to see too, and now to-night I have to go up to see Sam about the work at the store. I also should bake a bit in case anyone comes in. Tell Jean I will be writing her soon to thank her for the lovely bag that is really too nice for shopping and for her letters.

Its trying to rain again and time for my supper.

Loads of love,

Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.
Monday, June 19, 1944

Dearest Mother,

I nearly forgot to write you to-day, I had intended to last night and then rather unexpectedly Davy brought the mail over Sunday night and a letter from Pete. He had just gotten word that F/O Goldhammer will arrive to-morrow morning in Calgary and Pete is to meet him at the station and take him around and they may drive up to Banff in the afternoon. Pete isn't sure whether ~~he~~ ^{Goldhammer} will want to stay in Calgary or not. So I had to go over ~~the~~ to the Mount Royal and get a room. When I did go over I ran into Travers Coleman (a C.P.R. news or rather Press man) and Nick Mornant, the photographer we had such fun with last summer in Vancouver when we ran into him and his wife, ^{his wife} they are here for a few days covering the visit of some Australian Officials. They insisted that I join them at dinner and it was really funny. Lloyd Harmon was just back from the coast, he is a pilot, and his sister Eileen was there too, they are old friends of the Morrants. Travers Coleman is a born imitator or whatever you call a person who can take off any accent. For a good ten minutes he and Nick carried on a long conversation in broken Russian, all nonsense of course but sounding so serious, then Travers would break into Scotch or Chinese or Oxford English ending up with a Hill Billy story and a strong Southern accent. He does it all with a straight face, I have heard him tell stories at the Trail ^{Hike} but last night it was all so spontaneous and I laughed until the tears ran down my cheeks, we all did. They kept up crazy dialogues all during dinner. They were both in the right mood.

By the time I came home it was time to listen to the Quiz Kids and the news and go to bed. This morning I had business things to see to and made about three trips over town. it took most of the morning except for a bit of dusting. This afternoon I have been making bread and straightening up the kitchen things a bit.

Saturday night I asked Sam and Cis down to share a roast with Mom and me, and we had great fun as the kids came in near the end of supper and Sam showed them tricks and later we had a few hands of Rummy and I broke open a new pack of cards that were given me as a wedding present. The roast was awfully good and we tried dehydrated beets, the first time I ever used them. all sorts of vegetables are

That is what happens when
you hurry - "enough for 8"

done that way, carrots, onions, parsnips turnips
and cabbage, 95 % of the water is taken out of
the beets, they are all chopped in little diced
bits and you cook 2½ oz. ~~of them~~ in 2 cups of
water, boil them covered for 30 minutes and they
really taste just like fresh, the best I ever had,
far better than canned, as there is no lost flavor.

Sunday afternoon Lila and Cam brought down
two very young Air force lads, I believe they are
instructors where Cam is at Vulcan, one was very
much interested in everything they other so shy you
couldn't tell but both awfully nice. It was rainy
looking so I lit the fire But the sun came out later
on, Today was lovely but we had a heavy shower at
lunch time. Pete wrote he had had only one good
day up to Friday so his first week was n't too
successful. He says he tried working in a hanger
but would just get started when all the planes would
be shifted about. However he hopes to get going soon
I just hope he doesn't find it too hard finding
good subjects. I imagine the weather wasn't very
helpful.

Must run this down on my bike in time for
the train.

Heaps of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. June 20, 1944

Dearest Mother,

I rather expect Pete to arrive some time this afternoon, for he was to let me know if he wasn't coming to-day. They may not arrive until after supper but I have the cold roast beef from Sunday and can make them a hot or cold supper to go with it, or sandwiches if they come late in the evening.

It was lovely this morning, great big storm clouds and then about eleven it poured and is only starting to clear again.

Yesterday on my way to the train to mail your letter I decided to come back by way of the river road to see how rough it was and there was a car parked and I thought "Ah tourists enjoying the view" but it turned out to be the Dan McCowans so after stopping to chat I asked them to come along to the house and have a cup of tea which they did. I knew I had some fresh prune bread, which is better the 2nd day but they liked it. It is always nice in the afternoon when the sun streams in the windows from the west.

Dan has been lecturing for 18 months steady and I guess it was a bit too much for him. 2 or 3 months for the C.P.R. and then he was loaned to the Government to make a tour of the camps and R.C.A.F. Stations. He went to 275 different ones which is quite a lot to do in just over a year, I think he said 14 months. He told about running into Banff boys, he was at Tofino but arrived on the same boat Pete took out when he came on leave in the fall.

We were talking about the various places and he said he was interested in the fact that so many wives went if they possibly could no matter how far off the places were. One station Bella Bella was carved out of the muskeg and woods and the nearest place where wives could get a shack was an old cannery $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles away and only way to get there was by boat and rowing at that. So the boys spent their time off cutting a way through the woods and muskeg and then with lumber they could "scrounge" off the station and old crates and packing boxes, they built a board walk the whole distance $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles of it so they could walk back and forth each day, there are now 72 families living at the end of the walk. Dan said the only trouble was that you daren't look to left or right for fear you would fall off the thing and they had to use flash lights at night.

Your letter just came with Miss Annie's from Ipswich. They sound so comfortable it is too

bad they couldn't stay longer, but I am glad that they are rested. Hope they have a little fun before they get any older and can't get about. One thing they are both bright and have sort of a quiet sence of humor. I always think of Miss Annie as laughing and smiling, Miss Emily always seemed a bit grim to me. and Miss Catharina could be fun too.

I didn't realize that Dick Cabot was in India you may have mentioned it but I had forgotten, wonder if he ever sees Betty Dumaine. Am glad that Mrs Motte is on the mend, perhps it will really go this time, for you remember it was when you had almost given up hope of getting rid of it that yours started to go. Of course the treatment helped.

When you get a chance do tell us what Cousin Bert is trying to do, it is hard knowing what kind of work to suggest. Did he ever think of getting a job in the Country store? He would be really good on all the western things they sell, and might have good ideas too about things you would by in the west. For Cousin Bert has good taste. You spoke of his - no it was Cousin Alma who spoke of his making things for Frances and putting up shelves etc. There must be lots of people who would want someone to do such thing but unless he had a workshop or people knew about him and he had a lot off tools it would be hard to get started. Didn't a man at Middlesex have a shop and make furniture, Mr Kittel? but then Cousin Bert isn't really a trained joiner. I hope he gets something.

Will finish this after Pete comes and mail it to-morrow.

never got this mailed. Pete came Tuesday about 2 or 3 we were with F/O Gold-hammered all day Wednesday & see him off at the train this noon Thursday. Pete returns tonight or to morrow -

Will write soon -

Heaps of love
Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Sat. June 24, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

This won't be a real letter but just a short note to let you know that Pete's trip up and back is over and I am also here again. Having him here in the middle of the week has mixed me all up as to days and I can't realize it is Saturday to-day, maybe by Monday I will be straightened out.

Pete drove Flying Officer Goldhammer up from Calgary Tuesday afternoon. He is the man from Ottawa who has a lot to do with the War Artists and also is chairman of the Committee for rehabilitation of the Artists or those with Artistic talent in the three services, Army, Navy and Air Force. Quite a job so that is part of his trip finding out about art schools and Handicrafts etc.

They arrived about six and we all had supper that night at Cyrils, then we drove him around a bit as it was a lovely night. came back here for a while and he went home (to the hotel after ten) It doesn't get dark until nearly eleven and it is hard to realize the time.

Wednesday he came around about ten and we took him to various stores up and down the main street, and to the handicraft exhibit and in the afternoon Pete took him to the Auditorium and schools. He was to have supper here and we invited Fern down too, Pete cooked the steaks, I the beets and he made us Flimson, potatoe cakes, grated potatoes, with a little flour and eggs and fried in butter, they were very good too but the steaks were a bit overdone by the time the cakes were fried. He is of Hungarian origin and it is a specialty of his mothers, then we all went out to see the beaver and the bears and ended up at Ferns having a beer. It was fun and he is a very nice chap, about 41 and knows all the artists in the east and is a lithographer himself.

Next morning he was down again and we saw him off on the noon train. Had we thought earlier we might have driven him to Lake Louise the afternoon before and all spent the night there but didn't think of it in time.

It was in a way a strain being on ones best behaviour so to speak, He told Pete he didn't have to go back until Friday morning for it was really an official visit, and also he told Pete a lot more about the things they wanted Pete to do and not to do etc. and he gave Pete a couple of criticisms

on the sketches he has already done, which was helpful. So all in all it was O.K. He had never been west before and I think was quite surprised about a lot of things.

We spent the rest of Thursday afternoon seeing various people, and after supper the Walkers Fern and the Moores came down for the evening.

Yesterday Pete got a few more things together and we didn't hurry away as it was a rainy morning, drove down rather leisurely and had a couple of sandwiches on the way. I did a few errands while Pete went back to the station and then he came in to the hotel for supper and the night. This morning I came up on the train, getting here at noon, met Mom in the driveway and she asked me to lunch which was nice and she will be down here for supper. It is still showery weather.

I am going down to Calgary again next Friday and if Saturday is a nice day we may go to the Morely Stampede and I might stay over the weekend we don't know yet. It also is our wedding anniversary though we didn't think of that until after we had planned the other.

Will write again maybe tomorrow and mail it Monday.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Sunday, June 25, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

There always seems to be a lot to tell you about and I never get things rganized to answer your fine letters.

I wrote yesterday and when I got back from mailing your letter Erling Strom called, bringing a young Norwegian boy with him. an officer in the Royal Norwegian Air force. He looked as if he were just starting out but it seems he had been out to Assinaboline in 1941 when he was training in Canada and since then was shot down at Dieppe, taken prisoner and in a German prison camp for two years, he either escaped or was repatriated from the camp where the 50 British officers were shot and now is on a 2 weeks leave and then go to Trenton. I never know whether or not a person who has been through so much likes to be questioned or not so didn't ask any more, but instead talked about a cousin of his who we met in Oslo. He is such a nice lad and so young. Goodness knows what experiences ~~he~~ he must have had getting out of Norway in the first ~~pl~~ place, I will ask Erling more when I see him.

Mom came down for supper and then she went to the movie which I had seen at the coast, I went to bed early.

This morning was alternately sunny and rainy, poured a couple of times, but June is usually a rainy month here. I did a lot of odd things and then both Mom and Bubby came for a bite of lunch. At 4.30 Fern called and we went to Mrs Oakanders for tea. She is from Inverness and a really wonderful person. Her husband died a few years ago and her only son is overseas in the R.C.A.F. He has been in it for several years and had both legs broken in an accidnet when he was on a fire truck which was side swiped and some killed. His wife lives with Mrs Oakander at present. She is a very large person but the kind with a heart of gold and makes you feel so welcome. Had ~~made~~ wonderful scones and a special chocolate layer cake and we of course ate far too much. She rents her house and lives in a smaller house. Just a little room wer a living room, yet she and Laura managed 27 Airforce boys for Christmas dinner, said she used up an 18 pound turkey on sandwiches, and Fern said " I don't see how you managed for butter etc." and Mrs Oakander said " Oh we went without tea or butter for a week and hadn't any bread for breakfast next day, but they were fine lads, one from Tasmania, and they were from Australia, New Zealand and South Africa too." There would be little trouble in the world if there were more people like Mrs Oakander. She also told us that she has had wonderful letters from boys mothers in England too. They had a good many at New Years and she also takes them in to sleep, on the porch and in the basement she has a couple of rooms.

Last winter she visited her sister who lives in California near San Francisco. She was telling us of an experience her sister had. Either last December or the year before her sister was out walking with a neighbors child and they sat on a bench with a young sailor who had an unusually nice manner, he seemed lonely and the sister talked with him. His boat was laid up for repairs in Pasadena but he had promised his mother to see the two bridges in

San Francisco and so was up there. She asked him if he had a place to go for his Christmas dinner, and if he would like to come to their house at quarter to six on Christmas Day he could have dinner with them, she added that the dishes and silver wouldn't be very fancy but she would promise that the food would be good. He turned up allright and I guess enjoyed it, for several weeks later the express man arrived with tremendous crates addressed to her. she said they couldn't be for her but sure enough they were. The boy had evidently given her an assumed name and he was really one of the Marshall Fields and I think he or his mother had sent her everything for a dinner, and of the best, a dinner set, solid silver knives and forks etc. cut glass and linen. I guess it caused quite a stir in the little town, and as the sister said he was just an ordinary sailor, except that his manners were a little different. But wasn't that nice, it sounded like a Christmas story in the St Nicholas.

Oh. Thank you so much for the lovely photographs of the Birches, should I write Mrs Howard and thank her or will you? The color is so true and so much blue in the puddles. They are lovely birches, and nice to have.

Guess I had better call this a letter, there is so much I should be doing and I don't get round to it, so better make a start right now.

Loads of love,

Catherine.

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Banff, Alberta.
Wed. June 28, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

I am afraid that I am neglecting you and haven't answered your letters carefully for a long time, and it doesn't look as if I would do it to-day either. I am busy as usual but to-day being nice I seem to be getting more done like washing out underwear (Mrs Manning is so swamped with work that I thought I better do the things that don't need ironing, Pete has the iron) then this afternoon I hurriedly cleaned the house. Maybe soon I will get more of a routine, will try to paint each morning when callers aren't apt to come around and then do odd jobs in the afternoon and see people at night. Probably won't work out that way at all. The things that take time are waiting. Had an appointment to-day for a shampoo, went over and found they had no warm water as the boiler inspector was up and they had turned off the heat with no warning. so now I have to go Monday. Went to have a skirt lengthened at Miss Gammels, she is the real country dressmaker with a lady to help, they are so far behind with their work they said it won't matter if they get further behind, and so are going to do my skirt it is such a small job but that was ^{my} ready when I called to-day. and so it goes. This evening Erling Strom is bringing Pierre Bergsland down to look at the clippings I have of the Dieppe Raid that he took part in but has never seen an account of. and Erling is going to borrow the typewriter to write a business letter.

Last night I went up to Eileen Harmons for supper, we had steaks and fried onions and all sorts of good things, even ice cream with chocolate sauce, Mary Reed was there from Philadelphia and Mrs Marrant Nick's wife, and then an R.A.F. man named Sammy who was lots of fun. He told us of a trip he had made recently flying from Vancouver to Los Angeles, had breakfast at the Georgia in Vancouver and tea in L.A. said it was hard to realize the distances. (interruption while I killed a big wasp, Pete used to do it but now I have to and hate it) Mary Reed was telling of the difficulties she had getting a room in Vancouver. She joined up finally with another girl and they went together, 14 different hotels and some pretty awful, they finally got a room and slept together, never having seen each other before, but it was after ten P.M. and the room had been reserved for someone else. She came out to see her brother in San Francisco and had some time getting up from there.

We are lucky here not to be as crowded as some ~~pla~~ places.

Did I tell you I am going to Calgary on Friday and I don't know whether I will stay down for the weekend or if Pete will come up. When he comes up it is hard to get back into the work I imagine.

Think I better call this a letter as it looks like rain and I want to run it down to the station. Will try to have a better one to mail next time. Have enjoyed the ones you ~~enslose~~ in yours. How nice for you and Mildred if she can make you a visit, after all she has been through I would think she would enjoy just sitting and reading and a quiet time, and it will be nice company for you as the children can't be there until later. Makes me feel better about missing my visit with you, for surely I can get on later. There is just a chance t they won't send Pete overseas but I imagine he will have to go to Ottawa at the end of the three months and this time I will take no chances and go along t too.

Lots of love and to Mildred if she is there.

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. evening
June 29, 1944.

Dearest Mother.

It's been a lovely summers day - hot in the sun but cool in the shade. 40° this morning but 70° by noon. I'm glad for Pete as nothing but rain gets depressing. It was 81° in Calgary today so imagine it will be nice to hot going down to morning.

I've been busy as usual. Today for instance went over after milk to get the milk & then answered Peter's letter & put mine on the train. Got the milk & took the laundry all on the lake. It's very quick & convenient and I use it a lot. Then after doing a few things here went over to the bank & Cyril's for lunch. I also did shopping for Sunday in case we come back. Then on the way to the Red Cross met the Valqueiros from Calgary. He's a lawyer. Older people but enjoy the mountains and having spent a vacation here for their health are thinking of building a house they can retire too sounds sensible. They were thinking of building a new house in Calgary. But she says she would rather stay in the one they have had for 20 years & build a new one in Banff. So after chatting we turned round & they came to see our house for the first time. Were very enthusiastic & interested in the pictures and all. Then I hurried off to the Red Cross. Mom came to supper and I've been tying up the lampshades this evening & we have some tiny mosquitoes I expect after the rain they have bred in puddles that haven't oil on them.

now to answer some of your letters.
I'm glad Hanna is over the operation and
would imagine she would start picking up
with the quater & poison removed. ~~though~~ it
probably will take some time.

Marion Stockand. Lela's second girl is 16
and graduates this year. But because she is
so young may stay on & take extra courses
next year so as to be near home. Marion is
cashier at the upper hot springs & hopes to go
to University this fall. She was sick last fall
& had to come home before Christmas.

Remember the worm holes. Well yesterday
when I got your letter about your reading in a
book about the same sort of thing. I was watching
Sam & Jack Ashley putting up a new awning
at the store & Jack was the one who worked at
erecting and Carsons. At the first time I've
spoken to him since he told me about the man
who made worm holes. Jimmy I should be
reading that particular letter first they. He
said the holes are easy enough to bore. The trick
is to have dust in them as the worm does.

Saturday. Dominion Day. It's a holiday
and I am now in Calgary. Intended to
have this ready to mail yesterday but as
I was writing Edna's more came down to
borrow books & we chatted until after ten.
Then in the morning there was a bit of a
rush to get off on the 10 o'clock train as I went
over to get the mail & also said goodbye to
Fern. who is going for a trip to the coast with
Mrs Walker.



HOTEL PALLISER
CALGARY, ALTA.

Canadian Pacific Hotels

shall have to change paper.

I took the train down here

Friday. & it was a real hot day.

The sun so hot but quite a breeze blowing in Calgary so it wasn't too

bad. Pete came in soon after lunch & we did several errands & saw Uncle Clifford on business. Then drove out to #3 S.F.T.S. where Pete is. got his bags & gave a car full of bags a lift back in. Pete brought his sketches in to show me which was funny & he really has done a good deal. It's only this last week he has been able to go ahead you might say. Flying Officer Goldhamer's visit sort of interrupted - the other week. W.F.O. is Flying Officer, equivalent to a 1st Lieutenant in the Army. (It's hard to get them straight.) He has some really good sketches I thought and they can be made into larger things. The difficulty here is to get the subject on such a small canvas. In the mountains you put a few square miles in but here there are hundreds of square miles! If you get the big story in, which is the character of the place there's little room left for the buildings, bangers or planes. & the training planes are all a brilliant yellow (so I lost at any time can be easily spotted). & yellow is a hard color to work in well. I think Pete will be able to make a couple of good large canvases from the material he has already. He has a new method of working. He makes

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a careful pencil sketch of the composition, a quarter the size of an 11 x 14. Then he goes in & draws it in on the canvas with maybe a bit of color. Then takes it out when there is a good effect and can paint the color rather quickly. He usually has quite an audience too. which makes it hard sometimes, but I guess he gets used to that. He says sometimes they start the planes up & he is nearly blown away.

I have some of your letters here so will answer them. Pete went out this morning. I drove out & then came in on the Street car, to see what the trolley trip was like! He will be in this afternoon so I will have a chance to write a few letters I owe.

Was amused too about Miss Tebbelore's worries about clothes. Maybe I had better get something to wear when she comes to Bauff! I presume she is still coming this way. For some reason I was thinking it was Dad's brother lived in. I got 2 new dresses this summer to wear in Vancouver or Concord. Now I probably shan't wear them in Bauff at all. The ones I wear most are those two you bought me in Concord the fall I was there. 1940 They came from Mrs. Garfield's. It may have been in the spring. One fawn the other blue. They seem to be just the thing summer or winter in Bauff. The fawn part is each year they are admired. The fawn one I even wore on a picnic in Edmonton. Looks as if they would last another 4 years quite nicely. You sent some newspaper in packing my birthday presents and on one was a Telen's advertisement. Summer dresses \$125. & 140. I could hardly believe it and yet I remember how expensive dresses were the year I came out. Doesn't



HOTEL PALLISER
CALGARY, ALTA.

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It seems awful to spend that much on clothes in these times with a War on? I was actually shocked. Thank goodness clothes up here are more reasonable. \$20. is a

good deal to pay.

I think I told you we weren't a bit discouraged about your prophecies about reaching a hundred. Pete still thinks the same. To tell the truth you seem to be getting even brighter as you get older. I used to think Aunt Mary was so wonderful "at her age" but you are far brighter even than she was and also not as set in your ways. Remember she hadn't much use for a lot of new ideas & things, and also she never ran a house or entertained or did the 101 other things you do. Grandpa was mighty smart too, but he used to sit more & more by the fire & read & smoke cigars, you don't do that. No I still think you are going to be more remarkable than any of them, and you know people enjoy older people who are bright & fun. It makes them look forward to old age instead of dreading it. No, when you get old you are going to be all right for you're so spry & full of life in your middle age.

Isn't Mrs Loring some relation to Mrs Page?
I remember they used to live in the Keyes house didn't they?

I have shown these two books Maine & Vermont to lots of people. It started Erling Strom talking about the farms in Vermont. He says that he never realized until he went to Stone to live what a much better system the Norwegian one is & why the Vermont farms don't pay. He had just taken the Norwegian way for granted.

In Norway the eldest son always inherits the farm, and as to the custom no one tries to change it. When the son is old enough to carry on, between 30 & 40 maybe he takes over, moves with his family of children into the big house. The father & mother then move into the little house on the farm & the son sees that they have food & lodging & a bit extra for the rest of their lives. The other brothers and sisters go off & make their livings in the city etc. but they don't inherit any of the farm. Therefore any money made on the farm goes back into improving it. For then there will be more for the parents old age & the son naturally is anxious to make it successful for his son, etc. Erling says a friend of his is the 23rd generation living on their farm in a direct line.

In Vermont he cited his two neighbors, one was a farmer nearing 80 and his son was still working for him at 60 so when he did inherit the farm he ~~was~~ ^{wasn't} an old man, and naturally his son wouldn't be very eager to stay on working here with the prospects of his grandfather living to maybe 90 & his father the same before he got any chance to run things.

Then the other trouble Erling thinks is the inheritance laws where the farm is left to the family & each gets a share. Each generation takes a large slice out of it. If one son decides to continue running it he has to pay off the brothers



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and sisters for their share in it.

His other neighbor is an example of that. The farm is unpainted the

buildings in disrepair & leaning

badly. The old mother is running it

& one son helping her. When she dies the son must pay a fifth of the value to his four brothers or sisters. If he repairs it & improves it, it will be worth so much more he will have to pay each of them several thousand dollars. But if it is old & dilapidated it won't be worth as much & he only pays each one a few hundred dollars. Therefore he doesn't improve it.

As Elmer says it's hard to make a farm pay when each generation you take so much out of it, instead of putting that money back into improvements. I thought it an interesting comparison. He & Berglund both said the Norwegian way has worked wonderfully for generations - I can see how it would.

I'm glad you heard from Russell. I expect he doesn't realize how much time lapses between letters. He probably can't write you at his office as he would do were it a private business, and when he gets home with the children about and his only chance to play with them, & dinner & being tired every evening there is not much chance then. He would never think of just writing a line or two, which would be all he'd have to do often. & you can see by his few letters that do come, that when he does get started he really does awfully well. You might give him for

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Christmas some letter paper. all addressed & stamped
& just a sheet for each envelope. Maybe they be would
drop a few lines more often! Of course to getting
started that's so hard. Maybe you could date each one
for a Sunday & if they were small sheets it might not
take too much effort. I know too well how easy it is
to put off writing.

That was interesting about those seeds lying
dormant in the London cellars & then blooming after the
Blitz. I must remember to tell C's Ward about it. She
would be so interested. Do you like Cactus? I don't very
well. But the other night one the size of an orange had
a bloom at the Wards. The flower was really exquisite
pale mauve & lovely petals & long stamens etc. The
size of the plant. It shot out of one side on a long
stem. They are the queerest things.

Was interested to hear of Isabel. That is a strange
case & such a shame with such a fine family of
children. With all the husbands & wives separated because
of the war it seems awful to think of any who can be
together not wanting to be.

Nice to hear about the dinner party you had for the
Chases. How is Mrs Bodman getting on? You haven't
mentioned her for some time.

Guess this better be the last page for today. I should
write some more letters & not be tempted by the book of "Madame
Curie" I have with me. You read it didn't you? It's very
good. I read so little except when travelling.

Pete is coming in for to night & I may go home to-
morrow morning. He does most of his painting at six-
thirty in the morning & in the evening when the light is
best & I don't want to interrupt the work. It's nicer seeing
each other often rather than to ~~be~~ ^{be} long ^{time} seldom. If you know what
I mean. Loads of love
Catherine.

Banff, Alta.
Mon. July 3, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

This may not be much of a letter but will dash off some. Erling had the typewriter or I would have written yesterday,

Had a very nice trip to Calgary, we had a bad storm Saturday night, Pete and I had gone over to eat at Goon Wing's restaurant across from the Paliser, (He is a Chinese boy who Peter went to school with in Banff) and when we came out it had started to rain, luckily we didn't wait for it to stop or we might have been waiting all evening, it was a thunder storm and a very heavy rain. Our windows look down on the entrance to the station and we sat practically all evening watching the people trying not to get wet, It was the kind of storm that suddenly deluges and as it came up quickly very few had any coats. then the puddles got so big and people would be half in them before they realized how deep they were. There were two trains from the west due and that made more people, I guess we were mean to laugh at their plight.

I came back on the morning train yesterday and was very lucky to get a seat in the Air Conditioned day coach. A father and his young daughter were sitting there, they spoke some language I didn't understand but she spoke English without the trace of an accent. They had been on a day and night and were going to the coast, I should think it would be terribly tiring sitting up all the way. They had never seen the mountains and as it had evidently snowed the night before they looked their best, all white and sparkling and across the pale green fields were really lovely. It cleared as we got near Morely but was cold and cloudy in Banff.

Mom invited me to lunch and we had quite a talk too, then I lit the furnace as it was pretty cold out and in. However it is a lovely day now so may let it out again. After supper I went up to the Wards to see Sam about one or two things and they brought me home a little after ten.

Now to-day I have taken the laundry and must bike up to the Post Office before lunch to mail a parcel to Pete, and at 1.30 have my hair washed. There are always so many odd things that take time.

Pete is planning to come up next weekend and I will go down Saturday morning to ride up with him. He can work in the morning.

Two nice letters from you here this morning, one with Russell's enclosed. Am so glad that Hanne is really better and that the operation is over, she did have a hard time of it . and must have suffered a lot last winter.

Am glad that you explained about Cousin Bert, I really think he is at the age when a person shouldn't have to work any more, Had he had better luck he would have been fine now, but when you think that they had a large share in that store in Belgrade and then the controlling interest was left to people who let them all down , it was very bad fortune but nothing that one could foresee. and then to lose the job in Yellowstone in such an abrupt manner. I think he is very wise to live on the pension I didn't realize he had one or wouldn't have suggested the Country Store.

Better mail this now.

Loads of love,

Catherine .

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. July 4, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

The 4th of July but it doesn't seem much like it here. but has been a nice day on the whole. and also a busy one for me.

Yesterday Don MacDonald, an old friend of Pete's (who used to drive for Brewsters when Pete did) was here for the day with his family on their way to Seattle. I saw them after lunch and my hair wash, and they were all going on a picnic, his brother and sister were up so that they could have a day together, they left last evening and so the MacDonalds asked Jackie, Barbara and I up about nine to their cabin, they were leaving this morning. They have two small children who of course were too excited to sleep so we had rather an amusing time. The George Brewsters were there when we got there and one child was in bed behind a curtain but the other was doing a good bit of crying. The oldest one kept popping out now and then to go to the bathroom and as the cabin is just one big room with a kitchenette and bath off it and two curtained alcoves with beds it was not exactly private. the first time the 6 year old came out he said he wanted "to tinkle " so his father said " be sure and shut the door " However he tinkled quite audibly and then when he came out shut the door carefully behind him, it had been open before. He is quite a child actually, at the age of three he could spell words out having played with blocks with such things as "C and cat" on them, was fascinated by the signs on the street and wanted to know what each meant. " Dromedary " was the first word he read himself. Nice and simple ! A dictionary fascinated him next, and only an unabridged one would do. he read at three and now at the age of six the Readers Digest is the magazine he likes best. Some friend of his fathers left a Navigation book at their house and he started delving into Geometry, loved the angles and things, Will often point out a Trapezoid or Rhomboid (I can't even spell or remember the darn things) as other children might notice a cow or a dog. However he didn't find out what a trapezoid was in the Navigation book, he saw the word there and looked it up in the dictionary! They don't encourage him too much in it, for he doesn't like playing with other children and isn't interested in animals or things like that. they don't want him to be too precocious.

Don is a Lt.Col in the Army Transport Command and has been in Edmonton for two years, he is starting on a new assignment and has to go to Washington first, so I told him if he saw Russ to say hello. He is an awfully nice chap. Had a lot to do with Air Transportation in Chicago and we all had dinner to-gether there during the Worlds fair

Well that was a one o'clock evening so I was sleepy this morning, then Mrs Mac came down to see if she could bring her brother and sister in law to tea and see the pictures this afternoon. Peter Maskin (one of the little English boys and nephew of Mrs Greenham) goes back to England to-morrow, and came down to say goodbye. He was here when the others arrived but was very cunning. Harold also came over to show me some new shoes and Bubby to borrow the bike, but after that there were no more interruptions and I showed them a lot of paintings after they had had tea. It was 6.30 when they left and I was due for supper at Moms. She had had a lot for tea too.

So now it is nearly bedtime and I want to have a bath while the house is warm, so all for now will mail this to-morrow.

Mildred will be with you, tell her I have thought of her often though I haven't written and hope her arm is mending rapidly, she must have suffered a lot, but after being kind and thoughtful to her friends it was nice that they could show her how fond they were of her.

Must start Pete's letter, if I repeat some things it is because I get confused. I had lunch with Barbara and Jackie and the kids, roast beef.

Lots of love,

Catharine.

P.S. Didn't get my bath as the Kuopians from Minneapolis dropped in. The ones who came when Mr Weed & the Laughlins were here. They stayed until nearly eleven.

Banff, Alberta.
Friday, July 7, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

Frost last night and it wasn't 40 when I got up. It blew in from the north east yesterday afternoon and rained quite hard, fresh snow on the mountains east this morning and it feels pretty chilly. more like fall than the middle of July.

Red Cross yesterday and it was a good afternoon to be there. I had to make sandwiches and got into more difficulty as everything seemed to go wrong. Luckily I started early. Had washed and waxed the floor for the summer the day before, so of course when I chopped onions or pickles or lettuce dropped a bit of each, which didn't help. Then I tried to melt the butter just a little and forgot it of course and it was running before I realized. Harold came over to ask me to lunch at their house and so during most of the time he asked a continual string of questions which usually confuses me. Then the jar of pickles wouldn't open (this was before I chopped them) and I finally had to pry the top off out on the work bench, in going back and forth I somehow managed to drip drops of the liquid on the floor which I didn't notice until long after. Also was afraid I had chopped a little glass off the jar so washed the pickles very carefully, all this took lots of time. My heels kept sticking to the floor which was annoying so changed shoes which helped for a while. However when I came home later in the day I noticed in a certain light a few drops of water on the floor and wondered they hadn't dried. felt them and they were as sticky as could be, and of course I found drops all over and I had waxed in some etc. Wiped all I could see up with cold water hoping it wouldn't take the glow coat off, but may have to do the floor over again before long. Rather discouraging.

After the Red Cross Ois Ward and I went fish buying to-gether and she suggested I bring my sole up to their house for supper, which I did, and it was very nice. She cooked it so well and we had supp, tomatoes and fresh raspberries for desert. Sam was late getting home and always changes his clothes so it was after seven when we ate, I started home at 9.30 with good intentions but it was eleven when I finally came as we got talking about things.

I have a lot of letters I must write this afternoon, and it is a good day to get at them for it is dull out and cold, will go over for lunch first and to the bank. To-morrow I go to Calgary and drive back with Pete for the weekend. so this morning I got the

house more or less in order.

Have had nice letters from you, Glad that Hanne was well enough to go to Watch Hill and hope the sea air will help her get back on her feet. Travelling is not easy these days.

What a terrible tragedy that circus fire was in Hartford. No place could one find a more innocent crowd than at a circus and to think of so many children. Even the ones who escaped would be terrified. Somehow the night club fire was bad enough but in those sort of places are usually run by a different kind of person and you wonder there aren't more disasters than there are. I suppose in the circus like everything else they are short of experienced help and it must have been an accident no one knew how to cope with quickly. I guess it is lucky it never happened before. Didn't Laura Knight speak of a fire in the circus in England and the animals being burnt, only there I think it was in the animal tent and not during a performance.

Will try to write Monday and tell you all about the weekend, hope the weather turns out better than it is now.

Loads of love and to Mildred too if she is with you.

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. July 11, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

I didn't write you over the weekend as I had intended too. Went down to Calgary on the train Saturday morning and Pete met me all ready to drive up, I had made a few sandwiches to take with me so had had lunch and so had Pete, and except for a stop at the hotel we didn't wait for anything and came right up, picked up three very nice Air Force lads standing by the road hoping for a lift, the first was a Glasgow lad who had come over to Canada before the war and has been stationed in Calgary for two years the other two were very young and newly in, both from Vancouver. They do quite well getting rides, but some times the luck is bad. we were in Banff by four, time enough to cook a roast for supper which Mom ate with us. Then later in the evening we went up to see Carl Rungtius who was working in his garden and just ready to quit. We hadn't seen him this year and had a nice evening there. His garden is all wild flowers that he has brought in from his trips and it is natural and very pretty as well as interesting. He is nearly 74 now and is still very active, does all his own work as well as painting and I think he finds it rather lonely. In New York he goes to his clubs a lot but it isn't much fun I guess.

Sunday we slept late, or rather late. It had stormed hard Saturday night the clouds coming in right around the foot of the mountains but was real nice Sunday. It seems to do that too often. lovely in the morning and then clouds up. We stayed around the place all day and sat in the sun until it was too hot. I decided to go down with Pete Monday morning and we thought it would be fun to take David Stockand and Donny White (Cliff's 2nd boy) They were pretty excited as they had never seen the parade before, but had to be back in time to cover their paper routes. So to be sure and have tickets on the afternoon bus we went over to get them after supper. Got the garage door open and found we had a flat. so had to fix that and as no gas is sold Sunday there was only one garage where we could have it fixed. After getting that done we went up to the Wards for a few minutes but had hardly gotten there when the Ashleys arrived with some Irricana people who remembered the Lindsays well. Woodland I think their names were. We didn't stay more than a minute or two knowing we had to get up early to leave at 7 yesterday morning.

We picked up two more Air Force boys looking for a ride down. They had had poor luck coming up having to walk 5 miles to Exshaw and finally take the late train. They were eastern boys, one from Kenora and the other Port Arthur on Lake Superior. They were new to the country their first 48 here. Had all gotten an extra day to see the Stampede.

We had more tire trouble and had to have one fixed in Cochrane, but got to Calgary just in time to see the whole parade. It was more Army and Air Force than before, a good many thousands of them and over 20 bands also the usual Stampede things Indians, chuck Wagons etc but no floats. The Air Force seemed as impressed by the Burns teams of 6 huge horses being driven by one man. Remember how they used to have them in Boston when I was a little girl, down near Milk Street?

It was a perfect day, sunny but a nice breeze and only 74. We went right out to the grounds for lunch, (after Pete had taken his things back to the station and reported in and after I had done a couple of things while they were gone). We had a hamburger lunch and then walked the length of the grounds with the boys so they wouldn't go on the violent things too soon after eating. We needn't have worried, for they went on Swings and ferris wheels etc all afternoon when they weren't eating pink candy and potatoe chips and goodness knows what. Pete and I went and called on a couple of Indians who seemed glad to see us, saw the Art exhibition and Photography and as we came out ran right into the boys again, so we all went into the main show of bucking and such and we stayed there until it was time to meet the boys and go to the bus.

The bus was packed solid. We being early got seats but there were a good many who stood to Canmore, over two hours. When just as many were on as they could get, the driver called out "There is an officer here who has only a very short leave and wants to go to Banff, do you suppose you could move back just enough to get him on?" which they did and he never got a seat all the way and then only a camp stool in the aisle.

I had an army nurse next me and she was very nice so was lucky. It was 8.30 when we got back and a pouring rain.

I was so sorry to hear about Miss Chatarina Agge breaking her hip, what hard luck just when they were starting to feel rested and enjoying Topsfield. Still it would have been worse had it happened in Salem.

Shan't try to answer all your letters now but will write again before going down to Calgary Thurs. for the night, it was the only day we could get a room at the hotel, will just go for the day and night.

Loads of love.

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. July 12, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

We seem to have rain every evening which is good for the grass and woods but a bit tiring as a steady diet. Last night Mom came down for supper to help eat up the roast, and then went back for her mending and we worked all evening. I seem to have the greatest amount of worn out underwear but with a little catching of runs I can wear them around here, Mom has a special kind she used to get at the store, one piece kind, and of course now you can't get them, she found a few that she had thrown away for dusters that she resurrected and spent all evening just darning one pair. We had a sudden wind and thunder and lightening and so she stayed until that was over. she is terribly scared of thunder storms.

I haven't seemed to do much to-day but get ready to go down early in the morning on the 8 o'clock bus, and do the odd thing around. Had lunch but it arises and now it is raining hard and dark too.

Hope you found Miss Annie Agge bearing up under all her difficulties. She who used to be the invalid seems to be the strong one now.

When Pete was up last weekend I read him all your letters, He now thinks you so smart that he is sure you will live to a hundred and ten!

I tried the thing about the flag in "Life" and got it to work, funny isn't it? We have taken it ever since Mildred showed us the prospectus in Portland. Wonder does she remember? We also have every copy and they are awfully interesting to look back through, Pete loves them. We liked the paintings by Paul Sample very much, about a month ago, a lot were painted on the Kona Coast on the biggest Island in the Hawaiian group, I thought he got the feeling of the bright light of the tropics very well and the spirit of the thing. They commissioned quite a few artists in the United States and then Congress did something about it, wouldn't appropriate the money I guess, anyway they had to give them up and Life took them over. Thank goodness they had the foresight to do it.

Can't imagine what the sweet smell was on my letter, maybe it was next a scented one in the mail bag. Pete thought it might be the log smell in the house, but others might not think that so sweet.

I didn't have a chance to ask Erling any more about the lad who was prisoner, for the lad came down too next time, he read all the clippings I had about the Dieppe Raid for he had been shot down during it but never heard much about the results. Also saw a German movie of it.

Thought Sam's letter more like himself, but funny he never mentioned his wife. How they do love Wake Mills and yet

to me it was just like any little inland lake, I expect it is the associations that mean so much and the swimming and simplicity of the life, but I can't say I would enjoy it very much, not after living out here in the west. What does Cousin Bert think of it?

Nice that Edith is going to be near Dot and in a summer place. Every one here found that they got no mail from Overseas the few weeks prior to the Invasion and then a lot came along.

Yes I still like the Concord Journal for it mentions quite a few people I used to know, I don't mind how late they are coming though.

Hope that Mrs Motte is getting along well and soon will be home, she has had a hard time for so long.

That was awfully interesting about the dog Uncle John saw take the bones out of the cart for the other dogs.

I haven't gotten Mr Orrs letter yet saying when Miss Publicover is coming, but wrote her the other day and asked when she would stop over so that I could get her a room, Hope they tell me in time so I can plan a bit, for I go to Calgary quite often.

Will mail this down there to-morrow, am not sure how long I will stay, most likely just one night, just had an interruption. Sally Hart a very mannish water colorist, ^{called} must call her Sally, Mrs Jackson of the Empress Hotel in Victoria said that she must look us up, so guess summer has started. She asked me to go over this evening but I didn't want to get involved. He was real Arty.

Loads of love and to Mildred too.

Catharine. *Catharine*

was listening to news so typed my name -

Banff, Alberta.
Friday, July 14, 1944

Dearest Mother,

Came back this morning from a nice trip to Calgary, we were lucky to book our room as far in advance for Mom tried several places and no luck. We went down to- gether on the bus, Mom to the Old timers and Bubby to visit a friend who met her at the bus in Calgary. She will be at Childrens day this morning. The bus wasn't too crowded, we had a little girl of ten sit with us, Bubby and I, she was on her way to see her brother in the hospital, he lost a leg in Italy but will soon be well again. So she and Bubby had a good time chatting.

Mom and I had lunch to-gether at the Paliser and then the room not being ready until nearly two we waited and watched the people downstairs. I couldn't help thinking how well designed the Palliser is, for the fashionably dressed people are as much at home as the Cowboys and ranchers. The Service men also add color and there is a continual stream of people going through from the elevators and many meeting old friends.

Pete came along as we were waiting and then we got the room even if it wasn't made up. Mom went on to the Stampede and we got the car and went out to the # 3 S.F.T.S. to pick up Pete's things. It was a cool day with great storms in the distance, and when we were up near Currie the wind started blowing, great clouds of dust hid the buildings at times and I thought sure we would get caught in the approaching storm, the clouds looked like hail too. The students out flying were evidently called in for I watched 17 planes come in and land just while I was waiting and you could tell when they tipped that it was gusty. We went back to the hotel, had two bottles of the four bottles of beer per room one is allowed each day, and then decided to have a very early supper before going out to the grounds. Had steak at Pete's Chinese friends, he has asked us to have a real Chinese supper with him some night.

When We got to the grounds we went to the Old Timers Hut where Jean had tea, they were just closing and we found Mom and Aunt Maggie Grayson there, and her daughter Hazel who had invited Mom to stay at her house, so we felt better about not being able to get her a room.

Saw some of the Indians including Mark. and watched people going on the various thrillers like the one Robin and Russ went on in Washington.

Then went into the grounds to see the Chuck Wagons race. There were six heats, we saw the first four very well and then it started pouring and (because of Pete's uniform and not my dress) we ran for cover. We sat on the bleachers with the Indians and an Air Force Officer alone, spotted us and said "Sarge, is it all right if I sit with you?" He was an awfully nice chap and came each night to see the races, thought it the best event in the Stampeded. I am always amused when they call Pete "Sarge" but also it is interesting to see how nice the Air force officers are, they aren't stiff and offish like some of the old army ones, and yet are never too familiar.

We stood up to watch the show and it was a good one. Bears very amusing riding bicycles, children doing balancing acts, Chinese A crobats and a good deal of dancing but little singing except to go with the dancing. We left before the end and the crowd.

Then I came back on this morning's train, there are three, at 9.15, 9.50 and 10.10 so if you don't get one you get the next. Was home at one. Found lots of mail from you and the letter from Russell enclosed. He never mentioned the Halifaxes son who lost both legs, wonder if he was there. It must have been quite an experience, if it had been this week they would have been the Earl and Countess! I imagine from all I have read about them that they are very simple, kind and genuine people, he is very religious I believe. Mildred would know, but wasn't he someone Wood during the last war and a friend of Tweedsmuir's? or am I all wrong. I know he was Viceroy of India and believe he was first Knighted as Wavel was before going to that post.

Am so glad that you got down to see Miss Annie and that the operation went off well, it was such a shame to have it happen. Perhaps it is like Dorothy's mother who fell because of fainting spells, and I have forgotten now what caused the fainting.

I do hope Mildred's arm is causing her less pain every day, it is hard to have it hurt so much. Remember how Pete exercised his fingers all the time when he sat in the big chair and I believe that is one reason why they never stayed stiff. He just kept at it.

Tell Mildred not to worry about getting fat, Fat people usually are very good natured. Pete's mother used to be quite thin and she told me that when she had change of life she got terribly fat, and Dr Robinson told her that often happened to women and not to worry about it, for there was nothing one could really do to stop it. and when you think of it there are a lot of people who put on weight as they get older. Aunt Frankie and Agges are about the only

ones I can think of who stayed thin. Unlike George and Aunt Eleanor weren't exactly tall and thin and they always looked awfully nice to me.

Am enclosing the advertisement about the dresses. Thought you would be amused to see the prices. of course they are probably models and one of a kind. Of course "a little Wellie O' Connell" is one of a kind and would serve the purpose but I can see the other might be more thought of.

Must go now and dress, am going for my big meal to Cyril's then to see Sam and Cis about something and look up the Throington's from Philadelphia, they wanted to see us. He is an Alpine Climber.

Peter Haskins reached Montreal safely Mrs Greenham got the nicest letter from the friends of the other boy who met them and looked after them both all day, picnic lunch and baths and sightseeing. He had two little boys who came back from Portugal all alone at the age of 5 and 7, I imagine during this war and said he knew how she would want to hear about Peter. Peter last saw his mother when he was 3 he is now 11. Was sent to England to the aunts and the family was due to leave the next year, were asked to stay one more year in Singapore, though they were all packed ready to send their stuff and had bought a house in England. Just before the war they had their reservations and all, and before the boat sailed the japs struck. they have lost every thing and the father is a prisoner of the 'aps. The Uncle was engineer of the road down the Malay Penninsular built a good many years ago and he said to think that nearly all the labor was Japanese so of course they knew every bit of the road better than anyone else could. Mrs Greenham said she thinks the worst part of this war is that it has destroyed people's trust in one another.

Must stop, Loads of love to you and Mildred and Jean, and the children if they are there yet. Don't expect they are.

Loads of love

Catherine.

P.S. Miss Rubleeover arrives August 2nd so I'll try to get a room at the Hotel.

Banff, Alberta.
Sunday, July 16, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

I am just waiting for the Thorington's to come for the evening and have the fire going in the fireplace and also in the little stove in the kitchen for it is chilly at night. It still says just 40° above each morning on our outside thermometer and it is still cool around the house until noon. I guess it is just an unusually cold summer.

Well yesterday I had rather a busy day, did my usual Saturday cleaning with the vacuum, when the furnace isn't on and few people come there is little dust. Was on my way over town for lunch, (Had already made one trip before that for groceries and a few errands,) and met Mom coming in the driveway, just back from her trip to Calgary, she had stopped for one night at Cochrane. She wanted to tell all about her trip so asked her down for lunch and we ate what I had thought of having for my supper. Then about two I started out again, stopped in to see Mrs Thorington who was sitting on the porch of the Mt. Royal and that was when she said they would come down this evening bringing some Swiss Friends with them. Then I went on up to the Wards, they have their own house back again and are so tickled. They were really rushed into selling it to the Longhursts and were so afraid they wouldn't be able to get it back again, for the Longhursts were sort of peculiar. However they are to have it and as the moving made more dirt than they could clean up before they left. Sam and Cis had to clean the place pretty thoroughly. I don't think the Longhursts ever cleaned the windows, they were more interested in the fancy things, gave an elaborate party the Christmas they were here, and spent a week decorating the house for it, but guess they never thought of washing the woodwork. It is impossible to get anyone to help and so when I was up the evening before I offered to help wash windows, they were dirty enough to show good results.

We really had a good time, Cis and I cleaned the sunroom and then I did the windows in the living room and bedroom while Cis dusted the walls and ceiling down and Sam took the storm windows off and washed the outside. Three trees have been taken down so the view west is lovelier than ever and as sudden showers kept coming up the effects were lovely. It was nice having no furniture to move about and I enjoyed it. We used "Dic-a-doo" and it is wonderful to clean with, you just wipe it on and wipe it off, no scrubbing. It cuts the greas and dirt and all finger marks come off like magic. We had such fun experimenting that Sam did a lot of woodwork in the kitchen just as you can see it worked.

seeing how it worked. We had tea about four and then they asked me to stay to supper which I couldn't resist and it was nearly ten when I got home, 9.30 to be exact. but with all the cleaning I wasn't a bit tired. It doesn't seem as hard work in another person's house.

To-day I tidied up downstairs, wrote Pete. went over town for cream and gingerale, asked Mom to a steak dinner but she was eating a late big breakfast, so had a light lunch myself. After that I decided to try to start painting which is always ~~x~~ discouraging, its as hard as trying to write a letter you don't want to write. Had just drawn it in when Barbara and Bubby came over to tell me about the stampede, and as they went Mary Macdonald drove in with the baby. so we sat in the sun on the lawn as it was a beautiful day. and when she left there was just time to take a shower and go over to Barbara's for a Roast beef supper. Now I am back and have the fires going and for some reason there is an awful lot of smoke. so better see where it comes from. It is the down d draft from both fires being lit.

Will send this to-morrow. By the way I have spoken for a room for Miss Publicover at Mrs Mcleods, up on the corner by Fern's. There is no chance of getting into a hotel until after the middle of August and Mrs Mcleods is a really nice place and near here. She can have her breakfast at the Homestead dining room across the street. I can get it for one night and was lucky to do that, \$6 for the night of August 2nd. I presume she is to be here just one night, could you ask Mr Orr, and if she is staying longer wire me how long she is to stay. The town is pretty full these days. Am sorry to bother you but know you will find out for me.

Loads of love,

Catherine -

PS. Am glad she will be here in the middle of the week for it will work in better with our plans.

Can. Alberta.
Wed. July 19, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

I'm writing this over at Pairs tea room, as I came early so as to be sure to have lunch with Cyril & Mary. I find I eat too fast when I'm alone & it's more fun with some one to talk to. Yesterday I had all meals at home but usually eat when the news is on.

I have decided to try painting every afternoon, religiously. Found there were too many things to do in the morning. like making the bed & tidying up, going for the mail etc. but in the afternoon I lock the door, leave the screen door unlatched, so it looks as if I had gone out & no one so far has disturbed me except on Sunday when Barbara & Bobby came over & that time I didn't the door locked. As they went Mary MacDonald & the baby came & we sat in the sun. May be I wrote you all this. The Thoringtons came down that evening with the Schilleps, a Jewish couple from Baden. He is a patient of Dr Thoringtons. They want to buy two sketches & maybe an Indian Camp which was nice. Ever since Pete joined the Air Force he could have sold more pictures. The C.O. at Tofino wants 2 and so does S/L Baker in Vancouver. just when he hasn't time to do them! However it's nice to have them want them.

~~Tuesday~~ Monday I painted unsuccessfully in the afternoon. Mark came for supper & eat the steak and ice cream we didn't eat Sunday. & then we went up to the wards to see how they were getting on.

Some one had asked them if they could possibly put up four people & talked them in to it. I was provoked at the Eskleys for even asking them to do it. For actually what happened was that Sam & Cis gave up their beds & spent the evening getting tidied up for the others. Mom & I helped all we could making beds, mopping & dusting & carrying what we could to the other house. These 4 people couldn't find a room anywhere though they hunted all day. The town is packed and still people come. never think to get rooms before hand. Sam slept on a mattress & Cis on the couch. But I think it was a bit too good of them. When they are tired from cleaning & moving. They had planned to move the bedroom suite that evening but of course couldn't with the others coming.

Yesterday I painted again. But worse than the day before. Maybe today I'll do better. One's hand is unsteady at first.

We finished lunch but Mary said to sit down so no one else will. They have more than they can handle. This year nearly every day is busier than the busiest day last year. Mostly farmers we think. but you can't blame them for wanting a change.

I go down to Calgary Friday morning & Pete is coming up for a long weekend. which will be nice.

Will write soon.

Loads of love
Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. July 20, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

My but that was a bright letter of

Gales, I want to show it to Pete and then will send it back, also Russell's. Expect the children will soon be with you, it was nice they could have a bit of the beach for sea air is a good tonic.

All my good resolutions about painting in the afternoon are coming to naught. Was ready to start on a sketch all drawn in and was just taking off my cleanest clothes when it began to get dark and we are having one of those thunder storms that circle around and never seem to amount to very much but it is awfully dark. I

washed the windows up-stairs instead but it still is pretty black. The trees have grown so since we built the house that they make it rather dark for the 3 or 4 months they are in leaf, think we will have to take some down one of these days. However on warm days such as yesterday we are glad of the shade as the sun is so awfully strong.

I have painted four afternoons this week and think it is going to work rather well. I am real cagy for I only lock the back door but not the screen door so it looks as if I were out. It is starting to rain so perhaps will clear in time to do some painting.

On the radio it spoke yesterday of the terrible heat in Vancouver and how the people sweltered in their offices etc. and it was 82° and a letter from you said that the day you went to Harvard was rather cool, just 80°! I guess 82° seems hot in Vancouver. We had it that hot here yesterday and the sky was so clear the sun was even hotter, yet it was so dry that I walked over the bridge for the mail and didn't get even damp, there was a nice breeze too.

The Edmonton Boys band is here, there are 100 of them so Davy said, I know it seemed like several bands when they marched up and down the main street last night, some of the instruments seemed larger than the boys, they gave a concert in the park and it sounded rather nice though I didn't stay for it having some things I wanted to finish here.

This is my afternoon to go to the Red Cross but thought I would paint instead, better to make a picture rather than a pair of pants, and last time their were more people than machines to go round.

The town is so crowded with people that they can't all get places to sleep. and every or

one is rushed off their feet in the stores and resteraunts, luckily ^{they} close Wednesday afternoons and evenings or they never could stand it and some of the resteraunts close for a couple of hours or a day or two to get caught up. They are only allowed to work their staff so many hours theoretically and most places are good about it. Goodness knows where the people come from, they thought last year was busy but every day is busier than the busiest day last year. And a good many drive too. I suppose they make t the one trip. People used to reserve cabins but then wouldn't show up and so the bBqnff people won't reserve for anyone they don't know as they are sure to be filled up every night any way. It is rather bad but one of those things no one can help.

To-morrow I am going to Calgary by train and meet Pete in the early afternoon and he is coming up for a long weekend. Last time he could have come Friday instead of waiting until Saturday afternoon and as he works longer hours than he is expected to he decided he might as well take the weekends as the others do. So may get up everyother one. He has moved to a Repair Depot which is across the field from where he was before and says the compositions from there are more interesting. It took him a while to get into the swing of it and the other was a good place to start off.

It seems to be getting lighter, I will mail this to-morrow and then ^{may} not write until Monday again.

Was glad to hear that Miss Chatarina Agge is getting on well and that "arion could come on to sort of cheer them up and help, for she if anyone would be a real comfortto them.

Glad too that Mrs Motte is home ~~stixant~~ and do hope that the thing is going at last, remember how like leather your skin was too, but you had the advantage of not wanting to stay in bed and let it get the better of you. Give her my love and best wishes.

Hope Mildred is getting on well too, give her my love/ and tell her I think of her often even if I am no good at writing.

Loads of love,

Catherine -

Banff, Alberta.
Sunday, July 23, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

The end of a very nice weekend and we had lovely weather with no rain. I went down to Calgary Friday morning on the train, had lunch at the Falliser with Flossie Curry (she used to work at the Banff Springs in the telegraphs and is an old friend) Pete came in before we had finished, We got the car, picked up some frames that he had to take out to the Sergeants Mess and then started for Banff about three, were home in time to pick up some fresh steaks for supper. Had a good big dinner cawliflour and hollandaise sauce and raspberries, (I just realized we haven't had any strawberries this year, they can't afford to ship them for the low price they can ask and so are making them into jam.) Then we spent the evening with a fire in the fire place.

Saturday we slept rather late, went over for mail and saw a few people, did the same after lunch. It takes time to say hello to the various ones, Jackie wanted to ask Pete a bit about the business, Pete had to find out about building a bottem onto a chimney in the Burns Building, for unless we do they won't pass on the lease etc. It all took time, Got a chick ken which we had for supper, Mom coming down to eat with us. In the evening we went up to the W ards for a short time, also saw Mrs Paris.

To-day we stayed around home all day, Pete had some canvas to cut and a couple of pictures to look out and this afternoon we had callers for a short time, The McMeans from Calgary. The boy went to Sarcee with Pete two years ago, bunked in the same tent and evidently thinks a lot of Pete for calls in to see him whenever he is up. He is now a 2nd Lieut, in the Army, having finished University and the training in connection. They find that they live right near where Pete is and know one of his friends in the same barracks he was in. There were three boys, Gordon Mclean and the Saunders twins. Fern was also down. Then we went up to Sams to see if the New Zealand couple staying with them would like a ride to Calgary, they were tickled to pieces and so Pete left after supper to-night and was to pick them up at Quarter to seven. We decided it was best not for me to go down to-night, as you feel badly not to pick anyone up and if you have others in the car you can't talk much. Also Pete wants to get an early start on his work in the morning and if I went down he would be tempted

to stay in town and that would mean a late start in the morning, if things go well I may go to Calgary for the weekend.

Thanks so much for wiring about Miss Publicover for otherwise I would have been stuck in trying to get her accomodation. There were 500 who couldn't get any place to sleep last weekend, and you hear of people giving up their beds or having people on their front porches etc. I didn't think she would enjoy sleeping with me any more than I would with her. I can't get her a room for more than one night at Mrs Mcleods so think I will maybe take her to Lake Louise for the second night, and then I will have to go straight through to Calgary from there. Thank goodness she isn't coming on a weekend. There isn't a great deal to do except to take the general drive in a bus and to go up the river in the launch. (I have already spoken for seats in that) She gets in at noon, we could go on a drive that afternoon, up the river that evening. Then Thursday she could look around in the morning and we could take the noon train to Lake Louise, the Moraine Lake drive that afternoon and spend the night there. I hope she will like scenery, but it is so hard to tell about people. Our car will be in Calgary and I hate to ask to use other peoples gas to drive around. If it were Miss Carter I would know better what she might enjoy doing.

Must get going on things to-morrow, and try to paint again in the afternoon. The war news sounds more hopeful with things in Germany in a nice sounding mess. If Churchill thinks it may end sooner than we expect that is news.

Loads of love and to Mildred and the childfen too.

Catherine

Banff, Alberta
Tues, July 25, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

This has been quite a busy day for me, I thought that I had better clean the floor of the front room, for it has never been more than vacuumed and mopped. I am not much of a waxer. So got up early and got a good start, Moved the furniture out into the center of the room and used Dic-a-doo, it is in a paste form and you just rub it on and wipe it off. It cuts the grease and dirt, and worked well. Then I went over town for lunch and when I came back put on No rubbing wax, being lazy, but we have no weighted brush to polish wax and I don't think it is worth the effort to polish it on ones knees. Now tomorrow I will move the furniture back and do the middle of the room. It really looks much better, like new except not quite the high polish.

In the afternoon I tried another picture but it wasn't very successful, I don't seem to be very good at building up pictures indoors. Yesterday I did another one of the Tofino house, but they none seem very good, however I had promised the girls and Mrs Ericksen I would make one for ^{each} ~~them~~ ^{each}.

Last night Mom and I had supper over town and then went to see "Buffaloe Bill" It is a really good movie, all in color and real scenery and lots of Indians, they are real Indians and dressed the right way, I think the children would enjoy it if it comes near Concord. It is the story of Buffaloe Bill and is well done. A wonderful battle with the Indians and a charge of cavalry etc. You might not like it, at least the fighting part but the rest is more your style. It is a real western picture, the Newburys would like it too.

The place was packed so it was lucky that we went early, noticed a line up so joined in and had to go in half an hour early, it was full ten minutes before the picture was due to start but one advantage, the people don't come in and go out all during the picture.

A nice letter from you to-day with the one of Louise, Sorry we never did connect at the coast but I never dared leave in case Pete was posted suddenly (which did happen when we least expected it) and it seemed an awful trip to have Louise come up with two small children and it so hard to get a room. We had planned to go down to Seattle on Pete's next 48 and were moved the week before.

Glad that Mrs Motte is feeling better and I think you were right to get her up and out, I imagine she doesn't feel well enough to make the effort, but if people go in and see her and get her interested in things it will maybe take her mind off the itch. I certainly hope so.

The children will be arriving to-morrow and I expect you will be mighty busy after that, but I know how you will enjoy it too.

You know it is hard on people who are older and suddenly have to do all their own work, the houses in the east are so big too and such a lot of steps.

With all the heat you have had it is just as well I didn't visit you in the midst of it, We are having lovely weather here, it is only the main street that gets hot, sometimes I wear a coat over town to discover it is really a warm day.

That was quite a time Mabel Brown had with the fire extinguisher, and doesn't the chemical destroy things too.

Wonder how Olive will find Seal Harbor, must seem funny to go back.

A nice letter from Sylvia Short, that must be quite an experience for her but a good one to have.

I mustn't write more now, have the flowers to water and a letter to Pete to write and then the paper will be coming any minute now.

Loads of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. July 27, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

We are having such perfect weather it is hard to believe, Every day since Monday the sky has been so blue and just a few clouds, to-day it got up to 80 and was pretty warm on the main street but a nice cool breeze.

Have managed to paint a bit each day the afternoons being longer and less interruptions I find the best time. In the morning there are so many odd things to do and letters to get in the mail, etc. I have been having lunch at the Paris Tea Room as it works well and get the mail before I come back here, also do any errands. So far this week except for buying raspberries I haven't needed any food but what was left over from Sunday, the chicken I finished last night.

May go down to Calgary Saturday A.M. and Pete may drive back up for that night and Sunday, the station he is at now is a Repair Depot and they sort of close up over the weekends, from Saturday noon until Monday morning, he went over there to try and get familiar with painting planes. He evidently has quite an audience all the time, one lad was very interested and seemed to know more about the perspective than most, told Pete that one man looked at him laying in the painting and walked away saying "My kid can do better than that." However when Pete had it nearly finished the lad was very anxious to get the man back to look at it, see if he wouldn't think differently!

Biked up to the Wards with the chicken carcass for them to hang out for their birds. They are moved at last, got the piano over the night before. Now have five people in their little house waiting for another house to be finished that they are to move into. Will be there two weeks. We heard a band, (the Edmonton Boys Band is still here and give concerts every few nights, take a collection and that helps with their expenses) so we all went, I biked home first and they picked me up in their car. While I had been gone a bear had been round, upset the garbage and left a big calling card right at the back door! After the band concert we ended up at Parises and had a sundae each. Quite an evening.

Red Cross to day but I didn't go until I had finished painting, was able to wash up for them, there were only two working, every one busy with company or something, said I wouldn't be

there unless it is stormy.

Had a nice letter from Miss Publicover to-day telling me the trains, She spoke of wanting to see Lake Louise so my plans of going up there for the 8nd night should work well, if only the weather stays good. Most people think Lake Louise is in Banff, that is unless they know a bit about it.

Finished the floor but it looks so well I hate to walk on it until everyone has admired it, I hope the shine stays but it may not last very well.

The war news on the whole stays good and lets hope the thing will be over soon.

The news will soon be on and I have some stöcking to darn, there is always something to be done, the hose to move and as the ~~geng~~ grass was sythed to-day I had to find out when the ~~M~~ MacDonalds would come for it, They will be down to-morrow.

Loads of love

Catherine.

CANADIAN PACIFIC HOTELS



HOTEL PALLISER
CALGARY, ALTA.

Monday
July 31, 1944.

Dearest Mother . . . Just a short letter
before catching the morning train
for Banff. Came down Saturday
morning on the train. Met Pete
about one-thirty & we headed for
Banff. Picked up two Air Force
lads from Toronto. They are at
Manning Pool in Edmonton &
expect to be posted east & wanted

to see Banff so much they
didn't like to leave from Edmonton.
Had had 17 rides so far, been
going all night sleeping for an
hour ~~on~~ at a coffee counter. Had
been rained on too. Had a
hard time keeping their eyes
open on the drive up but
were determined not to miss
anything. Were very excited
about the mountains. The
weather was turning bad with
heavy storms so they couldn't
see much. Found them a
room in Banff. & then it

started raining so I'm afraid
they didn't get much idea of
Bauff. It rained all night
with thunder & lightning. We
were home in time to cook a
tiny T Bone Roast. Less than
2 lbs. Fresh peas & peaches for
supper. It poured hard all
Sunday & we never went out.
Was 40° in the afternoon & fresh
snow on Sulphur Mt. Had
tea at 5 o'clock & then left at
6 bringing Ted Paris & his
sister down with us. Nice to
have passengers we knew.

Pete took his things out to the
Baracks (it was pouring hard)
- then we got in here a little
before 10 o'clock.

Up before 7 this morning
Pete left right after breakfast
as the last bus leaves the end
of the trolley line at 8 and he
didn't want to walk the 2
miles.

Must go now.
Loads of love

Catharine

Lake Louise
Alberta.

Thurs. Aug 3 1944

Dearest Mother,

Just a note to let you know that Miss Tubbeover arrived safely yesterday morning. A lovely day, lunch at our house, a talk & then a 2 hour drive. We took Mr & Mrs Paris & Mom with us. & she was much amused for we each kept saying "Why we haven't been to the Cave & Basin, or the Fish Hatchery or something else for years." We saw about everything one could. Had supper at Paris' & then went on a boat trip up the river. saw an elk & 20 beaver. Went through the garden

with a full moon coming up.
It was midnight when we
retired. It was quite a day-
staying out with Indians at
breakfast time.

Today we are having
lunch at Lake Louise & will
drive to Moraine this afternoon.
I'm going to Calgary in the
morning.

Must run for the bus,
will write more soon I hope.

Loads of love
Catharine



HOTEL PALLISER
CALGARY, ALTA.

Canadian Pacific Hotels

August 4, 1944.

Dearest Mother.

It's about four-thirty. I've had a bath & feel somewhat cooler & cleaner. & Pete won't be in until six. So a good chance to catch up on telling you about this week's activities.

Monday I went back to Banff on the morning train & had rather a busy afternoon doing things like taking the laundry etc. After supper I planned to look over papers & letters & file them away when Barbara came in, and she talked until after eleven & my bed time. It had been a long day as I had gotten up early to have breakfast with Pete at 7 o'clock. We seem to be one of the few couples that like to retire early.

Tuesday I had promised to go to the Blood Donors Clinic which I have meant to do ever since we got back. but with one thing or another & forgetting a couple of times I never got there. Also you



HOTEL PALLISER
CALGARY, ALTA.

Canadian Pacific Hotels

blanketed over you (Mrs Remick was my nurse. Jean met her at the Red Cross Service. all the people are volunteers + mostly trained nurses.)

The nurse gets you arm washed off + disinfected & puts a sort of rope thing around your arm. Then Dr MacKenzie comes. first injects something so you don't feel it + then attaches the tube thing. You may be sure I didn't look or inquire for I hate the thought! They tell you to open + close your hand slowly + just as you start to think they give you a drink of lemon juice through a straw. I found this so difficult to suck up that I had little time to think of the other. But in any case mine stopped running quite soon. Mary Pais says some people's blood sort of coagulates sooner than others + also the first time you don't always give a big donation. mine was 260 c.c. + they never take more than 400 or 430 I think it is 90% or less than 250 is too little for them to use. Thank goodness I made the grade + also that they didn't have to try the other arm because they couldn't get it from the first! after the transfusion you are escorted into Pearl Moore's domain where there are several cots + blankets. They like you to rest for 5 or 10 minutes. Then you are given hot coffee, toast and jam before you leave +

they even drive you home. I thought it was all very nicely done. The people helping are all quiet & job a bit & there is a nice friendly feeling.

There were only a few that morning so I was the last. Mr MacKenzie then sealed all the bottles with Mr Wall the plumber's blow torch. So you can see every one has a share in it. They give you a little card with your donation & the date.

I couldn't see that I felt any different, but of course I didn't give a lot. Had lunch at Pariser's & then later in the afternoon I even turned most the day in the yard. My arm was a bit tender as after an inoculation. So was glad it wasn't a day I intended painting.

Wednesday was the day Miss Purbie over arrived, and what a day. As I was having breakfast Barbara ran over & before I was washed up two Indians came in. George & Mrs McLean. I gave them tea, bread & butter & cake & luckily they were going on the 10 o'clock train so had to leave in time to walk to the station. I had various things to see to, get the mail, a little fresh food & when I came back Mrs Mac was there about the hay. Talked to her a bit & then dressed & was just writing a letter, when there were great howls & shrieks & Davy came running for the house with a bee still on his ankle, crying "take it off, take it off" I got him calmed down a bit & we looked at the stung & Mrs Mac luckily knew to make a paste of baking soda & water & that took the soreness out.



HOTEL PALLISER
CALGARY, ALTA.

Canadian Pacific Hotels

But all this delayed me somewhat in doing the things I had intended to do. However I walked to the station in plenty of time & found that the train was delayed

half an hour because there were 3 sections to the first train & usually there are two.

I had arranged for Tommy Anderson to have his car there so that worked well. We recognized each other all right though I went too far down at first. She had made all sorts of friends on the train & we had to wait while a Lieutenant Commander & a British Intelligence Officer took a movie of her, which they are to send her a copy of later. She had a wonderful corsage of orchids the porter had kept in the cooler & they were even quite fresh after spending the night in our refrigerator. She evidently had had a grand time on the train & everything had gone well.

Took her to Mrs McLeod's where she had a nice room I thought, spotless & quiet. There are only five rooms so it never packed. I made a light lunch for her, cold meat, salad & peaches. Just as you know a lunch like that seems to mean so many odds & ends. Mustard to make, salad dressing etc. I could maybe have gotten it ready before going to the station.

but it would have sat an hour & a half & also I didn't know if she might have eaten on the train. Anyway it gave us a chance to talk & she typed a letter while I washed up.

By this time it was nearly 3 o'clock. we stopped in at Mom's a short time, & then went to meet Tommy Anderson for the drive. Mom went to Mr & Mrs Paris. It worked very well. Mr Paris & Miss P sitting (we are having a bad thunder storm & that one hit pretty close that's why the "go" on sitting is a bit wild) in front & Mr Paris told her tall tales about Bauff & she loved it. We went around Tunnel Mountain then up to the Cave & Basin where she, Mr P & Mom went inside & saw all the sights. also she registered in the book. Then to the upper Hot Springs. To the Bauff Springs Hotel. To the Golf Course. & ended up at the Fish Hatchery which had closed. but we really had seen a good deal.

We two had a steak supper & then went up the river in the boat. seeing an elk and over 20 beaver. & it was a lovely evening! We took in the garden & saw a Full moon rise & had an ice cream & then it being after 10 o'clock went back to my house. It was twelve when I escorted her home. Rather late for me who was blinking & yawning by this time.

Next morning I was up at eight for I had the weekend to plan for, the Bank to go too etc. Was to meet her at 10 by the store but she wasn't there so left a message I'd be back in 15 minutes & she didn't get it. So when I came hurrying along



HOTEL PALLISER
CALGARY, ALTA.

Canadian Pacific Hotels

found her waiting. She had become enamored of a fox fur & it took us quite a while to decide about that. However it

was a beauty & inexpensive so in the end she took it. I had to run home & change & as Julie had gone out of the store she never did meet him. It was a bit of a rush as she had a bag to check & as you know I'm not much at catching trains at the last minute. She is apt to be a few minutes late, but we had Tommy to take us down to the station so got there in plenty of time.

The train left at 10 to 12 & we were in Lake Louise in an hour. The bus trip to Moraine Lake left at 2.30 so we had time to get our rooms & lunch. She had a room & bath, but I was glad I got a separate room for it was 3 o'clock when she went to bed after having a bath, reading the paper & writing 17 post cards!

The drive to Moraine was in a car with a cheery bunch of people & though it rained before we got back she saw the lake pretty well. The sun was out again & she was crazy for a row on the lake. So we got a row boat & she rowed me all around the lake getting a big kick out of it.

She stopped a bit more after supper & we took a walk around the hotel & the Lake was lovely. This morning she was going to walk (or climb) up to Lake Agnes where you went that time with Nell. & catches her train about 1.30 going west. We had breakfast together this morning & I had to leave at quarter to nine, coming right through to Calgary.

Have been to the dentist for a teeth cleaning, did a few errands, but it was hot & humid & I was a bit weary. Came back & had the bath & a thunder storm & now it's nearly time for Pete to come.

Will write again maybe Monday. For I expect the weekend will be busy. Got a little fan mailed yesterday morning & kudo it's a nice one, but never had a chance to read it before reaching the station & then found I hadn't brought it. Hope there was nothing important in it.

Loads of love to you all.
Catherine

P.S. I didn't realize Miss Publicover's father & mother were Nova-Scotian. Her mother is housekeeper or something at the ~~Beverly~~ Hospital & Miss P. lives with her sisters. Her father was a contractor.

Banff, Alberta
Tues, Aug. 8, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

Such a busy time we have been having with lots of people, I will give you a quick outline of all that has been going on since I last wrote.

Friday Pete came in after the thunder storm, it was a bad one. After supper we drove out to Bowness to see Eleanor Campbell and find out how she was getting on, she hopes to come up here in September with the baby.

Saturday Pete had to go back out and I did the first errands I have had time enough to do in Calgary. got a dress for Anna but most likely won't have time to get it mailed for a few days. Then a bite to eat and we left early. We picked up two sailors near Morely hitchhiking from Edmonton. one was from Winnepeg the other from Kenora, they have been in the navy for 7 months but so far haven't seen the sea, they were unusually nice lads and so interested in their first trip to the mountains, it was a beautiful day. We got them a place and then had time to get a chicken for supper. Mrs MacDonald and one of the young lads came down for hay and we had a long chat with them sitting in the sun.

Barbara was over and the kids and I have forgotten who else. Mom came for supper. Sunday was rather showery, Pete spent all morning repacking and getting his stuff together, and I nearly forgot he went over and got Mr A.Y. Jackson just in time for he was going to Lake Louise on the noon train. But Mr Jackson is the "dean" of Canadian painters and on the committee for War Artists and Pete was supposed to show him his work. He is a wonderful man and gave Pete a lot of helpful criticism and advice. In the last war he spent three years as a private in the infantry and then was given a commission and told to paint, after not having done any for so long he found it hard at first, also found it difficult not making the pictures pretty but warlike. We took him down to the train.

I forgot when we went to get the chicken and the mail Saturday afternoon we found a letter from Chris Jessen (the friend who took our apartment at Tofino and worked with Pete in the Photo Section) they were going through on the afternoon train and told us the car, so we ran down and saw them while the train was in, and came

back just in time to finish cooking supper.

Sunday afternoon we started by having Lila and Cam bring down a nice Australian Lad from Perth, Australia. then Mr Paris came to see if Pete was going back that night, wanted a lift for Georgie. The others left but Mr Paris stayed and told us tales of how he ran away from England at the age of 19 and came to this country he had just enough money to buy a ticket as far as Calgary and brought his food for the trip with him. that is the train trip I guess. It was really interesting, he came in '91.

After supper we had a short call from Dr Thorington, and then Sam and Cis came and before they had been here long Mr and Mrs Shelling dropped in, so we had a real evening ending with grape juice and gingerale.

Up at six and Pete left about 7.30, I had a lot of odd things to do, take laundry, and cleaning and say good-bye to Mrs Thorington and a lot of business to see too, it was a rainy day and cold. Had lunch over town, Mom wanted to tell me some things and we talked quite a while on my way home, then I started to write you and Pete and George Eisenschiml dropped in with a Chinese friend a boy in the R.A.F. a most attractive lad. I had to go to mail the letter I had half written to Pete but told the boy to bring Lucy Hemming who he said admired the house, down that evening if he liked. I had promised Mom I would go to the show with her so said after that. Mom came for supper and we saw the movie, and sure enough when we got back The chinese boy and Lucy were just coming to the door. It was a most interesting evening and we had the fire and Chinese tea and he told us a lot about China and how he escaped and was with the guerillas and was captured and thrown in prison, it was a long story, and finally his father being English and his mother Chinese, he got ~~repar~~ exchanged for a Jap in Britain, he is from Shanghai. It was ne-arly one when they left, rather a long day but it was so interesting I wasn't tired.

To-day Barbara brought over some fish and I intended having Mom for lunch, she was out, ran into the Shellings and they asked me for lunch which we had at the Mount Royal, and they bought two of our pictures, one of ~~Sam~~ to take back to Switzerland. Now I am going to tea and then supper to eat the fish at Moms.

Better finish the letter to Pete and will write again soon.

Loads of love,

Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.
August 10, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

Am afraid that I won't get this mailed on the afternoon ^{now} as I am expecting a girl from Montreal for tea. Was up before eight this morning so should have gotten a letter written but one from Pete at 9.30 said he was living in a Hotel in Macleod and that I could join him any time I liked. Have been spending most of the day trying to decide what to do. With a great rush I could manage to catch the train in the morning but it would leave a lot of things undone here, the weekend is so busy it is hard to travel, so I may wait until Monday. Also another complication is that the Jessons may stop off in Banff Saturday. Think now I will telephone Pete this evening and see what he thinks.

I had all sorts of things to see to this morning, pay school taxes, and light bills have the Will witnessed which is not so easy when everyone is busy, then this afternoon had to see about the Gov't releasing the transfer of the Burns Property. they have a nice way of holding the papers until you comply with their regulations. In this case there is a chimney that the previous owners didn't change to suit regulations, and they won't give us the lease until we do. Sam is busy right now so I finally signed an agreement that we would do it, but that took some time, also had the cleaning to ~~do~~ see about, it hadn't come back.

Yesterday was very busy somehow. I ran into Margot Panet just here from Montreal and she and Mrs Mac came and looked at sketches about 5 o'clock, we went to see their horses and then I ended by having supper with them at the hotel. and later went up to the Wards to see Sam about the chimney. I had spent the afternoon haying and piling the dry stuff, and then the children played in it until it was quite scattered again. We have had so much rain lately that it never gets dry. Next year we will cut it when we like and make a big stack and then people can take it when they like, but they forget to come for it and never think to come to turn it.

Did I tell you I went to a real tea party the other day at the Gilmores, Mrs Mac's sister-in-law. It was very nice, about five or six ladies your age, well maybe younger and a few my age. In the evening I went up to the Wards but they had an English couple there and no chance for me to talk business, thats why I went again last night.

So sorry to hear about Miss Marion Keyes. I can imagine that you will miss her a great deal. and so will Mrs Keyes and Miss Grace Keyes.

I was sorry to hear about Mr Chambers having to give up that excellent job he went to, and after selling their house too. Wonder if they ever thought of making a trip up here, they would love the coast and you can live very reasonably compared to the states and their money increases 10% anyway. It would be new territory for him to photograph, however he would have to wait until after the war to take many pictures at the coast because of restrictions in photographing coast line and also one needs a car. However they might enjoy a place like Banff.

Miss Chatarina is certainly wonderful to be able to manage crutches so well, but then I think of Dorothy Whyte's mother who had her leg cut off way above the knee and she even went down the front steps on her crutches, but not very often.

That was a wonderful circus you all went to. and what hot weather you are having this summer, it is unusually cool here this year but I don't mind and there has been few forest fires, in fact none so far in this district.

Telephoned Pete last night and I am to go down to McLeod Monday by bus, leave here at 8 and get there at 5.30 with two or three hours in Calgary. I may be there a week. Got word that the Jessens will be here to-morrow for the day, until the late night train going west. However I can sleep in on Sunday morning.

Must do a bit of house cleaning now.

Loads of love to you all I know you are having a good time.

Calltarine

Banff, Alberta.

Sunday, Aug, 13, 1944

Dearest Mother,

Am in another rush, it is after ten and I still have a bit of packing to do and should be up at six to-morrow for the bus leaves at eight and I am going to Macleod to stay with Pete for a week (the mail will be forwarded from here)

Had a busy day yesterday, it was raining in the morning and I wasn't sure if Chris and Eileen would still come on the noon train, Had to go to the bank and a few errands to do and then went down to meet the train they were on the 2nd one, We came here first and then had lunch over town, after which we got Tommy Anderson to take us for a drive, the Upper Hot springs and Cave and Basin etc. then I got corn and fresh peas for supper and we saw the Art exhibition and having run into Pearl Moore and being invited down to tea there we went getting home about six. We had supper here and they looked at the pictures and about nine thirty went up to see the lights in the garden, however I didn't go and they came back soon for it was pouring hard. Then came the long wait for the train at 1.55 A.M. Poor Eileen succumbed to sleep first and curled up on the couch and slept for over two hours, then Chris put his head back and slept in the chair, they had been up at six and the fire made them sleepy. I had to get up and walk around every little while to keep awake and at one thirty Tommy came for them. It was nice seeing them and after all Chris used to take Pete's duty watch at Eofino last winter so Pete could come home every night, that was before Eileen went up, so I was glad to do something in return. They are on their way back to Vancouver.

To-day was rainy, I packed and washed stockings etc. this morning, then about lunch time went up to see Mom as she gets lonely on Sundays, she came down for lunch and then we talked and I darned and about five, I guess it was, Mrs Mac arrived with Gen. Panet. We talked some more and he looked at some pictures and then they invited me over to the Mount Royal to supper. I had to dress and met them at 7.30 after seeing about the laundry, buying my ticket for to-morrow and taking extra food to Lala. We had a very nice supper, Mary, and her mother being there too.

It made the evening a little late for me but I got most things to-gether this morning.

Did I tell you the funny time I had

X the other evening, Had just cooked my supper and was putting nice hot buttered toast and fried bacon on the table, all just right, when I looked out the window and saw two Indians coming to the door. Mrs Jonie and her daughter Mrs Jacob Two-Young men, they came in, had had thiiir supper much to my relief, but soon the father three little girls and one tiny boy followed, so we went into the front room and they looked at everything, Mrs Jonie wanted to know where "her boy" was, so I told her Pete was in the Air Force and she wants him to know that she came to see him. They are up posing for the Art School and when I asked if there was anything I could do for them, Mrs Jake said "No, we just came to see you!" The bacon was a bit congealed by the time they left but I ate it just the same.

Must not write more now, but will most likely do better from "acleod though I am taking the paints as Pete says there are good buildings to paint.

7 Loads of love to you all

Catherine



Macleod, Alberta.
Tuesday -
August 15, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

Here I am in Macleod after quite a long day yesterday. I was up at six, a bit earlier than I need have been but it gave me time to do everything without hurrying. The bus left at eight. It was cold and dreary looking, 34° when we left, but when we went through "The Gap" at Lethbridge we ran right out from under a heavy cloud & the prairies were bathed in sunshine. Looking back you could see clouds in the bottom of the valleys but all the mountain tops were clear and sparkling with fresh snow.

The bus made a good many stops picking some up & letting others off but we reached Calgary about eleven. The trip seemed fairly long for the man beside me never said a word & neither did I. Sometimes you get interesting company. I had 3 hours in Calgary. Had lunch, saw Uncle Clifford about several things & did a few errands. Was at the bus station good & early otherwise one doesn't always get a seat.

The 2nd bus left at 2.15 and we were there at five to six. It was a beautiful day and the country couldn't have looked lovelier. Nice white clouds in the sky. Fresh snow on the mountains which we could see in a long line off to the right all the way down, and many of the wheat fields a lovely golden color. They were even starting to cut some.

I had a nice elderly man to talk to as far as High River, which we reached in an hour. Just after

that rather a bored Air Force officer. I'm sure from Toronto.
He spoke very little so I didn't say much either. It was quite
warm & we made quite long stops. I was rather surprised
when at 5.30 we could see Macleod in the distance & sure
enough we got in 20 minutes ahead of time. No sign of Pete
so I figured he hadn't come back from sketching. The man at
the desk was certainly diplomatic. Said ~~that~~ when I asked, that
Pete might be a little late getting back, & then when he showed
me to the room, there was a very surprised Pete inside. Getting
all dressed up & on his way to the bus station. Well I wasn't
sorry the bus was early. 7 hours on a bus is enough in one
day. I think I prefer the train for long distances for you can
read. On a bus it's really too foggy. 10 hours from the time I left Buff.

We had a grand supper at a Chinese Cafe across the
street. There is ~~no~~ dining room here. The hotel is small, but
spotless. We have a room about the size of jeans, a little wider
but not as long, first room for the bed bureau, one arm chair
& the sink. But a lovely view west of the prairie & Rockies
beyond.

Macleod is rather historical. a detachment ^{of North West Mounted Police} marched 1000
miles to get here in 1876, & established a station at Old Fort
Macleod and so brought law & order to the west. Some of the
old buildings are still standing. Old Man River runs through
here.

We took a walk around last evening & again this
afternoon. Today has been raining off & on. Pete got a
sketch this morning & we hoped it might clear by to night
but it is pouring out now.

Wednesday. Rained again in the night & is overcast to day.
Pete has gone out to sketch but it doesn't look as if he would get
much of a picture. We went to an amusement movie last night in
a very neat & up-to-date theater. They have 3 shows a week. &
at 7 & 9.

Must write some other letters for it's a good chance.
Ran out of ink yesterday.
Loads of love
Catharine.



Macleod, Alberta.
Thurs. Aug 17, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

Still here. I feel as if I were on a real spree or vacation of some kind and we are having a very good time. The first day started out overcast & I wrote letters all morning while Pete sketched. In the afternoon we both went for a walk as it was too overcast to do much else. Also rained a bit. Yesterday it started out poorly but by afternoon it cleared into a lovely day with beautiful clouds. We both painted. I in one direction Pete in another. The light on the praries is very intense & hard on the eyes. You get so you can barely tell the color. Then after a rest you can see quite well again. We went to the movies last night.

To-day was very clear. We went out early & Pete made pencil sketches of places while I made a sketch of the grain elevators. This afternoon we went prospecting for new locations to paint from & found a hill over looking the R.C.A.F. Station & town. Pete tried that & I did the other way. praries & mountains. One always seems to have something to make sketching more difficult. If it is not mosquitoes its rain, and here its wind. At times one has to hold the sketch box with one hand even though it is tied & even then the wind blows ones arm about when its gusty, making it hard to get the strokes where you want them. The sun was pretty bright but the wind was cool so one didn't feel hot. Pete tied his sketch box to a fence post. it worked well.

Another thing that surprises me. I always had an idea that the cloud effects would stay pretty much the same here. However they change very rapidly. Nice clouds you plan to use just disintegrate into thin air before you have them painted. Like yesterday there were only patches of sky when we started & in an hour there were only a few clouds. It's been fun anyway trying. Pete has gotten quite a few sketches & we now plan to leave here Saturday & maybe go to Banff for Sunday. Pete needs some more canvas & has a few compositions he wants to do yet in Calgary so will go back there. He has only 2 weeks left now.

A nice letter from you this morning & the ones from Mildred. Will be anxious to ~~hear~~ hear more about her sailor friend.

You'd laugh if you could see Pete's audience. He has literally dozens of children who seem to know just where he is painting & appear on the scene. They ask very intelligent questions though.

Supper time so I must stop now.

Loads of love

Calthamus

Banff, Alberta.
Monday, Aug. 21, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

Bank again in Banff, Peter left this morning at 7 o'clock for Calgary, taking Cameron with him, which meant that Cam had an extra night at home. Pete will be at # 3 S.F.T.S. in Calgary (where he has spent most of the time) as he has only 10 days more to finish the 3 months temporary duty. The last letter he wrote in to Ottawa he asked if he could take his Annual leave in September, but we are not at all sure whether they will grant it. In fact we don't know what to expect, Pete wonders if they like the work he has been doing, also if with the War news so good they will want to send artists overseas, and whether or not they will keep him on. Most likely whatever the move is it will be sudden. Seems to me a good part of ones time is spent waiting for word about something. Anyway I shall stay close to home in order to be able to move quickly if necessary. It has been a nice summer even if nothing comes of the painting.

Wrote you Thursday I think, That night we went to a Lacross game between two Air Force teams played in the Macleod Hockey rink, which is indoors. It is a fast and good game to watch and very clever too. Like Hockey only they use a ball and a stick with a net with which they catch and throw the ball. They run all the time.

Friday Pete made a sketch of the Air ~~Fixed~~ Field but the wind came up and it was impossible to paint, both the box and your arm being unsteady. When we got back to the hotel there was a message for Pete and his posting back to Calgary. As we could do nothing that afternoon, it being too windy, we decided we might as well come back to Banff for the weekend. Didn't take long to pack up and we left about 3 o'clock. It looked very stormy and all the way we ran in and out of heavy storms, it even snowed in Calgary at 7 (so it said on the radio) but we got there at 6 so missed it. Stopped only for a malted milk at Okotoks and gas in Calgary and were home here a little after nine.

I really enjoyed Macleod, for it is an interesting prairie town, there must be a lot of nice people there for though the houses are small and some funny and old, they have pretty gardens, nice shade trees, which they surely need in summer as it is usually hot and dry. A lot of houses have leaded diamond panes in a bay window and most of them now have Venetian blinds.

There are Indians and Hutterites and different Religious sects like that and all sorts of people which make it interesting. The town itself has nice shops and is rather clean and well kept. All the towns and ranches look much better since the War, freshly painted too.

Saturday we didn't do a great deal. I shopped for the weekend and we saw a few people. Mom came down for a chicken supper and we saw Sam for a few minutes in the evening. Pete likes to stay at home quietly more than anything else. Yesterday he had a few things to do like cutting canvas and cleaning brushes and we also went up to Moms in the afternoon to see Margaret Campbell who is here for a short visit, she is a cousin of Petes and a nurse at the coast. Last evening Sid Feuz, (son of one of the Swiss Guides and used to be a t Temple, is now in the "a vy"). Came down with his bride of a few days. We had a nice evening. He is stationed at the eastcoast now having gone through the Panama Canal. Oh yes, Mrs Vallance and her daughter Jean came to see us in the morning, they are from Calgary.

The book arrived and looks awfully interesting. Pete has taken it with him to Calgary, I meant to have a good look at it last night. Did you read it? Will be fun to see how ^{the artist} he gets on being a War Artist.

Must go now and do one or two things before going over town for lunch. Even getting up at six I don't seem to have done such a lot this morning.

Loads of love,

Catharine .

Banff, Alberta.

Wed. Aug. 23, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

This won't be much of a letter for though I stayed home last night I had a good deal of company. Mrs Mac before supper to see if I would go out on a camping trip for a few days with her, but of course right now I wouldn't want to leave in case Pete is moved. Then Mrs Miller and her little daughter who draws, however she really came to pay us back some money we lent them two years ago. They had a hard time for a while but he is in the army and getting good pay and she is renting rooms so at last they are catching up. She told me she has always made all their clothes except for shoes and she has four children.

Well after they had gone an aunt of Pete's came with a friend from Calgary, an awfully nice lady she has her whole family overseas, and she was very interesting telling about the various letters and what they tell her. Her son was a doctor on a fighter station, though very young, he is back now, but for a long time was so anxious to get back he was very discontented, he is a doctor in the R.C.A.F. then her son in law has been over there over three years. Her brother lives in England, they wrote him about the Robot bombs, and he said that no matter how bad they are they aren't to be compared with the Blitz, and he should know for he went through it all. I imagine it is the uncertainty of it all that is the worse part.

Barbara was over this morning and now I must go soon and get my hair washed at twelve. I had hoped to paint in the afternoons for a while but it is hard keeping up with all the other things there are to do.

How long will John and Eileen be in Concord, so give them my love, I was there last time John was, during the battle of Britain, In fact that was the last time I saw Russell too. It is hard to realize the war has been going on five years.

This isn't much of a letter but know you will understand, and with the children there you won't need as long a letter!

Loads of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.

Thurs. Aug. 24, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

Am just waiting for Mrs Mac to come at three and we are going to the Pupils Art Exhibition of the work done at the Summer school which is over this week. Then I must meet the six O'clock train as F/O Goldhammer is going through, he is the one that has a lot to do with the Artists in the R.C.A.F. To-night I am to have supper at Moms with Bella (her step sister) and a Mrs Porter from Calgary, the ones who were down the other evening. I have decided not to try to paint any more for a while until I know what Pete is doing for in Goldhammers letter he said that Pete should be hearing any day, and added "I hope he gets it" sounded a bit doubtful so perhaps after all we will be back at the coast for the rainy season! Well even if they don't want him in the Air force as an artist he at least has had a chance to paint this summer and I can't say that I will be sorry if they don't send him overseas.

Your letters have been fine and I enjoy hearing all the little things. am so glad that John E. is looking so well and that the farm life is agreeing with him, nice that they could come up for a visit it always helps to get a change.

"hat awfully hot weather you had, it has been more like fall here with frosty mornings.

Macleod is south of Calgary, three hours by car, quite near the Montana border.

We pay school taxes here but no other taxes on the property, We pay the Government rent for the lots but that is all.

Seems funny that they would use German prisoners on the farm and let the other boys go on such short notice perhaps it is because the prisoners can only be used for farm work and the boys could do other things, only it does seem sort of mean. Nice that you can use Junior.

Was sorry to hear about Mr Thompson, but he wasn't an old man by any means, though I expect a little older than his wife, Where does she live now?

Sorry to hear that Mrs Motte doesn't improve faster, If she only could get some interest that would mean more than herself, I imagine that is part of her trouble, the minute any one feels they are having a hard time, it gets harder. Don't you think so?

Enjoy Mildred's letters, her arm must be better as she is writing well again.

That prick you had sounded just like an insect bite, they hit awfully hard, might have been a wild bee. Wasps don't leave a sting in as a bee does, (that little thing you pull out) Mrs Mac put baking soda mixed in a paste on Davy's bite and it took the pain right out.

Got a letter from the Chinese boy when he returned the book he borrowed "Destination Chungking" he said that the part about the life with the family in Chungking brought back so many memories of his mother's family in Hongkong. He is now in Hamilton Ontario.

Friday, I had quite an afternoon yesterday. Mrs Mac came as I was writing this and we went together to see the Art Exhibition of the summer school pupils, it was quite good for they hang something of everybodys. When Mrs Mac wanted me to come to tea, I was hardly dressed for it as I was prepared to bicycle to the station to meet the train and can wear only certain skirts that stay down over my knees.

She tried to find Mrs Greenham at the school and then we located her on the main street. She had also invited Mrs Dunhill, the wife of the head of the pipe company, they have spent the last three summers here, and as we went down the street she saw Sir Jeffery Knox sitting in the barber shop so went in and asked him to come too. He is what most people would call a typical Englishman, the kind they have in plays with a terrific accent. he has been living at the Mount Royal and doesn't speak to people easily. So while we waited for him to finish having a haircut we chatted with Mrs Dunhill. I had never met her before and she hardly looked my kind for she was quite "chic" with a black turban thing and jewelry she designs herself, I think she was Vieneses for she has an attractive accent, they have their home in Monte Carlo and she wonders will it be bombed or looted or both. Also a home in the Dolomites. Her eyebrows are shaped carefully and she is rather made up, so I didn't think she would be much impressed by me, in an old skirt, wrinkled stockings and a raincoat ! She paints a bit herself or used to and Mrs Mac tried to tell her what an ideal life we lead and how Pete and I go painting to-gether, Mrs Mac said we had it so well "organized" (but I never thought that of us) However she suddenly turned to me and said "OH now I know you are the ~~Wytex~~ ~~that~~ ones that Murray Adaskin told us about in Toronto ! " Well what I am really leading up to is the tea party at Mrs Gilmours, we were sitting chatting and Mrs Dunhill mentioned that she just wasn't the type that could wear slacks and pants the way a person like Mrs Mac can. and she thought a person should stick to the type they are. " now for instance" she said turning to me " you are the type that should never use make up of any kind, it would just ruin your appearance." "e all laughed and no doubt I blushed for their benefit. It was funny coming from someone who uses quite a lot and is very stylish. However it made me feel better, having my newly shmapooed hair almost coming down etc. too.

I left the tea early and met the train at six. Mr Gibbon went on the one before and I was in time to say good-bye to him too. A funny thing happened when I met Goldhammer. Have you ever seen someone waving and you wave back only to find when you get near the person, it is no one you know and it is a person behind you they are waving to. Well I saw him step off the train way down the platform, so I waved, and he waved back, then a girl walking in front of me waved, (she was getting on the train in Banff) and I thought " Poor thing she thinks it is to her he is waving " However when she got near Goldhammer much to my surprise she greeted him as a long lost friend, and was equally surprised when I came up to them. They were friends in Toronto. Wasn't that a coincidence?

Had supper with Mom, her half sister and friend Mrs Porter and Lila, a real spread with fresh biscuits and a layer cake as well, so I promptly ate too much. We had great fun and then ended by playing Rummy until nearly midnight. I didn't mean to stay so long but we had games that dragged on and Mom does enjoy it so I didn't really mind.

Have just been up to help eat left overs and now must go over town get the mail etc.

Loads of love, am not going to Calgary this weekend unless the weather is stormy as Pete will be busy painting.

Love to all,

Catherine

Banff,
Alberta.
Canada.
Sunday, Aug 27, 1944

Dearest Mother,

I thought I should be able to write you a long letter to-day, but have had lots of company, which was very nice, not much time to get lonely! Have had a number of busy days guess I had better start at the beginning.

Thursday I went to the Summer School Exhibition, and ended up at her house for tea, picking up Mrs Dunhill, think I told you about that. Had a big dinner on top of tea at Momm's and we played Rummy until midnight. Am sure I wrote you about that but get mixed up when I write etc too.

Friday had lunch at Cyrils with ~~h~~ and Mary in the pantry, did a lot of odd things, about the house. then in the evening Mom, Mrs Porter and Bella (Pete's aunt) and I went to the Drama school production of "The Devil takes a Holiday" and it was really very well done and I enjoyed it, the play is good and most of the acting was, the director is Joseph Smith the direct descendent of the great Mormon, he was from Salt Lake City too. Afterwards we saw bananas in a news store and the only way to have a taste was to have a banana split. so we all four had one, I think the crushed pineapple was as much a treat as the banana under the vanilla and chocolate ice cream, but it was quite something at eleven at night! the last one I had was in Seal Harbor I think.

Yesterday I was just coming back with the milk about eleven when I saw a man coming out the drive. It was Tom Link on his way back to Chicago, his wife died so suddenly last year, they are the ones who always went to Lake O'hara and he has been up there for a month this summer. Mr Simpson, (who is a lawyer in Philadelphia and has a vandyke mustache, and a great friend of Bullit, knows Joe Clark and Warrick Scott. Comes out showshoeing) was going back with Tom. he was shopping so we picked him up and came back down here for a while, they asked me for lunch at the hotel but I thought they probably would enjoy steaks here more, and they liked the idea. so we went shopping, fresh peas and steaks peaches and potatoes, and back we came, I did little of the actual cooking, Mr Simpson scrubbed the potatoes, and cut up the onions which he fried, Tom shelled the peas and cut up the peaches and also sliced some tomatoes, They wanted soup so I opened a can of chicken and rice soup and that and the warming of the

crackers was about all I cooked. They had every burner going, potatoes boiling, peas in the pressure cooker (they got done a bit too much in my confusion) and two frying pans full of steak. and frying onions. They seemed to enjoy it and I can still smell the steak and onions in the kitchen to-day! They helped wash up too. We walked down to the Moores about three and the Colonel was there and told us yarns about Indians and place names and folklore. It struck me as rather funny, there I was with an eminent lawyer, a professor of plant pathology and Col. Moore who is what some would call rather intellectual, and they were all telling me Uncle Remus stories of how the guinea ~~hens~~ got their spots etc. Pearl came back later and drove us to the train. I was due to meet the others, Mom, Mrs Porter and Bella at 5.30 ^{minutes} but didn't make it until six at the Mount Royal and they had started. Mom and I went to a good movie in color of Trotting racing " Home in Indiana " and then we all had a game of Rummy to finish off the evening and tea.

That was Sat. Sunday Jackie was over quite early looking for a book and we ended by searching for mushrooms. Cyril and Mary dropped in for it was a lovely day and they were taking a run on their bikes. Then when I went to the train to mail a letter to Pete I stopped in at Ferns on the way back and she came down to tea, and while having that Gis and Sam came and invited me to supper with them at the Mount Royal. and then Mrs Walker arrived to borrow books, so it was quite hectic for a little time. I had a bath, and supper with the Wards going back afterwards with them to their house for the evening.

To-night I go to the Mount Royal for supper with Fern and Mrs Walker so I am quite gay, It is pouring hard to-day, one of those miserable kind.

Must go over town now, have been doing accounts all morning. and they take time, especially when one makes a mistake.

No word yet about Pete, If it is anything sudden I will wire. but otherwise just write.

Loads of love,

Catherine
P.S. This is full of mistakes & badly written but I was listening to the radio & hearing de Gaulle entering Paris & being shot at during the first part.

Banff,
Alberta.
Wed. Aug 30, 1944

Dearest Mother,

No word yet about Pete and we think now that there may be a little delay. He is hoping most of all to get his two weeks annual leave this month and Charles Goldhammer who went through said he would put a word in, they may have been waiting until he gets back to Ottawa before deciding what to do. Anyway its like the weather, not much we can do about it. I am going down to Calgary to-morrow morning and spend the night. Maybe if Pete gets no word he will take a 48 this weekend. I hope he does for the weather is lovely. Like fall.

Have been busy as usual, I wouldn't want to gad as much as a rule but while waiting it makes the time go fast.

Monday I ~~next~~ was doing bills etc and Sid Graves dropped in about 3 o'clock. She is the one who runs Lake O'hara and was enquiring about Tom Link, said that Pearl was up at Ferns and they wanted me for tea, so I went up about 3.30 with Sid and helped eat olive sandwiches and Fern's Birthday cake, tried to restrain myself as I was to go with ~~Pe~~ Fern ~~with~~ supper with Mrs Walker at the Mount Royal. Dell was there too so we had a lively tea in the kitchen with the two dogs underfoot. Fern is having her living room lined with Cedar board and the rest of the house was rather upset. I thought that Mrs Porter was going on the afternoon train and so went down to see her off and luckily Jackie came along and told me it was the next day.

Had a nice supper at the Mount Royal and then we walked home with Mrs Walker and stayed until some people came for a meeting and Fern and I walked back to-gether, it made the one early night for me and I was in bed before ten.

Yesterday I had the Gilmores down before 11 in the morning to say goodbye and for the young boy to see the house, had lunch at Parises, in the afternoon went up and helped Fern polish her waxed panelling for a while and then again went to the train. Again I found the leaving had been postponed but it was just as well I went down, for sitting on the bench on the station platform was Johnny (aged 3) and a little girl friend not much older. They said their mothers knew where they were, but I doubted it and telephoned Barbara, she was quite surprised and Jackie came down to mail a letter and took them back, Johnny was entertaining the waiting

passengers, he knows a lot about trains actually and was awfully cunning.

I ended by having supper with Mrs Porter and Bella and then with Mom we went to a showing of colored movies by the chif Game Warden of Alberta. they were very good, one on fishing and abother on ducks. ended by having cake and milk at 'arises and another late night for me.

Now I must go over as it is Wednesday and after lunch I am to help Fern hang pictures, and to-morrow morning go to Calgary at ten.

Loads of love to you all.

Catherine -

CANADIAN PACIFIC HOTELS



HOTEL PALLISER
CALGARY, ALTA.

Friday
Sept. 1, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

Came down yesterday morning on the train, and Pete Lawrence to come in to Headquarters was here before four. We got the car out & drove back to #3 while I waited for him to finish what he had to do. There was a lot to catch up on for it's been nearly two weeks since he was in Banff so we spent most the evening talking.

He still has had no word from Ottawa but remembers that his "posting" read "3 months temporary duty, approximately" so it may be a few days yet before he hears. He still hopes to get his annual leave in September, but one never knows.

We are going up to Banff this afternoon for the weekend. So that will be nice, and hope the weather is good though it looks pretty cloudy west this morning.

Had lunch yesterday with Flossie Curry and she had been to the coast for her holidays. Saw Dorothy White & her mother. Was quite pleased to find Mrs White

had failed so. Wonder if it is cancer. Says she is so thin. and may not live very long.

Wednesday I had callers in the morning. Think I told you that. The Gilmores. Mother daughter & son. Lunch with Cyril & Mary. a walk to the Post Office & then spent 2 hours in the afternoon helping Fern hang her pictures on the new cedar panelling. They look very well & we were quite pleased with ourselves. only had to change one. Ended up with tea & cake.

In the evening went up to see Sam & his a few minutes to hear how they are making out getting their house back.

Thought this a good chance to write
letters & catch up with those I owe
answers to, so won't write more to
you this time.

Loads of love

Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.
Monday, Sept. 4, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

It is just a little after seven and Pete has already left. He goes early so that Cam can get the 9.45 train from Calgary back to his station at Vulcan, it gives Cam an extra evening and night at home so works well. Again this morning it was pouring hard when we woke and doesn't look very promising for the holiday. We started the furnace Saturday so the house is more tempting to stay in, I really should have had it on most of the summer but we didn't want to use the little coal we had on hand until we were pretty sure of getting more for winter, in case we are here.

Friday we drove up here in the afternoon and were home in time for a steak supper and fresh peas from Athracite just east of Banff. It was a quiet weekend for us and no one dropping in, it either is a steady stream or no one comes! Saturday morning there were errands to do and the furnace to start and as we got a chicken for dinner there was that to stuff. I am getting quite good at it now. Each time we went over town there were all sorts of people to say hello to, other Banff boys back on leave etc. Mom came down to eat the chicken with us, and we had fresh mushrooms off the lawn as well as peas, the corn on the cob we had had at noon. and I made blueberry muffins too. now I shall be eating left overs most of the week.

Saturday night we went up to the Wards for a while for Pete to see the letter from Mrs Longhurst and Griffin. they were the couple who bought the house and have been very peculiar about it, the Wards are lucky to get it back but it makes us mad when they were so good about letting Mrs Longhurst have it and then the way they act about selling it back. They are people who evidently have a lot of money and yet spend it often so foolishly and yet are so particular about getting every cent due them. The Wards left things like shower curtains and hooks in the Bathroom but Mrs Longhurst took them with her, even the spring on the back door which the Wards had. It was really funny.

Yesterday was quite nice, more clouds than sun but not too cold. We had lunch with Mom and a call from Ted and K. Paris, though they wouldn't come in and we talked outside, went for mail as Pete is rather expecting a letter from Goldhammer who said he would write as soon as he got back to Ottawa, not a word yet and we are still waiting.

Cam was down too and asked us up for some beer, and then we had a quiet evening and listened to the Quiz Kids for the first time for ages. I think the young ones are awfully cunning and more fun than the fifteen yearolds, though Joel's nose seemed a little out of joint.

Your nice letter came yesterday and the two from Mrs Motte, It is too bad that she can't get over her exzema now that it shows signs of going. The worst of it seems to be that it is a round robin, the worst the exzema is the worse it makes ones nerves, and the more nervous the worse the exzema. Don't you think part of it is that she can't get out of herself? When she had more gas she did a lot of visiting other people like Miss Legate and the Barrets and Everetts and when she was lonely she could jump in a car and go see someone which does make one forget their own troubles. but of late she can't walk out and so stays home more. Didn't she used to go lovely filet and some kind of drawn work, I was wondering if she got interested in something like that if it wouldn't help. It wouldn't be hot like knitting, making things is good for people. If she feels it isn't war work, why not sell it for the Red Cross. Guess I am not much help but I always did like Mrs Motte and hate to think she is in a bad way.

Wonder if I will be real smart and get some letters written to-day, and bundles done up, I haven't sent the dress to Anna yet though I did find a strong box for it. Tell Jean I sent a package to them from Calgary when I was down, Jam, cake and powder to make orange juice and dried apples because of the weight. It was Bäckberry jam the only kind in small tins and it needs coupons so I only could send little tins, but glass jars are too dangerous.

Am planning to go to Calgary on Wednesday as the R.C.A.F. exhibiton is to be shown at the Hudson Bay. and we are anxious to see it.

Guess this will be all for this letter.

Loads of love to all, we were so sure we would hear last week what Pete would be doing but now wonder have they forgotten all about him! Maybe it is the rapid rate at which the Allies are finishing the War that is changing things.

More love,

Catherine.



HOTEL PALLISER
CALGARY, ALTA.

Canadian Pacific Hotels

Wednesday -
Sept. 6, 1944.

Dearest Mother.

Here in Calgary again. came down this A.M. on the 10 o'clock train. Mom coming as far as Teskwas to see her step sister who has heart trouble. It's a wonderful Indian Summer day without a cloud but though 90° in the sun (I saw a thermometer just now) It's cooler in the shade & a cool breeze. The R.C.A.F. exhibition of Paintings is on at the Hudson Bay, but evidently the Auditorium is closed as the show is on Wed. afternoon so I shall have to wait until to-morrow morning. Pete was here for lunch & then went to H. A. to find out about getting leave. Finds because he is here on temporary duty only they can't grant it here and so they are to do some work & he should hear in about 2 days. I expect the car news is so good in the east that they have forg. then all about his leave he asked for a month ago, however having missed the good weather last year he didn't want it to happen again this time. If word does come in he might get it this weekend. The trees are just starting to turn so just hope it works.

He's gone back to work this afternoon and I shall try to write letters.

Monday, Labor Day. The Wards came round & asked me to drive to Lake Louise with them in the afternoon. It was a lovely day with beautiful clouds after the morning shower, and it was like a real spree. It was the first drive I had had up there since summer before last I think. The lake was unusually lovely, we looked at the neglected gardens overrun with weeds, talked to Ernest one of the guides. Had a long chat with Mr & Mrs Fletcher who have just sold the Triangle Inn and ended by having supper at Deer Lodge before driving home in the evening, when we saw five moose & numerous elk. All in all it was a very pleasant trip.

The sequel to the "Movie" "Jessie come home" is being filmed partly in the Rockies, and Deer Lodge is full with 65 members of M. G. M. technicians. stunt men producers, actors, a few wives & goodness knows who all, and of course the dogs, one the principal & the other a stand in. Ernest said the Collee is really wonderful and understands anything they tell him. To roll over, walk here, run there & even when they told him to walk across a log across the creek he did as he was directed.

They were to make a shot next morning beside the Lake. Had a ramp similar to one for launching a boat, set up for the camera to move back & forth on, & to hide the homely cement bridge had dug up bushes with their roots & little trees & stood them about naturally. Of course we need a permit to do such things!



HOTEL PALLISER
CALGARY, ALTA.

Canadian Pacific Hotels

but a movie outfit can do
about anything they want.

They were taking pictures
at Moraine Lake, on that Rock
Pile at the end of the lake they have
set up a log cabin which was built in Hollywood, then
knocked down & brought here. Will be blown up in one
scene. (I wonder will it be picked up afterwards) It is a
picture with Nazis & laid in Norway. We saw the
various ~~parts~~ at suppertime some were quite funny
looking & others dressed like Esquire.

Mr Pirani who is a well known pianist in Vancouver
& head of the music at the summer school, sat with us
at supper. He was awfully nice, quite young & loved
the mountains. He & Sam have a date to climb Rundle
mountain together next summer.

Yesterday was Indian Summer too. I decided to
wash & put on the downstairs storm windows. I knew if
I left them we were apt to hurry them on just dusted
over & it was a lovely day to be out. Got them all
cleaned & then Tommy & David came down & helped
me put them on. I even got the inside & outside done.

Jackie went fishing over the weekend up at
Temple and so Mom & I had fresh trout for supper
& mushrooms off the lawn, a wonderful combination.

Took a walk over town later & ended with a Sunday
& last night I had wonderful dreams!

Haven't answered your letters for a while, but you
know how much I enjoy them & how I like hearing
all the little things.

~~Remember~~ You spoke of children slamming doors. I can
remember I used to see if I could get to the driveway
steps before the screen door slammed. You can just
do it nicely by running!

You wrote that "John E. & Tena" were coming. I took
the "E" as meaning "Eileen" I guess. wasn't that
funny.

Pete read the book & was interested to see that Bedle
wrote of Tunisia that it reminded him of the plains
near between Calgary & Morely & mentioned the
Stoney Indians. He was out here in 1905 or '09 so he
can't be a very young man.

Billie got to my other letters I owe.

Heaps of love

Catherine.

CANADIAN PACIFIC HOTELS



HOTEL PALLISER
CALGARY, ALTA.

Friday
Sept 8, 1944.

Dearest Mother.
Just a short note as
there is not much to tell you. I am
driving back to Banff with Fern
& Pearl in a little while after two
nights here.

Still no word about
Pete. He has applied for leave & so
even if he isn't sent anywhere
we are anxiously awaiting word
about that.

Wednesday the R.C.A.F.
Show wasn't open and so I

planned to stay over until the 2nd
 Thursday on the train this morning
 but Wednesday evening just as I
 was about to step into a bath, the
 telephone rang. Pearl & Fern had
 arrived & wanted us to go up ^{to their room}.
 I dressed quickly (had my bath
 later) & we talked until nearly eleven.

Yesterday I was with them
 a good part of the time. Having
 breakfast in their room, & lunch
 with them too. Pete came down
 early in the afternoon & we all
 went to see the exhibition together.
 It is very good and a high
 standard of painting. I think
 Pete did well to get chosen to
 paint this summer.

He had to go back out to I drove
 with him. Then we all had a
 steak dinner at noon Wap's
 restaurant across the street. He
 is a Chinese boy who went to
 school in Banff. Ted's old friend.
 Then saw Bill Crosby in "Goup
 my way" a really excellent movie.
 You would like it I know. even a
 touch of Carmen. Its funny &
 clever all the way through & so
 pleasant & happy! not a shot of
 a villain. Jean would enjoy it
 too. Everyone was laughing
 which is a good sign. The funny
 parts are just human nature.

Now I am waiting for Fern &
 Pearl to finish their exams when

we will drive back to Bayff to
gether. ~~Weds~~

Wednesday was within 2
degrees of being the hottest day
of the year in Calgary. It was
83° but with a fresh breeze
from the mountains it didn't
seem very hot. Being dry one
doesn't notice it so much.

Will send this along - maybe
with a couple of clippings.

Pete won't be up this week
end, unless of course he is moved.

Boads of Dave
Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Sunday, Sept. 10
1944.

Dearest Mother,

I can't seem to settle to anything and the weather is so perfect too. Yesterday afternoon I did a bit of fall cleaning about the yard, picking up bits of coal from the dirt etc. and after supper Betty and Evelyn Brewster her friend helped me wash out the gutter over the back door, I will try and get a few more jobs like that done while the weather is nice but the leaves have not turned yet, only the odd branches. If they turn before Pete gets his leave I may go out and sketch a bit, but it is not much fun alone.

Wednesday they sent a wire from H.Q. in Calgary asking for Pete's leave but because he is on temporary duty it has to go to Ottawa and be approved and then to Western Air Command and back to Calgary and you can imagine the delays it is apt to run into, after all a Sergeant's leave is not very important to them, so if he does get it it will most likely be like last year and too late for the good weather. Such is life!

Friday I wrote you that I was coming back with Fern and Pearl Moore. There was one delay after another and it was actually five before we left. Most of the day we spent talking for the thing Fern was waiting for they kept telephoning her it would be ready in an hour, then in another half hour and it kept on like that until late afternoon. However we were home by a little after seven and I found some nice letters from you. I like your new gray paper very much better than the old and looks as if it was nice to write on.

The "Devil Takes a Holiday" was a play not a movie, and the director Mr Smith the Mormon was here teaching at the Summer school, the Drama course, he comes each year I think. Don't Mormons have a number of wives? Expect there are lots of Smiths, but this one being well known evidently, the people living next Aunt Julie would probably know him/.

Sorry your hayfever is bad, expect the dry summer may make it worse. Uncle Marshall spoke as if Florence's was unusually bad this year.

Hope Mrs Motte is getting better, sounds as if she had more spirit and writes brighter letters, more like her old ones. It seems as if she were on the verge of getting over it and with a little extra help from her friends she may do it this time.

I can see that it is an awful thing to get rid of. If she could get better, then instead of using the gas to go see the doctor she could use it to see her friends.

Had lunch with Cyril and Mary Paris yesterday and we ate out doors in the back yard of the tea room, it is full of grass and weeds but the grass has lovely tops now and it looked pretty. They had a table top on a barrel and we sat on boxes and it was such a lovely day to be eating outside.

Think I will go up and see if Mom would like to have lunch with me, I should be writing the odd letter but don't feel like it, maybe this afternoon I will be more in the mood.

Loads of love to you all, expect you will be losing the children soon, how you will miss them, but it will be nice when Cousin Jane gets back.

More love,

Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. Sept 1944.

Dearest Mother,

I have lent Erling Strom my typewriter as he has lumbago & is writing an article while in town. so will write this long hand.

Still no word about Pete so I am going to Calgary Thursday morning, spend the night & drive back with Pete Friday for a long weekend. I just hope we have good weather. It's been perfect for over a week, nicer than any stretch we have had all summer & warm, even mild evenings and not much frost. The leaves are turning very gradually.

Did I write you after seeing them take a movie shot at the Bow Falls? I get mixed what I write you & what to Pete, Barbara & I were going to clean the Indian Cabin that afternoon & then heard they were shooting pictures near the Bow Falls. It was Sunday & a friend Evelyn Wurtz came along in her car & drove us all down & back, also a drive round the golf course.

The picture we saw being taken was of the "Stand in" an Australian swimmer who doubles for the hero, & 40. a stunt, and the "stand in" dog Ruff, an 11 month old puppy son of Lassie. They were to enter the rushing river (which is unusually high for this time of year) & swim down quite a way, coming out on the bar below. Must have been several hundred yards. There was a good

deal of preparation. A scaffolding had been erected on the middle of the bar in the center of the river just above the falls. They had the camera & 2 men on top of that & a platform under where the dog sat until he was ready. A little boat ferried them back & forth by ~~the~~ pulleys on a rope. There was much going backwards & forwards. & the Swimmer looked over the place. Then went & donned a wig & costume. He & the dog both had wires. His ~~own~~ attached to a wide belt under his coat. He waded up the bar which was about 6 inches under water & a man carried the dog. The wires had to be carefully figured out so as not to tangle I guess.

When all was ready the man & dog got into the water & down the river they went. Great shouts of duck your head for the wig was still dry & the previous shot I imagine was the 30 foot leap into the river which he did the day before at Minniewanka with a dummy dog. So he ducked his head, but no doubt it will have to be taken over another day. One place the dogs head went completely under & I was really worried but it must have been the wire that caught.

When they did reach the bar again the man stayed half in the water with

his arm round the dog until the training came for him. They were very kind I thought & the dog didn't seem to mind at all. Any one can pet it or have their picture taken with it. It's considered good publicity. They also have an S.P.C.A. man there all the time. Lassie was sitting in the back seat of the car all the time. It was interesting & fun to watch but how they swim in that cold water I don't know. They are to take more tomorrow so may go down & watch in the morning.

Mom came to supper Sunday night & then was off to sing a duet in church. She sang a solo, evidently very well the week before. It was 50 years ago the first time she sang in Bauff.

Cis & Sam drove in later first as I had my coat on to go & see them. They took a drive also round the golf course & then we ended up at the Moores for the rest of the evening! Oh yes Mrs Mac asked me up there to eat roast lamb but we'd already had supper so she asked me for cold lamb Monday instead.

Yesterday Barbara & I cleaned the Indian cabin out. It was all her stuff but the kids play in there & we are afraid of matches & a fire. Now it's

practically empty. I was just setting
down before taking a shower when Ernie
came in & later Edmie. He read me
his article & by the time he left it
was 6.15 & I was due at the Mac Donalds
at 6.45. Had my shower & rode the
bicycle up & arrived at ten to seven
completely out of breath. Had a very
good supper & ate far too much & they
came home rather early. It gets dark
by nine now & I hadn't brought a
flashlight. Hate black bears on dark
nights.

To-day I cleaned out our sheds
which badly needed it & the wasps
over the door didn't seem to mind. They
were very busy earlier this year. It
was warm & just the day for it.
Usually at this season we are out
painting & when the color is gone, the
weather is too cold. So I was glad to
get it done.

There is a little smoke in the west
& it's killing the clear blue so now I
don't mind so much to have Pete
miss this week. However I hate the
thought of forest fires.

To bed now I read the paper -
Goods of Love

Catharine.



HOTEL PALLISER
CALGARY, ALTA.

Thursday.
Sept 14, 1944.

Dearest Mother.

We are in luck again and I'm not sure we deserve such good fortune. It's always when you sort of give up hope of hearing that something happens. Pete just thought he would ask once more if there was word about his leave and before he had a chance to, the Sgt. Major said "See you are to get 2 weeks" and sure enough he is to have these coming 2 weeks and this weekend as well, and though it was raining

this morning the aspen trees have
 not turned yet. They are just on
 the verge of it. The larch trees on
 Sulphur look quite yellow. So
 hope we have good weather to enjoy
 the color. At least it won't be as
 cold as October was last year.
 Maybe they intended giving him
 leave right now all along and we
 were so afraid they would put
 it off until too late. I can
 hardly believe it even now.
 He won't have to report back until
 October 2nd. They are very good
 about week ends & leave in the
 R.C.A.F. I think they realize
 they get more out of the men
 by giving them time off. You
 can't work too steady & not
 get stale.

3.

up at # 3 the mechanics are given so much work to do & when it is finished they can go home. whether it is five o'clock or three. Naturally they work hard to finish early.

Your letter came this morning before I left. that Russ & Kitty are in Concord. Wish Russ had more time off & wasn't so tired. but he will be like a new person when he leaves after the good rest & food & being with you all & the children.

Yesterday I watched the movies again. As bided down too and we saw several shots. They threw a dummy & a dog skin over the falls & they looked surprisingly natural as they came out below.

The main arm was thrown over the dog. 2 men in a boat rescued the dummies & when they dismantled them later it was very interesting. The main body was a milk can. There were four lead weights, an inflated rubber tube and a wooden head & wig all wired together. Must be quite an art to get the thing to float naturally & not upside down.

Ruff the stand in dog also had to be taken in the water with Peter Davenport the hero. His trainer stayed in the boat that rowed them to a spot under the falls. After they got put in the water the boat had to get out of the picture, but the cement caught it & the trainer had to let go the wire. The dog swam for shore anyway. They had to do

CANADIAN PACIFIC HOTELS

HOTEL PALLISER
CALGARY, ALTA.

& twice. Cis & I went up to Palliser
 for lunch & by the time we got back
 the clouds had nearly covered the
 sky. However we saw them take
 Dasher. The dog walked along the
 shore, out to a point of gravel &
 then along by the water. The trainer
 tried to make her walk nearer the
 water & signalled to her to keep over
 while he walked backwards along
 the rocky shore. It is all river
 stones & small boulders & another
 man held him by the arm very
 firmly to keep him from falling.
 Meanwhile the camera was on a

wooden platform on four wheels which ran on a wooden track & four men pushed or pulled it along evenly. It was all fun to watch.

They ~~are~~ are the best natured lot of men I ever saw. Never heard any one the least bit angry or even shout. They never got impatient waiting for the sun between the clouds & never got tired answering questions. The hero signed autographs & posed with his arms over the shoulders of dozens of strange girls. but always had time to do more. He didn't seem to mind obliging & always smiled. The dogs also posed steadily & even when moving

to a new location they men could take time to answer questions or pose for pictures.

They moved on to the boat house but sudden showers came over the rest of the afternoon so I don't believe they got many pictures. On the whole they were very lucky with their weather. I was packed up 2 freight cars this morning.

I went to the wards for supper to eat boiled chicken. It was very good & a very pleasant evening for me. Sam brought me home.

Came down on the train this morning. Pete met me & we had lunch together. He had been at the R.C.A.F. dentist, a very young man who complimented Pete highly on the condition of his

tells. Re-filled some loose fillings
+ a tiny one that would be a hole in
a few months. In he said it would
be too bad not to keep them good.
Said the cleanliness is partly due to
not smoking.

Pete will be back soon now.
We been shopping. Tomorrow we
will drive up in the afternoon.
It's nice to have 2 weeks to look
forward to.

Lots of love
Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.
Sunday, Sept. 17, 1944

Dearest Mother,

Pete's 48 is nearly over and he will start his leave of two weeks to-morrow, that is if they don't suddenly want him for something, we got a bit of a scare to-night for there was a telephone call for him, but it turned out to be Mr Watt the plumber! The weather so far has been very cold and dreary but we hope for better soon. There is lots of fresh snow on the tops of the mountains and it has been 40 all day.

We got away early Friday Afternoon from Calgary, it was over cast and has looked like snow ever since, Were back in time to get meat for supper and also to start the furnace. Saturday, yesterday we slept a bit later than usual and had to go to the bank etc. Were to send the two sketches we sold to the Schellings this summer, I had to fill out 12 long papers in Calgary, sign four others and then Pete had to go with me to the consul to sign them too. and the consul had to do the same, all when they are not dutiable. Then had to fill out others here. However we got them off for 74 cents, The paper signing cost \$2.44! Went down to see the Moores in the afternoon and had a nice talk with the Colonel, Pearl wasn't home.

Mom came down for a roast last night, and we had a nice supper, Then spent the evening in front of the fire, To-day Pete sorted out all his clothes and I looked over some things and then we looked out some picture frames and odd things like that, all of which takes time as you know. Then we went up to Edmeés, she was out so continued on to the Wards and stayed longer than we meant to. I have been working over accounts all evening and Pete reading. Not much to tell you about really, but the day was bad to do much else in. We have the water main to get fixed, a chimney at the Burns Building to fix and the furnace to clean, I can see what kind of a vacation this is apt to be if we aren't careful.

When Miss Publicover returns my coat just keep it until I let you know what to do with it. Might come in handy if I visit you, for it is too cold to use it here again this year, and I have a raincoat that will do also a dark blue dress one.

Will try to add a few lines in the morning but will have this ready in case I don't get time to write more. We are going to listen to the Quiz Kids now.

Monday -

a regular wintry looking day. rain here but
snow way down on the mountains. You had
another hurricane we heard. Shall be anxious
to hear what the damage was. As there wasn't
the rain you had before maybe it didn't
up root trees this time.

Sam is here & we hope to get a few
things done at the Burns Building.

Lots of love

Catherine -

Banff, Alberta;
Wed. Sept. 20, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

Pete wonders why it is that the weeks preceding a holiday go so slowly and the two weeks leave goes so fast! So far the weather has been poor and even to-day though the sun is trying to shine it is windy and chilly. It rained yesterday and we have had a week this afternoon of bad weather, we are hoping it will clear soon.

It is sort of a busman's holiday so far, Pete wanting to get all the odd jobs done the first part of the leave. We raked the yard Monday afternoon and moved a woodpile that was rotting in a dark corner, the kids all helped, David and Donny doing the moving until they got tired and wandered off, Betty helping for a while and then Harold being the only one who stuck with it to the end. It looks much better and it was fun doing it all together. That evening the Moores and Fern came down for a visit.

Yesterday we did a bit of seeing to things, Sam was down at breakfast time looking for boards to 'ack up the chimney in the Bruns place and we went over there later, also saw about a case being made for Pete's sketches etc. all of which takes time, then we spent the afternoon making some prints of Chinese Junks as Pete wanted to give one framed to the Sgt. Major who had been so kind to him at #3.

Now it is Thursday, I never had time to finish this yesterday. Spotted the prints for Pete and then as it was Wednesday I dashed over town to get the food. Pete had the print framed and we did that up carefully and went to the station to express it, all of which takes time as you know. It was almost a nice day, the sun was out most of the morning but it was very flat light, not really bright and by evening it was looking like rain again, this morning the clouds are right around the mountains and it is dark as can be, it might lift as it is clear in Calgary.

We decided that it would be a good afternoon to clean the furnace, Pete wanted to do it himself as there is no real person who does that here now and the man who does the chimneys has all the Banff ones to do and also is having trouble with his teeth so is going to Calgary this week to see about them as we have no dentist here. We got all done up Pete in his coveralls which he washed the day we cleaned the yard and I in an old smock and a scarf over my head. The furnace was real dirty so it

was just as well that we cleaned it. There are what they call radiators on each side and one in back through which the smoke goes before going up the chimney and they get very sooty, there are "clean outs" and Pete had 3 extensions made so one can rake the soot right outside, we got nearly a bucket full out of each, then later one has to vacuum the furnace room and it took us until nearly six to get it all done, We were pretty dirty, Pete worse than I, I just held the light for him and the dust pan to rake the last stuff into. But it is a good job done and the fire burns so much better and we get more heat from it.

We went to bed early last night but were awake by seven this morning and up before eight, the Air force influence I guess. I tell Pete ~~his~~ he will be going back to the station at #3 for a rest after working so hard all his vacation!

Wonder when Russell is leaving, it will be just my luck to have Pete moved east and a chance to see you, when Russ is gone. We finally got the letter from Charles Adhamer and he said unofficially that Pete should hear in "one or two" what he would be doing. However he didn't say whether it would be one or two days, weeks or months! However it isn't days so it may be weeks.

Haven't really answered your letters recently but will maybe get a chance soon, with Pete home there are so many other things to do.

Loads of love,

Catharine .

Banff, Alberta.
Sunday, Sept. 24, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

You aren't doing very well ~~by~~ getting letters from me, but guess you know the reason, for while Pete is home there is little time for letter writing.

At last we are having lovely autumn weather and it looks almost as if Indian summer had started. It really is better having it for the last week rather than the first, but a whole week of cloudy weather was a bit discouraging, however we have done a lot of the things that had to be done and so can enjoy the good weather.

We thought it was going to clear Thursday and decided to try going to Golden, took a few things with us and if it was nice would keep going otherwise come back, it wasn't too bad so we kept going and were in Golden about five, only we gained an hour in time, Had a nice evening reminiscing with Mrs Valentine who runs the Golden Lodge, her husband died a few years ago and it is rather sad for they had worked for years hoping the Big Bend highway would be finished and he died before it was completed. She said this year was far better than last, and she only serves breakfast and light lunches and so can get along without a cook and the waitresses, but she does most of the work herself. Came back the next morning in time for a late lunch here. It was a real spree and fun to see the country for the first time in two years.

Yesterday we had a short call from a boy in the R.C.A.F. Jock Smith, who is just back from overseas, We recognized him but couldn't place him at all, he evidently came down to the house after skiing several years ago and seemed so glad to see us, I am afraid we weren't very bright about him, but he is a very nice lad. Last night we went up to Mrs MacDonalds for the evening and it was quite late when we got back, and so the time goes. Mom had a chicken dinner with us last night. Then there are all sorts of things to decide on about the store and what not.

Nice letters from you and when I get time I will try to really answer them. Am glad that Mrs Motte liked my letter, thought it might help if I spoke as if she were getting better for then she would know that you thought she was.

This isn't much of a one of mine, Where is Mary Cool to live? is it the Fern School? Loads of love,

Catherine .

Calgary, Alberta.
Mon. Sept 25 1944.

Dearest Mother.

Just a hurried note to let you know that Pete got word this morning to report to Ottawa as soon as his annual leave is up. So we expect to leave Calgary a week to-morrow. Tuesday Oct 3rd. He doesn't know where he will go from there, in which direction, or whether he will have to stay a couple of weeks there, in any case I am going east this trip. If we can get a room in Ottawa I will stay a few days until he knows his plans. But if it is too crowded I might go right through to Concord, taking the night train from Montreal Friday Oct 6th, arriving in Boston Saturday morning the 7th on the Red Wing. Will wire you our plans when we reach Ottawa. or telephone. I will spend the day in Ottawa instead of in Montreal and he might know soon after he arrives what he will be doing. Will go to Boston & take the ~~last~~ next train to Concord and save gas.

It was nice to hear in time

to plan a bit. We are going to Calgary
to-morrow for Pete to get his clearances &
travel warrant & then can leave directly
from Banff. Expect this will be a
rather busy week. Seems funny
to think I shall see you soon.

Loads of love

Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. Sept. 27, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

We have done so much the last few days that it seems longer ago than day before yesterday that I wrote you. I may not go right through to Concord after all for we have just gotten word from the Lord Elgin Hotel in Ottawa that we can get a room, so in that case I probably will stay over until Pete knows where he is to go. We were pretty lucky for we wrote them the same day we wrote you and asked them to confirm the reservation collect and the wire came this afternoon. It will be nice for Pete too to have a room to stay in for last summer he had to get what he could at the Y.M.C.A and shared it with a different person each day and they said he was lucky to have that. I will telephone you if I can that evening, Friday Oct. 6th. If you want to you could write us there the address is just " Lord Elgin Hotel, Ottawa, Ontario,"

Yesterday we decided to go to Calgary so Pete could get his clearances and then when he leaves he can go directly from here, he also had to report to H.Q. in Calgary and thought it might take quite a while so we planned to stay all night. Mom wanted to go down to see about her glasses and have her fur coat fixed etc. so we took her with us. It was ten before we got away and it felt like winter, rained hard for sometime though there had been blue sky when we got up. It was evidently just large rain and hail storms across the countryside for we ran into one near Calgary and there was an awful wind down there. The color on the trees was the most beautiful I have ever seen, especially beyond Exshaw where you get out of the mountains, it was just a mass of gold.

Pete left Mom and me at the hotel and we got the rooms and had lunch, Pete did all his business and ran into Mom in Birks about 4.30 so told her we would go back to Banff that same evening. I came back to the hotel as Pete did and so we got away about 5.30 and were back here a little after eight. It was quite a long day but cleared up beautifully in the late afternoon and was a beautiful ride back, we spent most of the time exclaiming over the color.

Glad we did come back as it gave us a full day to-day. We saw about our reservations this morning and they were able to get a section when we asked for it, so that is good.

It was a hard frost last night, the first for sometime and I think that means the weather will be good. It was clear to-day and Indian/~~Sun~~ Summer allright. the sun warm and such blue sky. Decided after doing all the various things that we would take our lunch out and go up the west ~~to~~ road. Had the cameras but didn't take many pictures as some thin clouds came across. However it felt good to be out and we enjoyed it. Took a chance and put the top down, the first time for a year, as we had put some waterproof dressing on last year and it would have cracked, but when we leave this time we expect to jack the car up and so won't worry about whether it leaks or not.

As I will be seeing you soon I won't write more now. Don't expect me a week too early this time or put Gale out of her room! I hope they will still be there when I get to Concord but don't want to wish any more children in Washington to have Infantile Paralysis! and I do hope I don't jinx your good cook, and that she is fully recovered from being sick.

If Pete is kept in Ottawa two or three days I would of course stay, but we have no idea what to expect so will just have to wait until he reports in Ottawa on Friday. and I will let you know as soon as I can,

Loads of love,

Catharine -

P.S. we leave Bauff ~~Tuesday~~ Tuesday afternoon
Oct 3rd reach Ottawa Friday morning 9 AM.
Oct 6th

Banff, Alberta.

Sat. Sept. 30, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

This most likely will be my last letter from Banff, for I will be going east as fast as the mail. Forgot to ask you to tell them in Stone and Websters that I was coming east. If you are telephoning Miss Publicover you could just mention it.

Yesterday we woke up to rain and it soon started snowing and kept up rather gently all morning. about an inch in all but it has cleared this morning and is really lovely with the trees all yellow underneath. just 28° above. It is our first snow in town.

We have been doing odd things as usual, trips to the bank and station etc. Erling Strom was down yesterday afternoon and Mom came to supper, also Cam is up on a weekend too. To-night we go to the Mount Royal to supper with the Moores and Monday they have it with us. Pete worked on cleaning the dried paint off his sketch box and got about 2 pounds off, it is surprising how much sticks to the palette and box, he also improved it a bit, It takes a lot of planning to get things packed, I haven't started yet, maybe will to-morrow. We still have Monday and Tuesday, for we don't leave until six o'clock on Tuesday.

Wonder has Russell gone yet, expect he has. shall be anxious to hear where he goes, expect I will miss seeing the children in Concord after all.

Will try and telephone you sometime Friday night October 6th. and let you know our plans.

All for now and it will be good to see you soon.

Loads of love,

Catherine



THE Ford Elgin

OTTAWA

Saturday Oct. 7, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

It was awfully nice to hear your voice last night but I'm afraid I'm very stupid on a telephone. Especially when I told you Pete wanted me to give you your love.

We got in yesterday morning, a little late as we were the last section and the #2 train ahead of us had 4 sections instead of the usual two. The day before we were delayed while 6 train loads of Nazi Prisoners went to Western Prison Camps. We have a very nice room here overlooking a main Boulevard. It's a modern & very up to date hotel with one of the best restaurants in town, so we were lucky to get in.

Pete spent most of yesterday reporting in to Headquarters. (He is no longer on temporary duty but now attached to Headquarters in Ottawa) They evidently like his work and want to keep him on but he has to go through another series of medical tests. Having his chest x-rayed, his picture taken etc. All of which takes time. Monday is Thanksgiving in Canada and so a holiday & that evidently means he won't know for certain until Tuesday the results of the examinations. Then depending on where he is sent, he may need amputations etc. So it may not be until the end of the war until he has everything done here.

Actually we were lucky in one way. For they sent word to Calgary for him to have his leave the first 2 weeks in September and report in here the 20th but for some reason, he never got the message & a tracer wasn't put on from here as



the officer he works for was away. but the other War
Artist came in then and is already overseas. It wasn't
Pete's fault, and for he had been asleep for messages right
along. However I don't mind for we saw the fall color
which we wouldn't have seen other wise.

I shall stay here until Pete figures definitely
what he will be doing. At one time he thought he might
have to take a 2 week course in the east that was why
I thought I might go down to Concord during that time.
but he was tried to take that now. so when I do go
to Concord I can stay my 29 days (which is permissible
without special permission!) Most likely I will want to
go back to Bangf to see about a number of things and
then will get permission to visit in the States for several
months. so you most likely will see a lot of me this
winter.

If it doesn't take too much gas it might be
best if some one could meet me in Lowell I most likely
will take a night train from Montreal which arrives in
Lowell at 7.25 A.M. I have a large suitcase & 2 small
ones, and if I go through to Boston it means rechecking
to Concord etc. However if the gas is very scarce I don't
mind going to Boston and out to Concord on the 11
o'clock train. Can decide when I telephone you next
time.

This seems a good chance to write letters I've
owed for a long time so as I will be seeing you soon
won't write more now.

Loads of Love

Catherine

P.S. Had 2 friends on the train the 1st night & day.
The Morants who we were with last summer in Vancouver.
Also our paper boy was on the train. He is now going overseas
in the Air Force & yesterday when we were having lunch
another friend came & sat beside us. He used to live in
Bangf but is here now. Was as surprised as we were.

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On Elgin Blvd. from Slater to Laurier Ave. 400
Rooms with bath and radio. Modern. Fireproof. THERE
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259

CORRESPONDENCE

You can see what a
nice hotel this is.
We are right over
the main entrance
have marked the
window. Its fun
to see Ottawa in
time with so many
uniforms and all.

Made in Canada
S.P.T.

"Litho-Art" Series

This will give to see
good chance to see
something of Canada's
capital city.

ADDRESS

Lord Elgin Hotel
OTTAWA
CANADA





THE Lord Elgin

OTTAWA

CANADA

Rideau Canal, I haven't been through the old town yet but its all comparatively new. The most interesting things to see are the uniforms I guess, but it doesn't have the interest Washington or London has.

The color was lovely coming east but right in the city its not ^{so} bright. mostly yellows & orange. Evidently it was dry this year.

Indeed they don't seem to be in a great rush to send Pete anywhere, his records & papers were at the coast & have to be sent for which takes time. He is to work in the office here though he doesn't know if he will like it. They have to do their painting at one end of the big office and Pete finds it rather disconcerting. If he should be sent overseas some say he is entitled to embarkation leave & he would get travelling time as well. So if that were so it would be worth while going to Bauff for the 2 weeks. Pete can go anywhere



in Canada for 15 dollars which is quite
nice don't you think? Any man in the
Services on ~~Annual~~ leave can do it.

I also asked about my going back
to the States & said I can do it
as often as I like & stay as long as I
want to as long as you will guarantee
my expenses. Perhaps it would be a
good idea for you to write me a letter
asking me to spend the winter with
you & say up that you will pay all
my expenses in the States. Cousin
Jane would figure out the working
for you.

Pete will be back for lunch
soon, so I won't write more now.

Goods of love & the time will
go pretty fast I'm sure until I get
to Concord. You never know how
soon things can happen -

Now love

Catherine.



THE **Lord Elgin**
OTTAWA CANADA

Tuesday, Oct 10, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

I will try and telephone you to-night to let you know that it may be another ten days or two weeks before I get to Concord. Pete is now attached to his Force Headquarters in Ottawa but has to wait until his papers come from Western Air Command before the next move. I guess it is what is known as "Red Tape". In the meantime he is to work on three unfinished paintings that he has laid in. Pat Crowley, Braun (who won 1st prize) is also here working. He & Pete have room to work where there are lots of stenographers & much type writing. Rather a new thing for Pete but he is going to make a try at it. He has to be there anyway - as it will be a while yet before he knows where he is to be sent.

We are very comfortable here. It's only 2 blocks from where Pete works and the meals are excellent. We even have a radio and speaker in the room. I shall try to get my letter writing done which I have neglected for so long and we can have meals together & evenings of course. So the time will go quickly. There are quite a few friends to look up too and Pete gets Saturday afternoon & all day Sunday off.

Last night we had Pat Crowley, Braun and the lovely, the young French Canadian girl he is engaged to. & supper & then walked round to her house later for a very pleasant evening. Looked at some of Pat's sketches and had a nice talk.



The weather so far has been dull & damp, and the occasional rain or shower. The sun was out just long enough on Sunday to make a beautiful double rain bow. We had a quiet week end, walked around a bit having a look at the city, & yesterday afternoon went up to the Parliament Buildings.

Tomorrow I will make enquiries about entering the U.S. There are the usual restrictions. I have enough permission & papers to go & visit you for 29 days, but if I come back after my first visit I have to get special permission from the Foreign exchange control Board to go back within six months. So if we went down for a week end now it might be hard to get in for a longer visit later & there is just a chance that Pete might get a few days leave. Anyway I will enquire so that we make no mistake.

I'm sorry to disappoint you and not go down sooner, but if Pete should be sent overseas I want to be with him as much as possible now. Will write you every other day and keep you posted on how things are going.

Hope you are getting over your cold nicely. I picked up a sniffle as one usually does when first mixing with new germs, but it has reached the runny stage already. a good excuse to sit & read.

Loads of love

Catherine.

P.S. Got a nice letter from you yesterday.



THE **Lord Elgin**
OTTAWA CANADA

October 13, 1944.

Dearest Mother, Will write you while waiting for Pete to come home for lunch. We usually have a beer in the "Beveridge Room" before hand and as he gets about an hour & a half at noon there is lots of time. They start work at 8.45 AM, knock off at 12.15 then start again at 1.45 & finish at 5.45 so its really 8 1/2 hours but I guess most of the staff lives nearby. This is a small brewing city & not being full of factories the people live near the center. You see lots of bicycling home. Rather nice to be able to go home for lunch.

Later, Pete came home at twelve today as he had to go up to a building on Bank Street to sign some papers. So now we have had lunch & I'll finish this letter and go out for some air while its still nice out. Yesterday was a lovely day though windy. Today is clear & real autumn. Pete had to go way out by street car to a lumber mill where he was having some stretchers made, so I went with him out & back for the street car ride. Also saw another part of town and the Gatineau Hills in the distance, all redish pink with the Maples turning. Then I wrote a couple of letters & after lunch went with Pete & Pat up to the Art Gallery where we saw an exhibition of Chinese paintings until it was time for them to meet Mr. McElroy. I spent the rest of the afternoon



looking round the gallery & museum & then walked house
window shopping & trying to keep my new hat on my
head. It's a hat I got in Calgary. more stylish than
my last one but doesn't stay on very securely.

Last night we went to see a movie "Janie" & it
was quite funny. This morning I wrote a couple of
letters & may be before we leave here I will have
caught up a bit with my correspondence. There is
lots to keep me busy, washing out the odd clothes.
mending a bit & reading. The laundry was a joke
on us. Having heard the tales of trying to get laundry
done we sent some things yesterday morning making
them "24 hour service" they were back by evening!
This certainly is an efficiently run hotel.

Pete was talking to Pat Carly-Brown today about
his visits to Banff when he was at the Wireless school
in Calgary. He used to go to Banff for weekends. It was
3 years ago. Pete asked where he stayed, & Pat
described it & evidently he stayed at Barbaras.
Funny isn't it? He was born in Sarnia, Ont.
at the age of 4 moved to England. Then to Victoria, B.C.
where he grew up. Now he's an artist as Pete is
in the Air Force and is really a mighty good
artist for one in his twenties! Has great talent
and such a very nice lad too.

Pete heard yesterday he passed his medical
examination. now he has to wait for his papers from
Western Air Command before the next step.

Will keep you posted on how things go.

Lots of love and hope you & Cousin Jane are
enjoying the fall color. Tell Jean as I will
be seeing her so soon I won't write feel it
was nice to hear her answer the phone the other
day. I won't telephone again until we hear
something definite. More love Catherine.



THE **Lord Elgin**
OTTAWA CANADA

Saturday, Oct 14, 1944.

Dearest Mother, It's just as well you & Mrs Keyes didn't come for to-day its raining hard and a driving rain at that. Pete has gone out to do an errand but I decided not to go as its several blocks from here. Yesterday & the day before were lovely. I was out quite a bit. Shopped in the morning & in the afternoon went for another tour of the Parliament buildings. I really went to see if one could go up the Peace Tower to see the view but the elevator isn't working. read all the inscriptions in the Memorial Chamber & they followed around with a guide & later it was so nice and I walked around the grounds. We went for another walk in the evening.

Another nice letter from you. The weather must be quite nice for you to be out walking. Well even if I don't get there in time to take I may be able to shovel snow! It seems to take so long to find out things and probably will be another week before Pete knows much more than he does now. Patience is a good virtue.

I am sorry to hear about Jack Marshall. Is that is quite serious isn't it? Can't think what one calls it, Phlebotomy isn't it? You have to keep still until the clot is absorbed? Hope Miss Annie will be all right & that they can have a pleasant winter together.

Did I tell you about the restorant here, its run by Murrays. maybe the Boston & New York one. but its most efficient & a man dressed like a doctor about to operate, who is on the job all the time checking on things. The system is wonderful & the waitresses evidently are trained & make no extra trips at all.



everything is cooked & served behind a high counter & you can just see the cooks heads. so all is fresh & hot. One almost always sits at a table with another couple & it can be very amusing. One noon an army officer told a very attractive girl about a recent trip he had made the high light of it being the visit to the garbage dump in Bayville see the bears. We never said a word but listened carefully. That same evening a man asked a girl who looked like one of the Miss Terms about her trip to Boston, and he moaned the fact she hadn't heard a Harvard accent. He seemed to have one & looked musical. was in the Canadian Army. You never know who you will sit with & some are very friendly, others don't see you. Another evening it was like the play "The First Year" the man behind a newspaper & then the girl would have a go at reading it. Whenever he asked her a question, she'd snap back at the husband. Guess she was tired but he was awfully good natured. Today there was an Ontario girl, who's husband (R.C.A.F.) was in the hospital at Rockcliff & he comes from B.C. the man was a young Lieutenant but wished he was in the ranks. Had been in the army 3 1/2 years. (over a year in Newfoundland) & was an Artillery officer. But they have lost so many officers in the infantry he has had to change over & has 2 months more before he can go overseas. Is there to see his brother aged 19 who is going overseas right away. His father is a major. Says it will break his mother's heart to have her baby be first to go -

Sunday night. It's been lovely today but cold. We went out to Rockcliff Park in a street car but it was too chilly to stay long. A cold wind off the river. Went to the Military museum & back here to read. Saw a movie yesterday.

Am enclosing a clipping Calvin Jones might find interesting. It's the American Ambassador to Canada's speech & rather good I thought.

Loads of love
Catharine.

P.S. A nice letter from Jean
Today.



THE **Ford Elgin**
OTTAWA CANADA

Monday -
October 16, 1944.

Dearest Mother.

Will just start a letter to mail to-morrow. Am waiting for Pete for lunch. Had my hair washed this morning & it's all over the place.

Your letters came this morning. It evidently takes longer air mail than ordinary mail. (Most likely some thing to do with the connection.) Jean's letter mailed Friday morning 8:30 A.M. came ^{Sunday} yesterday morning. The one air mail came day at 6 P.M. and the one mailed Sat at 4 P.M. both were here at 10 this A.M. Monday. Anyway many thanks. I've written Russ already & will explain how to send it this afternoon. Thanks also for the check & letter inviting me for the winter. I didn't really need the check but the letter might be useful. One is now allowed to take \$150. a year to travel in the U.S. or \$75. every 6 months which is a great help.

Wonder where Russell really is. Maybe Pete can guess better than I could. The mailed studies might be a clue. It all sounds most interesting.

Later. Luckily I went out right after lunch for now it is pouring hard. The wind is very changeable & it rains from most directions except the west. It's warmer though today. Seems to me it rains often here at the coast. Maybe because I left my raincoat at home not thinking I'd need it.

No more word about Pete. Papers take such a time and the nearer you get to Headquarters the longer it seems to take. I guess you better just figure you won't see me until I walk in the door.



for its impossible to know when Pete will leave here.
a whether or not he will get more leave & if so for how
long. etc. Luckily we have a nice place to stay & the
food has been good.

Tuesday. A beautiful clear day today & get 9 bet if the
wind veers round it will rain again. I'm trying to write a
lot of letters that I've owed for some time but am not making
much real headway.

Yesterday Pete had an interesting time for 2 of the Army
war artists came over to see Pat & Pete and discuss their
work etc. They talked for a couple of hours. Pete is getting a
much better idea of things so his time is not really
being wasted. Though I think he'd rather like to get started
on his job. He was going to paint on some larger canvases
but the only room to work in is full of office stuff & he
doesn't feel he would be able to produce anything with the
noise & confusion & interruptions. They are supposed to be
moving into another office but so far Pete says they
haven't gone yet.

The envelopes are thin so I enclose some clippings
(to hide my writing) that may be of interest. It was nice
to get all the letters yesterday. Jimmy I should ask about
Uncle Marshall & then your letter explained it. How soon
would Russell be back if he is gone 6 weeks from the time
he left? Sounds like an authentic question. Guess it
would be the middle of November for I see his letter was
dated Sept 30th & evidently was written soon after he got
there.

I loved Robin about going to school? I guess he will
be a person that will pick up a lot.

Guess I'd better send this along & write some
other letters -

Loads of love to you all.

Catharine -



THE **Lord Elgin**
OTTAWA CANADA

Thursday, Oct 19, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

Such a nice letter from you yesterday. All about Sunday. The success for dinner & your great success finding Mrs. Torp for Mrs. Motte to read to. I don't wonder you felt pleased and if it works out as well as it has started, Mrs. Torp will be doing an equal favor to Mrs. Motte by giving her something worth while to do. Doesn't she live near the City? If so it's not too far for Mrs. Motte to walk. Sonja's idea.

The days slip by here very pleasantly, and for the first time in about ten years I'm catching up on my correspondence. With it now nearer Christmas and I could do a lot more in writing short notes. Our days are much the same. We are up at 7 o'clock so we don't have to hurry & Pete leaves about 8.30 then I write a bit & read the paper & if it's very nice go out to do an errand or two, by then it's nearly lunch time. Pete gets back about noon or 12.30 depending if he has been out or is working at the building. We have a glass of beer & lunch together and he leaves about one thirty. If the room is made up I do my washing of stockings & under wear as there is only one short bar to hang them on, so I do a little each day. Then usually I go out in the afternoon & Pete gets home about six.

Yesterday I took a street car in the ~~evening~~ ^{morning} way up Bank St to the Auditorium to get seats for the hockey game Saturday night. Then another car back



and quite a way in the other direction & hunted around until I found the Gatehouse Beer Co. to enquire about weekend business. However its an all day affair to go anywhere worth while & you have to come back at night after dark so we probably won't attempt it. Pete was hoping to be through before the weekend but it looks as if it may be another week ~~yet~~ for his papers haven't come from the coast yet. Instead of wiring for them, they wrote. They don't seem to realize the time it takes for mail to go out, and at the other end they don't always attend to letters as quickly as to wires. But I guess that is what they call "Red Tape". They do everything in a routine way & I suppose Pete's case is rather unusual. His officer thought his papers were here & when he found they weren't, he told them to send for them & naturally they did it the way they usually do & it takes time. However I don't mind for it means Pete when he does go won't be gone so long if you know what I mean. I'll see more of him than I would otherwise. Only its hard just waiting.

In the afternoon I walked up to a school & got my new nation book. & then ended up in the ^{Public} library which I hadn't been in before. It has a nice reading room full of magazines but few newspapers. Its rather interesting how places vary. In Victoria the people seem to read home papers more than anything else & you find lots of old men perusing newspapers. I suppose because most of them have gone to Victoria to retire. In Vancouver too they have any newspaper you could want. Here its all magazines. The library is no larger than the one in Calgary by the looks of it. But of course here they have both French & English books. In Calgary there is only one real book store & the book department at the Bay but here there are at least five good bookstores.



THE **Ford Elgin**
OTTAWA CANADA

get when it comes to magazines. Calgary has very good ones
to the coast too + lots of House decorating etc. Here you
never see any "House + Gardens" or "American Homes" etc.
yet even in the Cegin stores they have them all in Calgary.
I expect its something to do with more houses being built
in the west + more interest in such things.

Pete still runs into people he knows. Saw a
Bauff boy who was in the Reserve Army with him. Has
been overseas 2 or 3 years + now stationed here. Didn't
see him to speak to. Also Pete spotted a girl who used
to wait on table at Parises + is now an officer in the
C.W.A.C. & a Women's Army Corps. I don't know how he
ever remembered her.

Better call this a letter. We are having lovely weather
now. yesterday was sunny + warm. Cooler today.
It rained in the night + blew hard.

Thanks for your nice letters.

Louise of Love

Catherine

P.S. Did you read the bit about the old hotel at Saratoga
Springs in the Oct 14th New Yorker? Didn't we drive by
that once. when we drove back from Detroit. (We got
a copy of the New Yorker here).





THE **Lord Elgin**
OTTAWA CANADA

October 20, 1944.

Dearest Mother.

Will write now so as to be sure and have a letter to mail you to-morrow, for it will be Saturday and Pete gets the afternoon off. Also there is the opening of the Victory Loans with the Prime Minister Mackenzie King & Shirley Temple. (quite a combination) & the ceremony is to take place on Parliament Hill. There is also to be launching of nine ships. Men in the Service & just repatriated, give the signal and their wives or mothers or fiancées launch the ships wherever they are from Montreal to Vancouver. & we hear the conversations over the loud speaker. You can see it will be quite something.

There have been several hospital trains arriving the last day or two but as there is naturally no notice in the paper it's hard to know when. Most of the boys are walking cases, there is a band & the families, but it would be interesting to see. There is evidently little excitement here about such things. I noticed in the paper one of Canada's greatest Generals. ~~For~~ Major. Gen. Keller who led the ~~attack~~ Canadians during D-Day I think & the Battle of Caen & Falaise, is one who arrived on this last trip. He was one of the men wounded when the bombs from the American planes fell short of the mark. (I've never seen a word of criticism in any of the Canadian papers) It also mentioned that Keller was to see his wife for the first time in 5 years less 6 weeks. It shows that even the high ranking officers don't get



sacks any oftener than the men. The 1st Division went
over in December 1939.

To night we are to go with Pat & Claire for Chinese
supper and then back to their house for the evening. Pat
has his leave coming sometime in the next 2 months &
Claire can get a vacation too from her work as interpreter
or something in the Post Office. He is very anxious to
see some of the collections of paintings in the States, as
when he was in London most of the really good things
were all put away in safe keeping and I doubt if he
has ever seen many really great works of art. I
wondered if it would be all right if to invite them to
stay in Concord a night or two when I am there. For
they could go into Boston for the day & see the Museum
& Fogg & Miss Jack Gardiners etc. They haven't much
to spend so it would be nice if they could maybe stay
with us. They are both very quiet and appreciative
sort of people. Pat is just 24 so pretty young to be
such a good artist with so much promise. She
reminds me a lot of Eileen Morse, but doesn't have
as much to say. She is French ^{Canadian} & was born & always
has lived here in Ottawa.

Guess I had better get washed up a bit.

Loads of love & hope you aren't working too
hard raking leaves. Maybe I'll get there before it
is too late to rake, or does it have to be done before
November. We rake ours in the spring in Bauff as
a rule.

More love to you all
Catharine



THE **Lord Elgin**
OTTAWA CANADA

Monday -
Oct 23, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

As usual we had rather a quiet weekend. Friday night we had Chinese Supper with Pat & Claire at a little place near here. Very elaborate but good food. Then walked back to Claire's & spent the evening talking & looking at books they had of the work of various artists.

Saturday there was a ceremony at noon on Parliament Hill to open the Victory Loan Drive. It was a cold overcast day & pretty chilly standing for an hour as we did. We have heard such things broadcast & seen the movies & it was not of fun to be there. It's an ideal spot for such a ceremony. The Parliament Buildings form three sides of a square. Wellington St the 4th side. It is nearly all lawn where the people stand and then there is a terrace above where the cars drive up to the main entrance of the center block & the Peace Tower. I'll have to find a Post card to show you. But it's ideal for everyone can see pretty well. The flag br-decked stand was built on the steps leading down to the lawns. There was quite a crowd. It was at 12.15 and the officers let their staffs out early to attend. They were clever for they had a ceremony for the 15 minutes preceding the actual across Canada broadcast. This consisted of groups from the High schools or Colleges in Ottawa, and a representative of each welcomed back a graduate from overseas with the help of Shirley Temple. Then they would cheer. When the Victory Loan broadcast started they had sort of a nucleus of a cheering crowd for the



most of us were too cold & scattered to do much cheering.
I'll enclose the clipping so you can see it was quite an
event. A Returned man or "Re-pat" was introduced, then he
spoke over the radio to his mother or sister etc in either Vancouver
or some other place where one of the 9 ships was to be launched.
Then you heard her answer over the loud speaker & the launching
of the boat. Everyone waited breathlessly for the crack of the
bottle & we heard everyone. Then another flyer, sailor or
soldier was introduced etc. It was quite wonderful for there
wasn't a hitch & boats were launched all across Canada
from Vancouver to Nova Scotia. Every Province had a part
in the thing. For ~~the day~~ each Province had a day represented,
and all parts of the services too. The last one was launched
by Mrs C.D. Howe in Toronto. The 1000 ship built in Canada
during the war which is something when they built nothing
but a few fishing boats previous to the war. Her husband
then spoke. (His son is in the Navy had done the past day) He is
the Minister of Munitions & Supplies & it always interests me
that he was born in Waltham, Mass. went to M.I.T. is a
Civil Engineer & came to Canada as a Professor at Dalhousie
Univ. later built Grain Elevators. Was torpedoed when
going to England at the start of the war & nearly lost his
life as another Cabinet Minister lost his. We didn't hear
his speech as we were too cold by then & stay longer.

That evening afternoon we went to the Art Gallery to
do a few errands & in the evening saw a very good exhibition
hockey game for the benefit of the Chinese Relief.

Yesterday we were very quiet. went for a walk &
a bus ride to Rockcliffe & back. & read most of the
afternoon. Had lunch at the Chinese place.

Still no word about Pete but we hope he hears soon.
Will send this along.

Loads of Love

Catherine

PS. Thanks for the journals.

7.5. Your Sunday letter just came. Have been to the Blood Donors & back. O.K. can't say? and any different at all. Pete doesn't get off until 5.00 - reports Monday at 8.45 A.M. not much time. However, don't give up hope. I'll get to Concord.



you asked me to send you the National Geographic notice. It came yesterday. You can count it as my Christmas present from you for 1944. and many thanks.

THE **Lord Elgin**
OTTAWA CANADA

Tues. Oct. 24, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

A nice long letter from you this morning, written Saturday. It's nice to hear and your letters never sound stupid to me. Am sorry to hear that Mrs Motte isn't as well again. It is a difficult case and like so many it probably is up to her self. I think these times of uncertainty are catching for everyone and mixed in with a good old New England conscience its worse than ever.

Yesterday was our last really nice day. warm & sunny - then it rained at night and is very muddy over-head now. I guess it sounds as if I had a lot of time to do a way I do. But there are letters to write & the odd errand to do. (Went into 5 stores this morning & haven't found a wash cloth yet) Pete had to have a lock put on his suitcase for carrying paint equipment. So after lunch yesterday we started out. First to see the sailors, soldiers & gormen parade each with their own band. They had been a Victory Loan Ceremony first. Then we walked 3 long blocks & about 2 short to the Locksmiths. Then up to the Gallery another 8 or 9 short blocks where Pete delivered a picture. Then 8 or 9 short blocks to the R.C.A.F. where he told them where he was going while I waited on the corner. Then another half mile to Hughes Owens where we spent over two hours measuring & cutting a roll of canvas for Pete. It's very scarce so we had to figure carefully & then I walked home & Pete back to the R.C.A.F. about



give or after. It was hard on the feet. I find pavement walking
very tiring. Had I known how long we'd be here would have
bought walking shoes. The floor at Hughes. Owens was
candid too. So it was a busy afternoon. Then we had
invited a Bang girl Margaret Gabley to supper. We know
her father well & she works here in the Civil Service. She
was rather hard to talk to as some people are. so we
suggested a movie & it was eleven before that was over.
So it was rather a long day.

This morning I went to the Blood Donor Clinic to make
an appointment. I must go back at 4 o'clock to be examined
& then to-morrow at 10.15 to make the donation. It will be
interesting to see how they do it here. It looked busy enough
surroundings. They have a large 5 or 6 blocks sign here. I
hate doing it but feel I should be doing rather useless otherwise.
I guess I should have gone & rolled bandages, but now it
hardly seems worth while as Pete expects to be here any day.
Evidently here it takes forever to get things done. like his papers.
I suppose that's the way in offices like that. However he is getting
to know the people at the National Gallery and how they
look at things so it will be valuable to him later on.

Wed. Had a funny time at supper last night. One is always seated
with 2 others as all the tables are 4 in the Restaurant. You get sort
of used to it. We don't talk about much unless we are alone. Last night
there was a very young couple with us. He was a Sub Lt. in the Navy.
We didn't listen to their conversation but later she said something
about Bob & Evelyn & where was he & Kingston & then he said he had
read about some Crosby group overseas. We were sure it was Bob
Crosby who lives next to us in Bang. I picked Pete & then I guess
Pete thought we better tell them we knew these Crosbys. It turned out
that the girl was the daughter of Charlie Phillips, the chief game warden
at Jasper. He used to be at Lake Louise & Bang & as a little boy Pete
used to go fishing with him. I may have told you we met Mrs. Mrs.
Phillips of the peer in Nanaimo last spring when we brought the car out of
Tobias. This couple (Kipp is their name) were in Bang the last weekend
we were. are looking for an apartment. We told them of Margaret Gabley
& she went to University with her & was so glad to know she was here
we could even give them her address (she had supper with us Mon. night)
didn't that feeling all round. Margaret may be able to help them find a place.
Loads of love Catharine.



THE **Ford Hotel**
OTTAWA CANADA

Thursday.
October 26, 1944.

Dearest Mother.

The Blood Donation went off quite well. They really have a system for running a person through. My appointment was 10.15 but there seemed to be several others too. I guess they just send you along as fast as they can. I'll tell you about it for I think it's quite interesting.

They took my name when I went in & I only waited 2 or 3 minutes downstairs when they called me. Sent me up stairs. I was told to sit on a bench, and as I had been examined the day before they only took my temperature. At first I wondered what was the matter with me for I couldn't get the thermometer up above 95° but the nurse gave me another which responded better. & soon was normal. However I felt rather foolish sitting there. The only one with a thermometer in my mouth. Various others came along too. A Chinaman sat next me & a very nice looking Air Force officer quite young. We all were given a large glass of nice Tarte Tomate Juice. Some soldiers to help make up for the blood lost. Then we were each handed a cotton garment & moved to another bench in a room full of curtained off cubicles for undressing. The men had to take their shirts off & their garment tied in the back. Looked like a long apron with no sleeves. One soldier looked quite funny with his big boots sticking out underneath & shaving very thin arms. When my turn came I just took off my blouse & then tried to get into my cotton shirt backwards. One crossed neatly over the front.



the whole thing has been well thought out. Then you sit on another bench in the hall by the stairs. Feeling a bit undressed. A nurse by a sink calls you over & scrubs both arms inside the elbows. & I forgot one is given a little card to show the nurse looking after the transfusion & you even have a pocket to put it in. Your name etc written on it & the type of blood may be.

There were two rooms, one on either side of the hall, & each full of high hospital cots. The kind one is operated on, even stools to help one climb up. & paper on a roll which is pulled up over the bed. Fresh for each one. A trained nurse did the stitching & a very nice St Johns Ambulance lady held my hand. I expect to feel my pulse. She was very nice. asked where I came from etc & where the Jennings in Bang. Her daughter drives an ambulance in Britain during the Robot Bombing & her boy has made 6 operational flights in the Air Force so far. I managed to give 5.50 this time which was a bit better than before. & she said none of the 6 donors she had had that day had given full donations so we speculated whether or not the weather had anything to do with it.

After that I was escorted into a very pleasant room adjoining where a cheerful lady directed you to a seat covered your shoulders with a knitted shawl & brought you delicious cream soup and a cracker & sardine sandwich. The Chinaman was beside me again. It was his first donation there but had given blood transfusions before. He said he felt sort of silly sitting on a chair large & being waited on. I was on one too with my feet up, as there weren't many there when I went in. Quite soon the young air force officer came along, white as a sheet. He said he had had his soup but could have coffee he was told. But before he had had more than a swallow he called the nurse & said "I think I'm going to be sick" and he was. Luckily there was a curtain to pull across & he was sitting on a cot. so we could only hear the rest.



THE Lord Elgin

OTTAWA CANADA

I felt awfully sorry for him. Some people have too much of an imagination I guess. The Chairman said he felt all night & well so I did too. However when I got dressed & down stairs he was sitting in the waiting room. So wondered if he didn't feel so good. One large jovial man whispered to the nurse but she answered "no it wasn't allowed. The Doctor didn't approve of it any way right after a donation" and he said "what difference does it make. I'll have one as soon as I leave here any way." I presume he was referring to a snort. They give you a package of snort pills when you leave.

I didn't feel any effect at all until after lunch when I got awfully sleepy. It was a rainy afternoon so I had a nap. something thereby do.

Last night we had a funny time at dinner. As usual we were seated at a table with another two and this time it was a Brigadier General & his wife. They each sort of smiled as we sat down. We thought they were leaving but they had only just come in too. But the table wasn't cleared. He asked Pete "How do you like Ottawa Dad?" and he had such a strong Scotch accent Pete had a hard time hearing. Well they turned out to be the nicest couple. He was in charge of the Prisoner of War camp in Salisbury & is with the Veteran Guard. all men of the last war. They knew Bauff well & later when Pete said his name was Bauff she said "Oh from that nice store in Bauff." The thing that amused us was how very pleasant & genial they were & some people you get with are sticky as can be. The young officers especially are often afraid to speak to men in the ranks & yet the higher the officer the friendlier & more polite they are.



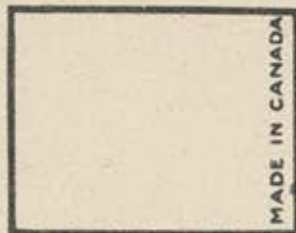
Today didn't rain but is overcast & raw. Pete went out to Radcliffe, to the R.C.A.F. Station there with Pat this afternoon. As he hasn't been before, & Pat will show him around. I took my carage & went to a Greenfell tea at Earnscliffe. Where the High Commissioners for the United Kingdom, Malcolm MacDonald lives. There was a notice in the paper so I thought it would be all right to go. I knew that he had been collecting paintings by Canadian artists & was anxious to see them. I also wanted to go out to the end of the car line to see if it went near where we go Saturday to the Wandles for ~~the~~ cocktails.

Sure enough dozens of ladies got off at the Earnscliffe corner. I went a stop too far & one even missed that I went to the end of the line & back which I did too & so we walked in together which was nice for me. However I didn't stay with her as she met a friend. They had some really nice things to sell. I bought some pegs for Gals & Robin Christmas & a much too large hooked thing. ~~After~~ I wished I had bought a knitting bag for Mom. I also saw the sketches, he has some lovely ones. It wasn't until after I left that I remembered the big attraction was to be the presence of Princess Alice the Countess of Athlone. Well I saw the pictures even if I did miss her.

Don't get too discouraged, there has evidently been another delay with Pete's papers and it may be another two weeks. I've decided to go & roll bandages at the Red Cross for a couple of hours a day as soon as I find out just where it is.

Friday. A lovely day, cool & clear. Saw in the paper that Princess Alice couldn't attend the ~~banquet~~ Tea yesterday because of the death in the Royal Family of Princess Beatrice the last surviving daughter of Queen Victoria!

A very nice letter this morning. Guess you will realize at last that people don't think of you as an old lady yet. Thanks also for wanting Pat & Claire to visit us. I thought it best to ask in case it's too hard with gas rationing. But when they went to Boston they could always take a taxi back from the station. However they may not be able to go anyway. Well see. Loads of love Catherine.



MADE IN CANADA

This will give you
an idea of Parliament
Hill. The Peace
Tower is in the centre

with a Carillon to all. The
Ceremony I spoke of was right
in front where there is a flight
of steps leading from the
upper terrace to the lawns
where we stood. Our hotel
is about 3 short blocks to

PHOTOGRAPHIC ENGINEERING CO. LIMITED, OTTAWA.



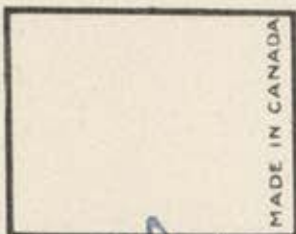
the left where I put an arrow.
The station is lower right.
The Chateau Laurier opposite.
(That's the biggest hotel) The best
shopping street is where I
put 11. In the center is
the War Memorial for the other
war. I think the King & Queen
dedicated it.

POST CARD



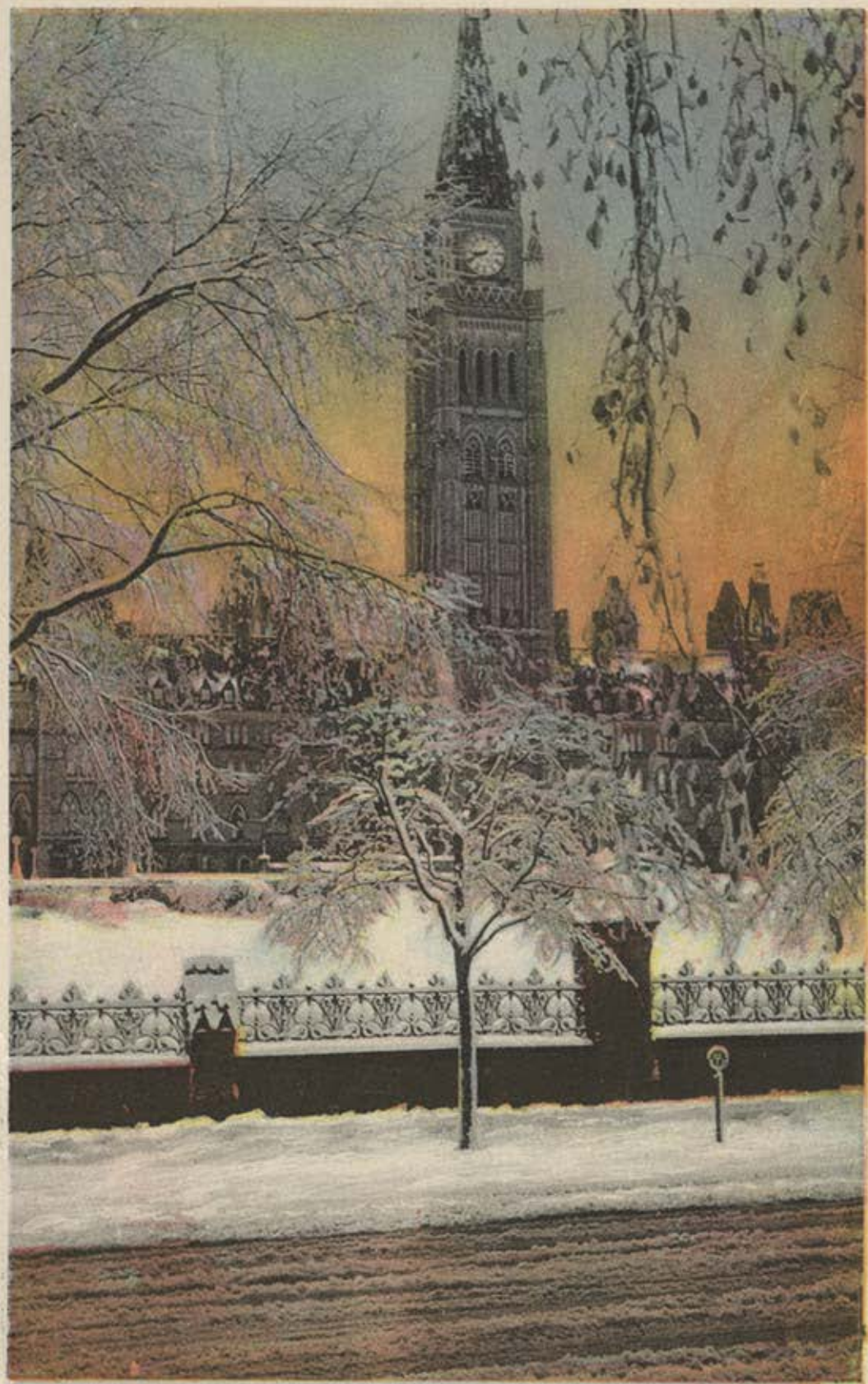
Aerial View of Central Ottawa, Canada.—83.

POST CARD
Carte Postale



It felt like this
but didn't look
like it the day we
were there! This is the Peace
Tower - inside is a chapel
in memory of those who fell
in the first world war.
The names of every one who
died is in a book & a
page is turned each day
taking a year to go through.
all the crests of the
various regiments are
there and a short
history of the famous battles
are carved in stone, or lettered.
It's very nicely done.

PHOTOGELATINE ENGRAVING CO., LIMITED, OTTAWA



Peace Tower in Winter, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, Canada.—33



THE **Lord Elgin**
OTTAWA CANADA

Monday.
Oct. 30 1944.

Dearest Mother,

The way they do things in the RCAF. is certainly very disconcerting, especially when trying to plan. ^{It has been that way} ever since Pete joined in March 1943 when they told him he would be sent east to Rockcliffe for a course after Manning Pool in Edmonton, and next thing he knew he was posted to the West coast. I had even bought clothes appropriate to a summer in Ottawa, well I haven't made that mistake again! and remember that summer he was told he would be in Victoria at least 3 months. most likely 5? Well since then we have worked on the theory never to be certain about any thing until it actually happens and it helps one not to be too disappointed. I've also become rather superstitious, for it seems as if every time I am sure enough of something to write & tell you the very opposite happens.



X All the day we arrived in Ottawa, over 3 weeks ago, Pete was greeted with the news that he was to be given a commission and sent right overseas. In fact he should have been there on the 20th of September & gone with Rhinblatt (the other war artist chosen at the same time as Pete) but for some reason Pete wasn't notified. The message evidently got mislaid or lost.

They hustled him off to take his medical exam & other tests and he was told the only thing that could hold him back was his not being medically fit. Pete asked me not to say anything to anyone, for as he said something might be wrung with him physically to throw him out. He didn't know that he had passed that until the next week, and then it seemed they hadn't sent for his papers from the coast & he'd have to wait for those. So as he thought that was what was holding him up, he has been getting his paintings bit ready etc. and then Friday as he was leaving the office the Group Captain told him he was awfully sorry but he couldn't get him his commission after all. It seems that the Air Force is cutting down in every way they can & just don't



THE Lord Elgin

OTTAWA

CANADA

want to give any more commissions out & also they aren't very keen any way on giving them to artists. But the group Captain said they liked his work and was anxious he keep on painting for them.

Pete still thought he was going over seas, but on Saturday he had no chance to talk with the G/C and it seems he can't go over seas without a commission. It was quite a disappointment all round being keyed up to the trip. But Pete is very philosophical about it. He figures that things happen quite often to prevent you from doing something that would turn out wrong, and so you shouldn't question it or try to change it.

Mr. Harkness in 1929 he was walking down a street with a Scotch man & suddenly for no reason he said "Let's cross over" which they did, going to the other side of the street. Just then there was a terrific crash and the whole cornice (of the building they would have seen passing had they not crossed over) crashed to the street. Burying a



car under cement. So after that Pete feels you don't always know the reason you make sudden changes.

I was rather mad about ~~the~~ the fact that the other boy got his commission & was sent over & just because Pete was a few weeks later ~~and~~ did missed his chance. But actually I am very happy & thankful that he isn't to go overseas. It's a bit late in the war to do much painting of it. But I was so sure Pete would have done it well for he has had more experience than the other artists in getting about & living in ~~hard~~ uncomfortable places. & also has sketched in other countries. Well if they don't want to use him that way, to their loss, and we can look forward to painting together again all the sooner.

They want him to work here in Ottawa this winter. But as yet Pete hasn't quite decided what is best for him to do. He doesn't think he could paint very well under conditions here & it's nearly impossible to find an apartment or place other than this to live in. He's very anxious that I make you the visit, for he feels it has been ~~longer~~ on account of him ~~largely~~.



THE **Lord Elgin**
OTTAWA CANADA

that you haven't seen much of me. So
I might go down to Concord next week
and if he gets a "48" ~~he could come down~~
the following weekend he could come down
to perhaps. I'd rather stay ^{in Ottawa} a few days
right now until he knows a little
bit more what he will be doing. For
there is a good deal to try to figure out and
talk over.

We are awfully sorry to disappoint you
for we really thought that I would be spending
the winter in Concord. However I'll try and
make you as nice a visit as I can and will
see what happens next.

Will send this along and tell you in
my next about the cocktail party Saturday.

Loads of love
Catherine.





THE **Lord Elgin**
OTTAWA CANADA

Tuesday.
Oct. 31, 1944.

Dearest Mother.

I can just imagine Jean has been planning to go & spend a weekend with her brother for some time. Just she most likely put it off because Russ might be there. Then she thought I might be arriving any time & finally you all decided she better go before the cold weather starts, and what do I do. Arrive on the very morning she leaves. I just hope it isn't going to upset things too much and if it would be better I could go in to Boston. My train the Red Wing reaches Lowell at 7.25 A.M. Friday (Nov 3rd) morning, and if Jean takes the 8.41 A.M. from Concord or the 11.07 I should be able to at least say hello to her. I'm awfully sorry to have it work that way, but it's quite hard to get reservations etc and I just wrote mine today.

Pete is very anxious that I visit you and as we have the room here he can just stay on. He has several



friends he can go & see & actually it's
only the evenings we really have much
time together. They want him to do
some painting here. The office staff is
gradually moving out of the room. Today
& Pete has made an easel & will be
ready to start work when things are
quiet. He is not sure how it will work
& whether he can paint his best under
such conditions but must have a try
at it, so it seemed the best time for
me to leave for one never knows where
he might be sent, though they say he
won't be going overseas, and they
also said they wanted him here.

Pete may get a 45 week after next
& could perhaps come down to Concord.
but in the meantime I'll have started
my visit.

Will send this along as I'll be
seeing you so soon. I may not be able
to bring any meat this time as the
stores will be closed when I reach
Montreal.

Lots of love & it will be mighty
good to see you again.

Catherine

P.S. The writing shows though so will
write another page.

We had a good time Saturday afternoon
went out to Rockcliffe by street car & then



THE **Lord Elgin**
OTTAWA CANADA

found the Waddles house quite easily, & luckily it didn't rain then (though I still managed to spatter mud up the back of each stocking!) Mr Waddle used to be the superintendent of the park in Banff when Pete was a boy & then was Deputy Minister of Mines & Resources for the Gov't here. Carl Pringens had stopped off to ~~see~~ spend the weekend so told us the Banff news. There was also a Major Hailke & his wife of Vancouver and a Mrs Martindale who lived in Banff as a girl. (We have already been invited out there for dinner) It was a very nice party, & to a quiet suburb, & so really a town, like Wellesley Farms & it seems that Princess Juliana lives across the street from them. Sunday was a lovely day & we had a nice walk & Chinese food for lunch.

Must get this in the mail.

More love & see you soon
Catherine.





THE **Lord Elgin**
OTTAWA

Friday, Dec 1, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

Got here safely last night in spite of the storm. Though the train was about an hour late. It was good to get back and now it's just a question of how long we will be here. Pete still hasn't any idea so we just can't plan yet.

Yesterday started quite early for me. The American migration officer has been into my berth at 5 o'clock for my identification. The Porter woke me again about 7 o'clock to the conductor & Canadian migration interrupted my morning ablutions. (I think that's what one calls them) in the ladies room. Then the Customs inspector & after that I had breakfast in the Buffet Parlor car "named Lake Agnes." After he left I climbed to above Lake Louise. It was snowing and seemed quite appropriate weather.

We were on time in Montreal. The blizzard just getting under way. Had my bags looked at & checked & then took a taxi to the Parquets. Arrived in the midst of their breakfast so joined to have a cup of coffee. Gen. Parquet left for his office with his English setter who always accompanies him. He is smaller than Fort. more like Fatch. and just as "sentimental" as Margot describes him. Sat with his head in my lap after lunch & loves attention. He is a bird dog too & when they threw a glove up stairs he would first "Point" then "Fetch". "Set" & then "Give". He was well trained. went & got Gen. Parquet's rubbers out of the hall closet etc. I had told them that we always



had English settlers but they never were well trained, that they trained us instead.

By the time we got out to the Art Gallery it was snowing & blowing quite hard. My taxi hadn't been able to make their bill & it was awfully slippery under foot. There was 10 inches or more of snow & it drifted badly & we had a good deal of difficulty crossing streets. Hanging onto our hats & keeping our footing at the same time. Margot lost me some overcoats & later I got a pair for myself. I'm folding my hat on I made a dent in one side & it froze that way & stiffened & I had quite a time getting it to pop out again. But it was rather fun & everyone was taking the storm good humoredly. Lots of people were falling.

We went to the Montreal Gallery first. Saw the Group Exhibition & another one of Canadian Artists which was being hung. Met Mr Arthur Jaimes who is one of the best known Canadian Artists. He is an older man. When Margot introduced me he said "Peter White - I know him & of him. The name is familiar. He had met Pete in Bauff several years ago. Also said G. Y. Jackson had spoken of him. Then a Mrs Harwood was here. A most attractive looking lady. As we were leaving she said "Margot I meant to ask you. Who painted that lovely picture over your fire place?" We had to laugh for it was one of Pete's. However it was nice to hear such things said.

From there we struggled through the storm to an Art gallery. Saw a number of Emily Carr's pictures of Totem Poles, and other artist works. The Dealer had a Krughoff so I asked the price. & he said the small ones are worth from anywhere from 100. to 300. It was not a high priced place either.

We got home for lunch about one. Madeleine Trépanant the Panet's niece was there too. She is a Lieutenant in the C.W.A.C. & was the one who spent Christmas with them in Bauff several years ago.



THE **Lord Elgin**
OTTAWA CANADA

We walked to the station about three.axis being hard to get & it was only five or six blocks, but the storm was getting colder & we were covered with snow on reaching the station. My train is usually in the station half an hour ahead of time. so one can board it at 3.30 but yesterday it never came in until nearly 4.30 & so we were 40 minutes late leaving.

It was hot on the train but not a bad trip on the whole. Pete met me & I was the first to get my baggage and take right away with 6 others jammed in. We sat in front. So we even made the dining room before it closed at 9 o'clock.

It looks cold out this morning. is still blowing & snowing a bit. but I don't have to go out so may not bother.

Have a lot of things to wash out & letters to write etc.

Haven't got time to keep me clean.

Will let you know of any developments. but most likely won't hear until next week. maybe not then. It was a nice visit to you in every way and on the whole I did an awful lot in a short time. Don't you think so?

Hope the play went well.

Loads of love to all

Catharine





THE **Lord Elgin**
OTTAWA CANADA

Saturday night
Dec. 2, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

This is to explain a little more the wire which you will have received by the time you get this.

Pete's discharge has come through and he has to report to Calgary for his final papers. As they are not allowed to leave Canada at this time we won't be able to go down to help you celebrate your birthday as we had hoped we might, but will try and make you a real visit later on.

I'm sorry too that we can't spend Christmas with you as planned but I guess one shouldn't try to make too many plans these days, and its going



to be rather nice for us to be home
in Bangff for that holiday. In fact
getting into our house again and
settled down is going to seem awfully
nice.

It's been a busy day for us and
we were very lucky to get space on
the train west to-morrow night.
When I left Concord last Wednesday
I little thought I would be in Bangff
this Wednesday.

Did some Christmas shopping
to-day & mailed the presents to
Washington. A wooden construction
set for Robin & a log cabin to put
together for Gale. Both Canadian
made. Also sent you a birthday
present which I hope you will
enjoy looking at. It goes with
our love and best wishes. For got
to put a card inside.

I'm sure you will have a
nice day Saturday with the tea
(you can now get in one more friend)
and the supper party, and we



THE **Lord Elgin**
OTTAWA CANADA

wish we might be with you. Will be
thinking of you all day. and will
surely be on hand to help celebrate
your 90th.

It's bed time so will mail this
& maybe you will get it Monday.
Wasn't it lucky I got in my night
when I did and it was such a
nice one too.

Loads of love from us both
Catharine.



Canadian Pacific Railway

EN ROUTE

Monday -
Dec 4, 1914.

Dearest Mother, This may not be a very successful attempt to write you for we are about an hour late & it feels as if they were trying to make up a bit of time & this is such a twisty bumpy part of the road. However as we go west my letters will be slower reaching you so thought I'd try to mail one to-day.

Read in the paper they had 18 inches of snow in Montreal Thursday, worst Nov. storm in 75 years. No wonder it seemed quite a blizzard to me.

We have had lovely weather ever since. Yesterday was clear & sparkling & it was fun seeing skiers all ages & sizes in Ottawa. Last night a whole army of them came through the station as we waited for our train. With their skis over their shoulders catching on all the door ways. All kinds of bright costumes.

We went to say good-bye to Claire in the morning. She wanted us to stay to lunch but we had too many things to do. In the afternoon went out to see Eleanor Campbell. Gray's wife who has come to stay with his father & married sister until he gets back. ^{Gray R.A.F. in England} Had a nice call on them & tea & even heard the Kiip. Am running out of ink.

Telephoned good-byes to the rest & took a last walk around the

Parliament Hill at sunset. The Statues looked pretty chilly!

We feel very "swell" as the only thing left on the train was one compartment but were lucky to get that at the last moment. It's snowing & dull out, but very little snow on the ground here. We are slowly catching up on all the things that happened to each of us the last month & planning what we will do when we get back. I shall have to spring clean for one thing. & we have a lot to straighten out at the Store, as I had expected to make a trip back any way before spending the winter with you. Had Pete gone over seas. & it will have to be taken care of before the end of the year.

I really am sorry not to be with you all on your birthday. However I don't feel quite so badly knowing that you have so many in the family who love you & want to help celebrate such an occasion.

Pete's discharge came through a week earlier than they expected. Had it been a week later I could have made Concord for Saturday. So hope you have a happy day and we will try to get east again before too long.

Got your nice letter yesterday & I too thought it was an awfully nice visit. It was lucky I went when I did & could stay a whole month. As you say, Some day we can fly on in a short time. Maybe even land in Bedford.

It's too hard to write swirly up around curves as we are doing so all for now -

Loads of love & Happy Birthday
Catherine

Canadian Pacific Railway

EN ROUTE

Tuesday -

Dearest Mother,

Will start another letter to mail this afternoon. There isn't very much to tell about the trip. We are so exclusive having a compartment that we haven't met other passengers. Sometimes it's just as well. For a trip last year from the coast was very tiresome simply because a lady in the same car had a very carrying voice. Talked all the time to another woman and said nothing. However you couldn't help but be conscious of her chatter and we found it almost impossible to read. So at least we can enjoy our books.

Pete is reading the Bob Hope one that Miss Legate gave me & there is a bit about Marakesh & the Pasha's Palace. The son showed them around.

yesterday was quite warm & not much snow on the ground. but this morning as we come out onto the prairie there is a heavy frost coating the trees & grass & it looks dull & cold. We will soon be in Winnipeg.

Later - Will mail this this evening. It's been a nice day and quite warm. The train doesn't seem very crowded & we've noticed several unoccupied berths. This car we are in is all compartments but must be quite old as it is not air conditioned just ventilators to open & a fan.

Guess there is still time to say "Many Happy Returns of the Day" and also could you please say my good byes to everyone, like the Morrises, Newbury's & Pietro. I really did expect to be back before coming west. but we do hope to go east for another visit in the spring -

Did I tell you that we had our tickets bought etc to go to Boston Monday night. a letter to were ready to send you & I was just going out of the room Saturday morning when Pete telephoned it was all off. It was lucky for it would have been more of a disappointment had I sent word.

Not much to write so will send & mail it at the next stop. ^{will} try to send you a letter from Banff tomorrow if I'm not too busy & forget. We hope to get the heat on & have the house warm that night. but will have to get the water connected later.

Loads of love from us both
Catharine

Canadian Pacific Railway

EN ROUTE

Wednesday -
Dec 6, 1944.

Dearest Mother

We will be in Banff in another hour & thought I would scribble a few lines ready to mail. For I'm quite sure I'll be too busy after we arrive & may even forget to mail this.

It has been a quick trip & quite comfortable. Is very mild here & rained last night but in Regina last evening it was frosty as we came through. Seems funny to have it so mild here & so wintry further east for it was real winter in Ottawa.

If you see Miss Legate. do
tell her that Pete read the Bob
Hope book & enjoyed it very much.
9 to light reading.

Later Bauff. We are getting the
house heated & opened. & Pete has gone
over town to get the tires in the car
pumped up. I'm keeping an eye on
the fire.

The train was about half an hour
late but we were lucky to find it
like a spring day. rained last night
& there are even puddles. about 45°
out. just right for opening the house.

Man had a big dinner ready for
us & Kenneth Campbell was here too.
He is Pete's cousin who is in the Navy
& just back on 56 days leave after
2 1/2 years & thinks it is. He has been
to all sorts of places. Greenwich &
Glasgow & Edinburgh, Gibraltar
Naples. Bermuda etc. Has found

it very interesting, Only 3 hours
action in all that time & then all
at once. He's just here for the
day - So we were lucky to see
him, last time we saw him
was at the coast.

We must go over soon to
get some food. It's always hard
to know when to start when
you first come back -

The trains from the west are
late so this won't go until
late tonight.

Lots of love
Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Friday, Dec. 8, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

X We are slowly getting settled but
Z it is awfully nice to get back home again. Jim Watt came yesterday afternoon to put the water on and it all went well except for a rushing noise like a bleeder, it wasn't a leak in the house so we went outside to look and sure enough it was a leak at the turnoff on the street, so the water had to be turned off once more and this morning the Gov't men are down digging a whole at the valve and hope to get us water before lunch, but it may be later before they get it all fixed. There isn't much I can do in the cleaning way so thought I would just write you a bit.

My big bag came this morning, having made the trip to the coast and back, the first time we have had a checked bag go astray, it got mixed up with the checked baggage for Vancouver. I got sort of left with the odd things in my black bag so am glad it has come.

The first night we were here we took Kenneth Campbell up to see the Wards, they are fine. Cis busy making pajamas for the Salvation Army and Sam with lots of work on hand. It was funny we should arrive home the one day Kenneth was in Banff, and because the trains from the west were so delayed he spent the night with Mom. We were glad to see him again and hear all about his experiences in the war. He kept telling Sam about all the vacant lots in London which he said didn't strike him as unusual in a city but realized later that of course they had all been crowded districts of London. It certainly sounded strange to Sam to think of even one vacant lot in London. Kenneth said that compared with the bomb damage in England, that Scotland seems almost undamaged. that only parts of Glasgow are damaged I guess along the Clyde.

Last night we spent with the Moores they told us all about Mrs Vaux's visit and I guess she had them run off their feet. They are living in the hotel now. Banff is quite quiet compared with the last few winters, for one thing most of the Evacuees have gone home to England or Scotland and with the Air Training Plan closing down there are few Service men or women coming up for weekends.

Cam is home and because of his length of Service in the Air Force he has a month before being released, Norman Knight was down too, he also is getting out but they are all on the

reserve and subject to call back. It was a sudden change for all of them for they were asked to take their discharge. It is going to be quite an adjustment for most of them to make getting back into Civilian life again.

We are lucky that we came home when we did for had it not been such a warm spell they couldn't have dug the yhole and fixed the water pipe, perhaps that was the reason things turned out as they did, for had it been the usual December weather below zero we might not have gotten the water on for several weeks,

Had better go and unpack my bag and hope for the water before lunch.

Loads of love,

Catharine

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Sunday, Dec. 10, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

Will start to-day with a letter to you. Wonder if you had a real Happy Birthday, I hope so, for everyone was anxious that it should be. We sent the wire so you would know that we were really thinking of you, you can't send "greetings or congratulatory messages" in the states but you still can in Canada.

We have been having lovely clear weather ever since we got back, however the days are rather short, we still have daylight saving and the sun doesn't rise until 9.30 but it stays light until after 5. T

There is so much to do about the house for we have been leaving things to be fixed after the war, however now that we are to be here more we are anxious to do some of them. I have the house to really clean and hope to do a room at a time, may start this week with the living room for there are lots of Vancouver people coming at Christmas time and that often means callers. We also want to rehang the pictures and that sort of thing, so we have some busy days ahead. However it is a good season to do it.

Yesterday we put up a funny little stove in the living room, it sits on the hearth and will take wood or coal, has little doors that open in the front so you can see the fire, Unless you keep a fire in the fireplace all the time more heat goes out and cold comes down, and it isn't very practical from a heat saving point of view, but with this little stove we can keep a low fire on, just enough to make it cosy in the very cold weather. We have to get a pipe made but have one that will do in the meantime, the metal to fit into the fireplace we already had from the days before a furnace.

Yesterday afternoon we went up to Mrs MacDonalds as she wanted to see us and we are to go up to-night with some slides as she is having the Grandmaisons up and the Hayse. Last night we had Liia and Cam for supper to help eat a roast and had a nice evening talking. Cam is to get his discharge in January, all the instructors over 33 years of age were let out, but they are kept on the reserve and could be called back at any time. He is anxious to get into newspaper work and wants to try Victoria, and if he can get a job there they will all move out, figure it is better not to make the sudden change from a small town to a big city too great for the children and so chose Victoria. I hope it works out all right and will give the children a better chance for a good education.

Am having a hard time finding anything worth sending to any of you for Christmas, hoped there would be something made in Canada, but find there is so little to choose from that would appeal to you, however it hardly seems worthwhile making a trip to Calgary when perhaps I would have no more luck there. Will try again tomorrow.

Now am going to start on the desk, it needs cleaning badly. Pete is cleaning his camera lenses.

Loads of love to you all,

Catherine
Tues - P.S. Am so sorry this didn't get mailed yesterday.



Banff,
Alberta.
Tues. Dec. 12, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

Weren't we the lucky ones and perhaps that was the real reason for our not going to Concord for the week, for had we gone we would have left last night and hit the worst blizzard in years in Montreal. Both Montreal and Toronto are completely tied up and no room left even in hospitals to sleep, the hotels were already full and no trains leaving either. I expect on top of the other storm and with a gale blowing it was just too much, also these days they haven't the men to dig out a city. Wonder are you having it too? Our days are still perfect, clear as a bell and no wind but rather cold, around 20 to-day, above.

Yesterday I went Christmas shopping, was so discouraged trying to find anything worth sending in the stores that I finally ended up at Mr Luxtons where he has just Indian things, Hope you like what I got you, it was the nicest thing he had and perhaps you can use it in the sitting room, its made of porcupine quills, but don't worry they are not to sit on. Sent Ebbs and Frances and family gloves and mocasins, hope they don't mind the Indian smell. Got some done up and then ran out of declaration forms so didn't get them off until to-day, just hope they reach Concord in time for Christmas.

Just listened to "5 minutes of the latest news" so can imagine you and Cousin Jane sitting reading and knitting. It is seven here, don't want to make you envious but we just finished a nice juicy steak each and frozen spinach that tasted like fresh. One of the stores carries the frozen fruits and vegetables and we thought we would try them, the advantage with the fruit is that canned fruit costs a coupon but this doesn't.

We have been doing odd jobs, Pete has insulated the north side of the kitchen low down so that our kitchen cupboards won't be so cold and the water pipes won't freeze as they sometimes did in very cold weather. Some day we will have it done properly inside the cupboards but didn't want to do that much work just now. I still have done little cleaning but may get at it before Christmas. We are invited to Christmas dinner with Sam and Cis, Christmas night, and Sunday before to an eggnog party with Mrs Woster who's husband is still in Chungking.

Hope Wil is feeling better, too bad he couldn't be skiing when he has to rest instead of being sick.

Four Christmas parcels came from you to-day, very quick don't you think? We would love to have the New Yorkers and isn't it nice a patient up at the hospital that Mom goes to visit asked her the other day if she knew where he could get any. He has

arthritis so badly that he is on his back and can read looking at the ceiling. He was the same way several years ago but gradually got so that he could walk with crutches, but it has returned again so we can give them to him when we finish them, if you still have the ones in the guest room you could send them, for he won't mind their being out of date.

Am so glad the hat was becoming to Mrs Keyes. Shall try the puddings when I get a chance. Am not so fond of bread pudding but the other sounds real good. will have a try at both.

Do hope that Jean is feeling better by this time, for it was nearly a week ago now that she was sick.

Will return Russells letters that I borrowed. now I had better continue cleaning out the desk.

Will mail this to-morrow, it may get slowed up by the blizzard.

Loads of love,

Catherine.

Will return letters one at time, they are too bulky otherwise.

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. Dec. 14, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

It is getting pretty near Christmas but it is hard to realize somehow. I expect you are already and I have done little. You haven't mentioned what you plan to do but I expect Mildred will be with you for the holidays. Wish that we might have been but some year we will, maybe next who knows.

Went to the Red Cross for the first time in ages, Mrs Macauley is in the hospital in Calgary having had a serious operation, and one or two others don't come but Pearl Moore was there and Mrs Hayes and Mrs Penwich and Cis and Dell Brewster and then Muriel MacDougal (who Frances Hiam brought down years ago, she was here for Christmas as her husband had been drowned, liked Banff so much that she built a house and her three children go to school here) and Alison Worcester whos husband is in Chungking China. They were making more pajamas and little flannelette waists. Cis was telling me how poor Mrs Hayes made so many mistakes at the Salvation Army sewing that they had to tip out, and she is always the one to get into trouble. So to-day she offered me her machine and I took it, then she showed me how to put the flys to-gether on the pajama pants, and I could see both Pearl and Cis looking asknce and to tell the truth I wondered if I was going to have to rip it out and do it over. However after a bit of argument it turned out that both Cis and Pearl had made mistakes and Mrs Hayes and I were right. Rather a joke. Mrs Hayes is such a willin worker too.

Mrs Mac came in at lunch time to show us a camera for copying mostly but could be used outdoors too, she is trying to sell it for someone who is in debt, Pete is still fussing with it to see how it works and it really is a beautifully made English camera. Sunday Pete spent most of the afternoon cleaning the big lens for the Leica, it fogs up when brought from one temperature to another and previously we have had to send it to Toronto to be taken apart and cleaned, but with all that Pete learn't last year in the R.C.A.F he decided to tackle it, didn't discover the hidden screw that was the key to it until he had gotten the diaphragm apart I don't know much about it myself but know he patiently worked on it for 6 or 7 hours before getting it to-gether again.

Yesterday he chinked the wall between the cold part of the living room and the kitchen, and with the hammering I had to take all the dishes out of the cupboard, I then washed the shelves but haven't washed all the glasses yet, perhaps will get them done to-morrow morning. Daylight saving at the time of year is a nuisance. It is 9.30 before it is daylight and ten before the sun comes from behind the mountains, but in the afternoon it is six before the sun sets or at least before it is dark. Id rather have the extra hour in the morning, for it is hard to get started on things early.

Guess I had better start wishing you all a very Merry Christmas in case the mails are delayed. We are to have a real holiday With Sunday, then Christmas, and then Boxing day a holiday on Tuesday.

The package arrived for Mom and I brought it home before I noticed that it was for her, Pete said that she sent you some little thing to-day but she doesn't know yet that you sent her anything. I will see that she gets yours.

The paper is due so will not ~~mail~~ write more and mail this to-morrow. Tell Cousin Jane that I hope she has a Happy Christmas for I expect she is to go to Portland.

Remember the boy I told you about who was a prisoner in Germany, Jasper Kerr the son of Lucy Keer who you met in New York when we came back for the West Indies. We got a letter from her yesterday and he has been exchanged at last. Has T.B. but is in a Sanatorium in North Wales, has one lung collapsed and is so glad to be back that she thinks that will help him get well. He has been through a good deal. Was in the army first and fought a rear guard action in France in 1940 until their ammunition gave out, somehow got the 20 miles to the coast and stood for four or five hours in water up to his waist or neck before getting away at Dunkirk, later he was instrumental in capturing a "taxi" flyer shot down over England. Got tired of inaction during the waiting period and transferred to the Airforce and went to Egypt was captured next at Tobruk and imprisoned in Italy, this was a long time ago. When the Allies went into Italy they escaped from prison but he was so weak from lack of food etc that he couldn't keep up with the rest and spent 12 days in a cellar finally having to give up to the Germans as of course the Allies didn't arrive quick enough. Next thing Lucy heard was that he had pneumonia and then T.B. so you can see how glad she is to have him back in England.

A very Merry Christmas to you all,
and loads of love,

Catharine

No time to read this over.

Banff, Alberta.
Sunday, Dec. 17, 1944

Dearest Mother,

Your letter and Jeans came yesterday telling all about the great day Dec. 9th. I think perhaps we should have telephoned you too, we thought of it and then there seemed so little to say except "how are you?" and "Happy Birthday" and especially as ~~we~~ I had seen you so recently. We were much amused about the roses left in the car, I can just picture you both carrying all you could in your arms anyway up from the Garage. It must have all been great fun, and how nice of Mrs Woods making the cake, I hope she will be able to make the one for your ninetieth too! We didn't know about Sam and Cis sending ~~you~~ you a wire, they asked how you were when we got back, as they always do and I guess I said you would be 80 on the 9th. so they thought of it on their own.

I'm glad to hear that Jean is up again and feeling better, the enclosed clipping was in last night's paper, Was Dr Jordan yours or her doctor? the article is a syndicated thing in lots of newspapers every day, some are very good, Cob was quoted in one.

We have had the most wonderful weather, clear and beautiful every day except yesterday it began to get low clouds towards evening and then started snowing about seven, looked like the real thing but was only a flurry as the newspaper had predicted, and today is lovely again with about an inch of fresh snow. It has stayed about 20 above every day, maybe down to 10 above each morning which isn't bad.

Have been busy with one thing or another and a lot of chatting, I guess that sort of goes with the west, people can always make time to talk, and when we go shopping or on some errand we invariably meet some friend we haven't seen for a long time and have a talk. The Dan McCowans are here this winter, guess he won't be lecturing until after the war.

Yesterday we took a stove we borrowed from Mrs Mack back as Steve Hope is to build a grate for the little one we have set up in the front room, Mrs Macs wasn't as nice a one though it had a grate. Then we sent our Christmas parcels to the Indians etc. got a chicken which I stuffed and put in just before we went to the six o'clock train to see Pat Cowley-Brown on his way through to Ottawa ~~on his~~ after his leave at the coast. His train was late so we came home and I put the vegetables on, but in the end I didn't go down with Pete which was just as well for it was 7 when the train finally came and it would have made supper awfully late. I am getting much better at making stuffing and gravy, it tasted quite good, and I keep vegetables and mashed potatoe warm in double boilers. Mom came down, she loves chicken.

Pete is getting ready to go to Calgary in the morning, he really doesn't have to go until Wednesday but hopes that by

going a couple of days early he may get through by Christmas.
I shall try and really clean the downstairs while he is away for
I have made little headway the last week. one trouble is that it
stays dark so late in the mornings, but by myself I may do better.
X at least I won't stop to talk X we are always thinking of things to
do to the house to improve it, now we are figuring how much
better it would be if the furnace was under the house in a water-
proof basement, we hadn't time the fall we built the addition
and also didn't know what to expect heating a house like this.
X Well we may not do it now but it is fun to talk.

Will send this along now, Again a Merry Christmas to
you all.

Loads of love,

Catharine

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Wednesday Dec. 20, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

Guess I told you that Pete went to Calgary on Monday morning, a couple of days early, got a letter last night and he may be released by Late Friday night, will be home for 5 days over Christmas in any case, as they are closing down for that period, so if he isn't finished this week he will have to go back after Christmas again, but in any case he will be home for the whole weekend.

We are pretty darn lucky when we think of the men the papers are full of just now. 400 five year men in the Canadian army were given the chance to come back from overseas for a month, they drew lots for the privilege. A group arrived in Calgary this week, showed pictures of the men seeing their children perhaps for the first time and anyways not for five years. It is as bad as Alec though of course he has been home and they away. I am afraid it is going to be a sad Christmas for a good many this year.

Have been very busy ever since Pete left, cleaned the kitchen walls Monday and yesterday washed the floor, had lunch on a tray in the workshop while it was drying and then put the Glo coat on while the sun was shining in and then went downtown to do errands while that dried. Now this morning I hope to tackle the front room. Haven't dusted the books for ages and if I have time will do them today, it is too dark as yet, now that I know Pete won't be back until late Friday at the earliest I can plan to do most everything. There is some baking I want to do, nut bread and cookies, for this is the season everyone calls on every one else.

Monday night I wrote a lot of notes and cards, we aren't sending to many, just those I owe letters to. Maybe I can finish them to-night. Last night I tried that pudding with Applesause and meringue it looked so good that I ran up to get Mom to share supper, but she wasn't home, so ate chicken and mashed potatoes and gravy, just as I was having desert Mom arrived with a letter from you and one from Pete, so she ate the rest of the chicken though the gravy was all gone, she liked the desert too, its so easy to make too. Then I did up little Clifford's Christmas present and took it over to go with the boxes being packed for Temple. I thought we were in for a real storm, snow settled down on the mountains and then started falling here about supper time then a strong wind came up and it seemed to be getting colder. When I went over it was drifting badly and felt like real winter, however this morning it is lovely and clear again, and 10 above as it has been nearly every morning. Stopped in at Barbaras on the way home as I seldom have time to go in and see her. She was finishing the boys Christmas presents, ski pants and brown "army shirts" with epaulets. Two shirts each, a skating costume for Bobby and a dress for herself, she can make anything on a sewing machine.

I am so glad that Cousin Grace Center left Mildred half of her estate and it will come at just the right time for Mildred, she certainly deserves it. Will she be in Concord for Christmas? I expect there is an awful lot to do with papers etc in settling the estate, th those kind of things take a lot of time as a rule, formalities to go

through, Poor Cousin Harriet, isn't it too bad she takes out her feelings on her callers, for it only means they hesitate before going back soon. I hope that the operation cures Betty, perhaps it is worry about her that upset Cousin Harriet, thank goodness she didn't feel that way the day we went to see her.

Hope that Cousin Jane feels all right, sorry she was under the weather, I think you really were wise not to attempt Washington this winter, Everything will be so crowded over Christmas, Here they are telling people that they travel at the risk of being kept off trains if there are service personnel who want to go. It is only right, for lots of people make unnecessary trips.

It is light enough now to start dusting so will send this along.

Happy New Year to you all, for this will be too late to reach you for Christmas.

Loads of love;

Catherine

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Thursday, Dec. 21, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

Haven't heard again from Pete but expect he will be back either on the late train to-morrow night or early Saturday morning. I have my fingers crossed, for in last night's paper it said that because of the way things are going in Europe they may slow down on the discharges for a while, and I am just wondering if Pete will be kept hanging round after Christmas for his. We will just hope for the best. *we will have 5 days of Christmas anyway.*

Have had another busy day, woke rather late this A.M. so got a poor start but Mom dropped in again to see if I would eat lunch with her and that helped out a lot, so I managed to finish the front room and now to-morrow morning will do the bedroom a bit sketchily I fear for I still have a bit of Christmas shopping to see to. Went to the Red Cross, there were just three of us but we made six little waiters, Pearl had brought the sandwiches for tea and they were turkey from the hotel so I brought those left home for my supper! Cis came in late so really there were four. It started snowing a very fine snow which every one hopes will amount to something for the good of the skiing. but I can see the moon now so don't expect it will keep on.

On the way up the street at 4.30 met Connie Westinghouse who used to live here, now lives in Victoria and her husband has been overseas more than ~~three~~ 2 years, away three, in the air force. She has brought her three children for three weeks. She asked if I would be home in ten minutes or so, as she had a friend she wanted to bring down. So I told her I only had mince meat to get and a few groceries. They weren't here when I got back and I got coal and did a few things and finally about 5.30 they showed up and stayed until 6.30, so it was just as well I had sandwiches for my supper. It was nice to see her again, she is American, from Seattle I think, but said she feels a bit Canadian herself now.

Yesterday I spent most of the day doing the front room, it was dusting the books that took so long, I don't suppose I really had to do them before Christmas but it was such a good chance, Mom came down and asked me up to eat with her which helped and then later I washed up and went over town only to find the stores closed as it was Wednesday, (they weren't supposed to be according to the paper) so I have lost out on my shopping for I had planned to do some this afternoon, however it is always more like Christmas shopping at the last minute.

I do think that Gale writes such a good letter and Robin shows his thoughtfulness in his part. I will return it after the Christmas rush and Pete has read it. Tell Mildred her long roll has arrived safely, never even looked at. They rarely open Christmas presents. Got your letter to-night with all the other cards and letters enclosed I enjoy hearing the relatives news.

Not much to write tonight, hope Pietro is better, he has been sick quite a while. Mrs Lonsdale the ministers wife here was 3 weeks in the hospital with jaundice one time, I expect it effects people differently. It is too bad that Wil will be there over Christmas, maybe they were afraid he would eat too much plum pudding.

Loads of love to you all - Catherine

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Sat. Dec. 23, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

It feels a bit like the night before Christmas for we have had to do everything, to-morrow being Sunday. Yesterday we did quite a lot. I forgot to tell you that after writing you on Thursday I decided it was a good chance to do up Pete's Christmas presents, and was just in the midst of it when Lila and Cam came in to borrow some books, we were sitting in the living room and I was showing them the thing I had for Pete when the back door opened and some one said "Calgary Herald" and it was Pete, he just caught the bus back and was home a day earlier than I expected. Lila and Cam were pretty quick and got his present hidden and he never knew a thing about it but it was funny.

Now it is Sunday, I didn't get this finished last night as you can see, was cooking, baking cookies and Pete was re-hanging some pictures and between the two there was little time to type even a line.

Friday I gave up doing anymore cleaning, after all it was only the bedroom I hadn't done and I can do that when Pete is in Calgary finishing up at the end of this week. We did lots of last minute shopping and as there are lots of boys home on leave and people out that we haven't seen for a long time, and here everyone has time to chat a bit in between, it takes quite a while to do things, but it is rather fun.

When yesterday we delivered a few Christmas presents, found the Millers hadn't a turkey and so gave them ours. (Jackie always gets a box of them and gives us one for Christmas and to all the family and the staff in the store) as we are going out for our Christmas dinner we didn't want to bother to cook ours and it meant more to the Millers. We had a ham and I cooked that yesterday afternoon and gave half to the Stockands for their supper, a Christmas present. We had ours hot, which tastes pretty darn good and got Mom to come down to eat with us, frozen peas and sweet potatoes cooked in the pressure cooker and candied, they are very easy and taste good. Mom brought us her Christmas present a mince pie and a Christmas cake, which is a most welcome present, so we ate pie too.

I have gotten a bit ahead of my story, we also took some flowers to Mrs MacCawley who is just back from the Hospital, and a few things to the 3 children still left at the Mountain school. All of which took a bit of time. I also cooked a nut loaf the other evening so all in all I have done quite a bit of cooking, but compared with making things in Tofino where there was little room and the stove had to be carefully controlled it all seems quite easy.

We were going to get a chicken for this long weekend of three days, as the day after Christmas is a holiday here, Boxing day. Then we thought it might be more fun to try a duck and then in the end Pete got a goose, I have never cooked one before and have spent this morning making the stuffing and have it all ready to cook this afternoon. then we will have plenty to dip into the next day or two. We were invited to an egg nog party this noon, but have decided not to go. It is really for all the Vancouver people and it only means

being very social and most likely they will ask us over to the hotel to cocktails and it becomes one round and then they will want to bring some friend down here to see the house, and the next few days would be hectic. Some how this Christmas with so many lads fighting for their very ~~xxxxxx~~ lives in Europe, one doesn't feel like having a very gay social life in comfort here, there will be plenty of time after the war is over to celebrate.

Lunch time now and then we are going to drive out the west road and get a tiny little tree by the side of the road, one that they are likely to mow down next summer, just a foot high for the table. Then the spruce bows to put at the windows and I have a bit of holly from the coast and four red candles, actually when we draw the curtains in the kitchen it looks as Christmasy as anything.

Hope you and Mildred are having a pleasant time together. I think you really were wise to stay home and so much nicer for Mildred. There are so many travelling at this time of year too, it would have been very crowded.

Loads of love and we will think of you extra special at this season.

Catherine. M

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Wednesday, Dec. 27, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

The letter I wrote you the day before Christmas didn't get mailed until Christmas day and so I didn't try to write you yesterday. I hope your cold didn't get any worse and that you all had a nice day. We really had one of the very nicest Christmases we have had, for one thing we didn't have too much to do and no last minute rushes, usually the store stays open Christmas eve until late but Saturday night it closed at six, the usual time, and of course Christmas Eve was on a Sunday so there was no last minute running over for some thing.

Saturday morning ~~ixspenixstuffing~~ we went round with a few things and it was quite cold, then in the afternoon I cooked a ham which we divided with Lida, actually we didn't really need it in the end for we were invited out for several meals over the weekend. Did I tell you we thought we should get a chicken to have too, then saw a duck and thought that would be more Christmasy and ended up with an 8 pound goose!

Well Saturday night I think we just stayed home and went to bed early. Sunday morning we were a bit slow getting up and then I spent the morning stuffing the goose very carefully, at least as well as I could. We didn't know just who we would ask to eat it with us and finally decided to ask Mrs Mac as we knew this was her first Christmas without any of her family, as Mary is near Halifax with her husband.

A lady named Molly Hamilton lives with Mrs Mac so we asked her too and as they were to have gone to the hotel with another lady, she also was included. The cookbook that came with the stove said to cook the goose four hours so I followed directions and had all that time to worry about whether or not it would come out all right. All that seemed to happen was that fat came out, jars of it (they say the Indians love it to rub on their chests) I also cooked onions which I add cream to later and are very easy and mashed potatoe, and apple sauce and gravy and then frozen peaches and cake and cookies. We started with tomatoe Juice and had coffee to end up with. An easy supper on the whole. I also decorated the house a bit, sprigs of spruce in each window with a red bow and holly and spruce on the table and red candles. They had to go to a cocktail *party* dinner first so we thought perhaps they would be late but not at all they were on the dot, so I had to hustle a bit at the end. It really all turned out very well, the apple sauce made a great hit and of course having spent an hour or more making the stuffing we forgot all about it until Molly was helping with the desert and said "What did you put in the middle of the goose there seems to be something?" We had never thought of it, she ate some but the rest of us were too full by then. They all helped with the dishes and then they had to go and sing carols at the hotel and hospital and we went first to Allen Mathers with a couple of presents for their little girls. They gave us some precious Scotch and we had a nice call on them. They also asked us for Christmas dinner the next day. Then we ended up at Barabaras and Jackies, where Dudley and Netty Bachelder were, they lost their little boy last summer and so came up here for Christmas. They had dinner the next day over there in our place at Jackies. *we went to the Woods.*

Christmas morning Mom came down for Breakfast and we opened

a lot of our presents. I was so surprised when I opened the little box with the lovely Arts and Crafts pin, when you gave me the two parcels to put in my bag. I hadn't paid much attention and got the idea the little box was for Pete, it looked so small and unimportant that I didn't pay much attention and was very careless with it never realizing what was inside, thank you so much, guess I was lucky that Mary's wedding was called off!

The books are fine and that "Duet with Nicky" looks most interesting. Pete was tickled to pieces with the Animal book and tell Jean that he said he almost got the Gr~~ew~~ Book on Japan himself he wanted it so much. The Rackham book was also a surprise as I hadn't expected there would be any more as he died some time ago and I hadn't even seen a review of this one. How nice that he could do it before he died. The New Hampshire one is as good as the other two, and Jimmy Simpson sat and chuckled over it when they came in that afternoon. All the kitchen things were fun to open and most useful to have, also the ball of twine, and the nuts and candy we will really enjoy, we haven't opened the two boxes yet as we had a box of fudge brought us by one of the ladies Christmas eve.

I mustn't write more now as Pete is going on to-nights train to Calgary and will want some supper before he goes. Hope I can remember to mail this.

Loads of love and a Happy New Year to you all.

Will answer your letters soon.

Catherine

P.S. Forgot to say that the goose was really awfully good
+ cooked to a turn.

BANFF, ALBERTA
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Thurs. Dec. 28, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

Pete went to Calgary last night, but on the first train instead of the last, there were three last night going east and all of them 3 hours late because of high water in Golden. It was after eight when he left. I wrote you thinking first I would mail it on the first train which carries the mail, then changed it to air-mail when Pete thought he would take the later train and so this one goes in the envelope I had the other one in at first. In the end Pete took the first train though they said there were no seats so I could have sent my letter on that one after all.

Before I forget. Could you send me either a picture or a plan of the feeding tray that you have outside the window for the birds. George Nobles brother has been building bird houses and would like to make a feeder, I was telling him about yours but wasn't sure just how it was made or the dimensions. We have trouble here with the big birds getting more than their share of the food.

To go back to our Christmas. We woke at seven and listened to the Empire broadcast and then the King at 8 o'clock, got up after that and Pete went up for Mom who came down here for breakfast. After we had opened some presents we took the things we had for the Stockands up to them, then went over to Mildreds and later to Jackie's where there was much excitement as you might expect. Allen Mather came in while we were there so asked him over here for a drink. That is the great custom here to go calling and you are always offered a drink and Christmas cake. Jackie was over too. We had a rather light lunch and then Pete and I went to get the Simpsons who we were afraid we might miss for they always call. They came over and we had a nice chat when the Batchelders, Barbara Jackie and the Kids came in. Lila and Cam were also down, there was a good deal of visiting back and forth. Then about five we called on the Knights who were out and on Mrs Paris who was about to sit down to dinner and wanted us to stay but we promised to come the next day for cold turkey instead. Then to Edmees where we saw Betty Painter and Dorothy Welden and the Moores. then back to pick up Mom and go up to the Wards early for our Christmas Dinner. We were in time to help Cis a little, She had a wonderful dinner, soup, hot biscuits Mom made. Turkey, potatoes, peas, turnips gravy and a grand steam pudding with custard sauce and jello as well with spanish cream and little mince tarts. Jello seems to be a great favorite, maybe because it slips down easily. The Ashleys were there too and Mrs Melton. Her husband would have been there but had to take the son back to Calgary. So there were 8 of us. Cis had the table and house decorated so prettily, little favors for us all. Two W.D.S they had met before came in later for a while. (They are girls in the Air force. We came home early at 10.30 but Mom didn't leave until 11 o'clock.

The next day was Boxing Day and a holiday too. We rather expected Edmee to come down about noon but she didn't make it and we took it easy until one when we went to the Paris for lunch. really a Christmas dinner all over again. Mrs Paris seemed to like the idea of our coming, Pete used to practically live there as a little boy. her daughter was up from Calgary and Mr Paris was there of course. It was

very nice and we enjoyed it. We found a note on the door to be sure and go to Dorothy Weldens at # 5 which we did, cocktails in her room, then to the Bloedels at the hotel. We had been asked early as they hoped to have a little visit first but actually they were all in the midst of getting ready for their party and soon the guests started coming in. Pete spent most the time carving a turkey and putting slices on buttered bread the hotel sent up and I spread crackers. All the Vancouver people came, they nearly fill the hotel. The Bloedels and close friends have the rooms at the end of the hall and in one had martinis, hot rum in the other and Scotch and Rye in the third, and it was jammed. We aren't very fond of such parties and hadn't realized what we were getting into. But it was very nice on the whole. We left rather early as we had promised to go up to the girls hostel and show pictures at 8 o'clock.

Had a quick supper here and then got the slides together and went on up. Mrs Mac was there with a couple of movies reels, then we showed about a hundred slides and then Jackie Anderson showed at least 250. Had we realized he was going we wouldn't have for ours seemed extra and it made too long an evening we thought, also we would rather have seen some friends who were leaving next day. However we had promised and couldn't back out once up there. The girls seemed to enjoy it anyway.

Then Yesterday Dorothy Weldon and her daughter called just before lunch and as for once we had plenty to warm up we made them stay and had a very nice time. Fricasee goose, string beans and mashed potatoes and mince pie. So you can see we have been quite busy all the holiday. and now New Years week end is ahead. Pete hopes to get back for Sunday maybe sooner with luck.

Friday, As I was writing this last night Sam Ward came in. He had come to take me up for the evening as Cis knew I was alone. I couldn't resist the temptation to go and we had a very nice evening sitting and talking around the fire. It was eleven when I got back home. Now I have finished breakfast and will do the dishes when the 10 o'clock news is on and then start in on the bedroom which hasn't been thoroughly cleaned this time, it will be lighter. Our threatened storms don't do anything and yesterday was another lovely day, quite warm and springlike being almost 30 out.

Thursday I tidied up a bit around the house and then Mom came for ham and a baked potatoe, then the Red Cross all afternoon.

Guess I haven't answered your letters very well lately. You probably didn't mean to send me Mildreds telling the time of her arrival. You spoke in your letters of the 18th and again on the 20th that Mildred was arriving ~~the~~ on Friday and I was surprised to re-read her letter and find she said Sat. Guess you were so anxious to see her you got her arrival date a day ahead! It is easy to do.

Am glad that you got rid of your cold before Christmas, you were very wise to stay in when you feel one coming, it gets over so much quicker and I am sure a little rest does no one any harm.

Am so sorry that you had to pay duty on the parcels. I can't see why they have to do it on Christmas presents. They never open them here. How much do I owe you? Books any time have no duty coming into Canada, they figure it is educational I guess.

The reason Cam isn't going back to the store is that he doesn't like bookkeeping very well and there is no real future in it for him. Jackie doesn't take to other peoples ideas very well so there wasn't much use Cam just staying on as a clerk only. He writes a lot and has often had stories published in magazines so I think he hopes to get into newspaper work. Mom might see more of them by making visits than she does when they live next door!

We haven't received any parcel from Pietro that I can think of, did he mean something he had mailed that I sent to myself? I can't even

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remember that. We got a nice Christmas card from them mailed in Boston, maybe that was what he meant.

Did you figure out that verse by the Bartletts, bright isn't it. I don't remember the Cock a do thing at all.

It was the calender that you sent to Mom that I was refering to.

That was funny about Mr Orr and the celery. seems to me you h have a hard time getting meat. There seemed to be plenty of turkeys duck and goose here, but of course we are near where they are raised. It was more difficult to get cranberries and I believe they gave out before Christmas. Cis said that she forgot to serve the cranberry sauce she had all made for Christmas dinner and had ham too. I am glad that tohers are forgetful as I am.

This has turned into more of a letter than I inteded and now must start upstairs, it is such a good chance with Pete away and I hope no callers.

Loads of love,

Banff, Alberta.
Sunday, Dec. 31, 1944.

Dearest Mother,

X The last day of 1944 and may 1945 end the war : X
We are having rather a quiet New Years weekend not wanting to go to all the various cocktail and tea parties that are on. It seems to be the only way for people to entertain but somehow there are such a lot of people and each is returning the others invitations. I really think they could do better by giving a few of the Service people a better time but after all we aren't doing much either.

X Pete got back on the bus Friday night, he sent a message via Marion so I knew in the afternoon that he would be home, he should have been through but it is just one of those delays, he will have to go back to-morrow night again. Y I worked all day Friday, cleaned the bedroom only to find on going to bed that night a big cobweb right over my head, don't know how I missed it, but anyway the room I know is a bit less dusty than it was. Also went over town to do errands, had coffee with Barbara and then waited until Pete got home at 8.30 for supper.

Yesterday we did things around the house, have had a great spurt of brass cleaning, and it is not all from shining Air Force buttons. I cleaned the coal scuttle last week and a couple of candlesticks and that started it, also the copper kettle Miss Penn gave me to sit on the stove with water. It had a shellac coating and that took a lot of rubbing to get off. Pete has been working on knives etc.

Sam came down in the afternoon and we made him a cup of tea and had a nice talk about all sorts of things.

Last night about 3 O'clock the Westinghouses came over and we talked until nearly twelve. They have been here off and on since 1936. He has been in the R.C.A.F. and in Egypt for the last year or two and just got back. Was headed for Victoria when Connie got the wire and managed to catch him on the train and he could stop off here where they are spending the holiday with their 3 children. They are an unusually nice couple, she is from Santa Barbara and he was born in Lee Mass but came to Victoria as a child after the last war. His two brothers are also in the Airforce, one R.A.F. and the other R.C.A.F. and they all three landed in Cario to-gether. Wasn't it strange?

To-day we are staying home and after I finish a few letters hope to have a nice read. To-morrow we go to Barbara and Jackies for lunch or rather New Years dinner, then Pete goes down on the afternoon train to Calgary.

Will send a few clippings and call this a letter as my last one was longer than usual.

Loads of love,

Catharine