

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Wednesday Jan, 3 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Just a short letter this morning as I have to go over and see Pearl and find out whether or not some friends are coming to tea. but if I don't write now I might not get this mailed.

We had a very nice quiet weekend, there were several parties on but we decided not to take them in until Pete is really out of the Air Force and even then we aren't very keen on them. What has happened is that the familys who came with their children for their Christmas vacation have grown, more of their friends are coming and as several of them who's husbands died now live here it means that they all are entertaining each other, this year with not enough snow for skiing has given them less to do and the parties are more, To me it is a stupid way to spend their time for they all are people who see each other at home and you would think they would like a change of face, some of them don't like it but sort of get involved all being in one hotel to-gether. Actually I think it is rather bad taste during war time.

Sunday we never went out all day and no one came in so we really had a lovely time being lazy except for cleaning a bit of brass, the pieces we did clean looked so nice that we kept trying one more. New Years eve we went to bed rather early, it was a temptation to listen to the New Year come in in Toronto at 10 our time but I got so interested in the " Duet with Nicky " that I read until midnight and then we heard the carillon over at the English church and turned off the radio for it sounded very lovely and was so still out, there wasn't even a horn blown though I believe there was a dance starting at midnight.

Monday, New Years day, we went over to Barbaras and Jackie's for dinner about one and ate far too much turkey and plum pudding, it was a Christmas dinner all over again. but very nice, when we got back found the Moores had been here and left their name marked in the snow. We went over to see them but they were out.

Pete left at six for C-algary and for a change the train was on time, Cam went down too and Lila and I saw them off. then I ate a light supper and went to bed rather early.

Yesterday wrote Dorothy Brown and Lucy Kerr. I was sorry to hear about Aunt Frankie and yet of course she had really lived her life, perhaps it was just as well she did get confused and didn't realize all that was going on these past few years, for it is hard for older people to see so much destruction in the world.

Stopped in to see Pearl Moore and they asked me over for supper at six and I had a very pleasant evening and we discussed the museum they are trying to get for Banff as a rehabilitation job, also there is word of a handicraft school being started here for returned men. By the way do you have reports on how the Arts and Crafts in Boston is run ? It might help their ideas here.

Must go along now. Loads of love and will try to answer your letters better next time, will start sending Gales and Russell(s letters back too.

Catherine.

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Friday, Jan. 5, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

X Pete is back and out of the Air Force at last, he is listed on "the Reserve" but because of his great age is not likely to be called back! It is hard to realize that he can do as he likes again though he has been teasing me, evidently he told ~~me~~ ^{the boys} in Calgary that it was going to be pretty nice not to have to cut grass and wash windows and scrub floors any more, and last night shortly after he came in we were in the front room, and I remarked "One thing

I am going to get you to do is split some wood." So ever since he has been saying, "here I thought I was over doing all the Joe Jobs and first thing when I get home you start in thinking up woodchopping and other jobs, Heck I might as well have stayed in the Air Force!" However I guess it feels pretty good to be ones own boss again, for in the Air force he naturally had to do what he was told. He has a lot of photographic paper and chemicals and we are going to do up some prints he thinks might be useful to the navy.

Found on New Years day we had three sets of visitors when we were dining at Barbara's, and one set, Mrs Mac and the Toppers are coming to tea to-day. Wednesday Pearl brought Mrs McMeekin who is the lady that is going to build a house in Banff, she is very nice and has travelled a great deal. Then a Hungarian singer named Carl Horthy, he was in Col Moores outfit in the last war and had the back of his legs shot off so is quite lame. and a Wing Com. Blair Fraser. They were very enthusiastic about the house and looked at some of the sketches too. stayed from four until after six and the Westinghouses came in too to borrow some ski cloths for Aubrey to use next day. It was a nice afternoon but always harder when Pete isn't here to help.

Then yesterday Sam was down in the morning for a while then the Red Cross and the message from Pete he would be home on the bus. The Westinghouses were here when he arrived, but left soon after. They go back to the coast to-day.

A nice letter from you with lots enclosed, the ones from Russ and Kitty telling about their Christmas which sounded very nice I am sorry that we couldn't all have been there together, maybe next year we will do better and can celebrate the Wars end as well.

Funny you should send the clipping about the Browning Montana Indian and how they are using the Indian designs, for the night before Pearl was discussing the very same thing, she had that idea last summer of using the design in weaving *of the Native Indians*.

Wonder did I thank you for all the Christmas presents. I have enjoyed the book "Duet with Nicky" very much. Did I tell you that the oiled covers are just what I needed for the refrigerator bowls etc. my others the rubber was cracking off and falling into the food. Also the thing for cleaning pots and pans is most welcome. I loved the paper you used this year, especially the ones with the ducks and the little children, it is most attractive.

This isn't much of a letter but with the people coming I won't have time to write later and also there is lunch to get now. Loads of love to you all,

Catharine -

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Monday, Jan. 8 1944.

Dearest Mother,

"thank you notes" Mrs Punks and Cousin Harriets etc. They are all nice to read. We also got a letter from Kitty this morning and how nice that Russ is now a full Colonel, perhaps it is on the strength of the report he made of his Africa trip.

We had a very quiet weekend, and no one came in at all, Pete was working on Photographs most of the time, experimenting a bit too, using things he learned in the Air force, copying old pictures with various film cameras and lighting. So that kept him pretty busy and I got so interested in a novel by Bruce Hutchinson that I didn't really do very much that I meant to, but will soon get at the letters I have been meaning to write.

Guess I never told you about the tea party we had Friday afternoon. Mrs Mac was to bring down a Mr and Mrs Tupper who were interested in Log Houses, so by 4 o'clock I was all ready or nearly so when she arrived, but instead of Mr Tupper she brought a lot of ladies, a Mrs Douglas, Shinny Bloedel, Mary Newall who was, and another lady. They were all very enthusiastic about the house but scared Pete off completely and he retired upstairs and cleaned the Studio or rather re-arranged it. In the midst of tea Margery Crosbie came in, she is our next door neighbor, so there were 8 of us. I had luckily made a few more cheese crackers and toasted some buns but women don't eat as much as men being afraid of their "figgers." It was amusing when I tried to introduce Margery, that is one thing I never can do is to introduce people. I started with Mrs Bloedel, who's name I knew and then said "Mrs Newall" and she said "my name is Bauer now" so I handed over the job to Mrs Mac and she began with Mrs Douglas but used her maiden name of Howard or something like that, so Mrs Douglas interrupted then and said my name is Douglas now, we were all laughing by then and she never did get introduced to the rest and "rs Mac called Margery " Marion" (her sister's name) the rest of the afternoon.

The joke was that at the end of the afternoon Shinny Bloedel picked out a painting she wants to buy when her husband can get here to see them, Mrs Tupper (at least I think that is who she is) wants us to visit them and paint a special view up Howe Sound from their island where they stay weekends and summer, and Mrs Douglas ordered a picture of Petes of planes for her husband who is overseas! and after they had gone Margery said she wished she had thought and bought one for Marion as a wedding present.

Margery stayed on after the others left and I thought she never would go, finally about 6:30 she looked at her watch and said "well its six so I guess you will be wanting to get your supper" and so she left, I wonder if she discovered her mistake later for I didn't like to say her watch was a half hour slow! Davy also came to get Pete to frame a picture of a plane for him, so it was quite an afternoon.

Must try and do up a package now to be mailed, will soon get into our "Usual Way" as Jean says, it is hard to realize that we won't be rushing off somewhere unexpectedly anymore.

Yours of love Catherine

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Wed. Jan. 10, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

We are having very mild weather for this time of year, a few snow flurries but not enough snow to amount to anything. It is disappointing for the skiers, and poor Cliff is having water trouble up at Temple again, I say it looks as if the minute we get near, the water line freezes up. This time it is the Elk, for they have pawed up all the insulation and eaten it. Cliff has used hay before but never had this trouble. However with so little snow the Elk are higher up I expect and have smelt the hay and eaten it, letting the cold in at the pipes and freezing part of the water line. Cliff tried putting coal oil and all sorts of things on the hay to make it less palatable but it did no good. He even used "Drano" which is meant to pour down clogged drains, wonder what effect it would have on an Elk, mostly likely just be a good laxative.

Yesterday Pete spent most of the day cleaning up and re-arranging the dark room, for now he has a good idea how he wants it to be set up. We are going to try and get a new sink or rather a real one as this one we now have is made of galvanized tin, and really too large for our present needs, and if that is taken out we can arrange things much better, he is out now looking for the plumber. He also made a shelf for the chemicals last night. There is a lot to do and it all takes time.

I have an awful lot of things to be sorted out but never do get at them, maybe I will one of these days. Now must go and make some prune bread for sandwiches at the Red Cross to-morrow, Mom came down to show us the letter from you and we made her stay to lunch, to help eat up the liver from last night, we have chops for supper.

There doesn't seem to be much to tell you about. Got two nice letters from you to-day with lots of others enclosed, Christmas in Washington sounded very nice and the children's letters are awfully cunning. Thanks so much for trying to draw the feeder. I couldn't quite remember the size or how it was made, where the glass and where the wire. A picture if not too hard to get will be fine.

Am glad to hear that Danny was not caught in the German Drive, no doubt after being in the line for a while he was back resting, for I know the Canadians have two or three weeks in the front line and then go to the rear. Has Winnie heard of her husband I wonder, they certainly won't have time to write.

I don't really know what one is supposed to do Boxing day, think it is an old English custom and rather a nice one to have for it gives you a day to recover from Christmas. We didn't really need it this year.

Don't think I am in time to catch the mail this afternoon but will see that this goes to-morrow.

Loads of love to you all.

Catharine.

P.S. Good news of MacArthur's landing on Sicily.

Banff, Alberta.
Fri. Jan. 12, 1945.

Dearest Mother, Just a short letter this time. I want to go over town before lunch and might not get a chance later on to write. We are having lunch with Mom to-day.

Are busy doing all sorts of things, Pete has been helping Sam make the cellar under the Burns store wind proof so the pipes won't freeze, it had never been done properly and the building is old and no real cellar I guess, they hope to have it finished to-day.

I went to the Red Cross yesterday afternoon, we are still making little flannel waist~~s~~ which are nice and easy. There were quite a few there and we all do much laughing and joking, as well as sewing.

To-night we go up to the Wards as we have a new idea what can be done with the Burns building if we want to sometime build a new corner. The old building is sturdy enough except for the foundation.

Also we expect Jim Watt with a new sink for the dark room which he will attach and then Pete has a few shelves he wants to put up. It all takes time but it is fun to be doing such things for a change.

Cam hasn't come back yet so I guess Pete got through the Release centre sooner than most and was rather lucky. It was the Christmas and New Years that held him up.

Seems an awful short

ketter to write but I guess you won't mind. I can't think of much to tell you about.

All the New Yorkers came and Many thanks.

Our weather is the mildest in Canada, 42 above in Lethbridge but in the 30ies here, there are frequent snow flurries but not enough to amount to anything.

Loads of love,

Catherine -

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Sunday, Jan. 14, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Sunday morning and a lovely day. It snowed in big flurries most of yesterday but still we have only three or four inches on the ground, it is so dry it doesn't pile up much. It has been in the thirties lately so seems very warm for January.

Pete has gone over town to have a look at Pete Neish's carvings. There is a great deal of talk in Banff about handicrafts and the government is interested in establishing a school here as part of the rehabilitation scheme for War Veterans, both wounded and whole. Several local men have been busy making little things to sell in the summer but except for the Handicraft store there is little outlet for them and no one to give them advise and ideas, as a rule they are interested in the actual making of the things but don't know how to design, can merely copy. Pete is going to see what sort of things Pete Neish is making and see whether or not he can help. He evidently works with Talc which is found in the mountains and is a very soft rock and can be carved with a knife. This is really an ideal spot for the making of things, for they can be sold here as well, and it also is good for convalesects to have work to do with their hands. I wonder if the great destruction going on in the world has unconsciously made people want to create things.

Yesterday we had a pleasant surprise. A big envelope from the Air Force came for Pete and as he opened it he said "these are my credentials, marriage certificate etc being returned" I thought it looked like rather a large package, and as he undid it cut dropped two of his oil sketches he did last summer for the R.S.A.F. Then on further looking he found a letter from G.C.Conn (the Air Force Historian) asking if he would make two larger pictures from the sketches, for them. He was awfully pleased, for when he left Ottawa he told them that if they wanted him to do any more work he would, but felt he could paint better here than in Ottawa. So it showed that they liked his work enough to ask him to do more. I think that the Air Force men like his work better than the group at the National Gallery, they are very modern right now and have their own artists that they are keen on. You know how it is.

We are still waiting to get the new sink in the dark room, but otherwise have it arranged very well. Pete took to old one out the other day and it ~~is~~ makes the room seem much larger, he also put up three nice shelves and we got an old cabinet that they had at the store for spools of thread, a dozen little drawers with glass fronts and just the thing to hold films and lenses etc. I spent most of Friday afternoon washing and cleaning it with turpentine and it looks like new, in surprisingly good condition. Now that we know we are to be here it is fun to get things fixed up. Pete yesterday made a bench for in front to the fireplace. It is a half log that we brought down from Temple 3 or 4 years ago, nearly two feet wide and about five long. he has planed down some old cross pieces for legs and it looks very well,

Had chicken last night and Mom came down to help us eat it, if I do say so it was rather a good meal. I am getting better on cooking, with ideas on making gravy from Frances and mashed potatoes from wat ching Cis.

Did you hear "Lucia de Lammamoor" the 6th. We just tuned in near the end when the girl was singing and as she reached for the high note said to each other "will she make it?" it being the Metropolitan we were not very worried, but were interested later to hear that the girl was making her debut and was only 19. I hope you heard it for she really was quite wonderful and seemed to sing so easily. Yesterdays I didn't listen to as I went shopping and also the ones with real tunes sound better over the radio, do you think so?

Just had a long call from Col. Moore wanting Pete to show the slides at the Annual Ski meeting Thursday, and he has just left, it is now noon and Pete just driving in the yard so must get lunch.

Lunch is over, Pete is back after finding the work of Pete Neich is really good, and now we are to do some slides, black and white of skiing for the show Thursday night.

Loads of love,

Catharine

P.S. did you have a bound volume of the London Studio?

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Thursday, Jan. 18, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

I haven't written you since Sunday morning, was going to write you yesterday but knew that Pete had sent a letter the day before and so waited until I had more time to-day. It is a real wintry day out. a fine snow and cold wind from the east. We have had such mild weather so far this January that we are rather spoilt.

X As I was writing you Sunday I may have mentioned that Col. Moore came down to ask if we would show slides at the Annual Ski meeting Thursday (to-night) we have very few colored Ski slides but remembered that we had made a few black and white slides from negatives of Switzerland and Australia. On looking them over Pete thought he could do better and having the materials on hand we set to work that afternoon, got so interested in the subject and thinking how it might give people here an idea of the way they do things in European Ski resorts we made up quite a lot, then toned them blue which adds a lot. We worked pretty hard over them, I mounted them Monday afternoon and then we made more Tuesday night, and last night we went over to the Mount Royal for dinner with the Moores and showed them what we had, they were awfully enthusiastic and now we are thinking of making other groups of slides of China and Bali etc. Not right now but later on this year. We tried once before but because the slides are so small, any specks of dirt are magnified and we got a bit discouraged. but by cleaning the films very carefully first it helps. Pete has really learn't quite a lot in handling films and things and can do it quicker after his experience in the Air force.

X I have had to let everything go but washing dishes and getting meals, for with the odd errand to do over town and all the slides to mount there has been little time to do much else.

Yesterday was a funny day, went over town in the morning and had the refrigerator to defrost etc at lunch time, Barbara came in as I was finishing the washing up, (Pete always helps so that doesn't take long) She stayed quite a while and I had just started to do the slides when Cis came to return a book. Pete and Sam had gone to a funeral but came back about three and began figuring on how to do the cellar and then we all had tea together. Then we tried out the slides on them in the dark room and Pete went along with them to tell Col Moore that we would show them. I finished the last six and was just starting to cook supper at quarter to six when Pete came in to say they wanted us to come over to the Mount Royal at six fifteen. So we rushed and got dressed and I finished arranging the slides and over we went. had a pleasant evening. But it is just as well not to plan elaborate suppers when you are apt to change your mind at the last minute,

A nice letter from you the other day about the concert in Boston. After three pages of what you did in one trip to Boston in such cold weather we were rather amused to find you were surprised that you felt tired, I'll bet even Cousin Jane was tired too I know I would have been.

I must go over now and get some lunch and there is the Red Cross this afternoon.

Loads of love.

Catharine.

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Sat. Jan. 20, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

I still am rather disorganized and haven't got your letters in one place to answer thoroughly. Maybe by Monday I will be more tidied up.

The showing of pictures went very well Thursday night. I got them arranged pretty well in the morning, went to Red Cross in the afternoon but came back early for we had heard that Frances James (the singer who used to be at the Banff Springs and sang last year at the coast) was going through on the 5.30 train, so we were at the station with the Moores to see her and spent the five or ten minutes firing questions right and left. She looks younger every year maybe it is because she is more successful. Told us she had sung in Washington and is to sing at the Gardiner Museum on Feb. 18th. It would be a Sunday. I believe it is in the afternoon but am not sure. Can't think of anyone to tell to go but may drop Mrs Hall a line as she must know her and might be interested. Don't know whether Frances would enjoy it or not. but it does help to have someone with a personal interest at such things.

Luckily the train for once was on time and the person to see was on the first section, so often there are three sections and it gets one all late for supper! We had plenty of time to get supper and ready for the show. The ski meeting went well and they seemed to like the slides so it was worth while doing them up especially.

Yesterday Mr Watt was to come at 9.30 to put in the new sink in the dark room, it is just an ordinary white enamel one but is large enough for our needs and takes up much less room than the home made affair we had before. It was a cold morning 10 below, a sudden drop and of course there was the odd frozen pipe somewhere and he didn't get around here until nearly 11. Left to cut a pipe for the sink at quarter to twelve and said he would be right back, when he didn't come by 12.30 we figured he was having lunch first, but it was nearly three when he finally showed up. Had gone to a curling meeting in between. There was no use getting provoked, though Pete had wanted to go to the store to see how Sam was getting on and didn't dare leave as he wanted to be here in case of questions and also to help with a leaky connection under the kitchen sink. It had leaked over the pail to catch the occasional drip and the bottom of my cupboards were quite wet, so we had the things all out of them to give it a chance to dry. It was nearly five when all the jobs were finally done, and as any plumbing causes nice white footprints all over the floors from the sand in the basement, it means a bit to clean up afterwards.

Mr Watt comes from Perth and knows Dundee well and who the Wintons are too. Has been to Taymouth Castle to tea, and to Glamis and Blair Athol. He is a great curler and has curled with a lot of the teams evidently. Next time Jean comes out we will have to get them together.

Mom has a sore lip so we had her down to help eat a baked slice of ham and get a bit of cheering up. I was supposed to go up to the Hammonds for a birthday party but knew it meant a late evening and didn't feel much like it. We are invited to supper at the Mount Royal tonight

with Bunny McGivern who was here Christmas Eve but we may not go as Pete is working hard with Sam to get the store basement tidied up. no one else takes any interest in keeping the place tidy. and it is hard to do any cleaning up and wait on customers at the same time. All sorts of things get put down there and forgotten, you can imagine what it is like. broken chairs that don't get fixed, Japanese dishes no one will buy and all sorts of odd things. Pete is finding little show cases that are ideal for storing films and what not. brought one home to-day that was for siccors. They are nicely made too.

To-morrow we are invited with the Wards to the Goddards to tea. We have been putting off going for years and Mr Goddard caught them ~~were~~ ~~beta~~ this morning in the basement and they couldn't get out of it.

Lunch time now, nice calves liver and bacon. This is the place to live these days. We had an awfully good steak night before last. Guess it is largely because we live near a cattle raising country.

How nice that Edith and family can go and live near Cob and a good experience for them all too. living near New York.

Loads of love.x

Catherine .

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Monday Jan 22, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Another fairly busy weekend. Saturday night I went over to the Mount Royal for dinner with Bunny Mc Givern (she was returning our hospitality of Christmas Eve) Pete didn't want to have to be home in time to get washed up and go, he and Sam were working hard in the basement and Pete had a few things he wanted to do at home in the evening. Mom also asked us to supper so Pete went up there and spent the evening making a drying or rather washing rack for slides and was quite happy. Bunny and I went to the movies "Frenchmans Creek" in color and I enjoyed it for it was sort of romantic and laid long ago pirates and what not and really beautiful color, Pete saw it in Calgary. The dinner was spent in trying to eat a fried half chicken without landing it on the floor, two other ladies joined us, one's husband is in the navy and the other's I don't know if he is or isn't. Anyway after they joined us about 4:15 they seemed interested in was their bridge games, thought sleigh riding was very boring and had been skiing with their children. But somehow there was no conversation. Mrs Patullo said she liked to play at least 1½ to 2 hours of bridge eve every evening, and to me if that is all a young woman ~~can~~ find to do in this day ~~and~~ age I would think her life quite useless. She probably thinks me as dull as I do her. It is hard to mix up social engagements with doing things at home.

Yesterday we looked over Pete's clothes and picked out the too shrunken ones for the nephews, now I have a heap of darning to do but was glad to get the things sorted out. In the afternoon we were invited to the Goddards to tea, we have been putting it off so long and finally found we could go. Sam and I were invited too and we had a very pleasant time. Mr Goddard's uncle was an artist, one of the first Canadian Artists and he painted in the west long ago, pictures of Indians and buffaloe etc. When he died the paintings were divided among the family and Mr Goddard wanted Pete to see his collection. and also give him some advise about stretching them. Mrs Goddard had made hot biscuits and all sorts of delectable cookies and tarts, so after we got home we didn't need supper until seven.

Pete has been making and still is making an enlarger to take larger negatives than the Leica size. He made a "Death Robinson" affair last night. an old camera with bellows, of his Grandfathers, a lens he got from George Noble, attached it to the Leica stand, used an old tin biscuit box for the light source (it used to be a dark room lamp) and then printed a picture on 7 year old paper with a 33 year old negative of his Mother. and surprisingly enough he got a good picture. Now to-day he is trying to make it really good, for it was too makeshift last night and hard to focus, but he proved it would work. We didn't get to bed until nearly midnight. With the sink set up in the darkroom it is very fine for working, only trouble is that where the water runs out the threads are too loose and so there is a drip, Pete fixed that temporarily with oakum but guess we will need Mr Watt again.

It is Pete's birthday to-day and Mom was down at lunch time with a cake, she was quite surprised to see the big enlargement of herself as a young woman, the hat was enormous.

You certainly are having a snowy winter, we are just the opposite and it is mild again with a west wind. about 4 inches of fine snow on the ground here in Banff which makes the streets look nice and clean, not enough traffic to make it dirty.

Must go over and get some supper and do a few errands.

Loads of love,

Catherine.

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Wed. Jan. 24, 1945

Dearest Mother,

Never got a letter off to you to-day but will write a bit while Pete is repairing a frame for Edmee Moore. It is after supper and the dishes done. A little while ago there was a shout outside the window and Davy and Ward on skis. They said they were the ski patrol, Davy had a good sized pack and then on top another smaller one wound around with a long strap. They each had their parkas on, fir around Davy's hood. They looked awfully cunning. Both came in to show us their new ski poles and Pete fixed their straps for them, also showed Davy how to put his pack on etc. He was very pleased. He had a blanket in the large pack and the pockets filled with canned goods, small tins. lobster, mixed vegetables and three packages of "noxs Gelatine, also chocolate. The little pack was filled with blocks that Johnny had been good enough to let them have. They were all set for a real expedition. It is the first time they have been on skis for two years so Davy said and he is going up to Norquay on Saturday. Davy is a funny child and very shy and sensitive but he had figured this all out. Said to Pete when they were at the work bench, "Pete, You know you are awfully good to me." Pete was quite touched, for we don't do very much really. Just a little interest now and then.

The time slips by and I don't seem to do very much, Pete has started drawing in the paintings but has had a number of interruptions, Mr Teare is up, a chartered accountant looking over the store books, and he helps us with Income Tax etc. Was here this afternoon for a while and I have been figuring up the accounts, its quite a job I don't mind doing it but it takes time.

Last night we went to watch a hockey game, old stars versus the Greyhound bus Co team from Calgary. The only trouble was that they got some players from Canmore to fill in and they were much too good and so the Calgary team hadn't a chance. It was late when they got up and so the game didn't start until 9.30 and we came home after ten before it was over. To-night we are wondering whether or not to go and watch Sam and Cyril curl, they have a big match on to-night. Didn't go -

Monday night we went over to the hotel and took our phonograph attachment to Pearl so she can play her Hawaiian records. She was at the carpentry class but Runt was home and Pearl came back with Mrs Maccauley before we left. Have you read the diary of someone James? Concord James, a lady.

Monday afternoon Pete was busy working on his enlarger and I finishing mounting slides when Margery Crosby came to borrow a book and again stayed until six so I still have the slides to do.

Lila was down and has just heard from Cam that he has a job as a re-write man on the Vancouver Sun newspaper, is tickled to pieces for he has always wanted to work on a paper. He writes a lot and has had articles accepted often, by sports magazines mostly. I do hope he makes a big success of it, for so many years he was tied down by the large family and no future at the store. They seem to think he will be able to find them a house, I just hope so.

Thurs. Red Cross this afternoon. - almost time now to make
oyster stew for lunch. The mornings go so quickly somehow.
as it stays dark until late.

The books came for Pete's birthday & he was so pleased
to get them & I know I'll enjoy reading them. He said
now he'll have to write another letter! He thinks I tell you
everything there is to tell and nothing for him to say.
He was very pleased however to have you & Jean remember
his birthday.

Please thank Cousin Jane for her letter. I'm so glad
she liked the buttons. She might try making some out
of different things. All you would need I guess would be a
little saw & wire to hold it may be. Then sand & polish
them

Loads of love
Catherine.

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Sat. Jan. 27, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Nearly wrote you last evening when the paper was late coming but as I wrote "Mr." it came, now it is nearly noon and Pete may be in any minute for lunch, the opera has just started and for once I remembered soon enough to get the first Act. I usually go shopping right after lunch on Saturday and that is why I forgot to listen even then.

Yesterday I didn't get any of the things done I meant to, what over town in the morning and after lunch Sam came to measure up the front room. I think I told you that we are planning to put the furnace under the kitchen, right in the centre of the house which is ideal from the heating point of view, we will only have the part under the kitchen excavated and the cement waterproofed so the water won't seep in from the river, they say they can do that quite easily now. Our neighbors with cellars either have them well above the water level or pumps going in the spring and summer. Pete got Mr Pickering to come over Thursday afternoon and isn't it funny, he was the one who originally put the foundation in and so knows just what kind of job it will be. We were in Concord at the time and never knew who did it for Earl Spencer who built the house. We are planning to have the stairs come up where the furnace room now is and with a door going outside at the top and also a door into the present furnace room. Then the coal will go in under the kitchen windows. We don't plan to use the cellar except for the furnaces and maybe garden tools.

Then we have other ideas, as Pete says the beauty of this house is that you have a solid shell but can make changes quite easily. The front room being so high it is hard to heat well and for the little time in summer when we can use it it is wasted the rest of the year. Of course when it was built it had its purpose for a studio to paint in but as things turned out it was too public and we were always interrupted. The one upstairs has worked very well in that way. So now we think that we will carry the ceiling right through and make a large bedroom upstairs with a big dormer across the front. Then we can use the whole front room all the year round and with it heated it will be very livable.

Pete is still working on his enlarger but having difficulties without the right kind of wood to work with, still the idea works.

Yesterday Casper MacCullough brought a Mrs Kolb down for tea. She is Dutch and has been living in Banff for three years, came here after escaping from Java but has never heard whether or not her husband is alive. She must have had some time escaping via Australia and New Zealand with a little boy and a baby on the way, who was born after she reached Banff. She is now trying to get to California where she has friends for she said that though people here have been very friendly it is not like your own friends who speak your language, she has only seen a few Dutch Airforce from Holland, but no one who knew anyone she ever knew before. She certainly deserves a lot of credit to have managed so well and to be so cheerful with it all.

Not much of a letter but I have a business letter to write so will send this along.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Mon. Jan 29, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

This may not be a long letter
for as soon as Pete comes back from the store
I will be going to do my errands and to the
Post office.

The men were to come this
morning to start digging the cellar, we were
up at eight and Sam appeared about nine but no
sign of the diggers, we decided that 15° below
was a bit cold for them, one man came later
looking for the rest and two came back after
lunch and are digging now, we are anxious to get
the cement in before the spring thaws and thought
it wise to start when the men were available.
They have some cement in the foundation to knock
out and that is when we will have to keep an eye
on the things hanging in case they are knocked off.
Sam is busy now getting the basement ~~of the store~~ cleaned out.
You may not remember it but there was a big room
in the front part and two years ago we had it
partitioned for the use of the Blood donors, only
one side of the wall down the center was finished off
so Sam has put wall board on the other side and it
will make a nice display room for furniture so we
think. It was just being used as a store room and
"caught all" They are to move most of the stuff
over to the Ware house where it isn't in the way and
then Mr Moore will paint the room and make it fresh.

I thought I was going to have time
to do so much this morning, for lately we have been
sleeping right through until nine and it was sort
of a treat for Pete, it isn't light until after that
anyway. But with the men not coming and Pete asking
Sam's advise on the enlarger he is making, the
morning had gone before I knew it.

By the way did I tell you that the
Guild of Boston Artists has asked me to become an
associate member. the kind you are, invited to the
exhibitions and given a signed print each year, I
was pleased and glad to belong. I expect they need
more members to keep it going. Were you an original
member? they said in the letter that it had been
going for 30 years?

Yesterday was a nice quiet day
and I spent a good part of it figuring the information
to send Miss Publicover for My Income Tax, Pete
worked on a frame for Mr Goddard and then in the
afternoon I laid in the drawing for the painting for
the R.C.A.F. Davy came in at supper time to tell us
about his trip to Temple skiing but otherwise no one

X came near. Saturday we had a chicken and Mom came down to help eat it. brought Pete a camera that is at least 40 years old or more and he is getting a collection. Have you still got the little box camera that you took to India, I am sure he would love that some day.

X Mrs MacDonald was down with Marcia Prior at lunch time (she is the girl who comes each year for a visit, lives in Victoria.) they want us to go to a "slide shower" for Lucy Hemming who is marrying an Australian boy. I think it is a very nice idea. Mrs Mac is giving her a viewer and then the guests can bring slides and she will have something easy to carry and a collection she can add to.

The Wright Tavern must be very attractive and we certainly will enjoy seeing it, they do those things so well now-a-days.

Do you listen to James Melton and Alec Templeton Sunday nights ? I think Alec T's takeoffs are wonderful don't you ? You know he is totally blind I think from Birth and so I suppose his sence of hearing has developed more acutely.

I don't know what to say about the Federation of Art Magazine. I wouldn't be bamboozled into taking it. perhaps it might do more good if you wrote and told them that you don't care for the kind of work they reproduce in it. There is another Art magazine that I have seen the occasional copy of which was very good. 'The art News' I think it is called. They might have it at the Concord Library or at the Industrial Union in Boston where you could have a look at it. We would enjoy it after you had seen it.

Better get ready to go ut now.

Loads of love

Catharine

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Wed. Jan. 31, 1945 .

Dearest mother,

January is gone already and I still don't seem to make any headway. This week I have planned out each day the night before and still haven't had a chance to do one of the things planned. There have been a lot of interruptions somehow. People coming and going and things to be done. One thing has been the excitement of Lila and family going to the coast to live. Not that we have gotten so very excited, but it is quite a move for them. Cam has a job on the Vancouver Sun, one of the two largest newspapers at the coast and today he was to start as a member of the staff, previously was a trial period. He has an uncle in Vancouver and Saturday the uncles daughter and child turned over in a car and were both burnt to death which was very tragic. Cam has found it impossible to rent a house but they can get one to buy. so there has been much figuring back and forth and writing of letters. Lila was left the little house her mother lives in but her mother has a life tenancy in it, so it really was no good for Lila, so she is selling us her rights in the house and putting the money into a house at the coast. We are glad to have it as we own the lower part of the lot and it will now be more protected. and in the family.

The house Cam has lined up is in a good district, near the street car and a good shopping district, on the edge of the University grounds so most convenient for the girls going to the University, and near a good public school for the younger children. Also about a 15 minute walk to the beach for swimming in summer and high on a hill to be out of the fog. All in all it sounds very good and we are hoping that everything will go well for them. There is all the seeing to getting things crated and we have been writing letters about the property and doing lots of talking and with one thing or another the days slip by.

There is one man named Bill digging the hole into the cellar. There was over two feet of frost to hammer through first and as each night this week it has been 15 below it freezes a couple of inches in the bottom of the hole each night. However he is making good headway and under the house it will be easier. Sam has been over each day to keep an eye on things and Pete has been helping a bit to-day.

The weather is frosty but clear as a bell and funny but I haven't worn a hat and just my green tweed coat with a flannel lining. It doesn't seem so cold. Jammie Simpson goes around all winter without an overcoat and his shirt opened but then I guess he is used to it. I don't think he has ever worn an overcoat. but I bet his underwear is good and heavy.

Have just finished looking at slides and went up over to meet Jo Burch. Then Red Ross. dinner at the Mt Royal with Molly Hamilton - up to Mrs Mac's in the evening -

Loads of love

Catharine .

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Sunday, Feb. 4, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Sunday again and I hope that this week isn't quite so busy with so much to think of. The men have almost finished digging the basement. There is one very good man named Bill who was the only one who came Wednesday and Pete helped him, then Thursday night Pete had a fire to thaw the earth~~off~~ and in the morning they were able to slope the hole down, then with the help of 4 men a horse, truck and 2 scoops they started digging the cellar in earnest. It really was quite a system. 2 men below do the actual digging, piling the earth on a scoop, then a truck backs up outside and pulls the loaded scoop up a board ramp with a heavy chain. Then the scoop is unhooked and attached to a thing pulled by the horse, he pulls the scoop full of dirt around to the back of the house where it is dumped, and in the meantime the 2nd scoop is being loaded in the cellar. It was timed just right and every time the horse returned there was another scoop full ready. They would have finished yesterday but the water has started seeping in and Monday we will need a pump so they can dig deeper!

Thursday I went to the Red Cross, made Pete some Oyster stew for his supper and then went over at 6:30 for dinner at the Mount Royal with Molly Hamilton. then up to Mrs Macs for a shower for Lucie Hemming. I may have told you about it. each person brought a few slides and altogether she must have gotten about a hundred, and they were of all sorts of subjects. I think it was a lovely idea for she can add to the collection from time to time and as she is going to Australia to live it will be nice for her to have them.

then Allen and Grace Mather came done thursday night to see Pete about buying a photograph for a wedding present for Lucy, we had none good enough to give him so Friday night we made a few 11x14 and then yesterday I had to spot them before he came. It doesn't sound much but we have been so busy, I never even glanced at the paper for 2 days. It is partly the confusion and interruptions. Like the file that Pete's Mother is making for the Red Cross, she made it at the evening carpentry class and unfortunately got the inside measurements on the outside so it is too small. We knew she would feel badly when we told her, for she had worked hard over it. (It is for filing the Blood Donors cards) She wanted Pete to put the handle on and we had much conversation about it all, you know how it is, then Lila has been down several times about various things and so it goes. Even the paper boy who is about Robins size but I guess nine years old, came and asked Pete how much he would charge to make a frame for some aeroplane pictures. he was so cunning about it that Pete couldn't refuse. Deets had seen the one of Davy's. If we leave the door open at night, he walks right in and makes a call, I don't wonder the papers are slow being delivered.

To-day we are wondering if Willard Neilson is coming up to look at the cellar, Pete is trying to telephone him now so we will know, as otherwise we will be waiting all afternoon and Pete wants to do some work on his paintings.

Later, Pete found that Willard was on his way and so we had a quick lunch and Sam appeared just a few minutes before Willard, so the three of them went down in the basement while I entertained a

Mr. Cooper who had come up with him for a bit of skiing. He fed the Chickadees, and got a great kick out of the birds eating out of his hand, he was right by the door holding his hand out and next thing we knew four deer came around the corner wanting to be fed.

It was lucky that Willard came when he did for he was able to tell them that they wouldn't have to dig any lower in the basement and so won't run onto as much difficulty with the water.

They have gone now and I shall have to run over to the box to get this in the mail to-day. I missed getting a letter off yesterday as I went to Lucie Hemmings wedding.

Lads of love,

Catharine

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Tues, Feb. 6, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

You certainly must be having a real winter, well perhaps it will help people think of the lads in Europe living out doors in similar conditions. You are fortunate to have coal enough to keep warm but I am sorry that you are having such a time with Rheumatism, perhaps it is an affliction to slow people down as they get older so they won't go dashing about too much and too quickly and drop dead from an over-taxed heart! I can imagine how unpleasant it is just the same.

X The cedar is getting on fine and we haven't done much else. Willard coming Sunday was a great help and told them they didn't have to dig any deeper which solved a good deal of the water problem. Pete has done a lot of thinking and considering and last night got the idea of putting the chimney outside and up at the back of the present kitchen Chimney. We had considered many angles, there was an idea of trying to cut up through the stone chimney, then we thought of taking that down and putting a new and smaller one up in its place without the bedroom fireplace and flue. Now it can remain as is and the other someday can be finished off with stone and it will look like one big chimney. Unless of course the whole thing falls into the cellar! One of the men working here told Pete this morning of a job he was on and they dug a bit too much away underneath an old chimney and while they were away at the noon hour and the lady of the house was sitting upstairs, all of a sudden the whole stone fireplace sort of folded up and collapsed into the basement! They will put a foundation under this one for it is a great weight of rock. Sam said that this is the only time of year he would attempt this job for the ground is frozen and being old river bank it is all sort of sand and silt. I am very pleased at the idea of the chimney going on the outside as otherwise there would be all the mess inside. It will be a good job done and just now we can get the men as they have been working on other jobs for Mr Pickering and can work in this one, then for Willard it is the slack period in the heating business so he is glad to do it too.

X This morning I went over to the Blood Donors Clinic and made my donation. There were about 13 there, I was the 775th to go, which isn't bad for a small place like Banff. That is the 775th donation since the clinic started, but as people above a certain age can't go and all the sturdy young men are away it is not too bad.

I think you are awfully wise to insulate the roof. It saves an awful lot of heat and also keeps the house cooler in summer. Do give our very best to José and if I can find it I will send the letter from Lucy Kerr for him to read, she always asks for him when she writes. She knew him when he came out with Larry Lombard years ago. The Moores also ask about them both whenever I come back from the east, so you tell José to be sure and plan a trip west soon to see us all.

We are going to insulate our roof too, when we have time. The studio roof which was insulated when we built the new

addition always has the snow on it after the snow on the bedroom roof has melted off, there is a sharp line and you can tell where the heat doesn't escape. If Mrs Motte put storm windows on she would find that would help as much as anything to keep her house warmer. There is hardly a house here that doesn't use storm windows.

Well had better go over now and get this in the mail and then start finishing cleaning the store room, I did a bit yesterday but there is still a lot to be put away.

Loads of love,

Catherine

?S. Can't find the letter right now.

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Thursday, Feb. 9, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

I don't know how well I will be able to write this morning as the cement mixer has started working outside the kitchen window, they are going to pour the floor in the basement to-day. They are getting on pretty well, we heard Sam singing yesterday and that is always a good sign. Every afternoon about 3.30 I make them all tea and they consume a good amount of cake and cookies, but on the cold days they certainly appreciate it.

You may not notice any improvement in my letters but in the near future you may expect quicker replys to any questions, for I expect to have more order in the incoming and outgoing mail! Until now I have had no good desk to work at. The one in the living room is in a bad place for writing and we don't always keep the room warm enough or the desk tidy enough. I almost always write on the table in the kitchen for it is handy to be here to watch things in the oven and such like, but everytime we eat I have to clear the writing off and when we have company we tidy up and I am always misplacing things. Now I have a desk, it is not finished yet but will be soon. It is the original office desk they had at the store and is rather battered, but Pete is going to have the top sanded and it has drawers down both sides, like the one you use upstairs but smaller. We have it in the kitchen between the windows. I washed it with "Soil off" yesterday and that took a lot of dirt off, now we are going to paint the inside of the drawers and touch up the outside a bit and then I will try and get the letters to answer etc organized.

Pete made a nice low stool or bench out of half a log and we stained that yesterday and I will wax it sometime, he is also gilding a frame for Mr Goddard, there is always something to be made or to see to or think of, but it is all fun.

They are pouring the cement now, about 8 men working and it is quite exciting, not often one can watch a cement miser out of their kitchen window. They have quite a system. I don't know how many are below, Sam is baling the excess water into the sewer, they have a wheel barrow down there and the cement is mixed in one of those big turning things, They have a pile of gravel at the back, a truck of sand backed up so they can shovel both into the mixed, and Mr Pickering puts the water and other stuff in and controls the flow down a shoot into the wheel barrows. It is real fun. Only my letter is apt to be very disjointed.

I am so sorry that Mrs Motte is having a return of her trouble and hope ~~she~~ is getting better. Shall be anxious to hear about the Palmers as you were to go and see Aunt Julie last time you wrote. Am so glad that Mrs Pietro heard from her family in Italy, it must be hard for people here not knowing how their familys are over in Europe, and some have been years not having heard. We didn't know that Will Davis who exhibited at the Guild but do know Alphonse Shelton, at least he was at Art School when we were, but several years ahead.

Haven't thanked you for all the clippings and enclosures the Art bulletin from Mr Tomita and such, we find them all interesting. We were much amused about the time you had the Reynolds for dinner and Jean made the drink and got the beer in by mistake, I don't wonder it

had a different taste to it. Must have been rather good.

Speaking of the birds that came down in a storm. that same thing did happen in Banff once, they landed on the wet street thinking it was the river and then couldn't take off and the people I think carried the ducks to the river and they eventually got away.

I am glad that we didn't try to go to "Arsenic and Old Lace" when I was in Concord. remember we thought of going to Maynard to see it.

Thanks for the sending the pictures of the Manierres, Sam looks well and I was glad to see a picture of his wife. What a lot of grandchildren there are, Did the Sergeant Newburys send you a picture? for they did us and I will send it on if you would like to see them.

Guess I had better make my trip over town, need turpentine to mix with the paint for the desk and fresh oysters for Pete's lunch and also sole for dinner. This has been some letter, jumping up every few minutes to see how the work is going and Pete coming in and talking in between.

Loads of love to you all.

Catherine.

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Pat. Feb. 10, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Am doing better this week though we still have a few interruptions. The cellar is coming on. They laid the floor on Thursday and it was too wet to do much in the afternoon, I still don't see why it dried at all for the water was seeping up underneath, but they buried a large metal container, about a foot across and two feet high, with a hole in the center and a pipe up the middle. This is sunk to the level of the basement and the water is supposed to rise in the pipe seeking its own level and then you bale it out, quite simple and ingenious. If the cellar wasn't waterproof one would put a pump into it and then pump the water out and into the sewer. Sam and another man are now building the forms for the walls of the basement and they may pour those on Monday. We hope that Willard will come up and measure this weekend and if he does we might have the furnace all set up in its new environment in a couple of weeks. We were lucky and had a chinook which warmed the weather and melted the snow on Thursday and of course made it better for the cement. It is still mild being 20 above this morning. But even if it does drop we can now set up a stove in the basement if we have to.

Pete asked Willard to make a tin top for his enlarger and it came yesterday, it is much like the pail that Pete used but has a baffle for the light and is made beautifully out of tin and fits very well. He bought an old ratchet from a boy to take care of the focusing and Bill Bunn the Automobile mechanic made a part for it so that now works perfectly. It is quite an enlarger and Pete is very pleased for he finds a similar one would cost 120 dollars if one could buy it. The Leica one will only take negatives the size of the slides but this one will take all sizes even up to half the size of this paper.

I spent most of yesterday fixing up my desk. Put a filler coat of paint in the drawers and will put the final coat on maybe this morning, then sanded the rough places on the desk ready to varnish. It took me most all day but it will be better afterward and it is rather fun to see what one can make out of something that was not much good as it was. They sanded the top with a machine at the lumber yard but ~~it~~ will have to do the finishing bit on that.

Last evening Davy and Harold came over after supper to see if Pete would go skating with them, but he was anxious to try out the enlarger so I said I would go and watch for a while, got all ready and then they said that it didn't start until eight and it wasn't even 7:30. Harold had a great big hole in the seat of his trousers so we sent him home to get another pair and that took a bit of time. We were still a bit early by the time we got down. There were a dozen little children waiting for Allen to let them in. I only stayed long enough to see them skate around a few times and then came home. It was fun to watch for they were nearly all children being a Friday night. 6 and 7 year olds and up, and they really skate very well, this is really a wonderful place for children when you think of it.

I had been back only a short time when Norman Knight and Betty Linkin who's husband is overseas, came down to see us, she comes

from Vancouver. Norman is now out of the R.C.A.F. too.

We had supper up at Moms on Thursday night and I think if we have a roast to-night we may ask her and Lila down. The Stockards go Monday, that is Lila and the three younger children. Marion and Mavis will stay a few more days.

A nice letter from you yesterday. mentioning the bare ground, and on the radio we heard that you had another blizzard tying up traffic worse than ever, it was even on the Calgary news and mentioned Boston and vicinity as being the worse hit. Of course February is often a snowy month.

It will be quite an experience for Edith and the boys living in the Brooklyn Navy Yard or what ever it is called. You spoke of the watch they gave John that never needs winding. I met a man last year and can't think who it was now, who was a crank on watches. I remember it was in Ottawa when I was waiting in line to have Pete's electric razor fixed. He told me he had tried all the electric razors and then mentioned the watches. Said the only trouble with the watch that was self winding was that if he didn't exercise it didn't wind itself enough, so he had to practically take it for a walk every day ! With John it will be different !

Nice that Ebbs is to be a Selectman , of course he seems much younger to us than he really is.

On the Guild of Boston Artists I think it justs means that I am a member like you, but not to exhibit pictures. That is a different kind of membership I think.

About the camera, I hope you find the little one for it would be interesting to have. What happened to Father's things, for his cameras had good lenses even if they were old fashioned in other ways. The parts can always be adapted. If you still have any of the things save them until our next visit east.

Better get started now on my weekly cleaning and tidying.

Loads of love,

Catharine .

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Monday, Feb. 12, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

They are pouring the walls of the basement this morning, Sam and Dick Macgregor having built the forms on Saturday. They were the only two that came Sat. afternoon, Mr Pickering was anxious to get the cement poured this morning but even then it was good of them to work that afternoon especially as the Lards have the Leonards visiting them for a few days and they came Sat noon. Pete went down to meet them in case Cis couldn't get a taxi and also got the roast home in time for their supper which helped Sam a bit.

We had a roast of beef too, always thinking how very lucky we are, and Davy dropped in and when he saw the nice rare meat decided to stay to supper though he had a hard time finding room for all he wanted. We went to bed early as we usually do for a read of the paper and a book.

Yesterday was a busy day, as we get up at 7.30 each morning we slept in until nine Sunday, then while Pete dug away some frozen earth to square off the place where the coal shoot is to go I put a coat of varnish on the old desk, that is on the sides where the drawers go. I was still doing it in the afternoon when Willard Neilson came up to measure and figure out the furnace. He brought a very nice young man with him who he called "Eth" and we thought he was probably going into business with Willard, for he told us that he had just gotten out of the Air Force the day before. He turned out to be the new Minneapolis-Honeywell man or engineer, for Calgary and district and they are the big firm that sells the furnace controls. He was the Heating Engineer for the Western Air Command and was at Headquarters there for three years, had charge of heating all the stations for the Air Force on the coast. We didn't know all this at first. They went all over the house figuring how the ducts would go.

In a log house it is always difficult and because of the old foundation under the house which they don't want to break if they can help it, it is a little more awkward. We are going to have the Moduflow control put in and it is the first time that Willard has installed one and will be the first in Banff I guess, it is very new and you will see it advertised in the magazines in the States. It is hard to explain but the fan goes all the time and the control mixes the hot and cold air so that the air in the house circulates gently and stays at an even temperature. It isn't often that you have such a special engineer figure out ones heating problems so it will be interesting to see how it works. He is one of the nicest fellows and so is Willard, they are both young, as Willard took over his fathers business. They were here until 6.30 and gave them tea around four. The deer appeared again to be fed though we hadn't seen them since last Sunday,

I have to go over and get a paper signed and also go to the bank so will call/ this a letter. Lila and three of the children leave to-morrow for the coast and there has been much running up and down about one thing or another. they are taking their bedding with them and plan to sleep on the floor if the furniture hasn't arrived when they get there.

Loads of love,

Catharine

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Wednesday, Feb. 14, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Valentines Day, I tried to get some valentines to send Gale and Robin and finally had to get rather unexciting ones at two for five, all the others had such awful silly or slangy poems, I was really disgusted, they weren't even funny or clever. and then the usual ones for Hubby and Grandmother etc. I think the ones we used to make were the most fun, with lace and angels and pretty flowers. remember they little things used to come all sort of attached to each other in sheets.

You have mentioned designing a new needlepoint piece, "onder how you would like to make us a cushion or chair seat? We use flat pillows as a rule but I suddenly thought that a needle-point one would be very nice. The chairs would take a thing 15 inches square. How would an Indian design work out. You could maybe get one from a basket. I think a conventional design would look best in our house and there are some nice designs on some of the baskets you have on the shelf in the hall, or you might find some in the encyclopedia. As long as there is no color like pink, violet or purple it would be all right. browns yellows and mostly red would be nice. Of course you may prefer to do things you can shade. How about a border of maple leaves, they would be fun to shade and difficult to design. you may not think much of the idea but we would love to have a bit made by you. Flowerly things don't look so well here but I do think maple leaves made into a design might be allright, as the color could be nice shades of vermilian and red. It doesn't have to be fine work but the size best for you to work. You remember the little low chair that used to be in the library by the fireplace, the one we got in England. Maybe you could make a seat to put on top of the reed one, or do I remember your already having made one, then you could put my name on that chair if Russell didn't want it. I always did like that one. A seat in the form of a pillow would be best for us.

Well Lila and the three younger children got off yesterday. I really don't know how they ~~would~~ have done it if it hadn't been for Pete, for they don't seem to have any idea of packing and moving, never having done it of course. Pete got Sam to go up a while ago and crate the furniture and he found they had filled a large packing case with books and you could hardly lift it, so he repacked a lot in smaller boxes, then they had ~~izzix~~ loosely filled a barrel with dishes which also had to be redone though I don't think they could see why exactly and of course won't realize what would have happened if Sam hadn't redone them. We thought they had sent most everything, but when Pete went up about nine yesterday morning he found things in rather a mess, they had another big carton with books in the bottom and boxes filled with the childrens precious possesions and then in the middle all the plates and cups etc they had been using the last few days, just sort of laid in. People never think of their trunks and boxes being thrown about or turned upside down. He got me up and we repacked most of the things as best we could, now I am worrying for fear the dishes will break in transit, for we packed them so hurriedly and

without much paper. luckily the train which was due at 12.30 didn't leave until 2.45 so we had all morning. They didn't seem a bit worried or hurried but then they left all the packing to us and we repecked a lot. Pete put lots of the bedding that they had in a trunk in a duffle bag and then we used the trunk for other things, but they will never know where things are and of course will think, "I don't know why Pete was so insistant on repacking our stuff for it came all right." Sam told us of being in a baggage room one time and the man lifted one end of a trunk and there was a great crashing of crockery as the pieces slid from one end to the other, it was all broken even before the man lifted it. Mr Harbridge took the trunks and cartons to the station and luckily they will now check paper cartons well done up on ones ticket , we think maybe because of the shortage of luggage. so all the things got away and we took them down to the station later on , the two girls go to-day with the cat but we think they are all packed. and hope so.

The cellar is going well, they made the forms yesterday for two sides of the coal box and one wall and are busy putting in the braces now. in a new house one can pour the whole cellar in a day, but here it is more diffiult to get at. They still have the stair way to dig out and put forms in and the floor of the coal box and the new chimney to build when we can get a brick layer. then the furnace can be moved and set up in a day so they say, except for the new ducts.

It was colder this morning being three below. but we have been lucky otherwise with weather in the twenties above.

Must go now and see if the girls are pretty well underway and also get the things over town as it is ^{ad} Wednesday. The girls spent last night at Moms. Mildred moved in to the house yesterday afternoon late. Last night we went over to see the pee wees play hockey and one period of the older boys game, there is also a bonspiel on, 45 rinks curling one of the largest on record. Curling is very popular and gives men on the praries a chance to have a little hoiday and a bit of fun when they are not so busy on the farms at this season.

Loads of love,

Catharine -

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Fri. Feb. 16, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

It feels a bit like Christmas morning, Whenever we get up earlier than usual it always makes me feel like Christmas, even in the middle of summer. I suppose because ~~we~~ I always associate getting up in the dark with Christmas morning in Concord.

X Yesterday was cold, about ten below. Pete woke once in the night about 2.30 when the Curlers dance was over and we heard hoots and calls of people going home, and he tried the water which was allright. I woke at 5.30 or 6.30 but before I could get my courage up to get up and try the tap I was asleep again, so when Pete was up at 7.30 the water was frozen. and foolishly we hadn't kept enough in the kettle for coffee, however he soon had it thawed out with a blow torch. We have a stove in the basement but the Air tight doesn't keep it quite warm enough for the coal shoot part is open on top and the covering of boards and canvas isn't really tight enough to keep it very warm in the cellar. Yesterday was below zero except in the sun and Pete got a little coal stove set up in the afternoon and we thought that would keep the basement warm enough, it did pretty well, but when I woke again this morning at 5.30 I managed to get up and the water was frozen again. Pete got right up and dressed and was in the cellar when I got down. I made coffee and then we decided to have breakfast and then were so awake we thought we might as well stay up. The water just freezes in the pressure valve and if we had a bleeder it would be allright but we don't dare run a tap as a trickle of water would freeze in the sewer which is also exposed. The basement at present has drafts but they hope to have it closed in better by to-night. After breakfast I finished the book I am reading and felt as if it were evening and time to go to bed for it is still dark, now at 7.30 it is 25 below, the coldest we have had all winter. The milkman has come, first time we have seen him all winter.

Your letter and Jean's came yesterday about Mrs Mathers, and I don't wonder you both will miss her letters that came so regularly for they were always interesting. and I know you enjoyed reading them too. It is nice that Tom Winton was there to look after everything, and I know he kept an eye on things anyway and did all he could. Jean will feel better knowing that her cousin could be there, but it is hard to lose your sister when she was sort of the last tie with home. However Jean can still look forward to her visit to Anna and her home after the war and I am glad that she had that visit before the war.

You certainly are having a real oldfashioned ~~Christmas~~ ^{winter} and I can imagine how pretty it is, we haven't had a heavy snowstorm yet, but our snow is so dry it takes a lot to amount to much. I guess Gale and Robin will be very envious when they hear about it.

Yesterday was Red Cross for me and the work still goes on in the basement, it is a bit awkward building a cellar under a house and especially at this season of the year, but where we are on the old river bed it is the only time one can dig it safely for the earth is frozen and so doesn't cave in as it would otherwise and also the water doesn't seep through the walls as it might at other seasons. They might have dug the place for the cellar stairs when they did the other part but were afraid of the caving in, so now they have another big pile

of earth to get out. they may even use the horse again, it was rather nice for them yesterday working in a nice warm cellar. While the men are shovelling Sam and Dick can be building the forms for the stair wall and then they can pour that when they do the floor of the coal shoot or bin.

To-night there is some sort of show being put on by Lever Bros. a troupe that entertains troops etc. Pete has promised to shift scenery for them but I am not sure if I can get in to see it or not, for the tickets went early before Pete was asked to help.

Am hitting more wrong keys than usual so will call this a letter,

Loads of love,

Catharine

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Mon. Feb. 19, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

You certainly are having a winter with lots of snow and I expect with few extra men around it is hard to get the snow cleared. We had two mornings of 25 below but the sun during the day made it seem warmer and then yesterday was only 10 below and today about zero. It is 22 above in the shade and 58° above in the sun right now after lunch and such a lovely day, but we do have a lot of sun in the winter.

I still don't seem to get much done, it is the many interruptions that keep me on the jump. I have finished fixing up the desk but as yet haven't got the papers and letters sorted out and arranged in the drawers. The top we spent the most time on, sanded it well, gave it a first coat of varnish then a rubbing of crack filler that didn't seem to do much good, then another coat of varnish which we rubbed down with steel wool and kerosene, it gave a very soft nice finish, but took most of the color off in patches, so we put on one more heavy coat ~~of varnish~~ and rubbed it down with the steel wool and a little oil. It keeps the wool from catching. and the top looks quite professional. Sam says 6 coats will make a real job with a sanding in between each and it comes out like glass and probably would show every speck of dust, I am not interested. The drawers I painted bright red and they look well when opened against the dark wood. Of course there was no key to be found to lock the drawers, and so Sam made us one Saturday afternoon. We had told him about the Japanese locksmith who came into the hotel and made a key for one of our suitcases in Tokyo. He took a blank and smoked it with a candle, put it in the lock and where it hit against anything it would rub off the black and that showed you where to file, it takes lots of patience and Sam was anxious to try and before he finished he had a key that would work, so then Pete started one but the kids, Davy and Harold came in after supper and so he didn't finish his for the other drawer.

Yesterday Pete made a few negatives in the morning and Mom came to lunch and in the evening we made a few enlargements to see how the enlarger works, it is nice to be able to just run in the dark room for an hour or so and make a few prints when you want to.

Yesterday afternoon we had a long call from George McLean one of our Indian friends from Morely. He was awfully interesting and told us all sorts of stories and legends about the Indians, I haven't time to tell you them now but will write them to you some day. He also said that they prayed that Pete would come back to Banff soon and be out of the Service, I know old Mark said the same so perhaps that is the reason that Pete wasn't sent over seas. for everything worked against his going.

They are pouring cement again to-day, the cold weather sort of held us up a bit and they can't do it all at once because the props for one wall get into the way of another part. They have the walls all done and hope to get the form in to the bottom of the coal bin this afternoon. Then they still have the water proof coating to put on over it all. about an inch or two thick.

it is 58 above now.

I have also been doing a bit of painting, not pictures, it is too distracting for that just now, but having used red paint on the desk drawers I had a little left over as one usually does and so I thought of things like the bread box to do and got a little pale blue as well. and am going to town with it. The blue with a touch of red looks very well. it makes my arm steady so is good practice.

Later on I may put Indian designs on. It is something I can do off and on and doesn't hurt to be interrupted.

Will get this mailed and then start in.

Loads of love

Catherine

P.S. Wonder if you can telephone Scotland, you can from Canada now but they say that the connections are often rather faint. and it is hard to hear. Expect it would upset the Dundee people though if Jean spent money that way ! Still it is nice to know you can.

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Wed. Feb. 21, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Yesterday wasn't quite as hectic as the previous one but busy enough. They put the coating on half the floor and then came last evening to trowel it, unfortunately we had planned to go out and as they were working only in the basement we didn't question leaving. Pearl Moore came to supper, for steaks, frozen Asparagus, fried onions and fresh Rhubarb, then we were all to go up to the Wards for Sam to help Pearl upholster a "Gout Stool" some one had sent her to put together. Munt was to come later after a lecture he was giving to the Kinsmen's club. So it made rather a late evening and it was after 11.30 when we finally got home. The house we found was full of smoke, as the men had put coal on the stove in the basement and Pete had understood they weren't to put a fire on last night at all. It doesn't draw well at first and with the brikets which gas back anyway one has to baby the fire along at first. We could hardly see across the room when we came in and as the cold air ducts downstairs are cut off it is hard just now to ventilate. We were pretty provoked, opened doors and windows but there seemed to be no wind outside to really draw the smoke out and I can still smell and taste it this morning. Pete went down and had quite a time fixing it, had to put a board down to walk on and then re-trowel the wet cement afterwards. It was after one when we finally got to bed. But I guess it didn't hurt anything.

It is very dull to-day and it looks like snow, maybe the pressure was down last night which made the draft back up but it was provoking.

George McLean the Indian came about tea time and Pete took him to the station with a large box of provisions to take back to Morely. He told us that old Hector Crawler had always called Pete "his son" and so George's wife always speaks of Pete as "her brother," and George thinks of him as his "brother-in-law," and me as "his-sister-in-law," it is pretty touching they way they feel. He told Pete that he heard Mrs Maclean often speak of him in her prayers and that it is going to make her "feel good in her heart" to know that he is back in civil life, and also that "it will make her faith in God stronger to know that this thing happened." They believe that you should not kill and I guess didn't like the idea of Pete fighting. It is interesting to think that they live up to the White Mans teaching better than the white man.

I gave him the beads that you gave me, for after bringing them back I hadn't seen any Indians that we knew well to give them too. He was very pleased, and I also showed him the bead bags that you made he thought them very nice, and admired the work.

I will try to sit down and write you the stories as he told them for they are very interesting, but it will take a lot of thought to word them as he does.

Cis borrowed the Fairchild book and was crazy about it. She loves travel books and especially about tropics and plants. So if you want a hint for my birthday we would love to have the first one "The World was my Garden."

The Cornelie Otis Skinner book sounds wonderful, maybe that too would be out by June. I think she is a wonderful writer anyway and I have an idea that "Our hearts were young and Gay" had more of her in it than of Emily Kinborough. I was also interested in her not having time for bridge etc.

Got a nice letter from Mrs Hall who is to go to the Concert , or did go, of Frances James at the Gardiner Museum, she was having Frances to dinner too so I was glad I wrote, though perhaps she would have known anyway. ~~xxwixxsendxherxletterxfarxxsxtsxreaxxandx
xthenxxmmxxmmxxetcx~~. She spoke of missing seeing you at the Thesday Symphonys. Also got a letter from Joes Harris about the insulation, Am not sure whether they have an agency in Calgary but we used Gyproc Wool in Bats in the studio and can get that in anff. We have read a lot about insulation and I was interested to know what firm he was working for. It is amusing to think that your primay interest is in keeping the heat out in summer and ours is to keep the heat in in winter.

It is Wednesday so I must away ~~now~~ over town, am hitting wrong keys too.

Loads of love,

Catherine

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Friday, Feb. 23, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

How is the insulating getting on? The cement is all poured and it seems rather nice without a lot of men working around the house, only Sam to-day. He and Pete were cutting an opening for the chimney as they changed the idea a bit, and then they got Mr Watt the plumber down and have cut a hole for the sewer pipe, he was to come last Monday but never showed up and finally Sam caught him to-day at lunch time and he is to come to-morrow morning to re-connect the water to the back of the house, Pete and Sam have the door out the back of the house to put in. Then we will only need the man to build the chimney and we will be ready to move the furnace. The logs have come for the beams in the front room but the log man is working again so we are not sure who we will get to do that.

We have been quite gay lately, the Moores were down Monday night, we went up to the Wards ~~Wednesday~~ and Thursday Tuesday and then Wednesday went to Edmees for supper, steak and kidney pie, Pearl and Bunt were there and Sam and Cis came later and we played a game with dice, some new thing which was good fun with ~~the~~ crowd there but we left about 10.30 as we still had to get up early. Yesterday was Ned Cross for me and then Daxy came to supper and we went up to bed by nine.

There have been such a lot of people dropping in so when we start painting again we will have to lock the doors and go upstairs, Wednesday Edmee came down to tell us what time to come to supper, Cyril Paris to ask Sam to curl and then Margery Crosbie to return a book and she stayed to tea, so I got little done, in fact I don't do very much right now.

To-morrow night we go up to a surprise party as it is Cis' birthday and about 15 friends are giving her a party. In the afternoon is the skating Frolic with all the little children taking part, it is always fun to watch.

A nice letter to-day with lots of others. Marion Newbury's and Mrs Hertz and the bright one from Cousin Harriet, maybe the more down Betty feels the more cheery Cousin Harriet will try to be, it sounded that way.

Hope that Gil is much better, seems such a long time for he went to the Hospital the day I went to Washington. You would think in a way that a bit of exercise like skiing would do more good than just rest, but then they should know best. It makes me provoked though to think that they won't give the men a real leave which would keep them in better physical condition so they wouldn't get sick and yet when they get them in hospital they seem to keep them extra long. I do think that the British have the right idea for when they give leaves they give enough time for the person to get a complete change which he feels entitled to. And I am sure they do better work afterwards for it.

Saturday, and a lovely day for the Frolic, much nicer than yesterday which had clouds, to-day it was zero to start with but is 10 or 15 above now and no wind as yet so it should be lovely this afternoon, this isn't much of a letter but there is quite a bit to do this morning and then at 2.15 I ~~am~~ to meet Mom so we will be sure to get a good seat, Pete isn't going as Mr Watt is to come to

~~do~~ plumbing this afternoon, so Pete won't be going.

Just now Mrs Mac and Marcia Prior came in to find what exposure to use for taking pictures this afternoon, and yesterday about this time Mrs Walker came in to find out about the Minneapolis -Honeywell man and when he would be up as her thermostat doesn't seem to be ~~work~~ working well.

Lunch time so all for this time.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff,
Alberta.
Feb. 26, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Just a short letter to-day as I have to go up to the post office to mail a parcel to Lucy Kerr, it is such a job somehow getting one done up as you can't send an ounce over 5 pounds and you think you have so little and then the box and paper and even the string can bring it overweight.

Saturday turned out to be a perfect day for the Skating Frolic, it was cold enough to keep the ice hard and yet warm enough in the sun to sit and watch. It was all Banff except for the girl from Canmore and the ages went from a three year old up to Mr Paris. The little kids are the cunningest but of course they can't do a great deal but skate around, this year they didn't make costumes and I think they looked just as well, often they had just a colored skirt and white blouse or a sweater, sometimes the costumes are so dressy that there is not much to them and they look awful cold for outdoors. They were also able to run it off on time with no hitches. They had a few races in between of kids, Davy was in one but was slower than the other boys and in the last lap fell down too, however he kept on and was a good sport about it. Harold was just the opposite and was really too funny, he couldn't cut the corners very well so went a good deal further than the rest, however the fact it was a race didn't seem to excite him at all, He just skated around looking at the people lining the rink as he went by, he never paused or lost his stride and instead of the one lap we think it was supposed to be he kept on going and they all did two, he would have gone another if Mr Crosby hadn't stopped him. He wasn't the least bit tired and the other little boys worked awfully hard to even keep near him, he won easily and got a book with 6 war savings stamps in it.

Mom came down for a roast of beef that night and then we all went up to the Wards for a surprise party for Cis. Elsie Melton had gone early so as to be sure the Wards didn't go out, then we arrived and never said a word about the occasion, Cis didn't catch on even when the next couple came, and when there were about ten she said " isn't it funny you should all come to-night ?" and then I think it was Sam said " Did you know it is

Cis' birthday to-day." He kept going to the door with a quarter for the paper boy who we pay on Saturday nights, and each time it was another guest. The ~~Ashleys~~ Ashleys, the Meltons and Mrs King, her mother, The Masons and the Bill Nobles, and finally the Moores. It was quite a party, we had all given 50 cents for a present and they brought sandwiches and cake and ice cream and coffee. also games, we played bingo and Rummy and then at midnight Pete and I came home just as they were ~~so~~ going to eat, I had developed a head cold and it seemed silly to stay longer, though it is all gone to-day. Mom came home at two A.M!

Yesterday was a quiet day and we didn't do a great deal slept late as we usually get up at 7.30 and I did accounts and Mom came for lunch to tell us about the rest of the party.

To-day Sam is putting in the door at the back of the present furnace room, Mr Watt was in the basement doing the pipes which had to be disconnected and it looks as if the mason were coming this week to build the chimney, Mr Pickering brought him around before lunch to look it over and he thinks he can do it allright. Then Dick is to help Sam with the log beams in the front room and with great luck we might get the furnace moved at the end of this week or the beginning of the next.

Must go now, Loads of love

Catherine .

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Wed. Feb. 28, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

I told you that I would tell you some of the tales that George McLean told us Sunday before last, and think I had better do it now while the details are still fresh in my mind.

X Pete asked George where the Stoney Indians came from and that was what led him to tell us of their "Adam and Eve" story. He called it that. Long ago before the Indians had guns or even bows and arrows they used to kill the buffalos by running the herd over a cliff and then getting those that were killed by the fall. This was called The Buffalo Dead Fall. The Indians prepared for this very carefully. They first picked a likely place and at the foot of the cliff built a strong corral of stockade to hold the animals after they fell. Above they built a sort of fence I think which led the buffalo over the cliff in the right spot, really two fences converging. Beyond that on the prairie they stationed every little way an Indian who sat motionless. Then a group of Indians would find a herd of buffalo which they would start moving towards the cliff. As they got nearer if the herd started moving in the wrong direction, a slight move by one of the motionless Indians would be enough to head them off and finally they would approach the cliff edge and before the front ones could stop the others had pushed them over. for there were thousands of buffalo in a herd. A good many would get away but there were enough piled up at the foot of the cliff in the corral for the Indians, the others who fell on top of the first to fall over would scramble out and away. Long long ago they tell of there just being two kinds of Indians, the men and the women, and they didn't know of the existence of each other, one time the men were preparing a Buffalo Dead fall and noticed another tribe of people who looked like them selves and were camped below. so they sent their chief (I think it was) to investigate and he brought back the chief of the other tribe. They were the same sort of people only somehow different, for one tribe was all men the other all women. and so they decided to stay together, the two tribes, and that was the way the ir Adam and Eve story started.

Old Hector Crawler, who's son-in-law is George McLean, told Pete through another Indian interpreting, that how the Indians had come to the mountains from the "Nakotas" not Dakota as we call it and George explained it in much the same way. The Indians who lived on the plains or prairies had a great sickness about 4 hundred years ago, Hector called it a kind of flu but George said it was Small pox. Many died, whole Teepees of people(they speak of a family as a Teepee of Indians) sometimes there would just be one boy or one girl left in each teepee. and the Indians tried to get away from this great sickness and went off in different directions but still the sickness went with them and many died. The Stoney's came to the mountains and the sickness gradually left them.

The Stoney's are one of the few tribes of Mountain Indians The Kooteneys in B.C. also live in the mountains but the rest are all really prairie Indians. They call the ~~W~~IX ones in Southern Alberta and Montana near Glacier Park. Black Feet because there feet are black from the mud and black soil of the Prairies.

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Many people call the Stonies friendly and peaceful Indians, for they were always friendly to the white men and even fought for the white men in the Reil Rebellion, but George told us that really they were the opposite, and many years ago they had wars with the prarie Indians and always when they killed an Indian they would slit his ~~throught~~ throat. After a while when the other bands of Indians found a camp of Stonies they wo~~uld~~ carefully go around to avoid them and so the Stonies didn't have to fight and people thought them X peaceful.

Guess that is enough stories for to-day. The work is going quite well but yesterday we awoke to about three inches of fresh snow and the brick mason hasn't shown up yet, however if and when he does come they have everything ready for him to start work, even ~~The~~ the snow was scraped off the roof so he won't get dripped on and the piece of roof cut out, where the chimney goes. Mr Watt worked in the basement on the water lines and should be here again today. He got the box of his boys personal things from England yesterday, the boy was killed in the R.C.A.F. several months ago, he told us the stuff smelt just like the old country but a good deal was mildewed.

Sam and Pete had a bright idea yesterday and got Vern Costello to help with the logs, he worked on the addition we built in 1940 is Danish and used to be a shipper's carpenter. Sam saw him in the bank yesterday and asked him if he would like a job, he told Sam he had a flight of stairs to build and a back porch and before he told of his other jobs Sam interrupted and said "would you like to hear what the job I have is ? We want you to do some log work down at Pete Whyte's " and without further ado, Vern said " When can I start ?? " He was down with his tools yesterday afternoon and they are all at work this morning. I just looked out and they look like one of those wooden toys we used to have where you pull something and the man on the right lowers his axe while the figure on the left raises his. Three of them are chopping and Sam is using the draw knife. He is in now sharpening it, those are the little interruptions that I let ~~take~~ my time, must clean the rest of the studio that I started work on yesterday, more tidying up than anything.

Loads of love.

Catherine

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Friday, March 2, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Isn't Sunday your wedding anniversary, as you know I am pretty poor remembering dates. Wonder if most of your snow is gone, it must be quite a sight and also must look like old times with the streets only plowed and no ~~done~~ walks. I wish we had more snow in Banff but evidently we are going through a mild cycle for in the old days they had more.

The work is going on, it gets rather a slow start in the mornings as it is cold, about 10 above each morning but warms up to the 30ies by afternoon. Yesterday the stone mason came after lunch, a different one than the first brick layer to look it over. We gave them buckets of hot water until our tank got cold and he was very temperamental. Thought there was too much work to the way the chimney was planned and was in such a hurry he started in without figuring it out, Pete said to Sam in a loud voice in the basement, " If he doesn't want to do it the way it is planned we will wait until we get another stbne mason up from Calgary " and after that he calmed down. To-day they were here before eight as he wants to get the chimney finished to-day so he can go back to Calgary for the weekend, so they are working like mad out there now. Sam and Dick putting up a scaffolding for him, * Just now Pete and Sam came in and evidently they have a new scheme afoot, are going to try and break into the bedroom flu instead of carrying the chimney way up outside. I think it was Pete's idea, he does get more ideas and they really are pretty good on the whole . right now Sam and Dick are working like mad trying to break into the flu before the brick layer gets ahead of them. Once the chimney is in we can plan to move the furnace. The only hitch now is that the electrician is going away for three days the start of the week so we don't want to move the furnace until he is here to make the electric connections. so it will be next Thru day at the earliest we can move the furnace.

Mr Watt hasn't shown up for the last two days, hope he isn't sick but am afraid he may be for his tools are all here. Three of them have been working on the logs, also Pete, it is heavy work as they have to chop the bark off and then a bit more and then shape them with a draw knife, but they have them nearly ready to put in, the putting in is going to be rather difficult but with lots of pulley and rope and figuring they think they can do it. we hope they can get them in place and the floor laid or rather ceiling before the heating ducts go in, for it will make it better, then we don't have to finish the big room ~~soon~~ until later on in the year, but the front room will be ready to use as soon as the beams and ceiling are in.

Before I forget. If Jeans radio doesn't work well it might be the adjustment of the push buttons, they can only be adjusted accurately in the spot where the radio is to be played or used. Pete did ours and Moms and it just takes a little patience and I am sure that George could do it. You tune in the station you want and then I think switch on the button and with a screw driver carefully adjust some thing in the back until the station comes in clearly, with the button pressed in.

Jean spoke of Miss Publicover having Jaundice too, it must be some particular kind that so many are having, hard on her with the tax returns to prepare. Am glad that Wil is getting on and hope he is over it for good.

I heard some of Lohengrin but not all as it is always a confusing time to listen at noon on Saturdays and often I forget too. That was funny about Helen 'an Dyke meeting Erling Strom, wonder was it in Milwaukee.

Glad that you like the idea of a conventional design for the Chaar seat, I thought perhaps you found working flowers more exciting. It would be awfully nice if you made a seat for the little low English chair for I would love to have it too. As I remember you made a green thin sort of cushion for it, and that size and thickness seemed very suitable if it was made in needle point. I imagine that shades of brown with touches of red would go best with the dark oak. Actually none of our charts are really nice enough to support a piece of your work and as I always did love that old chair, it would be extra nice to have a bit of your work to go in it. You might find a nice design of the Navajo Indians for they made blankets, we have one that is sort of grays and a bit of salmony red rather faded. At the library they might have a book on the subject.

Must get busy now and move the bric-a-brac out of the front room as they will soon be starting in there to work.

Loads of love,

Catherine

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Monday, March 5, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

We had a very quiet weekend. Pete had a cold and it was rather nice to have the house to ourselves for a change. The men got the first log in Saturday morning, it was a miserable sort of day, a fine snow and cold wind from the east, a poor day for the school children to have their races up at Norquay, but evidently it didn't slow them down much for though Harold is in grade one he went up and raced too, only fell and so didn't do so well, Davy did better tying for first in his class.

The men didn't come back Saturday afternoon and I cooked a chicken which Mom came down to eat with us at supper time. Yesterday we came down to find the thermometer read 24 below, sort of an unexpected drop though it was $\frac{1}{2}$ 10 above all day Saturday. It was clear and sunny but cold all day, it is better this morning, only 10 below. I spent most of the day looking over old letters and things that had accumulated, found an old letter of yours written just two years ago and it spoke of 4 inches of snow over your snow drops and you all thought spring had come. Guess you haven't seen much sign of a snow drop this year. Thought I was doing quite well until this morning I found a whole lot more things that need sorting out, things from Tofino and such. However my new desk is going to make it much nicer filing things away, for I will have a drawer for unanswered letters and another for the store accounts, (to do with the building) and still another for letter paper and one for pencils etc. that still leaves two extra and one for bank books and licences etc. and all where they are easily got at. There always seems to be a lot to put away and in order. My ambition is to find a place for everything.

I don't wonder you got mixed about the house. When Pete's father died he left the old family house that Lila lived in to Mom, and a life interest in the little house to her, but after her death it was to go to Lila for her old age I guess. The little house is the one that Lila has sold her interest in to us, as she would rather have the money to put into their house at the coast, actually there was no way of renting a house at the coast, there just aren't any to rent but ~~are~~ always some to buy. Mildred and Cliff are now living in the big house and Mom will have the little house to live in for her life time as planned. Cliff's boys are enjoying a house to live in instead of an apartment. I think that Mom misses the family next door, but Cliff being up at Temple she and Mildred will see ~~more~~ ^{other} of one another, and then when she goes to the coast she can see the family.

It was too bad that Russell couldn't get up to see you, but perhaps he will be able to later on. I will start sending back the numerous letters of theirs that I have and didn't like to send at Christmas time.

The end of the week if the furnace men come up I imagine we will be in a real mess moving the furnace, they have to disconnect it and take it apart, then move it back, knock out the cement slab it sits on and drop it into the basement below, it really ~~goes~~ ^{goes} into the place where the stairs go but we have allowed room for it to go into the basement that way. Most of the ducts they can use but one upstairs

they are planning to continue in a smaller size around the room I
store things in upstairs and I expect I shall have to move everything
in the little store room, that is why we are hoping that the ceiling
and floor are in so we can put things in the new big room, sometime
we are to build ^{now} a dormer on the front which will make a lovely room
up there, but ^{may} wait until later on before attempting that, actually
we didn't expect this job to take quite so long but ran into the
usual unexpected delays. The weather wasn't always the best either.

Time to go over town now, so all for now.

Loads of love

Catherine .

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Tues. March 6.1945.

Dearest Mother,

It is a bit milder to-day and lovely and sunny. I have been out collecting for the Red Cross. We went to a meeting yesterday to get all the books of receipts and pins and crosses for the window, and to-day I started out. going to a couple of places first and then sunny MacGivern went with me this afternoon, we had great success and got 45 dollars all told. They say Bear Street is a good district to collect in and when you see the size of the houses that people live in I think it is quite wonderful that they all join. I filled up all my books and by the time we had gotten more it was time to come home for tea and to make the men theirs.

They are getting on well in the front room, guess we will have to start calling it a living room for that is what it will be when we have the heat in, they put in the last two big logs this morning and only have the short one by the stairs to do. It is quite tricky getting a beam into the log walls when it has to be longer than the width of the room. they have to slide it back into one hole until it will just go into the other and then be pulled ~~out~~ of the first / hole a way. Just now Verne is fitting the logs near the stairs and Sam and Dick are doing the shiplap for the ceiling. later on we mean to put lamatco or thin veneer in between the beams for a plain ceiling but now it is hard to get anything good, all the veneer is being used for Areoplanes. but that can wait until later.

I keep forgetting to tell you about Barbara and Jackie, for they have been getting on rather badly for a long time but we all hoped for the sake of the children that they would patch up their difficulties. The whole thing seems to come from their not being really suited to each other in the beginning. Jackie is very touchy and when he is provoked says a lot he doesn't mean, and though sorry about afterwards, won't admit it. Barbara is very quick, often gets things twisted, talks too much anyway and too loudly and embarrassed people. and they just seem to do everything to make the other mad. As you often say, "there are two sides to everything" and it is hard to know where to put the blame. if one were to believe Barbara it would be all Jackie's fault, but as Jackie had said nothing we don't really know his side, and I am beginning to think that either Barbara is greatly exaggerating or else has jumped at too many conclusions. It is funny, but ever since she started having children she could think of little else or talk of little else and harped on their habits and ailments etc. I often wondered if her Mother had maybe changed the same way and that was why her father never lived with them, her brother has been married and divorced twice so far and it looks as if he might marry again. To tell the truth it is all hard to ~~fit~~ understand and it has been rather upsetting for the family as you may imagine, and especially for Mom, as Jackie she is very fond of. I also think that the fact that her father never lived at home and she hardly ever mentioned him, that perhaps she isn't used to a man in the house. I always remember that time she and her mother visited you when we were sorry for them after Ruth died. You never said very much but seems to me they acted sort of queer for Quakers. Barbara is awfully crude at times.

Anyway things came to such a pass that she is getting a divorce from Jackie and will keeps the children. She intends staying on here in their house but I sort of wonder if she will like it much. I do feel sorry for the children for they are all nice kids. There doesn't seem to be much one can do, it is just one of those things. By the way speaking of Divorces, I saw in the paper a case where two couples changed husbands like the Concord case.

Time to get supper will mail this to-morrow. Thought I had better tell you all this and should have before had I not hoped it wouldn't really happen.

Loads of love,

Catherine.

PS. Wed. forgot to mail this & now its too late to have it go to-day. I collected this morning & all afternoon and am quite tired for so many places one has to make real calls like the Simpsons, but I have over 30 subscriptions some Mr & Mrs or one. \$85 dollars.

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Sat. March 10, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

I am afraid that when we decided to put the dormer in we were just asking for snow and we got it last night, several inches and nice and wet. it looks as if it would snow all day too. Luckily they got the ship lap roof on last night and the windows in but not the black paper or the shakes. they put a canvas over the thing so it is pretty well protected. If we had only started on Thursday morning instead of after lunch, but it took us most of the morning to figure it all out. We used the storm windows on the workshop as it takes so long to get windows these days and they were about the size we wanted, and later we can put in leaded panes when we can get them. They cut the hole in the roof Thursday afternoon and got the first frame work up and then yesterday did the rest. Instead of building it of logs as the others are, which is a lot of extra work and monkeying round they have made this frame and then put on logs which stick out as if they went right through, so the outside appearance will be the same as the others, if they hadn't done this they might have gotten the shakes on yesteray but I guess the pieces had to be put on first. Sam is sweeping it off now. This morning they are going to ship lap in around the stairs if they can and then if we want we can heat the big room downstairs without losing the heat upstairs. Willard's men are coming up Tuesday or Wednesday to move the furnace, so we hope that by the end of next week the work will be finished. We were awfully lucky to do it all when we did for there is a new ruling that for any building or alterations over \$500. one has to get a special permit from Ottawa. Actually the men here are mostly over age and we got them in between other work. also we aren't using much materiel for the logs we used were brought in as firewood, they just got extra nice ones for us. and we are even using up the wood formthe cement forms.

I do hope that your back is better, we were real sorry to hear how sore it has been, maybe when the spring comes it will ease up, the cold and dampness is bad for rheumatics : I was surprised to have Jean write thatthe snow drops were up for I pictured you still buried under feet of snow, I guess it went or is going faster than I realized and then near thatwall the sun makes it very warm. We haven't had any spring like weather but in Vancouver the bushes are already budding and the grass green so Lila says.

Your letter with Kitty's and the childfens came, doesn't Robin write well compared with the letter written Christmas time, of course that was in big letters and they may find the smaller printing easier. it looks easier than the method we used to have. I will return them all soon. I didn't like to send the others during the Christmas rush and put them away so safely I forgot them. and sometimes I finish your letters in such a hurry that I don't take time to get them to enclose

have nearly finished the canvassing for the Red Cross, did the rest yesterday and now only have about a dozen places to return to that is what takes the most time going back. I have over 40 donations and must have made 60 calls already.

There is a wedding to go to to-night, but I must say I am ~~not~~ very eager to doll up and go. I may though because they took such pains to ask us. Pete is lucky , he hasn't a suit appropriate that he can get into, but Mom and I can go to-gether.

Yesterday went to see the Grade one entertainment, Harold had asked me to go so went with Barbara. There are 36 children and they have been studying the Circus, making drawings of the animals and posters etc. I was surprised how well done it was, nearly every child had something to say by himself or herself and yet there was no great hesitation. I had to collect from the teacher last evening and told her how well done I thought it was, and she said that ~~they~~ with the children they ask who wants to do a thing but never force them at all. One little boy who I remembered as having the most confidence , she said was so shy when he first came to school that he always held his hands over his face when she looked his way, he gradually got over that but never tried to read out loud until after Christmas, and then one day when she asked who wanted to read, he offered to and here he was yesterday saying his bit in front of 20 or 30 grownups. They sang songs and marched around and the clowns danced, and it all had to do with the circus.

I must do some cleaning and then go over town to shop. so all for now.

Loads of love

Catharine .

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Mon. March 12, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

I am sure that putting the dormer in has caused our poor weather, for to-day it looks as if it were settling in to snow it is spitting a few flakes already and it is just 9.30 and you can see it is snowing higher up on the mountains. however they are at work now doing the sides of the dormer which have to be done before the roof goes on. at least it is mild and no wind. We also expect Mr Watt the plumber to connect our water to the back part. The pipes there are copper and he was waiting for the connections. it has been nearly two weeks waiting for him. The furnace men come to-morrow or the next day and we hope that with luck we will be all through by the end of the week, that is all the work we intend to do now. There will still be the floor to do upstairs but otherwise it will be complete.

Saturday the men worked until five, I did a bit more collecting and am nearly finished. Cooked a roast and Mom came to eat it and then we two rushed and got dressed in time for the 7 O'clock wedding going early to be sure to get in. however there weren't as many people as sometimes and the church is a bigger one so we needn't have hurried so. I never saw such a crush as there was at the house and such a cut up house as it is, we seemed to spend all out time standing in one spot or squirming by people in doorways. I don't know exactly how they could have done it differently, but Dr Robinson being a doctor they have a few small rooms at the back he used to use. As you went in the front door into a tiny hall, on the right was the living room, long and narrow with no other door but the one to get in and out by. a tiny hole of a den straight ahead which wasn't used at all except for the odd person to sit down. the dining room on the left and we all had to go through that, into a back hall where the food came through on trays, to leave our coats in one of the rooms the Dr used. The stairs went out of the same hall in the other direction upstairs where the presents were. I really think it would have been easier if people could have left their cloths up there, but there was a baby asleep in one bedroom and the other was used for dressing.

They always drink a toast to the bride and the man who did it was terribly long winded, I thought he never would finish. They had first passed trays of punch and why it didn't spill going through that crowd I don't know. then after the toast and the bridegroom's reply they passed around salad and later tea, coffee and cakes etc. It was all very nice but we were glad to get out into the quitt. There were lots of young girls but not a young man except for the groom and the best man who looked married. even the ushers were married men from Banff. Not very exciting for the young girls.

Yesterday we slept late until about nine and then after breakfast moved the tools around so that we could move the two book cases that were on the balcony before to a place either side of the window at the north end. You remember the big window, well the floor cuts across it and Pete had the bright idea of making a little sort of window seat or sill which comes under the bar three quarters of the way up. then as the log beam is about a foot from the window below they have not floored right up to the window but let the extra light

that comes in where the window seat is shine down into the big room. I will try to draw a sketch of it.



The big room looks so much nicer and very cosy and the pictures look much better than before. and upstairs the dormer makes a lovely room out of it. The dormer is the same size as the large window over the bench in the workshop. about 8 feet by 3 and when we trim a few branches off the spruce we will have a beautiful view. I wish you could see it, will get Pete to take some pictures when it is finished to give you an idea. We spent most of yesterday just looking at the big room. Also we had Harold come over and later Cyril Childs for tea. He was in the last war and in the Air force in this one and just released. A lot of the lads are being called back again but of course Cyril is much older.

We had supper at Barbara's, I guess the children wanted it to seem more like a real Sunday dinner and we had a very nice time. They are awfully cunning really.

Must not write more now as I have a letter to write, a few calls to make for Red Cross and errands to do. then this afternoon must clean out the store room over the balcony for the furnace men to put the ducts in. Don't know where to put all the stuff, trunks etc.

Loads of love

Catharine.

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Wed. March 14, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

The furnace men haven't shown up yet, they might have come yesterday and we hope to-day for we were anxious to finish by the end of this week. but one can't count on too much these days, we are lucky to have been able to get as much done as we have. They are just doing the last of the finishing of the outside of the dormer, there is the insulating of the inside to do, ~~etc~~, (that is, just the dormer itself) and the stair rail and then we have to wait until we can get flooring before finishing the room. We will insulate the roof sometime next fall perhaps.

Yesterday must have been our day at home for Pearl came about tea time and when as we were finishing Mrs "ac arrived. They both had to come and see the improvements after seeing the new dormer from the road and they both were very enthusiastic. It really does look so much better and will be much more livable inside.

A nice letter from you yesterday with the first design for the pillow. I don't wonder you are a bit mixed. at first I thought a pillow cover for one of our chairs would be nice, then when you said I could have the little low chair in the library, I thought it would be nicer to have your handiwork on that. but perhaps it has a pillow seat now, I can't remember. If it hasn't, you could design the thin pillow for that, otherwise I will send you the measurements for one of ours. We have an Indian belt with much the same kind of design that you made, I will make a copy of it for you, as it might be an easier one for you to work.

Had a nice letter from Uncle Marshall yesterday and a note to him from the couple who bought "The Views". Isn't it nice that they are so appreciative and love the place so much and also that they take the time to tell him so? for it must mean a lot to him to know how they love it.

By the way, has Mrs Prescott moved into the house yet and have you seen it? - she hasn't been mentioned for so long. but I presume by this time that she ~~Ms~~ is living there.

Cousin Harriet certainly writes a bright letter for one her age, or in fact if she were 20 years younger it would still be bright.

What a funny thing Russell had? but with so many people moving about these days it is a wonder more curious deseases don't get carried about. Actually if he gets over it quickly the enforced rest may do him more good than the infection will do harm.

There must be a special kind of Jaundice going round this year, what an awfull dose of it ~~Ms~~ Gil had, lucky Miss Publicover wasn't hit as badly.

I can't remember or place that Mrs "adison from Milwaukee who came with Flick and had met us. It must have been a long time ago. Erling often brings people down when they are in Banff a day or so before going out to Assinaboine and I expect it was one of them. The only person I can think it might be was thin when she was here.

Don't wonder you got mixed about the chimney. it goes outside through the foundation, then up in back of the kitchen chimney

and when it gets on a level with the bedroom above, it angles over and goes right into the stone chimney and up the flu from the little fireplace in the bedroom. That is cut off now and so no longer usable. We never used it much anyway as it doesn't give enough heat to really warm the room.

I am so glad that you got to a concert and could combine it with a trip to town for Sean. Because you live out of town you use more gas than most people for necessary things. We have hardly used the car this winter as we had so few coupons left thinking that we wouldn't be here, but our new ones come in April so we will be all right then.

It is Wednesday so will have to make a trip over town. No sign of the furnace men yet, I do hope they come but perhaps they will be a day or two late.

Loads of love.

Catharine -

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Friday March 15, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Just a short note this morning as there is quite a bit to be done. Willard was delayed and so won't be up now until Monday. The men could have come yesterday but that might have meant the weekend for them which naturally they don't like, for they want t to be home then. He may come up over the weekend to do the final measuring and planning and then the men who do the work will come Monday morning. It will mean another week. The dormer was finished inside yesterday and now there is only the floor to do when we can get the flooring. Pete and Sam decided to try taking the furnace down themselves which they are doing now, and by doing it carefully won't make as much mess as a lot of city men in a hurry would do. We have stoves set up, an air-tight in the front room and a coal stove to go in the kitchen, a small heater, but by using coal it will keep in all night. My job is to vacum the dust that is over everything from the hammering.

The New Yorkers with the designs inside came after I wrote you and we think the designs lovely, I rather like the one with the figures best for it is more unusual and interesting. Maybe over the weekend I will have time to consider them more carefully and the size and color. The one in the letter I liked least well. Will find some bits and pieces to give you an idea of the color.

Jean wrote that your flowers are as lovely as the flower show, a beautiful display, I can just imagine how pretty the house must look. She also said that Richard Smiley had been killed overseas, I am so sorry for Lora and Mears for he was an unusually fine boy and of course their only son. The Newburys will feel badly about it. In the last war there were hardly any people we knew who were killed but this one has hit very close to home. Two young boys killed and one missing last week here. Pete went to Sarcee but twice and already two of the lads he tented with have been killed and another has lost part of one leg. The other day an American commentator quoted a letter written by a Filipino who is one of the members of the new Cabinet in the Phillipines. When the Japs came in he was offered the job of Mayor of Manilla but he wouldn't take it and escaped to Panay. There another Filipino tried to persuade him to take the job of mayor of Panay I think it was, he told him he didn't have to do much to help the Japs that they would leave him alone and that it was easy and he would be safe etc. The first Filipino refused the offer and wrote a letter that summed up the situation so well that it was copied and passed around the Phillipines and inspired a great many to fight the Japs in any way they could. I can't remember much of it but one thing I do. "He said that there were things in this world worth more than Life itself and that he hoped that he would fight for them as long as he could stand on both feet." I think it is hard to realize for people on this continent, that had the Nazis conquered Europe it would be only a short time before they would have attempted the conquest of North America and the same with the Japs.

Must be getting lunch, so all for now.

Loads of love,

Catharine

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Monday, March 19, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

We are really getting the furnace moved to-day or to-morrow and have all sorts of people working at various jobs. Bill who did the first digging for the cellar came at eight this morning to start breaking the cement, the two furnace men arrived with Sam at 8.30 and started ripping out the ducts that will no longer be used which meant cupboards being emptied etc. I even helped hold ducts as they came down and the head man said he would put me on the payroll. He said that he had a girl working for him of with him for six months. (they always go in pairs to do a job) At first he said he told them he wouldn't take a girl. she would be no use, but then they said he would have to and besides he would need someone to talk to! and he said she was surprisingly good and better than some men. However he has a young lad now. Mr Watt is also here changing one more pipe and Sam is making room for the furnace to move down.

Friday Pete and Sam spent nearly all day taking the furnace apart and disconnecting the ducts above. Cecil coming over to disconnect the wiring. I told them they were like two small boys taking a watch apart, they covered the yard at the back door and out the back of the house with parts, you wondered how all the pieces ever got into the furnace or even the furnace room. and seems to me it is just as well that an experienced man is to put it together again. though I guess they could do it. one good thing Pete knows more about it to clean it for there is no real chimney sweep in Banff now and one has to more or less do it oneself.

Saturday we spent all morning scheming the stairs as after the furnace was taken apart we could see a better way to put the stairs. Sam took the afternoon off and Pete broke a bit of cement etc. That evening we were just going upstairs when Pearl and an old friend Hazel Tompkins, came around to see us. thought if the lights were on they would come in otherwise not. They stayed until 10.30 and then yesterday being Sunday we slept in until after nine for we get up with the alarm every other morning at 7.30. Just as we were having lunch Willard Neilson arrived with the two men and a friend to ride back with him. I always have to entertain the friends, and some are easy to talk to others not. This man has been here before and is an older man, very nice and he came to get warm by the fire, then the young lad appeared and he was very interesting telling about drilling for Oil. He had worked on oil wells for sometime. They drill down 4 thousand to 9 thousand feet, isn't that about two miles? Every ten feet they take a picture as he called it, on a disc in the drill and from that can tell if they are ~~in~~ drilling straight and in the right direction. In the old days sometimes if they got on an angle they would be under someone else's lease. They also bring up samples for the geologists to tell where they are. Then there is the drill to change every so often depending what kind of stuff they are drilling through. In limestone they have to change the drill every few inches. and that means bringing it up all the way those thousands of feet. No wonder it is an expensive job. They sink a pipe as they drill 4 to 6 inches ^{down} I think he said, and

if a drill breaks off or anything they have to fish for it down the pipe. This sometimes happens and he said they are still fishing for bits of a broken pipe or drill on one well he worked on a year ago. I wonder they have the patience.

It is lunch time now and then I have to catch someone around one and will mail this then so all for now. They just moved the furnace down without too much difficultey, a bit of grunting but no swearing. it looked awfully heavy to me. five of them did it. The fire box is all one peice, cast iron or steel.

Loads of love.

Catherine

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Wednesday, March 31.
1945.

Dearest Mother,

The first day of spring and it looks more like the first day of winter here. I understand that it was 77 in Boston and 80 in New York, so they said on the radio, and I can just imagine the birds all singing and the buds fairly bursting out. We had a high wind Sunday, and it was warm and the snow melted Monday, yesterday it sort of spit rain a little and towards evening snowed in great wet flakes, kept up until quite late at night and this morning there is about 3 or 4 inches of snow on every twig and branch. The clouds are lifting and I expect it will melt fast when the sun comes out.

You certainly are having a busy time from your letter that came yesterday, I do hope that Mrs Anderson wasn't as busy sick as you thought and that she is back on the job, for with all the relations coming you would need her more than ever. I knew there was some talk of the children spending their Easter vacation in Concord but didn't realize that they had decided to go. What fun it will be for them and I know how you will enjoy having them there. Will be interested to hear what Mildred decides to do, I do feel sorry for her trying to figure it out. I almost think it would be best to just be perfectly frank and write to Cousin Harriet as she did to you, that she needs a rest and if she went to Cambridge, (much as she would like to be company for Cousin Harriet) that she wouldn't feel like doing it and not help with the shopping and cooking etc. and that she is so tired from her extra school work etc. that she feels she must get rested up and a complete change before the next term. Ambassador Grew in his book writes that it has taken him 50 years to get over his New England Conscience. It says in that New England cook book that " a New England Conscience doesn't prevent one from doing anything but it keeps one from enjoying the doing of it " I hope that Mildred can really enjoy her visit in Concord and get a good rest and change and not worry about Cousin Harriet.

Am glad to hear that you can sit down in comfort once more, that was most unfortunate for you, and the hornet too! Sorry to hear that Russell had to go to the hospital for treatment and hope they don't keep him as long as they did Gil. How was "Our Hearts were young and Gay" "ope it comes here for I want to see it too.

Well the work is still going on, to-day two men doing furnace work and Cecil doing the electrical part and Sam is starting on the stairs I think.

I wrote you a little about Sunday but not very much. Willard and the men were here until nearly six figuring out all the measurements for the ducts and elbows etc. He went back to Calgary and will send up the duct work as soon as it is made in the shop there. Meanwhile the two men spent Monday tearing out the ducts they won't be using. I helped a bit, moving things in the way in cupboards etc. then before noon they were able to move the inner part of the furnace down into the basement and have been working on that ever since, setting it all up, got the stocker connected by last night and tried it out, but as

the duct work isn't in there is not much use having it on yet. We spent Sunday evening after supper moving the bed into our new bedroom, put down veneer over the shiplap ~~as~~^{and} the flooring isn't down yet and then Pete and I managed the bed by doing it slowly. It was fun being able to lie in bed and see the tops of the mountain through the trees. We will be able to see the sun hit the top without even sitting up in bed. It is going to be a lovely bedroom. I wish now we had thought of doing it before, it is a great improvement. both upstairs and down.

Yesterday was busy, I mounted slides in the afternoon and Margery Crosby and the dog came to call. I have to go now and vacuum the mud he brought in. he of course left footprints all over the floor and they won't come off until they dry; however she brought a nice contribution to the Red Cross so I won't complain! Last evening we went with the Moores to The Dan Mac Cowans. It was after the 8 o'clock news before we left the Moores and it must have been about 8.30 when we got to Dans then we talked a while and then he showed us the old time pictures he has collected and made into slides. They were interesting to see and a lot of people I have heard of but never seen pictures of before. Then we had almost a meal, tea and biscuits toasted with a filling of mashed up baked beans and bacon a new one to me but very tasty. mince tarts and cake and cookies, a real spread. then we heard a few amusing records and it was midnight by the time we got home.

Time now to go over town so,

Loads of love to you all.

Catharine .

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Sunday, March 25, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Sunday again, the days do go fast, and here it is nearly April. The days are more spring like but not the warm kind. Things are going on in the heating system but the men decided to work on a job at the King Edward fixing their stoves, Friday and Saturday, as not all the ductwork has been sent up and they will start in here Monday again, Willard might come up to-day to see how the work is going and also with the plan. It is interesting how they do it all. Last Sunday he took lots of measurements and made a plan of how the ducts would go, they figure it all out according to the size of the rooms the amount of windows etc. and then plan a certain amount of heat to go into each room. Then when he gets to Calgary he makes drawings of the joints and elbows and different pieces and they make them out of tin or galvanized iron and send them up here. then the men join them together as they put them in the house. Some of the old duct work they can use again, it all comes apart. The furnace is all set up and going but the heat just goes into the cellar and then works up into the house through the cold air openings already in the floor. however it keeps the kitchen 70 and we have a small wood fire in the living room. Sam worked on the stairs and yesterday morning got the flight in so that they can be used but are not set up permanently yet. He didn't come in the afternoon as he likes Saturday afternoon off and we do too. We hope they are really finished this week but there may be other delays. After lunch yesterday we went over to see Allen Mather a minute. he showed us the new windows they have put in the boat house office and how they have improved it all, he had just varnished the v joint. but what amused me was when he said "you know when we started to do this job it didn't seem very much, just to take down a partition etc. but we still have a lot to do, putty this here and repair that there etc." and I thought how true it was, for actually you start changing a little and it leads to all sorts of other little jobs. and that is what we have found. For instance where the coal bin is now, it is outside the foundation so as not to take room up in the cellar, also was used as a place to haul up the dirt when excavating. The top had to be covered with a slab of cement, so we thought it would look nice to have flag stones in the cement and make it look better. then it looked so well that we decided to continue it right along to beyond the back door and make sort of a terrace out of it. We haven't done it yet but plan to later on. But that is how one thing leads to another when you are doing alterations.

We had planned to go to Mr A.O. Wheelers funeral, He was the one who started the Canadian Alpine Club, was a surveyor in the old days and I think surveyed on either side of the C.P.R. in the Selkirks, and the Alaska-Yukon Boundary. His son, is head surveyor for India and was knighted for his work before the war. Mr Wheeler's first wife was Jack Macleods wifes aunt. He was 85 and died very suddenly Tuesday. Just as we were going Jacob Two-Youngman and his nephew came to call, I wondered why Jake looked so sort of serious and then he told us that his wife had died just two weeks ago. She wasn't very old either, it evidently was gall bladder trouble. We felt awfully sorry about it. We got him a box of food to take back. When they were in the house in making conversation

Pete said that the logs in our house were cut by the Indians in Morley and Jake said he was building a new house and he wondered why the Indians couldn't make a house like this. We wondered if the young boy would take it to heart, he seemed very keen and brighter than a lot of the boys.

for Mr. Wheeler's funeral

We didn't go to the church but just to the cemetery. It was very touch~~ing~~ touching for on the casket instead of flowers, they had it draped in white (no doubt to resemble snow) and on top his 2 ice axes crossed, his climbing rope and his cap that he always wore. It was a beautiful day with lovely clouds and there is still snow on the ground in the cemetery so it was all very nice and fitting, not very many people as he was old and of recent years not very active, also they only came here in the summer, but a good many Alpine climbers came up from Calgary.

Last night Mom came to supper and later Jackie for a short time, he is bringing some friends down to-day.

Time for lunch, and maybe this afternoon if it is warm we may get a bit of the yard tidied up.

Pete has been looking over old photographs in search of a particular picture and talking a steady stream so this letter has been written with a continual interruption. I meant to answer some of yours but will do so another time, also try and find the samples of the colors to use for the chair seat. Right now you will be too busy to work on the design. But the no. 2 one with the figure is the one I think most interesting and should be fun to do. In fact I think it is an unusually interesting design.

Loads of love,

P.S. Monday - Jackie never going with his friends, but Willard & Eth did & went over the work with Ernie. There may be quite a delay as the McDullay lawyers haven't arrived yet by Calgary - Then they all take the Easter work and off. Harry didn't feel well Saturday & was getting a cold & we are afraid he is really sick for there is no sign of him this morning, or of the heating men. I expect they are finishing the job on the King Edward stores. Pete is breaking cement this morning for head room going downstairs.

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

[Wed. March 29, 1916]

Dearest Mother,

What a day! Seems to me it never pays to plan anything even a day ahead in Banff for something comes along to prevent you doing it. It is much better to just do things as one goes along.

Monday we looked for the furnace men at 8.30 but they never appeared either yesterday or to-day and Pete found out this morning that they had to take apart a stove for the King Edward to send the parts to be mended and so now it will be Monday before they come back here, which is just as well for us. Instead Mr Watt the plumber had a couple of hours to spare so came down to finish some plumbing and also clean and change the drain pipe for the sink which has needed doing for ages. He just got it nicely disconnected before lunch, so I had to remember not to let any water down the sink, only forgot once when I brushed my teeth. and Pete called from the cellar when a stream of water came out below. They didn't get back until four and we expected those friends of Jackie's down for tea, but their car broke down several miles from town so they didn't make it.

Sam hasn't been feeling his usual self lately. we think he tried to do too heavy work and has been working hard too. and then last Friday evening he waxed a floor for Cis at night and on top of the days work I think it was too much. So he hasn't been working this week though he has been down for a time each day. I finished my Red Cross collecting, got \$18 dollars, which I think was pretty good. That night Jackie thought his friends might come down but when they didn't appear by 9.30 we went to bed.

Yesterday, Tuesday, Pete was breaking cement for head room for the stair way into the basement when Jackie came to tell us of the bad accident up at Lake Louise, Herman Gardner was killed in an avalanche. Jackie didn't know any details but said Cliff was on his way to Banff. Herman was one of the Australian boys who came over before war broke out in 1914 and was very experienced so it was hard to understand how anything could happen where he was concerned. We did a lot of speculating having little information to go on. There was much going back and forth with messages and the inquest was arranged for to-morrow. Then we were told the Cabots from Boston were to be down and then that they weren't and all in all we didn't get a great deal done during the day. Though Bunny McGiverin came down to ask if I would go to the Mountain School tea with her. I got dressed to go at three for they have things to sell for the Red Cross and if you don't get their early there isn't much left. Just as I went out the door, Pearl Moore drove into the yard with a Miss Hyndman, (who was the lady who organized the Womens Volunteer Service at the start of the war and later I think she was head of women recruiting or something important,) and a lame lady we never did figure out. Pearl wanted to show them our house but I don't know if they were much impressed. They didn't stay long as they could see I was going out, so I went to the tea after all. It was very nice as usual, all the children in little white dresses and tables of things they made, lots of things like a cake and a box of chocolates to take chances on which is a simple way to spend money.

We thought the Cabots weren't coming down until to-day so merely stayed home last evening, but this noon found they went to

Calgary on the morning train, so we never did see them.

Oh yes, Even Lanson came down about flooring yesterday and Pete asked if they had any wide fir boards that could be tongue and grooved for flooring and he has quite a bit that has been in the yard for a year and so Pete got Sam and they had a look at it and they are to fix it for us this week. so Sam and Pete hope to get at that next week. It will be nice to get it laid.

Today Sam was down for a while and then Mom with some books and Pete looked for the Cabots and I had to shop before the stores closed at noon. Then we got a message that Jackie had gone up to Lake Louise to bring down three witnesses as the inquest had been changed to to-day. Pete saw Jackie at noon who asked if he could bring the lady in the party down here while the two men were at the inquest. I was supposed to go to Mrs McCauleys to tea and had to telephone her that I would be late. They men, Tom Fogden and a Mr Johnson and Mrs Newman came down for a while, then they left her here with us and we entertained her until they returned about four thirty. About 2 hours anyway. She was from New Orleans and awfully nice but pretty shaken by her experience and the shock of Hans being killed. She told us her story, seemed to want to and then Pete got her interested in all sorts of other things and I believe we helped a bit. then we had tea when the others got back and Jackie took them to the train at 5.30 and I went rushing up to Mrs MacCauleys to tea, was still in time to have tea and food, having just eaten here, and didn't get back until nearly six, when I found that Pete had company. Ethan and his wife from Tofino. I can't remember their last names. He is on embarkation leave and will be going overseas soon, men who want an overseas posting now have to volunteer for two years service after the war, but he figures it is a wonderful chance to go over and hopes to get his wife over later, it was fun to see them. Pete of course knew him better than I did for they had left when I went up and then went back after we left.

So you can see we had quite an afternoon, and now it is time for the paper and so I won't write more now.

Hope that everything is going well in Coonord and that Jean is feeling better. Expect you Sunday letters to-morrow or the next day, Jean's usually comes Thursday and yours of Friday,

Loads of love,

Catherine.

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Saturday, march 31, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

I'm so glad to hear that Jean is feeling better though she hadn't heard from the exrays. Was surprised to hear that the children had gone back already though I expect they were there longer than I realized.

Before I forget it, Pete will be glad to make the Japanese photographs for the friend of Cousin Janes, (I have carefully misplaced the letter right now) He could make 8 x 10 Glossy prints from which reproductions are made, but as the films are Leica films he would not want to lend the negatives. We couldn't do them until a little later on but if you gave us a good idea of the subjects she wanted illustrated we could make up a set that she could choose from. We might even have others that we have never made prints of.

Yesterday being Good Friday it was a holiday for stores and the bank etc. so we decided to have a day off too, so Sam isn't coming until Monday. It is rather nice to have a few days to ourselves. It was warm, about 40 and a warm west wind. Pete was anxious to start tidying up the yard and so we tackled the pile of lumber left over from the forms for the cement in the basement. Some of it is still quite caked with cement and it worked very well having the wind blow for when one hit a board against the other and the cement broke off it would blow away. I sorted and Pete carried and we were rather surprised to be able to get it all moved and the ground around it raked up and even had time to rake up a lot of the chips from the peeling of the logs for the beams. They covered a good part of the lawn in front of the house and we raked the loose ones into piles and then started burning them in the fireplace which works well.

It started raining a bit in the afternoon, our first rain of the season, so we were glad that we had done all we did in the morning.

Around noon a little girl aged three was drowned in the river and we all felt badly about it. She had come down with her little cousins and though they were warned off she managed to fall in I guess. Anyway Mr Scott who works for Allen Mather saw her go in from the other side of the river, ran for Allen who was having lunch, and he got a canoe into the open water and at the time her head was still above water, she was paddling around evidently, Allen fell in himself, or capsized the canoe, but she was still breathing when he got her out and the police and Doctor were there by that time, but they weren't able to save her and figured she died of shock, poor little thing. The Mother is one of the British War brides and came several months ago, and her husband was due in a week or two.

Mom was down and so was Barbara and so we didn't do a great deal in the afternoon, though Pete straightened out the studio a bit. The new ducts seem to go into cupboards and you know when you take things out of a well arranged cupboard how much room they take up on the floor. This morning we moved the two bookcases again in the big bedroom so on Monday they can start laying the floor. Also moved the bed to another part of the room. The flooring is really fir boards that have been tongue and grooved, are very wide and should look nice, the only problem

was to join them on the present floor where the edge of the balcony was. When they put the beams in they figured we could only get narrow flooring and so this stuff which is thicker will be a bit higher than the other. Well I guess Sam can figure it out. It came this afternoon which is nice so they will be able to get at it next week. I will be glad when the bedroom floor is laid for the way it is now any dirt or sawdust shifts through down below, but once the floor is on and the ducts in I can start cleaning the living room, though guess I would be wise to wait until the heating is all in.

This morning we woke to find the heaviest snow of the winter, it was awfully pretty but would have been more appropriate for Christmas than for Easter, in fact I felt very Christmassy delivereing flowers to Mrs Paris and Mrs Manning, the daffodils are lovely fresh from the coast, all outside ones. They had a foot of snow in Calgary and 18 inches at Kananaskas just as you get into the mountains. However this afternoon it is melting fast. We had about 6 inches I guess, it was from the east. Just go and start getting supper,

Loads of love to you all.

P.S. Easter Sunday. Did I say the snow was melting fast -
It was & above this morning - the trees loaded with snow.
So far none has melted that I can see & looks like
a winter's day -

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Tuesday, April 3, 1945

Dearest Mother,

We certainly are having a touch of winter, the snow that fell Good Friday is still with us and has melted very little, merely settled a bit. the ground is still white and there are a few blobs of snow yet on the trees, rather pretty for the sun melted enough to make icicles that hang from the branches, like a Christmas tree. Its been 8°, 4°, 10° and again 10° above each morning at eight, and yesterday didn't melt until noon. If we had only had this earlier in the winter when everyone could appreciate it but now we are all anxious for a touch of spring. However it is very pretty and the sun is warm.

The men never showed up yesterday and we are wondering if Easter Monday was a holiday in Calgary, however last night about ten we heard a huge truck backing into the yard and it unloaded a bit more tin work and a box with the damper for the Moduflow. That was the part holding them up for that has to go between the furnace and the air conditioner and the other ducts run from it to the rest of the house. I expect they will either come up by train to-day or perhaps by car this morning, anyway when they do start in they can go right ahead.

X Sam and Pete started to floor the big bedroom yesterday, are having some difficulty as the boards have been poorly tongue and grooved, they didn't expect the man here to do a better job than usual, but hoped for the best. Sam wished we had left them plain, as evidently floors in the Old country are laid without the tongue and groove, but we have an idea that the cracks would be wider and harder to fill later on, Pete says the old houses in New England have their floors laid plain too, I expect it wasn't easy to do the other by hand. Anyway they found they could take out some wedges they had put in under the ship lap on the first log of the balcony and so lower the shiplap enough to make the new boards come flush with the old which was a great help. It is going to make a most attractive floor we think for the new boards are about a foot wide. They rather hope the heating men don't come this morning for they should be able to finish the floor to-day without too many interruptions.

I have been re-making curtains and then last night we had supper up at Mom's, Jackie was there too and we had a very nice time, as he said "eating Mom's left overs". She goes to the coast to-morrow for about a month I expect. She has planned the trip for a long time to see some of Pete's father's relations who live in Penton near Seattle. They are the family of a man who came out with Jim Hill when he built the Railway, Northern Pacific I think it was, and though the older ones have died these are the children. I think the family always visited them whenever they went to California but it is a good many years since they have seen each other, and of course Mom wants to see where the Stockards are too. It will be nice for her and this is the nicest time of the year at the coast with the spring flowers all out.

It is hard to believe that you are having such summer weather, 80° seems awfully hot for this time of year. Maybe the apple blossoms will bloom for the 19th of April!

I am glad that Mildred was nice and rested this time so as to enjoy her few days with you, sometimes I think that for a person born with a New England conscience it is tiring when there are lots of things you want to do even if you don't try to do them, things like bills to pay and letters to write. I expect she is to be with Cousin Harriet too for a day.

It does seem too bad for Russell to sell the boat and yet I expect he knows best. He has had a lot of fun out of her and so have many others. Wonder ff he got out of the hospital yet.

I was glad to see that Miss Annie Agge was feeling better, I don't wonder that a call from you is an exciting event, imagine but 2 or 3 callers a month, we call a day with that many dropping in for one thing or another an average day. We had five on Sunday. A Mrs Hannay from Haney B.C. came with her son who has just graduated from the Air Force and got his wings etc. She used to live in Calgary and Jeew Pete years ago, her husband is retired and they spend their time buying up old houses and fixing them over, it all started from one they built for themselves near Haney, all of cedar but now you can't build new houses that cost over \$500. without a special permit so they are remodeling instead. so she was interested in all we are doing. Then Verne came to return a book and had to see what we had done since he was here before. and Sam and Cis came down in the evening.

Must get busy now,

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff,
Alberta.
Thurs. April 5.1945.

Dearest Mother,

Just a short letter to you this morning for there are some others I should write. Yesterday I didn't get much done except for paying Bills and seeing Mom off for the coast. She left on the noon train and expects to be away over a month. We were amused for she has been saying right along that even if Lila was living at the coast she wasn't going to go visiting her but would always stay at a Hotel in Vancouver and was quite indignant about people suggesting that it was nice for her to have a place to stay when she went to the coast etc. She insisted she would not impose on the Stockards. However when she left yesterday she said that after her visit to the redactions she would stay with Lila for a while, and we think it is because the Macleods had their room entered by a burglar in the hotel Mom always stays in. Mrs Macleod lost a \$700. fur coat and a radio and a few other things, they think the person came in from the fireescape.

Hardly any snow has melted but today it was 28 above and is clear so maybe it will thaw now. Jackie said that Cliff had seen Blue birds up at Temple a week or two ago and also Robins so spring must be here.

The men are working on the ducts, came up Tuesday night and yesterday Sam got the holes cut in floors and ceilings and they are getting on pretty well.

Mrs Wheeler asked if I would help her stamp envelopes etc. yesterday afternoon, it was her husband who died a couple of weeks ago, I was glad to be able to do something useful and was able to go up and mail the letters as well. We also had a nice talk and she told me quite a bit. Mr Wheeler was Karo Macleods uncle, and she told me that Jack's two boys are both in the Service, the older one has been in the Pacific for some time and has won all sorts of decorations, the younger one is in the Navy and Mrs Wheeler was very much interested in his letters for she knew the port well which he described but didn't say the name of. The Daughter is married and has 2 children. Jack and Karo (that is her name isn't it?) are going to sell their big house and move into a smaller one as it is too big for them and they can get no maids.

I will return the patterns in case you want to start planning the chair pillow. Will mark the one we like best. 16 inches square would be just about the right size, but if it is a little larger or smaller it wouldn't matter very much. I am enclosing 2 shades of red and the browns are very nice, actually it doesn't matter very much what colors you use as long as there are no pinks and violets or rose colors. an orange red rather than a pruple red if you know what I mean. The chairs you did for the living room in Concord are too blue and rose to suit our room here. Just found another sample, the bit with a flowered design. The red is what I call a vermillion red. The blue piece is a color that might be used in a very small quantity, just for a touch. I really think a light tan or grey background would be best. the shades of brown and tan you sent and which I am returning are very pretty and the yellow too. I am not so sure about the blue, before you start maybe you could enclose bits of the colors you are thinking of using and I can send them right back.

Red Cross to-day and soon it will be time for me to go over and get oysters which come in from the coast every Thursday morning.

Loads of love,

Catharine

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Saturday, April 7, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Spring has certainly not arrived in the Rockies yet. We woke this morning to find an inch of fresh snowy on the trees, the ground was still white anyway, it was about 20 above and still isn't above freezing yet. It was a week ago yesterday it snowed and it hasn't melted except for a bit in the sun. We don't really have much spring except for a few lovely days when you rake like mad. and then all at once it is summer.

I think you wrote us more than you thought you had and we enjoyed hearing about all the company and what you are doing. It is nice to hear that Ebbs and Ann have another son, wonder will they call him Richard, it would be nice if they did. That was a nice long letter from Edith, it must be quite an experiance for them all living in Brooklyn, too bad she was sick to start off with.

That book on the Alaska road sounds very interesting and we would like it, as some day we hope to go up there when gas and tires become more plentiful. One of Pete's uncles walked to the Yukon during the Gold Rush years ago, quite a hike. Never mind the Fairchild book, some time we might come across a 2nd hand copy.

I don't think you need have worried about Nancy for I am sure she would enjoy just being with you and Cousin Jane. You know there aren't many people as much fun as you, I used to love visiting the Phinneys as you know and when Aunt Nela tried to get a little girl to play with me in Hingham I never thought it much fun, of course I was much younger than Nancy in those days, but I really think grown ups are much more interesting and it is sort of complimentary to be included with your elders. I thought Nancy an unusually attractive girl at Thanksgiving, easier to look after than the other cousin.

How did Mrs Sohier fix over the screens, Did she just mend and join them to-gether or did she do some thing with the designs?

Yesterday afternoon I made a long call on Mrs Moffat who's son was killed in Italy about a month ago. He was with Pete in the same tent at the first camp at Sarcee and then went Active. She is an elderly lady and Bob was his mothers son more than his brother which made it hard on her, but she is quite wonderful about it. She showed me the various letters, and a memorial cross that had arrived yesterday. I was interested to see how they notify one. The cable merely said "Deeply regret that your son etc" was killed in Action on such a day and in Italy. then it asked her not to make public the date of his death because of giving information to the enemy, and that a letter would follow with more details. Then she had three personal letters written in longhand from the Padre, the M² Lte-Col. and the Lieutenant in command. They were the nicest letters and told how he was killed instantly by shell fire when he was leading his Section and the Col. said he had been recommended for promotion just before this had happened. The letters didn't sound like form letters at all and they spoke well of Bob. It must be hard to write to all the familys of the men killed. Maybe they just do it for those killed in Action.

I knew that the Padre always wrote. Then she had a note from the King too. signed by him and nicely worded in a simple way , and one from General macNaughten minister of Defense. as she said it made one feel that though Bob was just a private they appreciated what he had done. Of course here in Canada when one joins up one swears allegiance to the King. I suppose he signs a lot of those letters at once but even then it is a nice thing to do.

"Annimal Reville " I do enjoy. haven't finished it yet. There is little time right now to read and I misplaced it in the moving. Well we hope to be cleared away soon.

Am going to make a custard now.

Loads of love,

Catherine .

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Tuesday, April 10, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

It is funny but we are still having winter weather, not very cold but certainly not like spring. Sunday it snowed all day, a very fine snow from the northeast and never got much warmer than 27° above, we only had about three inches of fresh snow on top of that of a week ago, but in Calgary they had 8 inches. The farmers were pleased on the prairies for it means moisture for seeding. Yesterday it was 5° above in the morning and didn't melt except in the sun until late afternoon. To-day is not quite as cold and the sky is clear, but it does look wintry out, yet the birds make it sound like spring.

We did little over the weekend. Jackie came down to a roast beef dinner Saturday night, I had made a really delicious maple custard out of the New England Cook book, was very pleased with myself for it was so simple to make with maple syrup instead of sugar and such a nice flavor. Hardly had it gotten into the oven than the news came over the radio that the Canadian maple crop this year is almost a total failure. It seems that the sap ran for only a week because of the unusual heat which melted all the snow and brought all the buds out, and evidently after the buds come out the sap doesn't run for sugar. So chances are there will be no more maple sugar to buy until next spring. and they sold the last bottle in the store the day before. It was rationed any way. But guess I won't be able to make that custard for a while.

The men asked if they could come and work Sunday morning and we said yes for we are anxious for them to get along as fast as possible, It meant we didn't have a chance to sleep in, got up at eight and then of course they never showed up. We knew that Willard would be up and expected him after lunch so had an early lunch to be ready as one time he caught us in the middle of our dinner and Pete had to hurry and never really finished his. They came about three I guess and said they would be back from Skiing between 5 and 6, but when 6 came and no sign of them, we had a glass of milk and some cheese and crackers, still no sign of anybody so about 7 o'clock we had some Clam chowder. and it must have been nearly eight when they came and stayed going over everything until about 9.30. Evidently because this is one of the first Moduflows they have installed they aren't so sure about how to go ahead, at least the men working don't know. but we hope that by the time Willard comes up next weekend they will really be able to connect it up. We didn't realize it would take so much longer to figure out, but guess it will be worth it in the end. It is a little awkward being so far from Calgary but we are lucky to get the work done at all. so shouldn't complain. Pete has the floor upstairs in the bedroom with one coat of varnish and I put a coat of liquid wax on last night to make it easier to mop and clean, then in the fall we will get it sanded and finished properly. but it will do for now. it looks very well.

I did enjoy the profile of Rockwell Norman Rockwell (almost wrote Rockwell Kett) it is funny their work is entirely different but for some reason their names sound alike. I always had an idea that in the future some of his work, if not most of it, will be considered the greatest painting of the period, or some of the best painting I should say. Technically it is excellent and certainly is

gives a wonderful idea of the times and age. I believe a lot of this modern art that is the fad will land in attics and cellars and gradually disappear. Remember the museums ~~are~~ ^{will} have cellars full of art that was popular once but which is thought very poor and uninteresting now, whereas Norman Rockwell's will always tell a story of these times and are wonderful portraits of good solid New Englanders.

X Jackie is at present living in the apartment at the store that Mildred and Cliff used, they having moved into the old house where the stockands were. but he may rent it during the summer months and live in one room next the dentists office.

I hope you enjoyed the opera and that it was more rest than tiring, the change would be nice.

Well must not write more now,

Heaps of love,

Catharine .

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs, April 12, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Not much new to write about but the weather and that stays about the same. It melts a little each day but not until noon, so the ground is still white around us. Little Clifford was down for a book last evening and stayed to talk, told us about their Easter trip to Temple. Said that it was the best Skiing they have had at Easter for a long time, nice powder snow and usually at this time of year the snow gets very soft in the afternoon and you break way through, then a crust forms again at night and makes good skiing early the next morning. So there may be skiing for some time yet.

Clifford and Bonny and about six other boys their age, (Clifford is 16 now, ¹⁷ younger) went to the Halfway cabin, had to get out their own fire wood and took their own provisions but must have had a wonderful time.

Life here is going on much the same, the men have most of the Hot air ducts connected now, are working on one to heat the dark room, half the studio and the Toilet. We changed the plan to a better arrangement, but of course it took a little longer. They have another duct to connect for half the kitchen and the fireplace end of the front room, and then the cold airs to finish. Unfortunately the King Edward job is going to cause another delay, the stove parts haven't come and Mr Orr insists he is to serve breakfast on this Sunday morning, so they have to spend two days putting the stove back together with the old parts, and he is insistent they do this, so it looks as if they would have to leave our job this afternoon to finish the King Edward one, and then do the rest of ours this coming week. Willard will be up over the weekend again. Guess it can't be helped very well. They work well for you when you are good natured but sometimes sort of take advantage of your good nature for they know you will understand.

Yesterday afternoon I spent vacuuming cobwebs off the ceiling of the new bedroom, as it was the top of the big room, we could never reach them very well even with a broom on the end of a stick, but now I only have to stand on a stool for the very top ones, I must go and finish the rest of it this morning, then get the mail and oysters if there are any and this afternoon is Red Cross again.

This isn't much of a letter, but I think I have a few clippings to enclose,

There has been a slide on the C.P.R. East
of golden so this may not go to day. ~~Good~~
as there are no trains from the west. However
I'll send it along.

Lots of love.

Catherine

? 9. Am using up old envelopes etc had. on
you.

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Friday, April 13, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

There is just half an hour before lunch so thought I might as well start a letter to you to have ready to mail to-morrow. What a shock to the world President Roosevelt's death was? It is hard to realize even now. We were at the Red Cross and Admee went to telephone just as the word came in, when she came back and told us we couldn't believe it, but everyone remarked who had been to the movies lately how poorly he looked the last time they saw him on the newsreels, and we thought the pictures of the Yalta Conference made him look an old man. The strain of being in such a high office for these difficult years must have been a terrific thing for anyone to go through. He was a remarkable man and though he wasn't appreciated by everyone in the U.S. he inspired confidence in the rest of the world. His loss will be noticed most in the meetings of the big three, but perhaps we have reached a time when it is just as well not to have too much decided by just three men, no matter how wonderful they all are. I don't know if I am right, but I believe that Truman will be a president who will use other men's advise and that as he will need strong advisers they will in turn rise to the occasion. When one man is as strong a personality as Roosevelt was, the men around him seem dwarfed and unimportant. Here in Canada Mackenzie King is not what you would call the kind to be a leader, but he does get very able men in his Cabinet and they work well for him, each stands out as a wonderful man for his job. Let us hope that Truman will be a good man in getting the finest men in the country to work for him.

One good effect of Roosevelt's death was that all the usual Radio programs were cancelled and on some of our stations they filled in with good music, we heard a good many eulogies from the U.S. stations and a lot of organ music.

Your letter came telling about the fire at Berts, (seems to me there was heaps of bad news yesterday and to cap everything, this morning my vacuum quit, of course it is Friday the 13th if that means anything) You didn't say how much damage the water did to things in the house, perhaps the neighbors got things out before they were too badly destroyed. We of course are wondering about the pictures and whether Mark Pocette got soaked or burnt? How awfully hard for Ann being in the hospital just now, but then better that it didn't happen just before the baby came or just as she got home when she might have overdone. I wonder will they move for good or try to repair the house, do write us all the details. nice they have a house for the summer at Annisquam.

I am glad the opera was so fine and that you weren't too tired to enjoy it and hope you have good weather and nothing to prevent the enjoying of it this week too.

Our letter from the Pioneer came yesterday. am glad the opera is fine this year, too bad that it wasn't easier for you going, but these days it is not very easy moving around and all hotels are so crowded.

We have been listening to various programs to do with Roosevelt's death, heard the procession this morning at breakfast time. One of the Canadian correspondents in Washington, Bob Bowman, put it very well I thought. He said that "President" The people of the

United Nations can mourn the passing of Franklin Roosevelt more sincerely than the people of his own country. Certainly every Canadian in Washington knew they had a friend in the White House, and a man who knew and understood Canada. " I believe that now he is dead those who were prejudiced will come to know how great a man he was .

Yesterday was Friday the 13th all right. the jacket heater at the store broke and they are without hot water for the store and apartments, this morning they find they can get a new one from Edmonton but last night they telephoned all over and could find nothing to replace this broken one.

Must go over and shop before lunch.

Loads of love,

Catharine

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Monday April 16, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

It seems so funny to-day , like a holiday for there are no men working and none are expected. Ernie and Tom worked until Saturday afternoon to do all they could before Willard came on Sunday and we were glad that they decided not to go to the King Edward for the parts of the stove hadn't come. Then yesterday Sam and Cis were down for a while in the afternoon and wanted us to go up there to eat ~~roast~~ hot roast beef with them but we didn't dare leave here. Willard and Eth came after supper and Pete got hold of Cecil who does the electrical work to come around and they did a bit in the basement. It seems that there is a great shortage of the galvanized iron that they make the ducts out of and only by using the old ones and remaking them have they been able to do our job, there is none to be had in Calgary. That is one more reason it has taken longer. They have a couple of pieces they will make in Calgary maybe to-day, and if they are lucky they will get them up in the truck to-night, otherwise they should come by Wednesday morning, then Cecil will do the wiring Thursday and we will have a couple of days to try out the system before "illard and Eth do the final stuff on Saturday and Sunday. Sam was down to-day but we decided there wasn't much we could do until the men finished and so he went home for a couple of days until we call him, to do work at his house.

Such weather as we continue to have, Saturday night there was a real chinook wind from the west and it was licking up the snow nicely, however something else happened in the night for it changed and got colder and was ~~pr~~ spitting snow when we woke about eight, however the sun was shinning too and we were sure it would be a nice day, by afternoon it was snowing hard again and this morning there was about 2 inches of snow on every twig and piece of ground, so to-day it has had to melt all that before getting at the old snow underneath, and we keep having sort of snow squalls which don't help much. Guess we will have to wait until May for spring here,

We listened to bits about the Presidents funeral and burial but didn't get it all, it must have been very simple and in keeping with the times. This morning we listened with great interest to the new President. I don't know how you feel but I am wondering if it isn't a good thing to have a man who is so "average" as they call him, he evidently is honest and sincere and humble, and seems to me a humble man may be what we need. It does seem strange that it was only because he got the breaks that he became President, and he may be ~~the~~ just the type we need right now. We listened to him carefully and I thought it was a fine speech and he said what everyone wanted him to say. His voice is good and no decided accent, and I noticed he never said "I" until the very end when he spoke of the position he was in. Seems to me he is a person who is asking for help and advise and is a man who people can work with. They all sounded back of him when they applauded. The world needs high ideals to work for and lets hope he is the man to lead those of all parties to establishing a better world.

Did you listen to the Quiz Kids last night, their remarks about Truman were interesting, I am glad to hear he has a strong handshake and is friendly and kind. We were amused at the question about the Galoshes and the Duster, especially when one child said a duster

was a light coat worn while automobiling and " usually came below the knees " as Pete said it was more apt to have been "to the ankles " I guess "below the knees" sounds quite long these days

It was nice to get Russells long letter, we are glad to hear he is getting on well and soon will be over his foot trouble, Also the other bits of news and the various people he mentioned.

Got the floor washed and put liquid wax on this morning, and it does look nice, I was afraid with all the people tracking the fine sand b up from the cellar and in from out side it might wear it down if I didn't get a surface put on , now I have something to dust off easily.

All for now,

Loads of love,

Catherine

Tuesday. Woke again to find 3 inches of fresh snow, its awfully pretty but a little too much of a good thing!

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Wed. April 18, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Well at last we had one day that felt a bit like spring and that was yesterday, it was sunny and felt warm, got up to 40 or 45 above, but to-day is rather cloudy and the wind feels cold though it is again 40 something. The snow is mostly gone except for the drifts. I have spent the afternoon trimming the spruce trees that make sort of a hedge in front of Mom's, she wanted it done before she left but it was too cold, we have a long clipper and I rather enjoy doing it. Several people went by as I was working and not until I came in and combed my hair did I realize the gloves I used had been used previously for handling coal and my face was covered with black^Y smooches ! Well luckily the people I spoke to were at some distance. Barbara came up with Johnny and I went down to see some changes she has made to the furnishings, a congooleum rug for the dining room until the children get beyond the spilling stage, and that rug for the guest room. She said she noticed the childrens table manners are better when eating in the dining room.

Monday we felt as if we were having a holiday with no workmen around, but yesterday Cecil came to do the wiring and again to-day to finish his part of the connections. Ernie and Tom were to come this afternoon if the duct work being made in Calgary arrived. There were a few more joints to be made. There is a trucking ban on the railroads right now as the frost is coming out, so the ducts were to come by train. They didn't come yesterday and Pete went down to-day a couple of times when suddenly they appeared by express and just in time for the men to work on them this afternoon, so that was fine. It is connected on the old ~~thermostat~~ now for after Cecil got the new thermostat all set up there was a question about a fanper and they don't dare do some part until 8th comes on the weekend. However we have the cold air being drawn off and the warm air blown in so the house will be comfortable.

Had callers for a short time last evening, Mrs McGivern and Molly Hamilton but they went early as the dog was getting cold and had such muddy feet they wouldn't bring him in.

Not a great deal to write about. I was interested in your letter about the difference in the various years as to spring weather. the contrast seems to be between Apple blossoms the original 19th of April and the snow on the 150th Anniversary, but doesn't it almost always equal up by June ? In spite of our snow storms the pussy willows are coming out on the Aspen trees and the balm of Gilead buds are swelling, but not a sign of green grass anywhere, though the larkspur and poppies have started poking up.

How is George ? you had us pretty worried in your letter until you said it was Chicken pox and I am afraid we laughed too, but I guess it can be pretty serious, a man of his age. I guess that is what the high temperature came from.

Thursday morning. Quite an evening we had last night. Then men decided to work after supper to get finished

up & we didn't mind. were glad in fact. We were going to have
X an early supper when Mr Goddard called. He is the Bank Manager
& we were much amused by his saying he had come to Pete for
advice. We couldn't imagine what advice Pete could give. but it
was about some paintings of his which that some man wanted
to buy & he also wants photographs taken. The men came back
about six. Jackie came with his problems in the evening &
the men worked until midnight. We made them coffee
about eleven when they seemed to like. It must have
been a long day, nearly 6 hours extra. They are back
this morning finishing up. The electrical part is done
& now we try it out until Willard comes on the week-
end.

Gods of love
Catherine



Banff, Alberta.
Sunday, April 21, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Thought you wouldn't mind if I used up this paper of Pete's on you.

We are having real spring weather, sun and showers, only our showers are in the form of snow or hail and don't amount to anything. The ground had a dusting of snow when we woke this morning but it disappeared right away. Yesteray was lovely in the morning and not too bad in the afternoon. I helped Mildred trim a few of the spruce in front of their house in the morning and then raked part of Mom's lawn in the afternoon, Davy helping empty the wheel barrow. We planned to rake in the evening but it was too showery with even a little rain. Jackie came to supper and we planned to talk him into helping but he promised to come over this afternoon and give us a hand. her lawn is the only one dry enough to rake. and we thought if we got it tidied up she wouldn't feel she had to rush home to get it done.

We are still looking for Willard to make us another call to adjust the heat. However it is working allright and the house is more comfortable than it has ever been. Cecil came, I think it was Wednesday, and did the wiring which took him all day. Then Friday Mr Watt and Robert did the water connections and put in the Diphon pump. It is a most ingenous thing and we never knew there was such a thing until they got this for us. In the cellar floor there is a bucket set in as we are too low to have a drain in the floor. Had we known more about it we would have had the bucket made a little different but they were able to set the pump down in and it works like the back of a toilet with a float. When the water gets so deep the float rises and trips something and a weight goes down and the water is pumped out into the sewer. no electricity or anything like that to make it work just the water pressure. There is a fine spray of water ~~in the~~ ^{that} goes into the air that is blown through the house and the excess has to go off somewhere and that is why we had to have the pump, then if there is a leak in the basement and it starts flooding the pump whuld also take that off. Itrealy is quite a thing.

Ernie and Tom appeared yesterday morning and said they were on their way to Calgary, we had expected Willard to come over but he had gone to Sunshine to ski so now we are pretty sure he won't be in until to-night as the bus only makes one trip a day. We have decided not to have any more done in the house for a few weeks, as Pete has some work he wants to do and it is impossible to work with men around. I shall have to start my spring cleaning!

It was funny you should mention the yellow ellysum, for it was only the other day that Cis asked if your ellysum was out yet. The garden must be lovely, I do think it is the prettiest time of year, but it does seem early. We had asparagus for the first time Thursday 45¢ a pound. a bit expensive but it comes all the way from the state of Washington. It was very good though.

Cis got a letter from her sister who lives just north of London near Epping forest. They had a robot bomb hit the corner of the house but luckily no one was hurt and their bedroom was the only room not badly damaged. Of course all the windows were broken for about the tenth time and everything covered with dust and plaster and soot and you can imagine the mess. They had just finished the spring cleaning which I think was the hardest to bear! The brother and family who were completely bombed out a while ago, were sleeping in the shelter. They were to move in a day or two to their new house which had just been finished, and if a bomb didn't hit that too and enough to bring all the ceilings down, another mess.

Lovely and sunny and we are going up to Sams to ask him something.

Loads of love,

Catherine



Monday, April 23, 1945

Dearest Mother,

I feel as if we were quite busy with public things. Went this afternoon to the Tuberculosis Chest Exray thing, then was brought home by Casper MacCullough and Mr Orr who are selling War Bonds, the Drive started to-day for we have only two drives a year, and then to-morrow morning I go to the blood donors clinic.

The Exray is quite wonderful. The T.B. Society have bought a Mobile unit, and the exray machine is all built on the back of a large truck. There are two men who go with it and it goes all over the province, a few days in each place. The exrays are free for everyone. The Kinsmens Club is sponsoring it here and started out by canvassing the whole town, one signed a card saying you wanted it and then the card was returned giving the time of one's appointment.

In case you are interested (there isn't much news otherwise) I'll tell you how it was organized. The truck with the exray unit was backed up to the front entrance of the school and a tent stretched from the door to the steps of the truckunit. We went in the back door of the school, down into the basement where we went to one of two desks and a lady wrote our names and age etc. on a card, then we were ushered into a section behind canvas which was divided into several dressing rooms marked "men" and "women". From the looks of the canvas partitions I imagine they come with the truck. Ladies had been advised to wear a shirtwaist or sweater and skirt, as one had to strip to the waist. and no underwear. It was very simple, they gave each lady a sort of unbleached cotton cape that went over the head and which we kept on for the exray. They also had skirts for those who wore dresses. We waited a few minutes and then were given a number on a celluloid disc in return for the card. Then in groups of six or so ladies we all went out to the truck in bunches, a bunch of men just finishing before us. It took only a minute. One man told us how to stand and put the number in a slot and the other men said "take a deep breath", "hold it" and there was a click and that was all. If they find a trace of T.B. they send word to your Doctor on the card and he in turn lets you know. It really is a wonderful idea we think, but actually there is almost no T.B. here in this part of the country except maybe among the Indians. I hope they do them.

Yesterday we had rather a quiet day, got up a little late and then after lunch I went up to rake Mom's lawn while Pete worked on some drawings they asked him to do for the High School Diploma, a pen and ink drawing of each school building. I had barely started raking when Harold came to help, Barbara was trying to do

her yard but "distant pastures look greener" or something like that. for soon Davy appeared and when Johnny came along Barbara said that she figured she might as well help me. so in an hour we finished the job and then had a cup of tea and a piece of wonderful layer cake Barbara had made. It was quite an event cutting the cake, first putting a row of pecans around the edge. It was spice cake on the bottom, date filling and then white cake for the top layer with a lemon icing.

I hadn't been home very long. just time to take a bath and be part dressed when the Morants dropped in. We saw them last on the train going east last fall. They live in Montreal and he is about the best photographer in ~~xxxxxx~~ Canada. He has taken pictures for the C.P.R. and was loaned by them to the Government. We met them in Vancouver two years ago, they also used to go on the trail hike. We had a nice visit and they stayed to tea, and then Pete had to drive them to have a short visit with Dan Mac Cowan. before train time.

Last evening we rather looked for Willard, but no sign of him yet so we figure he must have gone back to Calgary, any way we have the heat in the house so except that the Moduflow doesn't work yet we are quite comfortable.

We also had callers Saturday afternoon, maybe I told you, guess I did.

Now I must look over some old magazines for the Salvage.
Loads of love

Catharine
Tues, snow again this morning. about 2 inches.

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Thursday, April 28, 1948

Dearest Mother,

Such a spring as we are having, after sending your letter off on Tuesday and scribbling at the end that we woke that morning to find the ground covered with another inch or two of fresh snow. It got a bit colder that night and if it didn't snow all day yesterday and most of to-day, not enough to pile up at all but enough to keep the ground white and to have a little dry snow falling all the time. It even went down to 14 above and in Calgary they have a cold wind. There is no sign of it getting any warmer and everyone is sort of fed up, especially the gardeners. It was Good Friday that we raked up some of the chips left from the log peeling and since then as they have been in the shade they have stayed covered with snow or too wet to do anything with. However I am getting a bit done in the house.

Tuesday went to the Blood donors clinic, it doesn't seem to affect me that I can see but then they usually don't get the maximum but a good amount. The first time they got just 260 and each of the other donations have been 350, I believe 400 or 425 is all they take from anyone. Earl Moore is always the one to make the toast and coffee and really it is rather fun and sociable with a couple of people eating and maybe one or two resting on cots for a few minutes. I think it is a very nice clinic.

Have been arranging magazines etc up stairs for they got all mixed up and very dusty being moved about so much. The joke was on us for Tuesday night Pete was very helpful and we moved a lot of magazines and furniture upstairs, and of course he did the heavy lifting and then about nine as we finished Bill Bunn, Ken (his son) and Jack Blackburn came with a truck to get the five logs we had left over from the beams in the front room, so of course Pete gave them a hand lifting them on to the truck. We are glad to have them off the lawn and it seemed too bad to cut them up for fire wood when Bill could use them to help hold up his banking.

Red Cross today and then home in time to hear Stetinius Soong, Molotoff and Eden. We had supper while Molotoff was speaking. Thought the speeches very good and both Eden and Stetinius seemed to speak with great feeling and sincerity. Soong I thought was good but it was a little hard to make head or tale out of Molotoffs speech, it seemed to repeat so much about organization. I imagine to read it one would get more out of it. They all seem to be aware of the seriousness of the situation and I think it is well that there is no great personality that stands out above the rest, as Roosevelt, Shurchild or Stalin would have done, dominating the whole conference. Roosevelt by his death seems to have accentuated the meaning of his words, it is strange it should all have happened this way. I wonder had there been radio for everyone during the last peace conference, if the U.S. wouldn't have followed Wilson's lead and entered the League of Nations. For I believe he brought Europe the hope of salvation (you might say) only to have his own country not willing to follow him.

Yesterday afternoon we had a funny thing happen. It was letting up a bit snowing and I heard what sounded like a heavy rain or hail on the roof, you know the kind that comes with a thunder storm, a few drops and then quite a downpour. Pete called me to come quick but quietly, (he was painting in the studio) and look out the little window onto the roof. There were hundreds of little fat birds like cedar waxwings but without the tuft on top of their heads, and they were hopping about the roof pecking at the shales for grubs or bugs of some sort. and it made a noise just like you

Friday. Didn't finish this last night but will send it along today. We woke to find it dull & snowy again this morning. Most discouraging.

Nearly forgot to say I liked the shade of red you sent very much. I agree that blue would not look well. White would be fine to lighten it up. better than too much yellow. The Navajo rug is made of earth shades or dyes. & is Brown, gray & white with touches of red. very pretty too.

Loads of love

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
April 30, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

This won't be a very long letter to-day as I have started spring cleaning. Have decided to do just a little at a time. Have a wonderful new cleaner called "Dic-a-Odo." It comes in a powder form and you mix it into a paste the consistancy of thick cream (we haven't seen as thick cream since the war !) but anyways it is sort of thick. You can wipe or paint it on with a brush and then you just wipe it off with a cloth rinsed out in cool water. It is wonderful for the logs and takes the dirt and dust off so easily. no rubbing or scrubing. Then when they dry I shall put on "lo coat and then the dust won't stick again as it did to the rough surface. I told Pete I couldn't see that the motions were much different than a set of tennis, you wave your arms about in the same way and you don't even have to run but can walk for fresh water. Also I think it accomplishes more. "nyway I prefer it to tennis.

It does seem as if we were to have a bit of mild weather at last. as the radio man said "Spring has come to Calgary or is it summer ? " We surely had a dose of snow last week, it snowed a bit every day and sometimes quite a lot. The snow stayed on the trees all Saturday, melted and then froze and made lots of little icicles on the trees, very pretty, but no sign of lawan so even yesterday we couldn't do anything out side. but to-day looks more hopeful. and the snow has practically gone.

Had a fowl again Saturday, only I cooked it all day and then roasted it the last hour, it was quite a success and we had the last in stew this noon. We were quite excited all Saturday evening hoping that the news of Germany's unconditional surrender was true, but all too soon it proved to be a rumor. I do think that men in such positions should be more careful what they say to the correspondents, for naturally Connally being head of the foreign affairs committee, would be expected to know things a little before the rest. The end of the War in Europe means so much to anyone with a member of their family in it. Well I am glad to hear to-day that the strategical bombing is over. What an end to Mussolini, the fact his own people did it to him means he couldn't have sunk much lower.

" nice long letter just came from you, all about the tea and the good things to eat. How lovely the garden must be and with the weather a bit colder things will last longer.

Nice that Henry is out of the Army. I think they are gradually letting the older ones ~~out~~ who have other jobs to go to, for otherwise it will be hard to get everyone rehabilitated. Hope that Russell too can get out before long as I imagine his job was sort of organizing and they won't be expanding but rather cutting down from now on.

Had a lovely letter from Cousin Alma, so sorry to hear that Cousin Bert has boils, they take a lot out of one. It was true about Richard Smiley being killed. I do feel badly for he was such a fine lad. That was the reason I thought perhaps Ebbs would name his new son Richard.

They sent me a notice about the Guild Picture and I was rather slow replying so asked them to mail it to me care of Frances, for I thought that Gil might like it. It didn't seem a subject we would care for.

In tidying up I found the annual report of the Society of Arts and Crafts, it is last May and if you get one this May could you send it to me? They are interested in Handicrafts here and have a little store and I thought they might get some information out of it.

Must not write more now, Pete is sure that the Russians have it all planned that the war will end or at least Berlin's capture be announced on May day and that is to-morrow. The Russ I think he is right.

Loads of love

Catherine.

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Thursday, May 3, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Was going to write you last night but the Moores came down so of course I didn't. They brought us a wonderful present of an old Navajo rug that had belonged to Mrs Warren, it is a beauty and fits in very well, has the same gray and black and white but a different red, a lovely shade and I think your chair cushion will look very well with it.

At last we are having perfect spring weather, Monday was lovely but a strong wind which meant that raking was out of the question but Tuesday and Wednesday were still and warm and such a hot sun. enough to give us a bit of burn yesterday, for we were working outside all day, it was too nice to stay indoors. My house cleaning has come to an abrupt end with the cleaning of only the northeast corner of the front room not including the floor, but that looks pretty nice. Monday I did the blank wall and the couch very thoroughly, putting Glo coat on the logs, two coats. Then Tuesday I got a pretty good start on the Northwest wall to the right of the big window and the cupboard. Pete went to the Blood donors Clinic and because he didn't have an appointment naturally had to wait to the last and it was a busy morning so it was after twelve when he got back, had gotten the job of driving donors home, as Allen was doing it but also had to donate too that morning. In taking one lady home to the Womens Services house, or whatever they call it, she asked him to do them a poster, so now he has that to do!

In the meantime Bell Brewster came over to ask about cleaning oil paintings but I wasn't too sure so she waited for a while. We went over there later on in the afternoon. and showed her how, they were in the midst of house cleaning with everything all piled in the center of the room etc.

When Pete came home at noon he said that a Swiss Couple who have been skiing at Temple wanted to come down that afternoon and bring a couple from Alaska, a mother and daughter. Pete said after two would be fine and then they had to go to Canmore at 3.30 so that seemed a good arrangement for both of us. I put back all the things in my corner after only one coat of the wax and hurriedly tidied up and changed my clothes, then we waited sitting on a plank outside the kitchen in the sun. about 2.45 a girl from the store came around to say they had telephoned that as the Alaska couple couldn't come they would rather put it off until Wednesday. so we went over to the Brewsters and up to Sams, he was coming to do some work on a step into the basement but as we were having company told him not to come. so the afternoon was gone pretty well. Then yesterday we tried all morning to get in touch with the ^{couple} and I didn't dare start cleaning in case they came and the same to-day. We worked outside instead. Pete sanded the dormer and we moved all the chips as soon as they would thaw enough, the place looks much better. *Hope they make their call soon so I can get on with my cleaning.*

We have been indoors so much a 11 winder it is good to get outdoors and do a bit. There is a lot of cleaning up yet as the work men always leave a mess of boards and bricks etc. which the snow melting has uncovered.

This isn't much of a letter but will try to answer yours the next time. Isn't the war news good? It is hard to believe that the war in Europe is practically over. Loads of love. Catherine



Banff, Alberta.
Sunday May 6, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

What a week of news developments this has been, It seems queer to think how exciting any one item would have been a few months ago and now it is all hard to realize so much has happened. We have had the radio on a good part of the time and if we wake up in the night run through a few stations, The other night at 3 o'clock I woke and turned on the radio, found Calgary on the air and usually it goes off at midnight, so we listened for a while But nothing happened. However it looks as if it might be any time now. Pete lost out on his "ay day guess for he was sure the Russians would try to time the capture of Berlin with their May day celebrations but were a day late. We will be relieved to hear that Norway has been surrendered. It was grand to have them give up Holland and Denmark without more useless fighting and as that is the front all the Canadians are on it was fine news here.

I guess I told you a lot about the couple who were to come and see us Tuesday afternoon and didn't show up, then we looked for them Wednesday until Pete found them and heard they were to go to Lake Louise Wednesdayxxthey after lunch, then Thursday we couldn't get in touch with them at all and so by afternoon decided to forget all about it and of course were surprised when they all four came down at four o'clock, I got tea but didn't have much on hand. There was Marios Gabriel and his wife ~~and~~ from the Engadine in Switzerland, near St Moritz, they are Romanish. He teaches skiing in the Laurentians near Montreal. They brought the Crumrines with them, Mrs Crumrine and her daughter, who does portraits of dogs in Pastel, and very well too, the mother does landscapes. They live in Junean and are now on their way by plane to Aklaviek at the mouth of the Mackenzie River, in the Artic really. They go all over the north but like to come here each year for a vacation and a bit of painting, have a Persian cat that goes everywhere with them. But they are very nice and quiet little people. After tea they had to see the sketches and Marius had to go before to see someone off on the train saying that he would come back again to see the pictures, We had visions of having to go all through another showing but they left yesterday and just ran around for a moment to say Good-bye hope to be back next year.

As they were all leaving that afternoon, Laura and Carl Oakander, (who is just back from overseas in the R.C.A.F.) came in to ask us down to their house that evening, as " all the kids were coming in to some movies of skiing " So that evening we

went down and I guess they all were a bit younger than us but it was very nice and the boy who had the movies also showed some of Alaska , He was a surveyor on the Air ports along the highway and also helped ~~on~~ the bridges. It was fun to see the country through which the Alaska highway runs, It must be interesting mostly because of the low light and long shadows, but it is not as spectacular as the Jasper highway here,

It was a pretty late evening for us as it was after midnight when we got home, so we weren't too ambitious next morning. Have forgotten all we did that day but I know we went to bed about 9 and listened to the radio until nearly eleven, or at least I did. It looked as if the Norway thing might happen but of course one has to realize that the difference in time makes it midnight here when it is 8 o'clock ^{AM} there. We were well asleep when I heard voices calling outside, I got up very sleepily and found the moors, Fern Cyril Childe and a Toronto lady all out in the driveway, much excited and wanting to hear the 12 o'clock news. so of course we got up and let them in, then changed our clothes or rather got dressed, They had brought a case of beer (12 bottles) and when I got down were drinking out of measuring cups and any odd glasses they could find. It must have been after one when they left, quite an evening and of course there was no real news after ~~news~~ ^{all}.

I forgot that evening we had made a long rather hard call on Mrs Edwards who's son Hupe was killed in Burma, Pete has always known the family and Hupe was just a few years younger than us and also was out at Skoki several winters so we knew him well.

Yesterday we made another call on old Mrs Anderson who's husband died last week and then I went to see Mrs Coper who is a great friend of Mom's and has Club feet and so doesn't get about she is also 83 and her birthday is to-morrow so rather a good thing I went when I did. There never seems much time to make such calls but of course it is a nice thing to do.

Now it is lovely out and we really should be doing a bit more raking so I won't write more right now.

Loads of love,

Catharine .

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Tuesday May 8, 1945.
V.E. Day.

Dearest Mother,

Will try to write in between special radio broadcasts for there are all sorts of speeches etc going on.

We were so sorry to hear about Cousin Jane, it was a week ago to-morrow she was operated on and I do hope everything went well. You said that it was the same thing Jean has on her eye, is it what Miss Matharina Agge has? Didn't Uncle Fred have cataracts or was it this? I believe cataracts can be removed successfully, I do hope they can operate successfully on Cousin Jane for her eyes mean su very much in her life. Do write us all you can for we are anxious to know.

Seems to me when things happen in Concord they happen all at once, but this time Mrs Anderson was evidently well so you hadn't the food problem to worry you. It was nice that Russ and Kitty ^{to be} in Concord a whole week and such a nice time of year to be there too. I know how you will enjoy that, Do hope your cold didn't develope into a real one so you could enjoy the family.

V.E. day is very quiet here, we rather expected it to come over the weekend and stayed close to the radio, also it was rather cold. Sunday we took a nice drive out by Minnewaka to get the carbon out of the engine of the car, so much of our driving is just a few blocks and stopping and starting the engine gets very sluggish. We are going to have it over hauled this week if we can, or next and then drive to Calgary, it is good for an engine to have a long run every so often.

Yesterday we heard the news of the unconditional surrender about 7.45 and then listened for Churchill most of the morning, but as we had an idea stores would close at noon, which they did, and to-day would be a holiday we had to get a few things in. Also made a few calls in the afternoon, saw Edmee, and went to see Asta and take her our Norwegian flag, she was the girl who was up at Temple when the Nazis entered Norway five years ago, she was awfully happy as you may imagine to think that there would be no more fighting in Norway. We also saw Pearl at the hotel for a few minutes and met a couple of British officers who have been up the coast in what they call "the Polar Bears" They were both with the 8th Army in Libya, awfully nice lads.

We had tea with Sam and Cis having taken up a radio to them as theirs is very poor. Then we had a quiet evening except to go over to the Main street at eight to see dummies of Hitler and Goring made by Ike Mills burned in front of the Legion. The stuffed figures were hanging there and rafts of children, little boys on bicycles bringing paper cartons from all directions for the fire, finally Ike appeared having had a bit too much beer in the Legion and told them they were not to burn it until to-night, the kids were good and most of them went home as we did, however a little later we heard the fire engine and sure enough the temptation had been too much for some little boys and the fire had been lit. That seemed to be about all the excitement in Banff. The school children were let out yesterday morning and a few boys got some band instruments together and blew them as hard as they could while going up and down the main street in an old battered car.



A fnumber of little boys decorated their bycycles with paper and everyone who had a flag hung it out, but there was little real excitement and I think most people sat near their radios to listen to special broadcasts as we did, also a cold east wind didn't help much. There are church services going on too but no parades as there are few men to parade I guess, and no band.

Thank good ness it is over at last and what a relief to all ~~Yt~~ee with members of their familys in Europe.

Hope to hear good news about Cousin Jane, we shall be thinking of her.

Loads of love,

Catharine -

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Friday, May 11, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

This may not be much of a letter to-night for in a little while we are going out to rake a bit. We were out last evening trying to clean up trash left by the workmen, bits of tin and boards and you know the kind of mess there is. It has been either too frozen or too wet and under one pile of lumber we moved was ice. As Pete says this job we had four sides of the house to clean, for where the cement mixer was was the worse mess and then all the chips and bark from the peeled logs were over the front lawn and the mess at the back of the house too. It was about the first evening that was warm enough to work outside, that is one nice thing about Banff, the evenings are so lovely and long at this time of year,

We are having a little trouble with water seeping in some of the corners of the basement, evidently some of the cement got frozen and so is porous, Pete tried to fix a few spots himself on Wednesday and then Sam appeared yesterday and they both worked and were fairly successful, Mr Pickering who poured the cement came today, he feels quite badly for he said he was willing to bet it wouldn't leak, the worst of it is that the leak is in the coal bin, now nicely filled with coal for next winter, for we were advised by the Gov't to get it this spring. Now it looks as if they would have to take out all the coal, Mr Pickering is to send two men to shovel to-morrow which will help, but it does seem as if there was always something to be done. Maybe we shouldn't have built ourselves a basement this year until the war was over but seeing the men had the time it seemed too bad not to take the opportunity for once they can get building materials there will be so much building going on it will be hard to get anyone to work for one.

Red Cross yesterday afternoon, we are making little blue blouses and boys cotton under shirts. I noticed in the paper a picture of a nurse just released from the prison in the Phillipines. She had a dress on made by the Red Cross and spoke of getting Canadian Red Cross parcels, though only one or two, actually she trained at the same time as Ella Renick, who is one of our regular Red Cross workers. And Ella said she wouldn't have recognized her she was so thin and had been a rather plump girl. She was a missionary.

One Banff boy who has been missing in Burma for over a year I think, (was flying dangerous missions for the R.C.A.F.) was found in a Jap prison camp in Rangoon and so is safe, Pretty exciting for his family here.

We are just at the end of the spring War Bond drive, We have one each spring and fall, lasts three weeks and each town and province try to reach a certain objective. The Banff quota is usually \$100,000 and this time their total for the war passed the million dollar mark. I think that is pretty good for a small town like this of about 2500 people to be able to buy a million dollars worth of bonds in five years. The chinamen who run the Greenhouse buy a lot, I expect because they can't send money to their familys in China as they used to and the Greeks the same, but there are not many people here with much money to invest.

I am never any good in remembering Mother's Day but I know you don't mind seeing that I remember you every other day in the year! I do hope that your cold is better. it was too bad you had it just when Russell and Kitty were there. they didn't stay as long as I thought they were going to but better than just a weekend and soon they will be coming back for good we hope.

Glad to hear that Cousin Jane is out of the hospital, do let us know how she is.

Saturday. Just a line. We hear that you have had a blizzard. It made the front page of the Calgary Herald and quite a bit on the radio, was it 15 inches? It said 30 in parts of Maine. it must be awfully wet heavy snow and a 70 mile wind, well maybe it is the snow in drifts that is so deep. I am sorry for it looks as if it would do a lot of damage.

Loads of love,
Catherine

Banff, Alberta.

Tues, May 15, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

This is Jean's birthday, and I still haven't gotten off her present and don't know when I shall. We have been very busy, I am "in the throes" of housecleaning the front room but hope to have the last wall done to-morrow, if nothing interrupts. The thing that takes the longest time it seems to me is moving the knick knacks etc. out of the road, I do one small section of wall at a time so the room doesn't get too upset. Then as I am putting Glo coat on the logs, and 2 coats, so that I have to let the first one dry in between. It takes the morning to wash the logs and most of the afternoon to allow for the drying between coats. It looks so much nicer that it is well worth the effort. The Glo coat gives a soft sheen not a high polish and will be easy to dust off. I still have the books to dust and things like that to do, but they aren't difficult.

Mr Pickering came yesterday with his gang to patch the parts of the basement that leaked a bit so we hope that will work. And right now Sam and Pete are fixing the rain troughs which were dripping in spots, they also fixed the step that had to be made of cement so we are getting things finished pretty well, but there are always things to be done.

Jackie has been quite sick with stomach flu or something and so we have been making frequent trips over there to see how he is getting on.

Sunday was a miserable day, snowed all day but didn't stay when it hit the ground which was something for we didn't have to go through a day of melting and yesterday was nice again.

There are lots of letters from you to answer but don't think I will get around to it to-day, for I will soon be going over town and want to put on the first coat of Glo coat first and also wash up a bit.

Am glad that your cold is a bit better and of course by now it will be over I am sure, I guess it was having so much going on all at once. Am glad that Cousin Jane is better and do keep me posted how she is getting on.

This isn't much of a letter and doesn't tell you a thing. Wonder if Russell ever got the three letters that I wrote him when I was ill, I sent them all to the house. Guess he just never felt like writing, and I never did hear if he got the book we sent him at Christmas in your box. Remember I did it up while in Concord and put it with your things to go?

Will try and do better next time, by the way I am enjoying the Alaska book very much and will enclose a picture of the street car library in Edmonton that he spoke of. It is funny but I cut it out of an old newspaper the day before the book arrived so I thought you would be interested.

Loads of love to all.

Catherine

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Thursday
May 17, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Yours and Means Sunday letters came to-day and we thought we would hear about the storm though we had an idea you would get more snow than you did. The storm was reported here on our news casts and we thought that Boston had 15 inches. Well I am glad you didn't have that much but any at all is unusual.

Yesterday I finished the walls in the front room, that is all except the stairs, and it does look better and will be easier to keep clean. It was lovely in the morning and then great clouds came up but Pete had told Sam that we would drive him up to Lake Louise after lunch. I didn't realize it until lunch time, but luckily in Banff you can always do things on the spur of the moment as life is planned that way. Sam is to do some work at Deer Lodge for the Crosbies and had to go and see what materials etc he would need. So we picked up Sam and Cis after lunch and started out. It was so lovely as we went west that we had the top down all the way. The clouds were unusually lovely and at this time of year the mountains are at their best covered with snow. While Sam did his measuring we three went to the lake which of course is frozen over still, but the light on the glacier was the loveliest I have ever seen it. We saw Edward and Rudolph, the two Swiss guides up there now, and sat on the steps of their chalet in the sun. The birds were singing and the snow still in drifts was melting fast. However it has snowed a lot the last month and yesterday morning the ground had been covered with fresh snow. We couldn't have picked a lovelier afternoon, we were very fortunate. Got back here at six in a big shower for it was storming near Banff and has been snowing and raining ever since. as it is 35° above now I expect the ground may be white in the morning. the rain though is good for the ground and the grass is very green, in spots.

There were lovely bluebirds and swallows and robins at Lake Louise and a singing bird that sounded like a canary, we saw lots of elk deer and sheep too. It is funny but it is the biggest trip I have taken since we got back to Banff. Pete had to go to Calgary a couple of times but I haven't been further than Lake Minnewaka which is about 8 miles I think.

Did I tell you that the Wards have four baby canarys. keeps 'is busy putting food in the cage, they eat so much. The first batch of eggs never hatched and so 'is took them away. before long the canary had laid five more, one was very small and never did anything, but it is rather exciting having four babies. I have lent 'is the ~~big~~ ^{big} Fairchild book and she agrees it is not quite as interesting as the other, in the way it is written, and she also said it was so heavy to hold when reading in bed that she rests it on a pillow.

I was amused at Frances thinking your cream was soft custard. our cream now-a-days is pretty thin, it is called Superior milk and is ~~not~~ spun round or something so it all stays the same consistancy and keeps wonderfully, a week sometimes, never sours naturally. but we haven't been allowed to buy whipping cream for several years, I think they use as much cream as possible for butter and they are only allowed to sell cream with so much butter fat. However you can whip some kinds of canned milk, though I don't very often.

Have you thought of trying one of those reading machines that Mrs Harris uses, I should think you would all enjoy it, and if one missed one part no doubt you could go back and do a part over. Doesn't the Readers Digest have something to go with it?

I have been re-reading your letters for I know there are several things I intended to comment on and never did. One of course was Mr Hibbards exhibition and the painting you bought. It sounds a very lovely one and we are delighted to think it will be for us some day. I do think he paints now wonderfully and am glad to hear his colors aren't too bright, he was getting almost ~~to~~ too many colors for a while, but I think all artists go through periods in their work.

How is Miss Legate, I didn't realize she had been so ill or is so ill? maybe I should say. and how is Miss Annie Agge getting on?

Do hope you are feeling better and not so tired, our life seems very quiet and simple compared to yours.

Time to go to bed so all for now,

Loads of love,

Catherine.

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Sunday, May 20, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

We had nearly three full days of heavy rain and snow starting with the storm Wednesday afternoon and slowing up only yesterday (Sat). It really looked as if we were in for a pleasant weekend but I foolishly bought lettuce for a cold lunch to-day and what is it doing but snowing again!. Most discouraging somehow, it looks just like November out. Right now at 4 O'clock it is getting lighter and the sun trying to come out, we have been picturing Sam buried in snow at Lake Louise which is a thousand feet higher than here but curiously enough they have had quite good weather, little rain only cloudy. The poor farmers are the ones who are having difficulties. Some who got their seeding done had it all blown out during a bad wind storm a week or so ago and haven't had time to get it dry enough to seed since, others haven't even gotten their seed in at all and it is getting awfully late as you may imagine.

Mrs Mac was down yesterday morning having been away at the coast visiting for about two months, she said she saw so many lovely gardens that she was finally speechless from admiring and finding anything new to say. It is a lovely season to be out there though they have had it very wet this year. She doesn't know quite what to plan as it depends on what her daughter Mary does and her husband is in the R.C.A.F. the permanent force and can be sent anywhere. Her call sort of put me off in the morning in what I had planned to do and then we forgot it was Harold's 7th birthday so had to go over to find a present. Jackie came to supper for we had a roast and I even got mushrooms at one of the stores, they get them from the coast but I have never seen them before, Harold came for his present and seeing rare roast beef and mushrooms was pretty hungry even on top of ice cream and cake. Soon I saw Davy running over followed by Johnny and a lot of little boys and girls, so I asked if they were the children at the birthday party and Harold said they were so we told him he should go over if they were his guests, he ran off but Davy came in and also had a big supper of mushrooms, they were more exciting than ice cream.

I surely will have to wait for the Fairchild book, I could still kick myself for not buying the one in Ottawa, I went back the same day and it was gone though I had first seen it a week earlier. Well perhaps after the war they will reprint it.

Edith's letters must be amusing and living in a Navy Yard would be an experience for them all, they are what I think they call in "Uninhibited children" and so say much funnier things.

You speak of the idea that people shouldn't live to be over eighty, I disagree and think they have a great part to play, for one thing it is only through elderly people that we younger ones can hear of the best things of an earlier age, first hand. Their lives can also be a wonderful encouragement and example and inspiration. Why just in Frances Newbury's last letter she spoke of how much Gil enjoys talking to you, I think she said he would rather spend an evening talking to you than with any woman he knows. Now isn't that something worth living for, after all little things you might say to Gil might be a great influence, you never know, and the way you tear round and do

things might make lots of people say, "when I get older I am not going to rest and be sort of an invalid like so-and-so but do things and be with ~~the~~ people like Mrs Robb." Even the Agges though they live such a quiet life and see so few people somehow affect those ~~they~~ ^{people} they do see. To me they are the perfect ladies and yet with such understanding and sense of humor about little things that one might expect would shock them a bit. They are almost like nuns. Yet if they hadn't lived to such an old age I for one never would have known anyone just like them of a different age. Also I think it helps people who are as young as sixty to think that they have more than 20 more years to look forward to. Maybe it is not so much fun for you being 80 and getting tired doing all you want to do, but just try and think how much enjoyment you give to others and maybe it won't seem too hard.

We thought it was hard to hear Churchill, sometimes they get too near or too far from the microphone and it distorts the sound when they speak.

Am glad you are having fun doing the pillow, I think it will be very attractive when it is done.

Time to be getting supper so I won't write more now.

Loads of love,

Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. May 23, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Just a short note this morning as I have to go over town and get food for the holiday, to-morrow is the 24th of May, Queen Victorias birthday I think. The stores are closing but being in the middle of the week it won't be a very big holdday. Usually we joke about it's always snowing on the 24th of May, but this year it looks as if it would be ideal. This week has been lovely and not a drop of rain, clear and sunny every morning and then lovely clouds, it will help everyone.

Started cleaning the kitchen this week, it is not such a job as I scrubed the logs 2 years ago and they now dust off quite nicely. Then I raked Monday afternoon and in the evening we made a garden bed under the kitchen ~~windows~~, had to dig up the larkspur, then fill in with earth and put the loam back on top and then replant the flowers. The top of the coal bin is stone and we have other flag stones to lay along to beyond the kitchen door and will leave room for the one flower bed. we have a plank laid across two chunks of wood under the other window, it makes a nice place to sun oneself, and enjoy spring fever.

Yesterday I started cleaning the cupboards by the sink. Mostly dusting and rearranging. Someday we are to have newer cupboards that are dust and mouse proof. the mice sometimes get in the drawers and you feel you must wash everything which I did yesterday. I still have the stove and upper china closets to do but they won't be too bad. I did them before we thought of doing the basement and of course everything in the house got a fine dust over it so they will have to be redusted.

Fern was working in her yard in the morning and as I missed her last week I went up and chatted for a while which really interrupted the morning's work so had to finish a bit after lunch which sort of interferred with the afternoon. We asked Fern to supper as she is going east for a month and we haven't seen her at all this winter as she has been out at Sunshine Ski Lodge and will go back for the summer.

Luckily I got the asparragus ready about four thirty for soon after Molly Hamilton called and then Jackie for some meat. Molly asked us to go to the movies with her but ⁹ said we were having company for supper so luckily she went ^{to see the hints} by quarter to six, but the supper was very s

simple, Beef tenderloins and asparagus, ice cream with fresh crushed pineapple which I had cut up earlier. After we had washed up the dishes we three went up to see Carl Rungius who has been back just a week, looks very well for 75 which he will be this summer. He also is house cleaning.

A man with a team of horses is here to level the sand excavated from the cellar this winter and he will also cut out some trees for us. Pete went up yesterday and got the game warden down to give us permission. There are always so many things like that to be done. But as we can get this man and his helper to do it it seemed a good chance.

Well I better get started. Loads of love to all and hope Cousin Jane is getting on fine.

Catherine

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Friday, May 25, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

We are so sorry to hear that you have been in bed with that cold that must have hung on. By this time I imagine you are up again and we certainly hope so. Yours and Jean's letters we didn't get until to-day though I have an idea that Jean's might have come on Wednesday, but the store was closed that afternoon and yesterday was a holiday so we got no mail until this morning. There usually is never any mail on Wednesdays for some reason, so we didn't try to find it. Jackie went up to Temple so perhaps it was never gotten anyway. But I am sorry that we didn't know until now that you had been so sick as to be in bed. Perhaps you should have gone sooner for losing your voice does come from being over tired. It is too bad that you and Cousin Jane couldn't go to some place on the sea shore where it is nice and sunny and just sit and rest. But these days it is hard to know where. How about the place in Marblehead where you could just sit and look at the harbor, and watch the boating?

I'm glad that Cousin Jane is feeling stronger, you know I never knew that her brother had had trouble with his eyes. However with each year the doctors are able to do more for one so I do hope they are able to fix her up as good as new. It is rather awkward that the Morse family have all brought up to make every minute count and never be what is called "idle" a minute. I call it "having a New England Conscience". It makes one feel nervous not to be doing something with their hands, yet it is a wonderful thing to be able to sit and contemplate. Seems to me the last few years before the war everyone was flying about and what really did they accomplish, we were probably as bad as the rest. Wasn't Thoreau considered rather a lazy fellow that didn't amount to much by lots of Concord people when he was alive and yet now he is probably the most highly thought of by the general public of any of the famous Concord men, even including Emerson. Yet he must have done a lot of sitting and thinking.

Things are arriving for my birthday, I had forgotten it was coming so soon. A little envelope in a recent letter and now to-day a package of books. Thank you very much, I still haven't done up a package I have for Jean. Guess she will get it for my birthday instead of hers,

Mom came home to-day on the morning train. We met her, and Mildred had coffee made and Jackie was also there and we heard all about her trip. She came here for lunch. Had a nice trip and I think enjoyed it all very much. Saw lots of friends too. The two older girls are coming to work in Banff this summer, Marion up at the Hot Springs pool taking in money and Mavis at the Harmony Drug store. They are to have the bedroom in the basement, which is nicer than it sounds and won't crowd Mom too much, but it will keep her busy I fear. However it will be good company for her.

We were fortunate the last three days and got the two men who have taken over Ike Mills team of horses for the summer, they

came for 7 hours all together and with a scraper leveled off all the dirt from excavating the basement and it was quite a pile that we wanted to fill in with at the back of the house where the land is low. I really didn't think we could get it done this year and the piles of dirt did look messy, now it is all graded quite well. They also took out two big spruce trees by the corner of the house and it lets in much more sun in the afternoon and doesn't look very different. The trees got so thick and the lawn won't grow under them. We had thought of taking out three or four but when the two were out it seemed so much better we decided not to do the rest. One came out late Wednesday afternoon, the horse hauled the trunk away and we burned the branches yesterday morning when there was little wind, then it blew in the afternoon but by the time they came about four yesterday the wind had gone down again and we got those branches burned before supper. They cut the roots first and then with the center tap root holding the tree up they pulled it over with a long rope. The car did the first one and the horses the other. Now Pete has the holes all filled in and you never would know they were out.

*to take out
the other*
Fern leaves for the east to-day so may go to see her off and mail this.

Loads of love and do hope you are feeling better and the weather has improved. At the coast one lady said she was there 5 weeks and only three days it didn't rain so guess it is wet everywhere, perhaps as well with those "ap balloons coming over to try and start forest fires at the coast,

More love, This may reach you Memorial day, it is hard to realize it is so near the end of May.

Catharine

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Monday May 28, 1945.

Dearest Mother.

I know this ribbon is rather faint but will have to wait until we go to Calgary to see if I can get a new one. the real trouble I think is the roller, it seems to be very hard.

Will write long hand instead. At last we are having a bit of summer and though Saturday was a bit rainy, Sunday was perfect. the bluest sky & hottest sun and you could almost see the grass glow, and the leaves come out. the gooseberry bushes have a huge of green and the aspen trees, but so far the balsam of gillads (Johnny calls them "gau a gillie's") have only cat tails. Its certainly a late spring.

Was so glad to hear that you are up and about again and I do hope will not try to do too much. and soon be well over your cold. Am glad too that Cousin Jane improves. but hope she isn't tempted to do too much so the eye will mend. It was lucky her there was on a part of the eye where it could be removed. I think more people have that trouble than one would realize for I have heard of several cases & where the operation was successful.

We had rather a quiet weekend. Mom & Jackie came to help us eat chicken & mushrooms Saturday night & then after they had gone Sam & Cis came to see us. Sam has still another weeks work up at Lake Louise. One of the baby canaries died, which was dad to Cis.

Yesterday we took advantage of the sun. having
had so little this last winter. The kids were over
& in the afternoon Edith-Hilda Hammond and her husband
Hugh Gillay came to ask us up to her mother's this afternoon.
She is the girl who went to India 4 or 5 years ago to marry
this man she met originally in Nassau. He is really
Canadian but in the British Army. a Lt-Col & has been
in Burma recently I believe. He is having his first long
leave in 7 years & she is to have a baby so they came
back. 35 days on the boat. He is to go to Nassau to see
his parents whom he hasn't seen for the 7 years & then
back to India. But Edith Hilda will stay here for a
year or more. He is just as fine as can be & we
are so pleased for E. H. is such an unusually fine
girl.

As usual must be going over town. So
loads of love to all.

Catharine.

Calgary,
Alberta.

Thurs. May 31, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

I have left writing to you a little too long and now there is not much time. Pete went on errand before dinner which I have ready (we eat cold meat & salad these days) then I have sandwiches to make before going to the Red Cross.

At last we have summer weather. It's been 70° all week, or over 80° in Calgary which is warm for these parts. Sunday was such an ideal day & the aspen leaves began coming out. Now after ~~&~~ ~~over~~ 3 more days. And to-day warm & lovely. the grass needs its first cutting & the Elm of Gilhead trees are almost out. You might say we had no real spring this year, just a sudden jump from March to June. The river is high & very muddy from the melting snow. & it seems like summer. doors & windows opened & cold meat & salad for luncheon.

Pete has been working hard on a stone terrace at the back door. It looked so messy with sand

and gravel & lots of odd bits of wood scattered about. He has laid the large flat stones very well, closely fitted in gravel & we can cement them later. They stretch from around the back door along under the kitchen windows to the living room chimney. Leaving room for 2 plots of gardens & I suppose about the only things the deer won't eat & aren't much trouble.

It is impossible to get good earth or loam hauled in, so we dug up a bit of lawn the stones will cover, then filled in with sand from the excavation & used the good earth for a new patch of lawn. Give a job. While we were doing it Pete made the remark "You know some people enjoy gardening, but I can't say I do." I agreed. However one can't get anyone these days to do such work & unless we do it we will live in a mess. Guess it doesn't hurt us. It's good exercise anyway. But there is lots of work to it & you can't do too much at once.

Florence Waterworth who works at the store had her brother come home 2 days ago. He was a Prisoner of War in Germany for about 3 years. He's

been away four years now. The
said they had traveled them 900 miles
back & forth across Germany, though
they couldn't see much since in it,
with hardly any food. He weighed
118 pounds when he received England
after being among the first liberated.
gained 40 lbs in a month, as they
gave them the best of food. So he
doesn't look very different, only a
little more serious in appearance. He was
in his teens when he went away.
He gets 30 days leave & then reports up
Winnipeg. He wants to keep on in the
Air Force.

Time to go. So
Lots of love
Catharine.

P.S. Did I tell you a second parcel
arrived & I haven't even peeked
at the customs declaration, though
I was tempted to. Many thanks.

Banff, Alberta
Tuesday June 1, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Am enclosing 3 clippings which may amuse & interest you. Thought the alarm clock one gave an idea & the one about the dogs similar to the animal book you sent Pete.

Have you read the article about birds in the last National Geographic? Very interesting.

Got such a nice letter from Aunt Julie to-day, also another from you. Its nice that Frances & Gil are now married. I always did think the view from the hill top one of the nicest in Concord. Those folks have decided yet what to do for a house?

Had great fun this afternoon repainting the trim on the shed green. It freshens the whole building. The big board across the top was very faded. Pete got a stick & tied the brush on one end so I could reach it. They call it a "man helper." Pete has the new lots of lawn already to seed & most of the stones laid. It looks very nice. We rather expected the electrician to

make a connection. He came yesterday & said he couldn't come to work. There were so many emergency jobs. (people who needed something in a hurry) & he would come to-day, but never arrived after all. Last night the man with one horse came & scooped up enough earth out of the garden to make Petis Lawns. We also had the car partly serviced to-day. Soon we will have the jobs like that done & be ready for summer. The weather is nice yet but a cold wind from the east all day.

We too have more gas, each coupon worth 7 gallons instead of 3. instead of 120 a year we get 160 gallons. It seems sort of mean we have all the meat we need, & yet they say we use less now than when it was rationed.

Had some roses & Hawthorne sent me by Mrs. Wheeler from the coast. They were still damp, at least some of the tissue paper was, they came by mail - have spruced up in water & are lovely. Made me realize it was nearly summer -

Fri. morning, have just finished vacuuming the floors & my weekly cleaning - must go over town so all for now -

Loads of love

Catharine

Banff
Alberta.
Mon June 4 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Your letter written Memorial Day came this morning. Was sorry to think we didn't have the pleasure of seeing Miss Legate again, she was a wonderful person, so bright & interesting. Miss Herd will feel lost without her. In fact both Miss Herds have lost their closest companions. Too bad about Mrs Bowden & bald for ~~but~~ Miss Herd. I really think Aunt Jane Brooks had the best idea, to keep ones friends young, for remember Grand-pa had that feeling about all his contemporary friends having gone. but I still think older people have a lot to give the younger ones.

There are several older ladies, and gentlemen here, who I should go and see more often. They don't get out much & one could really spend all their time going from one to the other who are lonely, and yet there first isn't true. Some times I wish ~~these~~ that the lonely ones

would make a bit of an effort and go
and cheer the others up - for some aren't
well enough to leave their houses and
yet they are often the most cheerful.
It often makes their own aches and
pains less if they can do some little
thing for another person leaving other
troubles.

We are to have company this
afternoon for tea, friends of Mrs Mac's
so I must go over town & do the
shopping.

The weather is typical June now.
a cold east wind. Only 46° in
Calgary, 50° here, and it looks like
rain. Clouds low on the mountains.
Pete seeded the new bits of
lawn Saturday. Had a quiet day
yesterday, did a bit of reading etc.
Pete made a wonderful Salmon
fish chowder for supper. We had
a couple of pieces left over.

Must go. Am so sorry Cousin
Paul isn't feeling better. No doubt
the cold damp weather has made
things look worse than they are.
It often does. The always is no

cheery about things I can't imagine
her feelings. damn! if only we could
get Churchill to give her a special
talk to bulk up her spirits and
give her new courage, for I am
sure everything will come out
alright.

To give her our love and tell
her we wish we were nearer and we'd
try our hand at giving her encourage-
ment.

Must run.

Loads of love
Catherine.

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Tuesday, June 5, 1945.

Dearest Mother.

It is after supper, (finan haddis, new potatoes and water melon) fish from the Atlantic, potatoes from the Pacific coast and I believe the watermelon was from Texas, danderlions and Rhubarb is about all we could eat from Banff !

Will try and answer some of your more recent letters, usually they are never to hand when I start a letter to you so your questions never get answered properly. I am trying the type writer once more and it may be easier to decifer than the long hand I scribble

"hen I read that you had almost had a frsst in your letter to-day, Pete said it was just a year ago the 3rd of June that he was in Concord, during that hot spell. We are having cold and rainy weather just now but it is often this way in June. Gives me a chance to do some things inside. I am getting most everything done. At least all I intend doing right now.

Last night we ran up to see how Qis was making out as Sam is still working at Lake Louise, saw the birds for they are all out of the nest. Two black and yellow ones and the third almost white, they are quite fluffy and fat, the mother is still on the last eggs, four I think and the father still feeds two of the young birds. I never knew they had three sets of eggs so near to-gether. We brought Qis back here for some cold ham, I know how she feels being alone and we told Sam we would keep an eye on her.

We forgot the Quiz Kids this Sunday but heard the one with the children who had been in the Philipines. One can't help wondering how the people keep going when they have so little to eat, I believe Holland was one of the most starved countries, especially in the cities. We have heard a lot of first hand accounts over the radio as so many Canadians were there at the end. Heard a correspondent from Oslo Norway Saturday, and he spoke of being so surprised to see the men and women looking strong and healthy, when he asked how they had kept that way a man told him that they have been all taking cod liver oil, even the grown-ups and it has provided a lot of the vitamins they lacked I guess. whether they have done it for long or not I don't know but it may be fairly recent as the Germans were driven out of the north where they catch so many cod.

Bubby, Barbara's daddest child is very grown up, she is large for her age but has pretty coloring and she is a very nice girl, we don't see much of her now as she is always playing with other girls.

I think the Stockanos all like Vancouver, Cam's hours are very long but other wise they seem to like it all, we may hear more when the girls come for the summer, Marion and Mavis are to stay with Mom this summer. ~~Tot have jobs~~.

There aren't as many letters to answer as I thought. Sam Manierres I thought a little pathetic when he said that while the family were away it was like a second honeymoon and they were trying all sorts of dishes to cook themselves. I imagine that living in the same house with Cousin Kathie doesn't give them much time to themselves.

Wednesday - Last night Pete and I were talking about Cousin Jane and wondering what would be the best way for her to get

back her strength. We both agreed that a change was what she probably needed most, an entirely new environment. We wondered if a trip to California wouldn't do her more good than anything. By the letter Cousin Robert Swazey wrote you I am sure he would like to have her make him a visit and also the other friend he mentioned. (can't think of her name) We would love to have Cousin Jane stop off here on her way and perhaps a few quiet days at Temple or Bow Lakes would really put her right back on her feet, it is nice just sitting in the sun and the good air out here. You ask her what she thinks of the idea. By coming this way she wouldn't find the trains crowded at all and I am quite sure she could get to California from Vancouver. If she is worried about being able to afford it, we could arrange to get her tickets across Canada and of course look after her stay in the mountains. As you will have the children with you for company it would be a good time for her to come. We are sure a trip west would give her a new lease on life.

Loads of love and let us know what you think of the idea and if Cousin Jane would consider it. We would love to have her.

More love to you all.

Catharine -

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Sat. June 9, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Your letter came telling about the trip to Salem to see the Agges before they went to Topsfield, I do think Miss Annie truely remarkable to write such a bright letter after such an operation and at her age. I do hope they can get to the country as planned. It is too bad you couldn't go and visit them.

The suggestion I made in my last letter I am afraid won't do much good. and we are really concerned about Cousin Jane. It is hard to imagine a person like her going to pieces so. isn't it a nervous breakdown? and shouldn't you maybe get her to go to a nerve specialist. I suppose the shock of the eye operation was just too much, and being of a rather nervous disposition anyway it has affected her a bit more. We feel so sorry about it and especially for you to have the added care and worry. and all so unexpected. We didn't realize she spent so much time in bed when we thought of her coming west, but with the travel conditions what they are in the states I am afraid she wouldn't be able to travel to California alone. They say there is no one to help carry bags or anything and the trains are jammed. Had she planned to go to Portland for the summer? Maybe she is waiting for her glasses, fr perhaps the sea and Maine air would help her appetitie and sleeping. I do wish you could get away for a little change before the children come, to the sea for a week. Now that you have more gas you wouldn't feel so afraid to use it. Or take the children to the beach in July. It is too bad it is such a long and hard trip for you out here. Of course you could try flying!

We have been quite busy. I did the stairs this week and they look like new, found a new cleaner made by Sherwin-williams " Wax, Dirt, Grease remover " It worked so well by using steel wool with it that it took all the dirt off the treads and landing and then I put a new coat of clear vernich on. Now I don't let anyone step on them they are so beautiful! Also found that it takes off stain, and so I can hardly wait till Monday to try it on the kitchen cupboards which got too dark when Pete stained them, I tried a little patch the other day and it takes offas much color as you want.

The weather has been cloudy and dull all week, a few spots of sunlight but little rain. However it gave us a chance to do a few things. Went to the Red Cross Thursday, we had a rush order the week before for ditty bags for the navy or Merchant Marine, and Earl Moore came down yesterday to see us and said they have had another rush call for clothes to go on some boat shortly.

By the way, do you still take the Social Register? If you have an old one that you no longer need could you sometime send us one. There are one or two tourists that we would like to look up from time to time.

I must go over now and shop for the weekend, it looks as if it might be nice this weekend.

Loads of love,

P.S. Nearly forgot. Was so glad to have the letter of fathers about the trip to India and also about the house. Did you

want it back or can I keep it?

More love.

Catharine.

Banff
Alberta
Mon June 11, 1945.

Dearest Mother

Just a note (as usual). You will say I always seem to be in a hurry) This is our voting day. I can't vote in Canada or I lose my U.S. citizenship, but Pete has been down to the Federal election, so I expect this evening we will be listening to returns.

Saturday we didn't do such an awful lot. I always clean house only once a week and even with the larger space & new room upstairs I can do it all in one morning. As we only sleep in the big room upstairs it doesn't get dusty except under the bed, rather nice.

Made some Chocolate Ice cream with the Jello's Ice Cream Powder & it came out very well - used their cream which is all one can get. Yesterday afternoon Sam & Iis dropped in about four. Little Johnny came over when he saw the car. We were

setting outside
on the plank we have suspended
between 2 blocks of wood for a bench.
and I suddenly thought of the ice cream,
turned to Cis & said "How about some
chocolate ice cream. Would you like
some?" and while she started to say
"don't bother", a little voice behind
me piped up "Yes I'd like some".
We'd forgotten about Johnny. He thought
it great fun & we all had ice cream
of course.

Washed my hair in the morning &
sorted out sketches. Have got most things
put away but when the ^{restful} clothes were
changed back to empty most storage
space. Still have the clothes to do.
After lunch we went out around by
Minneiska & even walked up to
Peter's Grand Father's old mine shaft
near Cuttree. It was a lovely
day we were out though it had
showered in the morning & rained
again last night. We found some
nice spots to paint too. It is a pretty
time of year with the new green
grass & the spruce trees in bud. There
is no underbrush up there & it is nice
walking.

This morning I polished the desk
inside & table Great Grand Father?
made. Wasn't Morse or Owen? They
both needed it. The tables not the grandfathers.

Will be anxious to hear how Cousin
Jane is coming on. Maybe when she
gets her new glasses her nerves will
be better, but I can see it has been
difficult to know what to do. Nerves
are an awful thing when they go
worse. Makes people so that they can
only think of their own troubles and
exacerbates any illness. Much like
Mrs Mothe. How is she getting on?

Cecil Rilpotts has at last come
to fix the basement lights & furnace
connections. We will soon have things
done.

Loads of love
Catherine.



Banff, Alberta.
June 13, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

The very first thing I want to do is to tell you how wonderful we think the little needlepoint scenes are. It was the greatest surprise when I opened the first flat package and there was the little house at Tofino, I can't begin to tell you how delighted I was, and the funny part is it really is more like the place than my sketch ever was. The coloring is not only perfect but much lovelier than I ever got, perhaps I had some excuse for I was looking at the real place which did need a coat of paint and was pretty weather beaten. Then when the second one appeared of the little Quebec, we thought that even more successful as a picture. Did you get that ~~from~~ idea from the water color I brought you once or was it out of your head? We honestly think they are both beautifully done, the colors are so lovely and you have worked the shades in so very artistically, they could be compared with really well painted sketches. I do hope you showed them to Mrs Schier, you should have sent them to the exhibition at the library, for they really are what might be called pictures drawn or painted in the medium of needlepoint. I think they are way ahead of any of the French Canadian ones, for the way you have worked the color and gotten the effects is lovely and more artietic. Pete is going to frame them for me.

We hope you are planning to do more, aren't they rather fun to do? Do tell us how you did them, did you make a design on squared paper first or did you draw it right on the canvas and then work it? They are so nice to have and I bet every member of the family will be eager to have one, even to Father's 2nd or 3rd cousins. The bead bags you made were lovely, beautifully designed and of course beautifuly made, but they can be used on such few occasions and then I always felt mine was too nice to use even for weddings, but a picture like this can be really enjoyed all the time. Maybe we can stretch that ten years to twenty so you will be able to make plenty more little scenes. We really think you have hit something well worthy, for they are very unusual and really lovely. Do make some more. and many thanks for the first two.

The other presents were very nice to get, the Barbour book looks most interesting, almost the first picture I saw in it was of Mr Bigelow. I know we will enjoy reading it, and the Thurber book looks good too, that is an interesting picture of him you stuck in. We know his things from the New Yorker and have read about him too. He is nearly blind, has

been for years and makes his original drawings on big sheets of paper, about 36 inches by 24. Even for the little drawings he has in the New Yorker.

Aren't the little cards clever with the bittersweet and pussy willows and shells, and the candy is always a great treat, especially now-a-days, when we can only get the odd box and feel guilty not to send it to someone overseas. and even chocolate bars can only be gotten one at a time once a week. and we do like candy as we don't go in for deserts,

Tell Jean that I am very pleased to have the nice pair of stockings, they too are hard to get, one has to have ones name on the list and then you can get one pair when the quota comes in which is about once a month, but sometimes there aren't enough even then for everyone, so I haven't had a new pair since I was east. Have been wearing out old cotton ones and wrinkled silk. I will write Jean soon.

The Girls arrived last evening, Marion and Mavis, and are to stay with Mom. Mavis looked a bit homesick before she had been here two hours but I expect it was to be in Banff and not in their own house, but once they are working they will be alright.

Made some delicious rhubarb ice cream yesterday, think you will like it so will send you the recipe. it is very easy to make and with thin cream.

It is Wednesday so will have to go over for the food as the stores still close in the afternoon on Wed.

* Pete gave me the loveliest stone box 2 x 3 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches in size and made by a man in Banff out of Talc, which is a soft rock found in the mountains. It is dark with white running through it and is really very well made and beautifully polished. carved out by hand.

X Must go, Hope to get a letter saying that Cousin Fane is feeling much better.

Many thinks again for the wonderful pictures, oh and how nice of Gale to send me the little square, I have an idea she made it when in Concord last year. I shall write her.

Loads of love

Catharine -

Barrie.
Alberta.

Tue June 15, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Barbara's mother arrived on Wednesday for a visit, and she was very lucky, for today all sleeping car accommodation was cancelled in Canada to give the space to returning men, and women, from overseas. There may not be dining car service on some trains and they ask people not to travel unless they have to. Of course it may not be as bad in the west as around the east but guess we must all stay put a while longer. They said for anyone who had reservations to call up & see if they were cancelled or not. Rather uncertain -

Guess this puts an end to our idea of Cousin Jane coming west. At the time I'd rather go gotten the troops would be coming home with leaves and all the trains will be jammed. They said until late fall. Of course when you think of the thousands to bring home you don't wonder they will need all the sleep up cars for the next few months.

Yesterday was Red Cross? took the little pictures you made to show Pearl and they were much admired by everyone. I laughed when I saw you had valued them at 25¢ each.

to me \$25.00 would have been more correct! Pete also said it was nice of you to remember him on my birthday with the "Crunch!" He loves it and could easily consume the whole box at one sitting.

My birthday seemed to be full of callers. Hugh Miller (Tilda Hammonds husband) returned some books they had borrowed. Then Mom came down with a wonderful layer cake. She was upset because the cake was so light that the yummy frosting pulled it apart, but it tasted awfully good. Then Asta Hauge the Norwegian girl dropped in about 4 o'clock to tell us she had had a cable from her father in Norway. "All well, Greetings." The first she had heard in 2 years. She sent a right letter & paid for a reply. Wonder has Halinge the card. Asta was the girl who cooked at Temple one winter when Norway was invaded. We had coffee & cake & then drove her back to the Bungalow camp on Tunnel Mt where she works.

It rained from the afternoon on and about eight o'clock who should appear but Lis, with a big bunch

of yellow poppies & yellow eleusine
out of her garden. The 1st flowers, and
some Yardley soap & bath salts. I thought
it awfully good of her to walk way down
on a rainy cold evening. It was so still
at Lake Louise. We sat by the fire, had
no cake & then drove her home about ten.

Yesterday at the Red Cross they were
talking about eye operations. Ella Remondis
both had a cataract removed & the Dr. told
her she must have complete rest for a whole
month, as evidently any operation on the
eye is hard on the nerves. So perhaps
Cousin Jane did too much in the beginning -
without realizing it. I do hope she is
feeling better all the time. But wouldn't
it be better if she went some where quiet?
There is always something going on in
Concord and a feeling of "up & down".
Even the telephone makes one jump in
bed. How would that place where the
Agnes boarded be? the one on Labor-
in-Vain road in Ipswich? Just for a
week or two. It sounded very quiet &
peaceful & has salt air.

Perhaps we aren't much help in
our suggestions - I would think it
very encouraging if Cousin Jane has
even 1/3 sight in her bad eye. She is
still a whole eye ahead of Jean, &
a third of an eye ahead of John Edward.

How awfully nice for Nellie to leave
Wadsworth & family for the summer. It's
been a long time since they were north.

Loads of love & hope you aren't too
tired and that you won't have too hard
a summer.

More love & to Cousin Jane.

Catherine.



Banff, Alberta/
Monday June 18, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Guess I won't get to Calgary until maybe next week and then maybe not. I wouldn't go down except for the dentist and a new typewriter ribbon. This seems darker than usual though.

We too are having rainy weather, not that it comes down so very often but looks like a shower most of the time. I wanted to paint a bit more of the trim on the shed windows but there hasn't been a day that hasn't looked like rain. Yesterday morning was lovely and clear but by afternoon it had all clouded over. You are having it worse than we are and it must be hard on the farmers.

Saturday I was lazy and bought a chicken already cooked. Ted Evans ~~was~~ has a meat market in the store beside the Dye Whites, and this summer he has a cook and is running a delicatessen(I am sure that is spelt wrong) He has all sorts of cold meat and potatoe salad and jellied chicken and eggs etc. This chicken was very good and the stuffing much better than the chiken we had from the meat market when you were here, we had never had one since. Another reason for buying one cooked was that we were invited up to the Macdonalds for beer before supper and it was too difficult to have something reasting when we didn't know how long we would be gone. Mary is there with the grand daughter and Gordie the husband arrives this week for 2 weeks leave. But after Mary leaves Mrs Mac is going to rent the main part of the house and live in the little cabin room that the rest of the huse was built on to. for she expects to be out in the mountains a good part of the time anyway,

Sunday as I said was such a perfect morning and we thought it might be nice to take Mrs Paris out to Minnewanka for a drive, she is the one so crippled with arthritis but though bedridden for a couple of years she refused to give in and just tried to get about until now she can walk without a cane but is terribly lame. she says she feels better to get out. She was just getting ready for church when we went over, hadn't been for 2 years or so, but the ride appealed to her more and Mr Paris and Tinker the dog came along too. We had a lovely drive ~~and then as~~ ^{with the top down} it was her birthday (which we hadn't known about) she asked us to dinner with her at the tea room. which we did.

It was cloudy all afternoon but warm enough to sit out on our bench, Mildred was down and I went up to see Mom a few minutes and hear about Mavis going to work at the store this summer. She evidently is very interested in dress designing and is going to study that instead of going to University, But Marion is still keen on going to University in the fall.

To-day I intended to do all sorts of things but started to listen to Gen. Eisenhowers reception in Washington, making some pillows while I listened. Then Sam and SCIS came about 11 . 30 and as Sam and Pete had a lot to discuss it was after 12 when they left. Now I must do up a package that was just less than an ounce overweight for England and then take it up to the Post office.

Am glad that Cousin "arriet is visiting you and know she will enjoy it. and I do hope that Cousin Jane is feeling better each day. It evidently isn't at all unusual to feel as she does after an eye operation but she is sure to be allright soon, though I expect the time drags a bit for her.

All for now and heaps of love to you all.

Catherine

Never read my last letter over. Hope there were no mistakes.

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Thursday, June 21, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

The longest day of the year and the sun doesn't set until 10 P.M. now. It was the first real summer day in Calgary yesterday but we had a strong wind and clouds so it was around 70 here. However it feels like summer which is something. but everything is backward this year. The leaves are really out and not as bright a green but the lawn is still a bit patchy, at least ours is and needs sun.

Pete has finished one of the paintings for the Air Force and spent most of yesterday making a box to ship it in. it is nice to have the house so we can use it to do all kinds of work in. It was really worth making the basement if only to get the nice room downstairs. We moved the big table over to the other end, under the window looking out front and it is a grand place to do any drawing or using the sewing machine or anything where you want room to spread out. We used the partition to cut off the workshop. sometime when we can get film and all I'll get Pete to take some pictures for you so you will see all the improvements we have made. There are still lots of odd things to do but we seem to be over the hump so to speak and have more done than there is left to do. The Valances came down to call last evening. We met them by the river as we were going over to the boat house to see how high the river is. They are to build in Banff when materials are not as scarce and so were interested in the improvements we have made. Mr Valance thought we had been awfully busy this spring and done a lot, so it made us feel that maybe we had. Now we are anxious to start painting and hope to soon, though just now there are a few business affairs to get straightened out. It always seems as if questions came up just when we were ready to paint but we hope to get them settled before long. Did I tell you that Mrs Carpenter has come to visit Barbara, am not sure how long she intends to stay, she seems very well and looks just the same.

We ran down to see the Moores before lunch having got a very amusing letter from the Morants this morning. so I was interrupted in writing this and now it - time for me to get ready to go to the Red Cross. It is a lovely day but guess I might as well go and make underwear for the kids in the Far East. I expect it will be for children born in Jap prison camps.

I am so glad that Cousin Harriet is having a nice visit and when the garden is at its best. Sorry to hear that Cousin Jane is still staying close to bed, it must be hard on you all that she doesn't improve faster. Perhaps it is a good idea not to like bed for then you make an effort and get away from it as quickly as possible. You are one who never would stay longer than you had to, but look at poor Madge. Did you read that now-a-days they get the soldiers up as soon as possible even after serious operations for they feel they recover quicker. They tried it on Americans and British when they found that the Chinese couldn't be kept in bed if they could get up themselves, and found that they got better so much faster. But of course a nervous thing is so different. I don't think my suggestions have been very good, wish we could have been more help.

Must run, loads of love to you all.

Catherine



Banff, Alberta.
Saturday, June 23, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Summer is really here, warm weather and interruptions. I did get one letter written yesterday which I had started the day before. Thursday evening I bump Sam's birthday we drove up past their house to see if he was home. I saw enough the car was there and he has finished at last up at Lake Louise. We strolled up the hill & they showed us where the Valances are to build. So Sam is to do the house for them when they can get materials. Cis has her garden look up very well though the Caplands had neglected it for two years. Her blues are just out & she gave me a bunch. They smell like spring in Concord.

Yesterday morning Sam dropped in about one or two things, & Benny McIver came to ask us to a supper party Sunday night as Erling Strom & Siri, his little girl are here. Then Jackie came in the afternoon having been to Calgary on business. Later Erling & Siri came to see us & they stayed to supper as I had a fat slice of Ham Baked. They also liked the boiled new potatoes.

We found a pair of boots for Siri. worn last
by Mrs Lindsay on her trip down from Jasper on
horse back. & gave her a pair of beaded Indian
gloves & she was very pleased.

I asked Eliza how they had gotten on for a
cook last winter. To remember Sigrid was
getting one. & trying to when we saw her in Concord.
She finally ended up with a large colored girl.
a very good cook in certain ways but not enough
of a Mathematician to make receipts do for more
people and finally when they got crowded they had
to let her go as she couldn't manage. They telephoned
a Norwegian friend in New York who's late husband
had run a Restaurant in Brooklyn to see if she
knew of anyone who would come. & she offered
to come herself. which she did, and said any
time they were stuck she would help out. To give
an idea of the mentality of the colored cook. The
first morning Sigrid thought it would be a good
idea to try her out & see if she could handle
different kinds of eggs all at once. as one would
have to do with a crowd. So she went out in
the kitchen to ~~go~~ tell her. Said Eliza would
like his two eggs fried but she wanted hers
boiled 3 minutes, and reaching for a little
~~to~~ minute glass timer. put it on the table and



said "You can boil them with this" or words to that effect. When they had waited in the dining room sometime and no eggs appeared, she went into the kitchen to see how things were going. Found the girl had put the minute glass in the sauce pan with the eggs & they were all boiling merrily together!

Eding said that they had a good season in ^{warm spell} a way - The early spring unfortunately took all the seaw and they lost a whole month which is usually their best. They do seem to run into hard luck. He has more people booked for this summer ^{for pleasure} than ever before. In fact is turning some away, and now with restrictions in travel he doesn't know if many will come or not. A lot were coming from Milwaukee so perhaps it won't be as crowded on trains from there.

It's such a lovely day and I want to finish the green train on the sled if I can. So all for now.

Loads of love
Catherine.



Bayf. Alberta
Sunday June 24, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Harold brought the mail to us this afternoon and in it you letter telling of Cousin Anna's sudden arrival, taking Cousin Jane back with her. We are so relieved to think that she has gone to Portland for seems to me it was a bit too much for you to have the care and thought of her. After all she came to help you in little ways and the last few months it has just added more care onto you. I haven't dared say too much in case you happened to read my letter along when it came - any way there wasn't a great deal to suggest. The things we can't understand is how a person as bright and intelligent as Cousin Jane is, could sort of lose her grip of things. I suppose the suddenness of the operation and the shock to the nervous system was just too much for her. A nurse here said that very often an eye operation like that will cause a nervous breakdown. Then I suppose all that staying in her room mulling things over wasn't too good. It never helps any one to think of their own troubles or them selves.

You either get disgusted with yourself & feel that no one loves you or something equally upsetting. Right now when there are so many men coming from the war blind, and in their twenties. It seems very wrong to get discouraged when you have had years of seeing things. ~~good~~ Maybe Cousin Emma can do more than anyone to bring her round. I surely hope so. I don't wonder that you and Jean felt a bit dozed with the suddenness of her departure.

We are having a really nice weekend. The first good Sat & Sun. this summer. That is, lovely all day. Yesterday afternoon I finished painting the trim green on the shed & the rest of the stones to tie up plants to. Pete washed the car with Harold's help & then took him for a ride round the block & got some ice cream in payment. The vanilla kind with butterscotch sauce mixed through it. It's just like a Sundae. awfully good.

Mon & Mavis came to help eat roast beef at 6.30. New Potatoes & Carrots. Never thought carrots would be a treat but haven't been able to get any for a couple of months. As we were eating dessert (the ice cream) Johnny & Harold appeared & thought it would be a nice evening for a ride. So we all went for a short one. Pete said it would be pretty crowded & maybe



wid have to let Johnny run behind. Johnny looked very serious and said to Pete "Oh No - I can't run very fast." The way he said it made us all laugh for we could just picture ourselves driving around with little Johnny aged 3 running behind!

Pete took us up Tunnel Mountain & then came down the old Colserow drive. The children shrieked with excitement and Mom threatened to jump out. But after much bickering the hair pins were made &c. It's the road they used to take the beach boards over & we went on it in 1916. but it hasn't been used in years & little trees have grown up on it & large boulders fallen on it so it's not very good going & very narrow.

We had just put the teepee pole across the drive way to keep randy parties from driving in after the dance as they often do on Sat nights. When there was a knock on the back door & it was Laurie Sprung. He was at Tjino & a great friend of Peters, & we saw him last in Ottawa, just by accident. He is just married & was visiting his relatives here

in between trains. So though they said they couldn't come in, they all did. Mr & Mrs Sprung & the young wife. She is a doctor in the Air Force & a very fine looking girl. They are headed for Vancouver, her home. She is going to Intern at the Hospital to refresh herself, while he goes to University. He was an observer overseas. Shot down & crashed & was badly burned & half his face is new. Always forget to look & see where it is which shows what a good job it is. We were awfully pleased they took the time to come & see us. So now this morning when we mentioned her name to Mom she knows her father & mother very well, as they used to live here years ago. To a small world after all.

It will soon be time to go out to supper. So all for now. Am so glad you will have a little time to yourself. (Except I forgot Madge's sister) well maybe she has gone by now. Anyway I hope you have no worries from now on. I think you did awfully well to have Cousin Jane in her condition for as long as 2 months. And before that you wrote she was pretty nervous.

Loads of love
Catherine



Banff, Alberta
Thurs. June 28, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

I can see this is to be a hectic day and though I did manage to get a new typewriter ribbon in Calgary won't take the time now to try & put it in. Tonight we were invited to a dinner at the Mount Royal as a wind up to the Blood Donor's ~~dinner~~. Pete can't go as Willard is coming up to finish the connection on the furnace. Some part that was missing has only just come and he & the other man will put it in, & we need the electrician too. Its the last day at the Red Cross too as they are to close for the summer months until they get re-organized & know what is needed. So think I shall try to go for a little while anyway. There may be knitting etc to do yet, work one can take some. The blood donor's dinner here is to close for good as only the large city dinners will stay open.

Chimp came as we were getting lunch to return the boots as they had found a pair that was a better fit for Sis. He also wanted to borrow a cot bed but we hadn't one blends.

Had a very successful trip to Calgary. Went down with Sam & Co in their car. It rained in the night but looked as if it might clear when we left soon after 8 A.M. It only rained a few drops all day, until 4 o'clock when we were all to meet in the packing space. When I came out of the Hudson Bay the wind was blowing & it was pouring hard. However I made the car without my paper bags disintergrating, as they are apt to do.

The dentist couldn't give me an appointment as I hadn't written far enough ahead but got one for a week from to-day, so well be going down once more anyway. I had 5 hours to shop & was really tired when we started home. Its the lack of fresh air in the stores that I notice the most. It makes me feel weary and not able to think or decide on things. However I managed to do quite a lot of errands. Had lunch before quarter to twelve as otherwise one can't get a seat. Tried to get a pair of brown shoes, but in any style I liked they didn't my size. And the same in trying to get a dress to send Lucy. Kev. They all seem to be small sizes. You think they have a lot when you first go in but then find its nothing you can use.

Sent some parcels to Scotland. It was a good chance to sit down & rest while giving the orders.



It's nearly time to go so won't try to write more
today. It rained all the way home & all
night too, so now what we need is sun. It
looks like showers again today.

Loads of love
Catherine.



Banff, Alberta.

Friday, June 29, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

How is this for darkness of type? I can hardly believe it is the same typewriter. Once before I sent for a new ribbon and they sent the wrong size so I took the machine to Calgary and they were supposed to clean it and put in a new ribbon but I don't believe they ever did, for I don't remember its ever looking as dark as this. Now I have the right size I will keep the box. Also the instruction book is wrong and pasted in the back is a note saying to wind the old ribbon onto the left spool and not the right one, maybe that is why I couldn't change the ribbon myself when I tried before, this time I had no trouble. I notice also that the ribbons are made in various degrees of inking so perhaps I got a lightly inked one before. Anyway this is a great improvement.

Had quite a busy day yesterday, when I got back from the Red Cross the men were still working on the furnace, one dropped a washer inside the furnace and they had to take it apart to find it or something and so it had taken a bit longer to do the job, also they found that Ernie had put one piece together wrong, instead of figuring out some arm to see how to make it longer he made one out of something else and so Eth now has to bring up another one from Calgary, but he may bring up his family this weekend and will attach it then. otherwise the thing is all set to work. Willard is to put heating in a house here later on this fall and will at that time change the duct into the bathroom to give us a bit more heat, we have some heat now but should have more for winter. Erling came to return, no to borrow the typewriter, and by the time the men had finished measuring the bathroom there was only ten minutes for me to dress for the dinner. Mom and I represented the family and it was a very nice dinner, about 24 there. a turkey dinner and all the fixings. then Mrs Lonsdale thanked everybody for what they did towards making the clinic possible and we chatted a bit and then went home.

It rained all night long and is still showering a bit to-day, Monday is a hoiday with us and we are hoping it will be nice weather.

Saturday - It still looks showerey but trying to clear up. I did most of the cleaning yesterday and so haven't as much to do this morning, will finish this and then go over and get a bit of ham to bake for the weekend.

Haven't answered your letters lately. I'm so glad that Cousin Jane got home easily and perhaps the change and sea air will help more than anything else. Her letter sounded as if she were perfectly all right! It reminds me of the time that Harriet Murphy

came to visit once and did such funny things, was hard up and yet telephoned her fiancee long distance, I do hope for your sake that Cousin Jane gets well and herself again though perhaps she won't be able to read as she used to, but I thought it encouraging that she spoke of knitting.

How nice that Wadsworth and Helen Owen are to be in Portland for the summer. It will be so nice for Mildred to have them and I hope her eyes and elbows and teeth etc don't trouble her so she can enjoy the visit to the full.

Cousin Harriet must have really enjoyed her visit and how nice you could give5 her a birthday party too. She is pretty smart for 92.

I will ask about the rose bugs, I doubt if they have enough roses here to encourage rose bugs. In fact I don't know of any rose bushes but will ask Cis about the ones in "ngland and at the coast. Maybe "obin and Gale will help you when they come.

Pete is going over in the car so will take this to mail and will write more next time, perhpas.

Loads of love,

Catharine