



Banff, Alberta.
Sunday, July 1, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Your self portzait came yesterday and I was surprised to see no tremble in the writing or drawing after such a bolt of lightening. We feel very sad indeed to think that the Apple tree has gone but better than had the lightening hit the house ! or run round your bed as it did to Mrs Eaton. After all these years of expecting the tree to be hit it happened at last. and to think that it should have happened when Cousin Harriet was visiting you and when she hates thunder storms so. I wonder which room she slept in, if the guest room and you were sitting with her it was really lucky she was there for you would at least have been at the other side of the house. I shall be anxious to hear more about it. Funny that your letter reached us with the news yesterday, on our 15th wedding anniversary !

We didn't do much to cecelebrate, Jackie came to help us eat Ham at night but otherwise it was much like anyother day and equally nice. We had a call from Mr Walker and Dr Quigly who used to be one of two dentists in Banff, he joined up 4 years ago and then the other dentist went into the army much to the despair of people with toothache. for a while another dentist came and used Dr Kennedys equipment one or two days a week but it was too hard to do that and carry on his own practise in Calgary and for a couple of years any one needng their teeth fixed has had to go to Calgary. Now Dr Quigly is willing to come back when he gets his discharge but can't find a place for his office. they wanted room in the store but Dr Kennedy&sl ease has a clause that no other dentist shall have an office in the building. and he is very uncooperative it seems.

I asked Cis about rose bugs and she is going to write her sister in England for the fun of it but otherwise knows little about them.

Shall anwser some of your letteres. Funny that you should deer eating the asparagus. I forgot to tell you about the Moose. Last Saturday afternoon I was sitting by the fireplace and was consious of something outside, looked up to see fur going by the window, Pete was in the kitchen and he saw the moose right beside the back window. I thou thought it was going fast enough to be at the back so I ran through the kitchen just glancing long enough to see what it was, but Pete saw it pause and then casually step over the fence into the Crosby's uyard. He came by again a few days later. Bubby was sunbathing the first time and heard foot beats on the lawn near where she was stretched out, she looked up thinking it was a horse and was rather startled to see the moose for they rarely come into town. We also had a big cinamom bear the other day. and several black bear one night and 2 elk on the lawa.

You asked about the Studios, the London ones were bound in green the federation of art in black. If it is too much trouble to have them bound in the east, we could have them done in Calgary sometime. There is so much for you to see to I hate to bother you having magazines done. and now a days when you go to Boston so seldom it is not easy. By the way I am going to send you a Canadian Art Magazine that comes out 4 times a year. and you can give it to Mrs Sohler after you have looked at it or any one you like.

I don't mind some work in the garden, watering is nice and easy but the weeding and digging dandelions are the jobs I am not so keen on. People are always wanting to give me plants to put in somewhere and I know they won't live very long unless I look after them and the deer don't eat them.

The table I spoke of as being Great grandfathers is the drop leaf table that used to be at Grandpas in Salem I guess. we used it in Boston for a while and it was up in the big spairroom on the 3rd floor once. when open it is not very strong and I think Hennessy has fixed it. Jean may remember, it has a dull finish. is light brown.

Last night after Jackie had been sitting in the chair facing the wall between the kitchen and front room where he could see the little needle point houses where they are on the rail of the seat at the table. He suddenly said " are those sketches or needlepoint pictures ? " he was much impressed by them. I have them sitting on the rail until we get them framed and they are much admired, I do hope you will make some more, how about some of the old houses in Concord. you could perhaps draw them from photographs and then you are so clever at working in the colors. I do wish Aunt Jane Brooks could have seen them, she would have loved doing one herself.

Gale's little square is so pretty too and I use it under a little jar I can put wild flowers in. They have some lovely little coasters over at the Home Industries made to put petit point in. they are gum wood frames with glass in the middle. I will send you one for perhaps this summer Gale would like to cross stitch or needle point a little flower to go in it. and if you wanted more I could get them for you. I was very pleased that she made it for me.

No you didn't tell about Bert's friend from Jackson, do you mean from Wyoming?

You didn't say when the children will arrive but I hope you have a little rest before they come or anyone else. If travel was easier you could expect some western relations ! It must be a relief having Cousin Jane with Cousin Emma, I can imagine how very difficult the whole thing was for you all in Concord. Nerves are an awful thing to go wrong.

Loads of love,



Banff, Alberta.
July 4, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

The fourth of July and I almost forget. We are still having rainy weather, at least showery. at one time today it looked as if it had settled in for a week but five minutes later you could see a streak of blue sky in the west, which enlarged until it was a lovely summer day.

Tomorrow I go to Calgary and back on the bus, a 12 hour round trip so to speak, for the bus leaves at 8 A.M getting to Calgary at 11 and leaves there at quarter to 5 getting to Banff at 8 P.M. Quite a trip for a dentist. seems easier when we can go to our real dentist at the coast !

Had two callers to-day. Wels Mellon (who spent his honeymoon in 1933 ~~at~~ in Jackie's house when Barbara was east and Bubby was born) came to see us. he has been at his mine in the Windermere and may be back here in September again. He is a very nice sort from Montreal and interested in Leica cameras and Indian bead work etc. When Eileen Harmon came to see if we would go to a Ski meeting to-morrow night. about possible improvements in the skiing around here,

Last evening we had an amusing time. went for a tiny ride around the golf course (again I am probably making you envious) but it doesn't take a lot of gas and as Pete has decided not to go to Calgary and drive down we have more gas ~~!~~ We got about a third of the way ~~down~~ when Pete saw something black tear out of the woods and follow us on the road, at first in the mirror he thought it a bear cub but it was a little black dog, the kind with hair all over ~~+~~ its face. We recognized it as Dr Robinson's dog, one that a Mrs Pelliway used to take for walks down by the river. We realized that he seemed lost. so tried to get him in the car, but he wouldn't come near either of us, far less get in the car. yet the middle we started ~~up~~ he would follow us. After he had run quite a way and his tongue was hanging out we felt sorry for him. I picked some wild flowers so he could rest and get a drink of water and again we attempted to get him to come to us but no. So on we went, never more than 10 miles an hour so he could follow and every once in a while he would see a squirrel or some water or something and off to the side he would go to investigate and then come tearing after us again. Unfortunately the road wanders around the golf course and he never tried the short cuts and we hated to leave him lost way down there, once he tried to ford a creek and we were sure he would drown himself. Well little by little we got him back and even across the bridge by the Wolf club. by that time he was interested in all big trees having drunk so much water and once more we had to stop to let him get a thorn out of his foot, he wouldn't let Pete help at all. We nearly lost him by

the hospital for there was a big black bear in their incinerator, but on he came, always followed our car but not other, he nearly got run over a couple of times but we got him across the big bridge then we stopped, thinking he would head up towards the Robinsons, but no he kept on down the main street investigating every tree and door. We thought he was going to the Pelluways, but no he went right by and turned left. we were following him then. by the Home-^{stead} after coming beside the car again he started going in circles, so we decided to telephone the Robinsons and tell them where their dog was. I am sure that the Doctor thought one of us was ill when I called and then we found out they had given the dog away, so I called the present owners and that was about all we could do. Evidently the dog is a great one for following cars and one time was missing for 2 days so I guess our efforts were in vain! But once we started guiding him home we hated to leave him.

The interesting letter from the Smith girl in Baginoo came, Thanks for having it copied for us as I am sure others will want to read it. Also a long letter from Mr Emery of the Arts and Crafts with all sorts of good advise and a lot of pamphlets and their bylaws or what ever you would call them. He evidently thought that I was interested in starting a Handicraft thing but actually it was to help with ideas that I wanted the information. I know they will find much useful information. "The Home Industries," as it is called here, is where you bought the little gopher for Mildred and where I got the nut buttons etc. I will write and thank him and pass the information on to them. They have been going for 4 or 5 years but want to expand a bit. A group of ladies run it I think.

Do tell us the details of the dramatic end of the Apple tree and where you and Cousin Harriet were at the time it was struck. How nice that Cousin Alma will help out by cooking for you while the girls are away. Will the children be there then or just you?

Must go now.

Loads of love to you and the Newbusys too

Catharine.



Banff, Alberta.
Sunday, July 8, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

The joke is on me, you wrote that you had sent Kitty's letter on to Russ to read and send to me, but when it didn't come I thought probably he had forgotten or hadn't gotten round to it and so last Sunday decided it was about time for me to write him anyway, so I did, asked all sorts of questions too, about Warick Scott and others. He evidently wrote 2 days after I wrote him so of course our letters crossed, but he answered all my questions as if he had read my mind, so now I owe him another letter. On looking at the calendar I think we wrote each other almost at the same time, for it was on the holiday I wrote him, July 2nd and he wrote his the same day, mailing it the next. Rather a coincidence. Well it was awfully nice to hear from him any way.

Did I write you about my trip to Calgary? don't believe I did. Went on the 8 o'clock bus. There were two children going with their Uncle to spend some weeks on his ranch and the little boy sat in the seat beside me. he was about 6 or 7 and had never been away on his own before and never beyond Canmore or out of the mountains, He was very shy and didn't have much to say but interested in every thing. Thought the Cement Plant and awfully big building, I expect the biggest he had ever seen, ~~unless~~ except for the Banff Springs Hotel. I wondered what his reaction would be to the praries when we went through the gap. and it was rather flat ahead. He looked across the first stretch as we came over a hill with no mountains in the distance and turning ~~me~~ me said " There are an awful lot of telephone poles " and there were, nothing else stood up against the sky. However he moved over and sat with his cousin after that so I heard no more.

Saw Pete's uncle, tried to get lunch at noon but had to wait 20 minutes behind a slow eater before I could get a place at a counter. It certainly is crowded at eating places but I was interested for no one hurried through their meal and no one crowded in when any one got up, they aren't really used to rushes. Did a few errands, tried to get film for Pete but there just wasn't any. Saw a line in the Bay at the stocking counter and as I wanted some ~~lylse~~ lysle mesh ones for later on and you can't get them here thought I might as well try too. They just were selling seconds for 69¢ but as a lady ahead of me said she found they were better than the \$1.25 ones and I had a package to send Lucy ~~err~~ thought I would get her a pair, which I did, one pair to a customer. But for myself I have enough good ones from the trip east last winter for special occasions and mended ones for everyday. Thought I would try going to the dentist early and try to get the 2.30 bus, and it worked perfectly. he took me at 1.45 and I was through in time to catch the bus back and reached Banff about 5.15 much to Pete's

surprise and we had lots of time to eat supper before the Ski meeting at 8.30.

The bus trip back was rather eventful. Just as we were leaving a soldier got on wearing his Glen Garry and looking a bit florrid as if he had had one too many beers perhaps, he had to sit on the luggage piled near the driver and in Canmore got out and had another beer I expect. maybe I am wrong. He looked very familiar to me and I was sure I knew him so smiled when he looked my way, however he didn't seem to recognize me then. later on he kept looking at me when he turned around and suddenly it struck me he was Dan Mccowans Brother, who I had sort of forgotten about, he used to work for the Government on the roads etc. At the Canmore crossing there was a freight on the track and the bus had to wait, and he came back and spoke to me. I thought perhaps he had been back and I hadn't seen him before but he said "no . I am just back to-day and the family don't know it ! We got a real greeting in Canmore where he has lots of friends and some were there when the bus came in and then as a few got out there and there was an empty camp stool in the aisle he came back and sat by me.

It was rather fun to be on his arrival. He was in the last war and I guess never quite settled down when he came back and he and another man his age joined up when War broke out in '39 and he went overseas in May 1940, so it is over 5 years since he was back, he said he hadn't told them he was coming and just dropped in on his neice when he got to Calgary. I guess she telephoned Banff for the whole family were at the bus to meet him. Funnily enough he had gone across on the "Louis Pasteur" with 1000 men, and they had nice accomodation. a good cabin with wardrobes etc. He came back on the same ship but it was quite different. the insides had been stripped and 7000 came, he had a hammock on E deck. However on the trip by rail he had a Standard sleeper and there was a good diner, only they all ate too much and too much fruit. I expect that was why he looked a bit flurried. but he had good color and didn't look much older or different to me. Told me all about his leaves he spent in Comrie where he was born. also said the things he noticed most was the way the women dressed in new looking clothes and the food in the cafes. Said the people get 40 points a year for clothes and it takes 9 for a pair of shoes. He also told how the first weekend that the British were allowed gas the roads were jammed with broken down cars, most people never got more than a couple of miles from home when either the engines seized up or the tires went all to pieces. but he said that the people were wonderful over there. Also told me about the various boys he had run into but I never knew whether he had been in the fighting or not for he is naturally not a very young man now.

While waiting for the Ski meeting to start we were sitting on the steps of the auditorium when a Tofino friend of Pete's drove by and recognized the car. We had a chat and then they came down to see us just after lunch the next day. Were here 2 or 3 hours, he and his wife, They come from Calgary but he is stationed in Edmonton.

After the meeting we went down to the Mopres and got looking at old pictures and it was midnight before we got home, then Friday night Erling came down to borrow this typewriter stayed just for one bottle of beer and we started talking skiing and it was 12 again before we got to bed. Last night Mom and Mavis came to supper and about ten Fern dropped in, she goes to Sunshine to-day, and again we were up till midnight. Quite gay for us. Supper time now. Heaps of love to all.

Catherine .



Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. July 12, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

I can't remember which day I last wrote but I do know the letter got licked before I read it over so hope there weren't too many mistakes. I am slowly getting the letter paper used up that Pete had in the Air force. Knew that you wouldn't mind it being used on you and it seemed silly to keep it or waste it.

We are having real summer weather and as this is Stampede week in Calgary it is of course ideal for them. Pete is busy working on the 2nd picture for the Air force and after that is finished we hope to go out. There are always little delays seeing to this and that. but the picture is getting on as long as he doesn't have to change it all again.

Yesterday was our day at home I think. The morning was quiet enough with shopping for the stores still close Wed. afternoon. I think because they can get along with less staff that way, they used to keep open every night until 10 o'clock and now all close at six every day even Saturdays. I believe that the wage law call's for 45 hours a week or you get overtime pay, so that is 5½ days a week, 8 hour days, and they would rather the girls work Saturdays and take Wed afternoon off. In the old days the staff had to be a half again as large in order to have them work the 4 hours in the evening.

Well to go on about yesterday. After lunch the sun was so nice and potent that Pete suggested a sun bath, I got into my lovely 11 year old bathing suit that still smells of coconut oil from Honolulu. I think I do well to get into it at all! and Pete took his shirt off and was in bare feet. we were getting well cooked in the sun when first the two little girls came with the laundry, they looked a bit wide eyed at my lily white legs and then a little later Bert Davis came about making a bit of fence back of the store, about the lumber needed etc. While he was here Mrs Hemming came up the drive with a lady, asked if we were receiving. I got up from the camp stool I was sitting on and held my arms foled over my tummy where the top and the bottom of the bathing suit don't fit too well. The lady wanted to know if I would take her sketching with me and show her how to do water colors, so I advised her to go to the summer school and she went away quite pleased. We thought that was enough of being caught in a semi nude state and anyway clouds were coming up and we had two heavy showers later on. We wanted to get the long grass cut and so went to the golf course to find Steve and he is here today on his

day off and has half of it sythed. he came at 5.30 this morning. Took Mrs Carpenter with us for the diive which she enjoyed.

Mom has gone to the stampede and old timers day to-day. where she sees her friedns once a year. and as Marion was working last night we asked Mavis down to supper. she was still here when Mr and Mrs Wheeler from Minneapolis called in. He came to Skoki the first year we were there and they are the nicest sort of people. Are on their way to Victoria. said they didn't know whether to come or not but from Minneapolis up, there is not so much t~~ra~~ffic on the railroads and so decided it was allright. Stopped over for just a day and we took them for a drive up by Norquay and then to the Upper hot springs. I have never seen such a lot of people as there were in town last night and the pool was jammed even a waiting line at ten o'clock. We went up to their room on the way back and it was after 11. when we got home. She has a daughter who went to Radcliff and is now married and another daughter going to Wellesley this fall. She is going west with her and plans to stay around Boston. they usually stay at the Lincolshire. and do all the sights etc. I told her about the Colonial Inn thinking she would like that and told her if she went there to look you up. so if she does you will know who she is. You would like her I know for she is the nice simple kind.

Haven't answered your recent letters but will let this go. Loads of love to you all and the new burys.

More love

Catherine.

P.S. Sent you a little round Gumwood frame yesterday and then afterwards realized you may be troubled with duty etc. but thought it might be fun for Gale to make some petit point for. and then give it to her mother for Christmas. You can get the faames several sizes, smaller and larger than this.



Banff, Alberta.
Sunday July 15, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

The last letter from you said that the children were arriving that day and I can imagine that the house seems quite lively again, shouts from the swimming pool and much running up and down stairs and slamming of the screen door. You said that it was like the Hosmers and Watkins never knowing when they might arrive, I don't quite agree! Had a letter yesterday from Margaret Watkins saying that they were thinking of coming out to the Staples ranch in the Windermere and wondered if we could put them up for a couple of nights! She said she didn't know that they were very patriotic but felt if the Rail way needed the cars they would take them and it seemed the last chance of going off on a vacation with one of the children, at least. Margie is a Sophomore in college and is to come with them, if they come, and they will be out west about three weeks in all. I shall write and tell them to let us know in plenty of time to get them accomodation for already the hotels are booked solid and lots of the cabins. It will be nice to see them and we have enough gas to take them around a bit. The ranch they are going to is run by an old school friend of Margarets.

The Laughlins arrive this week to go to Assinaboine for about ten days. They say the trains are very crowded but I have an idea if they need the room they just cancel ones reservation. The men coming back from overseas are sent on special trains and come right through. it is when they return from their leave that they might need space on the trains but I believe it is the east that is the most crowded.

I guess it will be a great help having Mary Cool move out, for it must have been a bit crowded with the 2 boys too. and the Volkman's cottage will be near enough to make it easy to walk ~~over~~ back and forth. Too bad that the Newburys couldn't have gotten it. Hve they found any place for next winter?

Why don't you go to the Marshall house anyway for a change, the children would be allright in Concord with Jean and Hanne and I do think you probably need a bit of sea air. or if you don't want to miss a bit of the children's visit why not take them too, I am sure the sea would be good for them too.

I think I answered your question about the London Studios. They were bound in green but if there is no place to have them bound near you we can have them done in Calgary some time. and you could send the copies out with the New Yorkers.

Just had an idea, you spoke of Miss Murd feeling badly about moving Mrs Bowkers things while she is still alive and yet knowing that she probably will never come back to Concord to

live. ~~Will~~ Would it be a good idea to suggest the Newburys rent her house furnished with the understanding that if Mrs Bowker were able to come back she could. for they would be so careful of everything and could look after the house ?

I didn't think anything about the fact that you didn't mention our wedding anniversary. Some people like Jean have a faculty of remembering dates but I know I don't and we almost forgot our wedding anniversary ourselves.

That was a coincidence about the lady from Jackson Mich. who knew Cousin Bert as a boy, wonder if she knew Father,

How sad about Mrs Hutchins ? it must be so hard knowing that nothing can be done. Is she very sick with it or is it just the beginning of the trouble? Sometimes one is sick a long time.

The Wards canaries are very lively and three of them are singers. evidently only the males sing. the little female has laid three more eggs and is sitting on them now.

The reason I suggested a reading machine was because I thought Cousin Jane couldn't read more than headlines, I knew you liked to be read to when you could knit and Jean of course can't read either. and there are no advertising things on a reading machine!

We have had a heat wave this week, so it said in the paper and got up to 85° here. The sun was very hot but otherwise it was dry and not uncomfortable. lovely weather really. To-day is cool and rather cloudy.

Saturday we had a busy afternoon. I was trying to get my legs tanned so I can go without stockings and had on a dirty dress and of course no stockings, the Morants called, he is a photographer and his wife too, they were at the San Francisco conference and are to be around here for a month photographing for the Government. They kept getting up to leave and then we would start talking about something or showing them something and it was 7.30 when they left. unfortunately I had 2 small soles for supper and anyway they said they had work to do and couldn't stay. We had just finished our supper and I was watering the new grass still in my old dress when Pearl drove in with a french Canadian girl who has a program on the radio from Montreal and before they left Sam and Cis came and then Nick was back again. Our day at home we called it.

Lunch time now so all for now.

Loads of love to you all

Catherine

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Wed. July 18, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Thought I would wait until the Laughlins arrived before writing. They came yesterday in a pouring rain. It was a miserable cold rain too. ^{we arranged to} We arranged to call for them at the Alpine Club at three and they went on up in the bus. We had a late lunch and then Pete went out and I started tidying up the sewing things upstairs. Downstairs was quite tidy for a wonder, even freshly dusted. There was a call at the back door and Nick Morant to see about a duffle bag Pete was having made for him. Pete being out we chatted a bit until he returned and then about 5 minutes later Mr Gibbon arrived with two R.A.F. girls who are going on the Trail Ride. Nick left as soon as he could get away politely and Mr Gibbon stayed about 20 minutes. asked if he could leave the girls with us while he went up to the Hospital for a Sulphur bath and Pete left with him for it was nearly three and time to meet the Laughlins.

The two English girls were awfully nice, had both been in the Air force for over five years and the last 14 months one was in Newfoundland and the other in Labrador, where she met Mr Gibbons son. She has been "mentioned in Dispatches" which is really equal to being decorated, and they were both through the Battle of Britain. The other girl Daphne Lewis, went to school in Switzerland and her uncle we have known about and even read his articles in the British Ski year book 14 years ago. and strangely enough the couple from New York who Mrs Mac brought down for tea this spring named Seligman, were relations of hers.

I asked them if they had all the things they needed for the trail ride and they said "No" they had been worrying a bit about that. so I got out all sorts of plaid shirts and Blue jeans and boots and by the time Pete came back we had Daphne all fitted up. She used to be a ballet dancer and has just had an operation on her foot so needed the right shoes and for a wonder we had some that fit. and pants too. They have warm underwear so will be allright. I lent them sweaters and socks as well. They couldn't get over being lent so much but when the Laughlins borrowed our chaps then they knew it was quite the custom. Daphne said that she was anxious to come back to Banff Canada after the War for she said "I have no ties at all in England anymore as we were bombed out" Must give one a strange feeling to have no home at all and nothing left belonging to ones family. Her mother was an Artist, her brother a musician and a brother-in-law an architect so they are a rather talented family, she knows Laura Knight well too.

When the Laughlins came we had tea all together and then when it got about five and we hadn't even bought the steaks for supper we all went over town. taking the girls and their borrowed clothes to the hotel, the Laughlins shopped until closing time and we got supper organized and I had a chance to change my clothes for it had been pretty steady with callers since lunch time.

We had beef tenderloins which were not nearly as tender as usual and we were disappointed in them. carrots, new potatoes and fried dehydrated onions, the first we had tried, raspberries and cream. They seemed to enjoy it, and after supper we

washed up, Becky and I, while Pete showed Henry over the upstairs and the studio. they wanted to see the sketches so we showed them a representative collection and by then it was ten and we drove them home. This morning or rather noon Henry appeared to collect some boots that Pete was having nailed for them but the girls didn't show up, Sam did to fit two doors but we were sort of uncertain about who was coming when so he is to come to-morrow instead.

The Laughlins said that Ebbs has bought Mrs Bowkers house on Main street. funny that in my last letter I should have suggested that Cousin Alma and Bert might rent it furnished. It is a nice house as I remember it. Didn't Mrs Millet live there once?

Monday afternoon Margot Panet came by and we happened to see her so she stopped in for tea and then insisted we go to the Mount Royal for supper with her and Mrs Mac. Margot is the one who we see ~~each~~ in Montreal. She has gone out to Sunshine for a few days.

This is quite a letter already so will not write more.

Loads of love,

Catherine .

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Saturday, July 21, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Can't remember which day I wrote last, this has been rather a busy week. We didn't see the Laughlins on Wednesday but drove out to the coral the next noon to see them off, and we may catch a glimpse of them ~~next~~ the day they leave. The girls came around again on Wednesday to tell us that they had gotten boots alright and we were going out to the coral so gave them the ride which they liked.

Yesterday Sam was here and put on a combination screen and storm door. the glass and screen is interchangeable depending on the season. As we were eating lunch Tom Kaquits ~~dropped~~ in to ask us if we would go down to the Sun Dance which they are holding in Morely. He hadn't eaten so joined us and claimed we ate the right kind of food for hot weather.

He told Pete that the Sun Dance, which lasts three days or more was being held this year to commemorate the end of the war in Europe and to welcome back the Indian lads who went over. He said that two years ago they prayed that Pete wouldn't be sent overseas and they are glad now that he is out of uniform. We could hardly refuse to go down after that! I thought perhaps they wanted to show the Indians that their prayers were answered, but I didn't say so. They are very sincere about things like that.

We made a few sandwiches and tea as we weren't sure when we might be coming back and left about 2.30. Had a tire on the way down and then wondered the rest of the way how soon before another would blow. It is not so much the gas that will keep us close to home but the condition of our tires. They have gone 34,000 miles already and their life is usually from 15 to 20,000.

It was rather smokey from fires near the coast, on the radio to-day it said that in Victoria they have had 41 days with no rain and there are bad fires in Oregon.

The prairie is thick with wild flowers a real carpet of them and the hills are still green so it was a lovely day to go. We didn't know quite what to expect. Drove off the highway on a little trail that would ~~through~~ through fields and clumps of Aspens and then ~~in the~~ ~~at the~~ ~~way~~ presently as we came over a little rise was the Indian camp on a large flat. The very white tents were all pitched in a large circle around the Sun Dance lodge, there were only ~~about~~ three large teepees and these were in back of the lodge and inside the circle of tents. Pete figured there were about 200 tents but we never thought to count them at the time. It seemed funny not to see teepees but the Indians have made the tents all by the same pattern and they have real character, each one with a stove pipe sticking out the top at a different angle. Later when we examined George MacCleans we found it was made by hand or rather stitched by hand. They are square or maybe ten feet by twelve and the sides are about four feet high. They are supported by two Y shaped poles and one cross pole, which are easy to find where ~~the~~ there are aspen trees. The entrance has the flap door like a teepee.

The stoves were funny, some airtights, some just large tins and George MacCleans was an inverted wash tub with a draft cut in the front.

The Sun Dance lodge is built by first picking a large Aspen tree or Balm-of-Gilead, a dead one. There is much ceremony in the choosing of it I believe. Then around this a high wall is built and from that to part way up the ~~pole~~ tree, poles are laid across to make a roof. All this is covered in with green aspen boughs so that you can't see through, and inside there is an inner wall waist high with the opening near the door, also directly opposite.

From the branches of the tree were fluttering strips of colored cloth, a straight stick at one end to hold the material flat and the other end flying free. Really a very nice effect for there were all shades of colors.

Inside there was a group of Indians beating drums and singing and three or four squaws singing too, sitting on the ground with their shawls over their heads and almost hiding their faces.

We weren't sure just what we were supposed to do and so walked along the row of tents until we came to David Bearspaw, paid them a call and then as we walked nearer the lodge we saw Tom Kaquits. He was with a group of men and we thought maybe they were having a meeting so didn't go too near, but they came over to us and spoke, shook hands with us and remarked on Pete's clothes, we think meaning that he was no longer in uniform. They seemed glad to see him and when he asked Dan Wildman about his father, young Dan said he was in the lodge and would we like to go in and see him. Pete asked "My Missis too?" and they said "yes" for we still weren't sure what was permissible at a religious thing like a Sun Dance. As we got near the lodge, young Dan asked "ete if he would" say a few words for the White men", and Pete didn't quite know what was expected of him, but as nothing was said later, he didn't ask again.

Inside the men beating the drums were at one end, they had just changed places with another group, for the singing and music goes on, with only slight pauses, all day and all night for the three or four days. The men were sitting around under the inner wall and we were taken over to where old Dan was sitting, he is quite blind but when he realized who it was he seemed glad to see us, and we were told to sit beside him. Then we discovered old Mark who seems even spryer than usual, he had just come five minutes before and after saying "hello." Got up and stood facing the center pole and raised his arm high above his head. He stood this way several minutes in silence as if he were saying a prayer and then moved to another point and did the same thing. He did it three times, once having to move two little children from where he wanted to stand, he just brushed them aside so to speak. The children wandered in and out as they liked.

The musicians changed as we went in so when they began singing and beating the drums we were rather surprised when all of a sudden other Indians began sort of popping up from behind the fence or wall made of aspens. They sort of hopped up and down to the beat of the drums and in their mouths they had read whistles which they blew at the same time. When the music stopped they dropped back behind the wall. They didn't all rise at once but evidently when the spirit moved them and they had rather a fixed stare as they gazed at the center pole. From what we could gather, the Indians do as much as he himself decides he should do. He fasts and makes an oath and then dances as long as that oath was for. Mrs Bearspaw had danced until 7 that morning. They must sort of pray during this time I don't really know. Then there are other things which we don't know the meaning of for they had pipes, real peace pipes and one Indian bought the tobacco and then they passed it to several other Indians who took a puff, the last one really smoking it. There was also sweet smelling stuff being burnt. We sat a little while and then as it was all a repetition we got up when the music paused and went outside again. Also there were from four to six men on horse back riding around the camp side by side and singing all the time. It was all so

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

peaceful, unhurried and rather lovely.

One rather amusing part, one of the Indians had a cold drink booth set up like Indian days and another Indian had a card board box hung around his neck with a peice of string and he was peddling oranges and lemons around the camp.

We called on the MacLeans and then started home not wanting to be caught with another tire.

Have a chicken to roast so will call this a letter.

Loads of love to you all,

?5. This isn't a very good description but was written under difficulties. Sam was putting a lock on the door. Davy asking questions & Pete wondering about making a photograph a rather print.

I don't mention that there were few cars but hundreds of old wagons. lots of horses in the trees & distance. The children running about as usual. Few white people. four men who came & went while we were there. a girl from Calgary who they said was an artist & evidently getting atmosphere for she was taking part in the happenings & doing. Old Dan seemed amused. He had one of the large teepees.

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Monday July 23, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Had such a nice letter from Cousin Jane this morning and she sounded quite herself again and said that she was feeling fine, they were to go to Ogunquit about her car and have lunch with Jean, so Jean will be able to give you a first hand report.

We had a very quiet weekend, Sunday is usually our quietest day of the week. It has been awfully windy lately but the weather on the whole is lovely.

Did I ask you if Ebbs and Anne had bought Mrs Bowkers house, yes I think I did, and from Cousin Janes letter to you she spoke of the Newburys going to be with Mrs Prescott. Will they have rooms of their own or what? It should be a fine place and nice for Mrs Prescott not to be alone.

I guess the reason we thought the Apple tree was struck by lightning was that you had mentioned the previous thunder storms and the note about the apple tree with the picture of you(?) came at the same time, I think you said something about the apple tree "going in the storm the night before" and I guess we assumed it was struck. I could just picture the awful bolt that would knock it to pieces and how scared you and Cousin Harriet must have been. Am glad it was only the wind. How would a maple be or would it give too much shade. an apple tree is the nicest for the birds.

How nice of Mrs Neville to call on you, I haven't seen her for years. Is the Miss Stimpson she called on the one who makes the models, and how is the Alice-in-Wonderland one coming along?

Have you thought of doing any more little needle point scenes. I do think they are awfully pretty things to do and they have been admired so much. Couldn't you copy a Christmas card or if you don't want to design a picture yourself how about getting Mrs Sohier to do one. Say of the Hesperu House.

This isn't much of a letter But we have some people to see at the hotel so must go.

Loads of love to all

Catherine

P.S. Will enclose a number of clippings to make up for a short letter.

Banff, Alberta.
Canada.
Fri. July 27, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

We have been quite busy with people the last few days but the weather ~~says~~ nice, In fact there has only been one rainy day this month.

X Am trying a new experiment, going sketching every afternoon. It gives me the morning to do other things about the house, the weekly cleaning, the marketing which takes quite a time with so many people in town and no more help to speak of in the stores, also the odd letter to write etc. Of course when we have callers in the morning it throws the whole thing out. X

Monday we were over town early, ~~and~~ found a note on the door from the Panets. we thought that they had gone the day before, so then we tried to find them, making several trips over to the hotel and finally saw them off at the station at four, for the train was very late. so that afternoon was shot. The next day X Tuesday I did better and with a great struggle got started on X a sketch up at Moms of Rundle, X our tire hasn't been fixed yet as it had to be sent to Calgary so we have no spare. and I sort of hesitate taking the car off anywhere in case I have to leave it and walk home.

Then Wednesday a girl was coming to tea but never showed up however it wasn't a good day for painting anyway. X Yesterday Pete took me over to the Recreation ground where I painted undisturbed for sometime. X Pete came back in two hours and with him was the French Canadian girl who Pearl had brought down one evening. She had called and Pete said he didn't know quite what to do with her here so as it was time to go for me he took her over, she came back to the house for gingerale and then as she was asking about Sam we ran her up there and they were having tea in the garden so we styed a while. It was after six when we left her at the Mount Royal and came home to supper. I had just finished washing my brushes when Nora Cornwall from Victoria dropped in, she is here for the summer school, had a Calgary man with her and they stayed until after ten and we had a very pleasant evening. The french Canadian girl is a very intense sort of person and likes to discuss all sorts of things, she has done a lot of interviewing celebrities on the radio and told us about that, most of them don't have time to work out scripts so she merely asks them before they go on the air if such and such questions will be all right and then it is all impromptu, and sometimes she is afraid that they won't stop in time which is a terrible thing to have happen on the radio,

We haven't heard again from Margaret Watkins whether or not they are coming but have a cabin spoken for which can be cancelled later if they don't show up. We wonder if Ruesel will be able to stop off on his way to or from Alaska, as nearly all

the planes go through Edmonton. I think I will wire him that we would ~~would~~ be willing to go quite a way to see him. That is to Edmonton anyway. It would be fun if he could really stop off for a few days at least.

Jean wrote us a bit about Ebbs baby but otherwise we hadn't heard that he was in the Childrens Hospital. So tell us how things go, what a shame for such a little child to be so sick. It is nice that Cousin Bert and Alma will be at Mrs Prescotts. Will they have their own cooking facilities? or do they plan to eat to-gether. Maybe it is a seperate apartment.

It is lunch time so won't write more, I got such a nice letter from Gale, I have an idea you suggested she write and then you would get the material ready for her to work. If you would like another frame anytime they have several sizes.

Loads of love,

Catherine .

Banff, Alberta.
Sunday, July 29, 1945

Dearest Mother,

Such a wonderful weekend as we have had and it all happened so unexpectedly. You wrote that Russ was to go to Alaska in two weeks so I figured out a wire to send him in case there was a chance of going to Edmonton or Vancouver to see him. Then Friday night as we were eating supper, (Erling had dropped in and was taking pot luck with us,) Donny came running down to say that there was a telephone call from Edmonton for me, and of course we knew who it would be. It was Russ all right and he asked if we could meet him in Calgary the next morning at ten and spend the day with him as he would have to be back in Edmonton the next noon. I said "of course" and he seemed so glad we could do even that much.

At the time I didn't mention Banff but I was pretty sure that we could get him to Banff and back even if it did mean two trips down and back, for we couldn't think of a better way to use our gas. After supper we did a bit of figuring for the gas stations had closed for the night and wouldn't be open before we left for Calgary in the morning, also we had no spare tire, so Pete got Sams and had it changed to a wheel that would fit our car and Bill Bunn was good enough to come down to the filling station, change the ~~gas~~ for us and also give us gas. and I got bread to make a few sandwiches to take along, for the stores were all closed and no chance to get anything in.

We got up at five o'clock and left soon after six as Pete was so afraid that we would have tire trouble, so we were in Calgary by nine, picked up an air force couple who talked all the time, the girl said that they knew so few people in

Calgary that when they got anyone who would listen they talked their heads off. Had time to check up on our spare that was being fixed, but it wasn't ready, will be back this week though. then drove up to the A.T.C. on one side of the Municipal Air ~~the~~ Field. The policeman was very nice, told us where to park and what would take place and all, when he found that no plane was expected at ten he enquired a bit and evidently the trip had been cancelled but there was one expected at 1.30. I suggested that Pete Telephone Edmonton for of course Russ wouldn't have been able to get ~~the~~ of us, we left so early. He got Russ who just happened to be in the building at the time and he said he would be on the later plane all right and didn't have to go back ~~the~~ by noon Sunday so could spend most of the weekend with us.

We did one errand in Calgary and then as it was pretty hot went out to the park and ate a couple of sandwiches. It seemed funny to be in Calgary and no rushing round to do, we didn't want to shpp and get all hot and tired. Back we went to the station about one. Had the excitement of seeing a plane circling round trying to get its landing carriage down, while all the ambulances and crash trucks gathered in case it had to make

a belly landing, however the wheels came down allright and it landed very nicely. We waited some more and then as one thrity approached the various little jeeps and trucks got ready and we could hear the motors of Russells plane and next thing we knew it had circled the field and landed, taxiing up to where we were, I could see his feet and hear his voice when he hopped out the further side of the plane and then he came towards the buildings, said hello and then went to check in and also arrange for his trip back.

While we had been waiting Pete noticed a little coyote in the distance between the buildings and thought it must be a dog, But after Russ came the Major in charge wanted us to see the pets. They had the nicest little black cocker spaniel and this little baby coyote about the same size and then behind some wire a lion cub ! The amazing part was that all three were the best of friends and played to-gether in the lion cubs cage, The Major let them in and after playing, while he was giving the lion cub an extra pat the dog and the coyote ran off to-gether with a very large bone belonging to the lion, They both held it in their mouths together and never fought over it. It really was quite a sight.

We had a nice drive up to Banff, It was a beautiful day though warm it was dry, The atmosphere was very misty but the effects lovely, we couldn't see the mountains until we got to Morely and then Russel was surprised how high they seemed.

Russ looks awfully well and he seemed to enjoy it all so much. We were beginning to wonder what our chances were of getting any meat when we got to Banff, so stopped in Cochrane and got a roast, 3 lbs, to be on the safe side and then when we reached Banff got some steaks in case it was a tough one, then we could cook the steaks. The stores were jammed with last minute shoppers but we did get some raspberries, onions and potatoes for I was not very well stocked Friday and never thought of not being able to shop Sat. morning. Then we came to the house and popped the roast in the oven first thing so it would be cooking while we washed up etc. It turned out a really good roast which pleased us for the meat hadn't been too good for the Laughlins. We had boiled new potatoes and creamed onions and raspberries and cream. Russ seemed tickled with the house,

Just before supper a whole carload of Indians drove in the yard. Young Dan Wildman with old Mrs Simian and Young Mrs Simian and a little girl in the back seat. Tom Simian had been taken to the hospital with an appendix and Dan had driven the two women up, Pete gave them a little financial aid which they needed and then Russ had a chance to meet them. We are to go up and see Tom every few days.

After supper and the dishes washed we took Russ for a short drive to see the beavers, however we never saw a one and couldn't understand why not, but to-day we heard that they are trapping them and moving them to a new district and I suppose after catching two the others are staying out of sight, they are pretty wise. Then we drove down to the golf course and up to the garden where we were caught in a thunder shower and stayed in one of

the little garden shelters until the rain abated a bit. The gardens are looking very well this year.

After that we talked until after eleven when we were all yawning. Russ slept on the couch downstairs and insisted on using the back washroom and the dark room for his clothes, Unfortunately we have never cleaned it since the furnace was moved so it is rather dusty but he seemed to think it was all right.

We all had a good sleep and Russ never woke until nearly ten, ~~Hex~~ He never even heard a car come into the yard after midnight, Pete scared it out by turning the outside light on. They were evidently going to spend the night on the driveway!

This morning we were up about 8.30 and had our breakfast before Russ even woke. We didn't have to hurry and he decided to take the train down this evening, We went to the station to send the wire to you and got his ticket and he didn't have to leave Banff until nearly six. Was able to telephone down and arrange for a car to meet him at the station and then he would catch the plane to Edmonton at 8.30 and be there by 9.30 to-night. Goes north to-morrow from Edmonton.

We went up by the Wards and saw them for a few minutes, then on the way back as we went by Edmees they were all out in front so stopped there a few minutes and then saw Cyril Paris at the tea room. and came home for a late lunch about 1.30. We had the steaks and they turned out well too. also fried onions and cauliflower, Russ being very surprised that we could cook it so quickly, thanks to your pressure cooker. Then I said how about vanilla ice cream and chocolate sauce and he laughed and said "of course that would be fine" thinking I was joking, he was pretty surprised when I produced it! We use the Londonderry stuff and it really makes good ice cream and so easy, I made it while he was eating breakfast and he never knew it, and you don't need whipping cream either. and the chocolate sauce was already made, I keep it in the refrigerator in a jar.

The Moores had asked us down there for a beer so we went just before train time and had a nice visit with them, then we put Russ on the train and last we saw he was sitting on the back platform for the trip to Calgary on the observation par. It was a perfect visit in every way and we did enjoy it. It all worked out so well and we had no callers to spoil it or even the children to run in and out, as they went up to Temple with Jackie.

Got your letter about the children and Hanne seeing "Son of Lassie" That was the movie that was taken here last summer. we haven't seen it yet and don't know how much of what was taken here was used. but we saw the part where the dog was in the river swimming with the man.

This is quite a letter but know that you would want to hear all about the weekend.

Loads of love,

Catherine
P.S. A letter this (Monday) morning from Margaret Watkins. They are at Skookumchuck & can come over next week to

see us. probably for only a day or two. I am to write
wire or telephone to-day + arrange it all.

Take love to the whole family which sounds
quite large.

Catherine.



Banff, Alberta.
Thursday Aug. 2, 1945

Dearest Mother,

After writing the long letter Sunday I guess I haven't written again. It was such a nice weekend and wonderful having Russ here.

Monday we seemed to meet every train to see some one coming or going. Tom Link was on the train from the east on his way to Lake Louise and then on the afternoon train Mr Pimpson was supposed to be going east so we went to that, but in the meantime his plans were changed so he wasn't on, wHowever the R.A.F. girls had wired that they would be going through so with Ethel Knight we saw them for the five minutes the train was here. They had had a wonderful time in Vancouver for someone had lent them a car to drive about in.

Seems to me someone called that afternoon but I can't remember who, oh yes Mrs Mack came to tea. It was a funny day, the sun out one minute and pouring rain the next, however ~~to~~ the only poor day the Laughlins had while they were here.

Tuesday Mrs Wheeler came to call and for tea and Sam was here measuring windows and the roof for insulation, for we thought we had better get our orders, in.

Yesterday Miss Savard came over after lunch to ~~be~~ have a sun bath as she is at the Mt. Royal and there is no good place to do it there. However we didn't stop what we were doing I was making ginger snaps and also thought I had better wash out the tub in case the Laughlins wanted baths when they came in, There wasn't enough time in between to do any sketching and this afternoon I have gotten involved, Miss Savard is very insistent on going with me when I paint, and as I hate being watched Pete thought it would be good for me, so we shall see what success I ~~a~~ have ! Pete has done better than I lately for he is still working on the Air force picture in the house. There is really a lot to paint around here and there is no reason that one can't go out say every afternoon it is nice. I did for three afternoons last week and then as Russ was here Sat. and Sun. and it rained Mon. and I didn't get started Tues with Mrs Wheeler here I haven't done so well. To-day we have Nick and Willy Morant coming for lunch and Miss Savard will be here at 2 so I shall have to go somewhere.

We went out to the Coral to meet the Laughlins figuring that it would save them time for they only had about 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ hours before the train. We got there about three and then we noticed a cow moose and tiny calf go through the woods and Pete said they must be coming soon for the Moose had already heard

heard them. and about five minutes later the horses came in sight. They had had a fine trip and really good weather. We took them first to the Alpine club to get their "store clothes" and coats on hangers etc. stopped for the mail and then down here for beer and a bath. There was a lot of unpacking and re-packing for they had to stop and see Ledlie on the way through in Ottawa and needed things there. but we got them to the train in time and waved them off. They seemed to think we did too much for them but actually it was fun seeing them and otherwise we wouldn't have had a chance ^{now} than to say a few words if they stopped on their way to the station.

When we came back we found a big stone stuck up on the lawn with a message scribbled on it so we knew the Morants had been here, after supper Pete went over to see them and they came back later, had been here about 20 minutes when Nora Cornwall and a friend came to see us and so we had quite an evening in the end.

I must start lunch now so won't write more. You sound as if you were having a busy summer, it was nice the Owens could all come for you hadn't seen Wardsworths family for so long.

Loads of love,

Catherine .



Banff, Alberta.
Fri. Aug. 3, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Just got your letter saying that you got our wire. We would have sent it the night before but were afraid that with the difference in time they might wake you up in the middle of the night so waited until Sunday to send it. It was lucky that Russell could come, he had been in Edmonton a couple of days when he telephoned, I guess he didn't realize what a short trip it was from Edmonton down, takes only 55 minutes to fly *to Calgary.*

Frances has my sympathy but guess she realizes how very lucky she has been to have Gil at home all the time so far. and most of the men like to have the chance to go overseas for otherwise they feel a little bit out of it all. Lets hope that the maps give up before Gil reaches any dangerous spots.

We are having our first showery day for about a month it seems, it was so dark at noon it felt like ten o'clock at night and it thundered very ominously for a long time but in the end never amounted to anything. Yesterday was lovely but last evening when an Indian came round to see us he said "It's going to rain to-morrow!" how he could tell I don't know.

The Morants came to lunch yesterday and we had a good time talking and discussing all sorts of things, Willy (the wife) went at two to the hair dressers but Nick stayed a while longer to fix his tent up with Pete's help, they are going on the hike to-day. Glad we aren't going with this weather and 84 other hikers. too many for us. I rather expected Miss Savard to go with me while I sketched but when she hadn't come by 2.30 went by myself and ended up making a messy drawing. Then last night we had 2 Indians call, Paul Franceis and his wife, he had been doing some painting and diling and upset a pail of oil all over him so he was looking for an old shirt.

Got a letter from Margaret Watkins this morning and it looks now as if they might be coming over Wednesday the 8th. We will meet them in Golden and drive them to Banff via Lake Louise, they will be here one night and then go back on Thursday with a Mr Bell who is going through. It will work well if only the weather is good. She also said that Dorothy Brown is planning to go and see you before she leaves for the west for good, it would be in the late fall sometime I guess and Margaret said she might go with her to Concord as she hasn't seen any of the Concord relations for two years. So you will be having more visitors this year.

It looks now as if we would have no more friends coming through until September except for the Watkins. That was a nice letter from Waddy but what happened to the bicycle?

It is now Saturday afternoon, did I say something about not having any more people we know coming through. Yesterday morning while writing this Miss Savard dropped in to say how sorry she was not to come the day before etc. Then in the afternoon Mary Simpson came with a Mrs Link from Philadelphia who wanted to borrow some cerulean blue water color paint. They stayed to tea and then left to drive up to Bow Lakes. she was very attractive & full of enthusiasm, they had been at Temple and Skoki too.

Then last evening who should drop in but Henry Kingman from Minneapolis and he is coming to supper to-night. He admired the pictures you made and was surprised when he found they weren't sketches, he remembers you very well, he and his wife are the ones who came that evening you and Mildred were here and Mr Weed too, in fact they made a first accent of Mt Weedd.

Then this morning we had a nice letter from Ruas from Whitehorse asking if we could get rooms or a cabin for a man and his mother who hadn't been able to get a thing so far and wanted to come here for a week on Tuesday. Luckily we got a cabin for the first four days through a cancelation, otherwise I don't know what we would have done for everyone seems to be booked up for August, He also mentioned another man who is to look us up, guess I spoke too quickly,

Must go now, heaps of love to you all

Catherine -



Banff, Alberta
Tues. Aug 7, 1945.

Dearest Mother. I am having a sunbath on the new grass by the kitchen door and it seemed a good chance to write a few lines to you. I also have a chicken roasting in the oven to take with us to-morrow when we go over to Golden to meet the Watkins. We are to meet them there at one or two times, drive back via Field & Lake Louise. They will spend the night at the Alpine Club cabins, where the Langhills stayed, and then a son-in-law of Mrs Staples will take them back to Skookumchuck Thursday afternoon. We can drive them around Banff in the morning, give them some steaks for lunch, & I believe they will leave before supper. I hope the weather stays good. Right now we are having a heat wave and its 80 again to-day, but the breeze is quite good. I think its the river & shade from the trees that makes it cool here.

We had rather a busy weekend. Did I write you? wonder. Henry Kupman came for supper Saturday night and the Painters dropped in. Mr Painter is the man who was the architect for the Banff Springs Hotel. is now experimenting with insulation & told us quite a few angles. He's an interesting person. Mrs Painter is the one who had us to tea the first year you were here.

Yesterday Mrs Seward dropped in again as we were having lunch, but had eaten a late breakfast so just had coffee with us. Guess she thought we always have coffee for lunch.

Did I tell you we heard from Russell from Whitehorse. A friend of his is coming today, though he hasn't appeared as yet. We had quite a time getting a cabin for him so hope he appears.

You would like the weather this summer. We have had so much sun & it's warm enough to suit you.

Am glad Gale liked the gum wood frame & will send a couple more when I get a chance. Some man in Alberta makes them & sells them at the Handicraft shop. So it helps him too. The finer the design the more sewing it takes as you know. Am glad Miss Solier is designing you Mr. Hepburn's house. It would be nice as a winter scene. Some of the old houses in Concord would be nice too. Like the Bullet Hole in yellow & even the old Maunce. Every one who comes to the house notices them, even the children.

Late - We surely are living in momentous times. Wonder if the Atomic Bomb will bring the War with Japan to an end. If it will give them a chance to save face maybe they will surrender. That bomb must be a really terrible thing.

Must be going to bed. We have most of the lunch ready hope it's what they can eat.

Loads of love

Catharine.



Banff, Alberta.
Fri. Aug 10, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

I don't know if I shall ever have a chance to write you all that has been going on the last few days, Pete and I haven't had a moment to ourselves and it is funny for us. Guess I had better start at the beginning.

Did I tell you that Russ asked us to get a cabin for a Captain in the U.S. Air Force who had been so nice to him in Whitehorse, he and his mother were very anxious to come to Banff but could find no rooms. We were lucky and got a cabin for the first four days they were to be here, due to someone else cancelling, and I wired to him that we had the reservation made at Beckers Upper cabin, the wire evidently reached him as he was leaving so he didn't wire back. They were supposed to arrive on Tuesday so after lunch we drove up to see them at Beckers but they hadn't arrived, so I paid for the first night for otherwise they won't hold the cabins there are so many wanting them and so many people forget to cancel if they aren't coming. We went up again in the evening but they hadn't come on the late bus either so we arranged to have them met at the late train and I asked them to hold the cabin another night. That was Wednesday for was sure they would come that day although we had heard nothing.

Wednesday we left soon after nine for Golden to meet the Watkins, had the lunch all packed in a big tin box, a chicken roasted the afternoon before, and wrapped in wax paper then that and the butter in a jar were placed in newspapers and four bottles of ice in each corner also inside the newspaper. We didn't have supper until after seven and it was a warm day yet the larger bottle, about quart size still had some ice in it and the butter was quite hard. It worked very well to keep things cool. We had a covered dish with celery, tomatoes and raw onions and then I had whole wheat, white and bran bread, half loafs, for I didn't want to make sandwiches in case we didn't picnic, for it would have wasted butter. Then two boxes of really big raspberries and peaches in another tin, cake, cookies and doughnuts in a third one. and coffee tea and beer to drink. Salad dressing too. It really made a good picnic. but more of that later.

We were a bit skeptical about the weather for it was overcast and looked as if it would settle in and rain, but it was cool compared to the hot sunny day Tuesday and easy on the eyes driving. We got to Golden a bit too early for we had allowed time for tires, and also hadn't figured on the time change for it

WGA three our time, two theirs when the bus got in, they left Skoocumchuck about nine I think so it was quite a long ride but they didn't seem to mind it though poor Margie got car sick.

There was a terrific storm ahead of us, you could see the sheets of rain where we were headed. However it seemed to be clearing behind us. Well they all got off the bus and looked as beaming as ever, we managed to get in the car allright, Jim in front with Pete and the three of us women in back, we had the top down figuring we would put it up only when it started to rain. The road is about the most hairraising one around here and we got Margaret who doesn't like precipice roads on the outside. However when she saw how carefully and slowly Pete drove she relaxed, never said a word and yesterday told him that she had never felt less frightened and thought he was the best driver she had driven with, so that was nice. Pete didn't feel awfully good, we have all had some sort of throat and nose infection, the kind that makes you a bit sick when you cough, but after Lake Louise he began to feel better and I don't think they knew he wasn't feeling up to scratch. It was overcast in the Kicking Horse canyon which can be so hot it makes one sick, and any other day this week would have been too hot to have the top down, it was lovely and cool all the way, they even needed coats and sweaters. The storm stayed just ahead, for the roads were all wet and yet it began clearing and the sun came out just where we began to see Glaciers and some of the effects were lovely and Margaret was very enthusiastic, Jim and Margie we thought had agreed to come as it was Margarets part of the trip as she does not ride because of Asthma and doesn't fish. However they seemed to like it better as it went along. We saw Lake Louise with the sun on it and then a storm from behind came up but never did catch up, in fact the whole way we never had a drop of rain. We stopped at the loveliest spot for supper, the first place we had planned on had other picnics, but this was a pond made by men in the intorunament camp during the last war, they used it for a swimming pool. It was in the trees and Castle mountain was above us with lovely lights on it.

I will continue this in my next.

Loads of love,

Catherine

P.S. Looks as if the Japanese would surrender, as some one said "One can believe the news but it is hard to realize". Pete has been saying for some time that the Japs would quit this month. Hope he's right. Am so glad for Frances though there will of course be some fighting maybe a lot of policing to be done.

more love

C.



Banff, Alberta.
Sunday, Aug. 12, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

I do hope that you aren't trying to do too much., and getting too tired, Maybe you can get a good girl to do the table work and who can cook on Mondays, Do you remember we used to have crackers and milk in the summer on hot days, Why not let the children have that on Mondays and then instead of trying to make puddings give them the fruit plain. In summer bread and butter and simple things should be enough without your trying to make special things. Maybe from now on you won't be having so much company though I think you will have a visit from Dorothy Brown and Margaret Watkins. Dorothy has sold the house and will soon be ready to leave for California. One reason she was anxious to sell the place is because of the dam by the pond. It seems that the owner of the place is responsible for the dam and if the dam went out sometime Dorothy would be blamed for the damage and she would only worry if anyone else was looking after it for her

Now to continue where we left off the other letter about Wednesday. It was a perfect day and very lovely coming into Banff at sunset, we came to the house first for a little while before taking them up to the Alpine Club where we had reserved a cabin for them and Margie shared a cabin with a Mrs Chace. They liked it evidently though the modern conveniences aren't too handy, but there is a nice lounge and the people are all nice, We arranged to meet them at 9.30 in the morning. When we got home Pete's mother came down with two wires for us, one from Pat and Claire who will go through on their way to Victoria next week, and the other from Capt. Phil Lovelady saying that due to transportation delays he and his mother wouldn't arrive until the 8th which was that day. I had asked them to reserve the cabin up at Beckers and promised to pay for the first night when they didn't show up, so expected they must have arrived while we were in Golden. The wire had been sent the day before but was a night letter so we hadn't gotten it ~~until~~ before leaving for Golden. After getting the Watkins settled we thought we would just run up to Beckers to see if they had come and were all fixed up. It was about ten o'clock and had been a long day for us. When we got up to Beckers I asked if they were there and they said "No, and as we didn't hear from them we let the cabin go & " Well we were in a fix, they had no more cabins and the town was full, they called up several people who had rooms and cabins but every one was full up, even Mrs Crockett at the Alpine Club had spoken of how many people had tried to get a cabin there. There/ We

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didn't know what to do for there was still the late train at 1.50 A.M. and they might easily be on that. We began looking around taking turns going in to enquire, tried the Y.W. C.A. the Homestead Hotel, King Edward etc. all the time it was getting nearer midnight. finally the Mount Royal said they had a room with 2 double beds and the people hadn't showed up yet, so if they didn't arrive in the meantime the Loveladys could have it. But they wouldn't let Pete pay for it in advance to hold it as it was really reserved for the others, By this time it was midnight, we left a note and a message for a man called Matty who meets the late trains and takes anyone going to Beckers up there, and left word for him to take them to the Mount Royal first and then if no luck, to bring them to our house. We then came home and decided to make up the beds in the living room, one for the mother on the couch and the other a sleeping bag on an air mattress which Pete blew up. We thought if we had everything ready the chances were they wouldn't come! It was nearly one when we got to bed and then Pete began to wonder if he would get the messages and maybe it would be better if he met the train so we would know for certain whether or not they had arrived. So Pete got up and dressed and read the paper until it was time to go to the station. Only three people got off the train and no U.S. Capt. and his mother from Texas. Well we slept better for knowing they hadn't arrived. ~~Then~~

In the morning we were up early and went for the Watkins. took Jim up to the Hot Springs to have a massage and hot bath as his back had been troubling him and then left Margaret and Margi to shop in the town. We also asked for a cabin at the Alpine Club without success and at the Hot Springs Hotel, so we were afraid they might come on the noon train. There had been no further word from the Loveladys. I got all the stuff for lunch and the Watkins were to come back when they finished shopping and Pete went back up for Jim when he had finished his bath. In the meantime I washed up the breakfast and picnic dishes and unmade the beds in the front room, and Sam came to see us and later Mrs Mac who we asked to come back for lunch.

Margaret had been saying how she loved to eat outdoors so we decided as it was lovely and warm we would eat on the new Terrace. I made some blueberry muffins and we had the salad and chicken left over from the picnic and cold meat and fruit and Milk. Margaret cut up the chicken and Mrs Mac made the salad in a bowl so there wasn't much for me to do, it went very well even if flies appeared from no where to join us.

After lunch and the dishes washed up we took the Watkins for a drive, up to the Beckers camp to see if the Loveladys had been there, still no word, then to the camp ground to show them where Jimmy had camped, down to the "old Course" and the big Hotel and then it was time for Margie to meet Mrs Chaces daughter for tea, and for Margaret to get her hair washed so we left them over town and brought Jim back here, originally they were to be picked up at tea time by Max Bell who was driving over to Skookumchuck that night but he had told them it would be eight in the evening before he could come, which meant supper.

I got steaks and ice cream etc. lots of errands and so



3

many people in town it took for ages to be waited on. We still had no room for certain for the Loveladys if they came, I just asked at the telegraph office if there was a wire and when I mentioned from whom, the name was so unusual they remembered the Beckers had had a wire from Lovelady, Their wire said that he would arrive Friday morning Aug. 10th. I tried to get a room for that night but they all told me that it was better to wait until the day it was wanted as people often checked out and otherwise they didn't always know when they were going. So we decided to wait until Friday and then could find them something when they arrived or they could get their own place.

We had a big steak supper with potatoes, onions, mushrooms and raspberries and ice cream. Margaret got a bit anxious when 8 o'clock came and no sign of Max Bell, wished they had thought to telephone and be sure he stopped. We had callers, Mrs Pepper who's husband is a war artist and Molly Hamilton and a Mrs Sutherland. Jim is getting quite deaf so misses much of the conversation and Margaet was looking for the car. it finally came about nine, and off they went. The others stayed until about ten and we had a fine time talking about different artists who used to come here to paint. Pete and I were glad to get to bed and looked forward to a good sleep.

About 2.30 A.M I woke to see car lights in the room and tried to wake Pete who was so sound asleep it took him a minute or two to wake up, he did however and stuck his head out the window to find it was Matty with the Loveladys, he hadn't been able to find a place for them anywhere so there was nothing we could do but put them up as best we could. *They came on that late train -*

We got dressed though our eyes were sticking to-gether and went down to welcome them as best we could. They said they felt terribly to come in like that etc. but Matty had told them we wouldn't have liked it if he hadn't brought them down. They had no baggage, not even her overnight bag. it had been checked just to Balgary and they hadn't realized it until they got to Banff. We made up the beds again, pumping up the Air mattress and I got them nightgowns and pajamas and kimonas etc. and we gave them a glass of milk and cookies or something and the poor lady Mrs Love lady who had come from Texas and been delayed by a mistake in reservation and then by the weather was so apologetic, the man was very embarassed so we tried to make them feel at home and all got to bed about three. *thirty*

We were up about eight-thirty and had our breakfast we could hear them moving, (as if we hadn't heard them snoring etc. all night) and suggested she dress and wash upstaris, which she did taking a hower too. He wanted to wait until she was ready before eating his breakfast, but she had only a cup of coffee, He had bacon and eggs etc.

u

Pete found a razor for him to shave and then he had a shower while his mother helped me do the dishes. Then we ~~took them~~ sat and talked for a while and he told us about taking Russ fishing in Whitehorse, how they had each bet a dollar on catching the first fish, the biggest fish and the most fish and Russ had ~~one~~ all three bets!

They didn't suggest going over town and Pete had already gone and telephoned Mrs Crockett who thought she could get them a cabin for that night at the Alpine Club but it wouldn't be ready until five o'clock in the afternoon. We had to get ~~the~~ baggage at the noon train, Pete had been down there too to see if it surely had left Calgary and then found they had telephoned the night before when they came in. they were a bit vague and how he ever got a commission and to be a Captain is more than I can see, maybe he is bushed from having been in Whitehorse for 2 years.

Well we drove them around Banff a bit to give them the lay of the land, to the golf course and the Cave and Basin etc then to the train and luckily the baggage came alright. It was while we were there that the first word the caps had surrendered came. two G.I. called to Lovelady "HI. Cap have you heard the news?!" We then came home and turned on the radio and while they were listening I ran over town and got meat for lunch and they had it with us. He told us that up at White horse by paying extra in the Officers mess he can get a steak every day. no wonder there isn't enough beef in the country, though I believe there beef is all bought in Canada so there would be plenty.

We got a little tired by this time, Pete took him over to get the handle on his bag fixed and I wrote you while Mrs Lovelady looked at books. then we took them up to see their cabin at the Alpine Club hoping to leave them there. she found the walk up to the cabin hard and they decided to come back down town with us, we went to the Rocky Mountain tours to find out about going to Lake Louise until there was more room in Banff, and Mrs Lovelady told me she had diabetes and that was why she had missed having her insulin, it was in her bag! Well we finally left them there about four o'clock and haven't seen them since. What a time! *The more we did the more they took for granted -*
Must stop to get this in the mail.

Loads of love,

Catharine

BANFF, ALBERTA
CANADA

Tues. Aug. 14, 1945

Dearest Mother,

It is 4.30 P.M. and we are just waiting to hear if this time the Japanese have really accepted the peace terms, there have been so many false alarms, We turned off the radio last night after the 11 o'clock news so didn't hear the flash from the Domei news in Japan, some were up until after one, but we had a good night sleep instead. It was a bit disappointing to hear this morning that the first coded message sent to Switzerland was about something else, I have an idea that the Japs are rather enjoying keeping the whole world waiting, gives them their last feeling of importance! Lets hope it is all over this time, and that they won't have to fight to clean up the various islands. Also we are hoping that the prisoners of war are still alive to be liberated.

" As Jean would say we are getting into "our usual way" and feel less rushed. Had a rather quiet weekend on the whole. We did run into such a lot of company and it always means a lot of running about. We did enjoy the Watkins family visit, they are all fun and easy people to have if you know what we mean. Margaret pitched right in and helped get lunch, in fact there seemed to be nothing for me to do but provide dishes for her to fill! and they all helped with the dishes. The Lovelady's were nice too but after all they were perfect strangers at first, Funnily enough Mrs Lovelady is an artist and she said she couldn't go to bed for looking at the pictures! We haven't seen them since but Pete thinks he saw them in the distance to-day.

Pat Cowley-Brown and Claire Boisvert went through *from Ottawa* on the noon train to-day, they looked very well and may be back and stop off for a day in Banff. We didn't have a chance to say much but have an idea they are on the way to Victoria to be married.

Wed. Well the War is over at last! The news came through as I was writing, first the regular B.B.C. news direct from London and during that they said that Prime Minister Atlee would probably broadcast at five, then that he would broadcast, Big Ben chimed the time and then Atlee read the reply from Japan said a few very appropriate words and we were pleasantly surprised to hear how well he spoke over the radio. The War was over! They then played the National anthems of all the Allies, and then a religious service which lasted only a few minutes, there were news flashes and we decided as it was then after five we better be thinking of meat for to-day in case we had 2 holidays ahead. However unlike the states and Britain we only get one holiday and Wednesday is a half holiday for the stores anyhow.

It was fun going over town for everyone had a broad grin on their faces, there was a long queue at the Liquor vendor of people trying to get their ration of beer, the other things had been sold out before. The ladies were going in all directions with rather determined looks but coming back with smiles and a parcel of meat or bread under their arms. I felt sort of mean going to the butchers at the last minute but the man Ted has helping was so tickled that his youngest son wouldn't be going

to the Pacific after all that he was most friendly, said his oldest son was killed in Italy, his second son is wounded in hospital, his wife was in the service for two years and he was too, rather a good record for one family.

There wasn't much excitement except for cars blowing their horns every few minutes and car and truck loads of boys and girls driving up and down the main street shouting and screaming, a few western shouts mixed in. Flags appeared and children ~~waxed~~ clutched them ~~in their~~ tightly in their hands not knowing quite what to do.

After supper and we had listened to the radio and the goings on all across the continent, we went over in the car to see if there was any excitement. You could hear the singing coming out through the open doors of two of the churches and it was a lovely evening, clear and a beautiful sunset. People were just strolling up and down and they were joined by those coming from the church services. A truck load of kids were collecting wood for a big bonfire on the school grounds and there were rumors of a parade. We picked up Marion and Mavis who were both out strolling, and together watched the fun. About 9.30 when it was beginning to get dark, the summer school, 400 strong, paraded out of the Auditorium. The fire engine with its ~~siren~~ siren blowing led the parade, ~~th~~ they had a few flags on long poles and also an effigy of a Jap hanging from a scaffold which later they threw onto the fire, then all the students followed behind, some singing later on. They ended up at the school ground where the fire was soon burning. Mostly old boxes etc, but it made a really grand bonfire and was lovely against a turquoise sky, the circle of people moved back pretty quick as it got hotter and hotter, Sirens blew and car horns and there was much noise, later as the fire died down they danced around the fire in a large circle and then sang "O Canada the "Star Spangled Banner" the "~~ars~~arséillaise" (can't spell it.) "There'll always be an England" and "Pack up you troubles!" It was all informal and spontaneous and rather nice, though had it not been for the summer school to get things going I doubt if much would have happened. Certainly not as much. It was too bad they could find no band on such short notice. *only Mrs Fullbrook with her bagpipes*

This morning Mrs Lovelady dropped in while I was making cookies. She was very nice, and thanked us for all we did and also said what a good time they were having and what a nice place they had found to stay. The weather is still lovely almost as if it were because of the good news.

We thought we heard them say that gas rationing was to be lifted in the states, I do hope so and that you will take George and the comfortable car to York Beach with you. (Later -- Our gas rationing has been lifted too). Have you thought of making George a chauffeur once more and getting a returned man to help Petro in the garden. I am glad that you are going to get a holiday at the sea side but think you should see if you can't stay longer. 2 weeks would do you all lots of good, and things will go all right at home. After all if you broke a leg or were very ill you could not be on hand, so why not try and take the 2 weeks away and keep George to drive you.

Must stop now, Loads of love

Catherine

P.S. I do hope the war is over and no more serious trouble for the world.



Banff, Alberta.
Fri. Aug. 17, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Before I forget, have you ever read "The Beeps" by a Mrs Holden, wife of the captain of the Panay which was sunk near Shanghai by the Japs before the war. Julie Foreman who is a great friend of the Kidders in Concord, told us about it, so they would be sure to be able to get it at the Concord Book Store. It is a true story of a pair of English sparrows who follow them right across the country to San Francisco and it sounds as if the children would enjoy it too.

We have had quite a few callers lately, last night Nora Cornwall and a friend came down for a few minutes to ask if they could bring one of the heads of the Drama school to see us and the house, Saturday night. Before they left Mr Phillips and his wife came and we had a very pleasant evening, he is the one who does such beautiful water colors and wood blocks.

Then the night before the Foremans were down they have a boys school in Litchfield Conn. and her brother is very interested in birds and before the war collected them for the Natural History museum and also has worked with Barbour, is now in Burma or India attached to Stratemeyers staff as he has had lots of experience in the islands like New Guenie. Sam and Cis were also down as we hadn't seen them since the news broke.

Did I ever tell you that Mildred broke her leg near the ankle taking a bad fall on some steps. She did it the day the Watkins were here but we couldn't do much to help, however since then we had taken lunch and supper up to her every day, Mom does the breakfast and dusting and mopping and bed making and Barbara gives Donny (who is the only boy at home right now) his meals and also put ice on the leg etc. So between us all she has been pretty well looked after. The Doctor hopes to put it in a cast with one of these things to enable you to walk on it, and then she can get around better. She is getting a girl to come for a month starting to-morrow so she will be all right then, We haven't done much but it has been one more thing to look after.

With luck you are in York Beach (or is it Harbor) now. perhaps you got rooms earlier for here quite a few people left for home as soon as the news of the Japs surrender came in. I do hope you stay long enough and don't hurry home.

We were so glad to hear how much better Cousin Jane feels and hope she is able to go back with you next winter, for I know when she is well she does a lot of things for you.

WHL
WHL
WHL

About the little frames, they expect more in next week so
will send two more.

No time to read over
Roads of Love
Catherine

Canff, Alberta.
Fri. Aug. 20, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

I didn't finish my letter to you but was afraid it wouldn't catch the mail if I stopped to read it over. so I will continue where I left off and have this ready to send next time.

Told you about Nora Cornwall and her friend Gwen somebody from Edmonton and the Phillipses who were here last evening. Just to show how the war has hit people. We were talking about one of Mrs Phillips daughter who was a nurse in the navy which Nora was and then in the course of the conversation Mrs Phillips said " You know we lost one of our boys, he was killed in the Hockvold Forest." (that was near the end of the European war) and Nora said " I lost my brother when the Valleyfield was sunk." and then Gwen added " my brother was shot down in the Air Force " We were the only ones who had not lost a member of our immediate family. It was curious the three services were represented.

Did I tell you that Mrs Lovelady called the other morning, Wednesday it was, as I was making cookies. she told us that they had found a nice place when they came back from Lake Louise etc. The son had arranged to meet Bill Ridway who works at the store to go fishing, that afternoon, which is usually a half holiday, but Pete saw Bill later looking for Lovelady who was then an half hour late and Bill didn't know where he was staying. However they finally got off and the boy was sick most of the time but managed to catch one fish, I guess he had been celebrating the night before. Maybe that was why he didn't get the wires to us in time. We felt sorry for Bill having to take his holiday looking after the Captain, for he could have been off early in the morning for the whole day otherwise. We met the Loveladys after wards in the store and they were trying to figure out how they would cook the fish and where they could get a skillet. I never offered ours, she asked if butter was rationed and I got her some with our coupons, enough to cook three fish, (Never thought to suggest bacon which is unrationed) and then I suggested that they cook them outdoors by the river where there is an open fireplace. but the boy didn't take to that and didn't think that a restaurant would do it well. so I left them for I knew what it would be if we offered to do it for them here. She thanked me for the butter. I figure the boy is spoiled, first by his mother and then by the army. He just expects people to do things for him.

We have had several calls from Miss Savard too, but she is to leave next week and has a navy friend coming the last few days so we won't expect to see her so much. she is very nice and interesting too but like everyone else she is just one more and there are so many who drop around. and it is the time it takes more than anything else. However we are getting quite a bit done, Pete has nearly finished the second picture for the Air force and can now paint what he likes, he didn't feel free to

before. Went to a lecture the other evening with Miss Savard to hear A.Y. Jackson on War art, it was very interesting to me.

Am glad that you are to do a needlepoint sketch for the exhibition. I think the snow ones might work out the best, they are more unusual and you did shade mine so well.

What a wonderful trip Russ must have had and we were glad Russ saw Tofino, we gave him a map so he would be sure and know where to look for it!

I can't quite place John Enser who is giving Wadge and Mrs Bartlett lessons, but his name is very familiar.

The Lovelady's just came around to say goodbye and "thank you" again, I guess they really did appreciate all we did but of course never realized how much time we spent for them. She would like to come another summer and go to the summer school.

Monday. Never finished this Friday, will tell you later
Sat. Sat evening when Nora & Guy brought G's sister
Muriel down & Benton James, the drama professor.
Loads of love
Catherine.

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Banff, Alberta.
Wed. Aug. 22, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

We are doing pretty well, company every night for the last week or ten days, and places represented include Texas, Seattle, Litchfield Conn (Detroit if you include the Watkins 2 weeks ago) Philadelphia, Whitehorse in the Yukon. Victoria B.C. Edmonton, Calgary, Ex-Winnepeg. Ottawa and Vancouver. Toronto. Montreal. and Banff! However we find it easy as long as they don't stay too late, are interested in the things in the house and when we are home all the time and have the house in order.

I better work backward this time, Last night a Miss Hess who teaches handicrafts at the Art School in Calgary asked if she could bring some friends (who are taking 16 millimeter movies of the Art school in Banff in color) to see the house. She arrived first and then her friend Daphne Lilly and a Mr Crabtree came later, Then Nora Cornwall dropped in with her navy friend a Lt. Savage from Montreal. so we had a nice evening, talking skiing, photographs and they even looked at ~~the~~ the sketches. It was 11 P.m when they left. Seemed funny to offer only apple juice for refreshment, but it is too near the end of the month for beer and there is no gingerale in town due to the warm weather and cut in sugar. However they seemed to enjoy it and after all they don't come for the eats.

In the afternoon Sam and Cis were down to talk over the Valances new house etc. and Pete also got his painting shipped to the R.C.A.F. which we are glad of for now he can concentrate on painting for himself.

Monday night Mr and Mrs Goddard came around to see if Pete could copy some paintings, (take photographs of them) He had promised to as soon as he could get film, so that is another little job to be done, they didn't come in but we chatted for a while out by their car, as they were going Dr and Mrs Thorington from Philadelphia walked in the yard and we had a nice visit from them. They come out each year and he is a great Mountaineer, also a specialist in Phil. eyes, throat or ears?

Sunday was a most beautiful day, clear and a feeling of autumn in the air, We had planned to go to Lake Louise to see the Lauren Harris from Vancouver, they had been at Temple and were to take the noon train west. We took a picnic lunch with us and left about ten or a little after. Had the top down and for the first time this summer I needed a tweed coat. We had at least half an hour with them which was nice. They are very much interested in helping the small places establish art centres etc. She told me about Port Alberni where we used to have to spend the night on the way to Tofino. She said that a druggist and a shoe maker wanted to learn to paint and draw and so clubbed together and took a correspondence course, after they had finished

that they put an add in the paper saying that they would teach anyone interested all they could. 30 people joined the class and Mr and Mrs Harris were asked to go over and open their first exhibition. There were over a 150 people I think she said who they figured had paid \$5 to hear Mr Harris and he hadn't realized that he was expected to give a talk. They had to be members and also pay for a dinner etc. I expect it was to raise money for their Art movement. Any way she was much interested in one woman who showed her a little water color, rather "wish washy", and told Mrs Harris it was the view from her kitchen window and she said " You know I have stood at that window for 30 years and never noticed the view before."

X After the train left we went to Morraine Lake, it is nice having enough gas once more, though we intend to keep track how much we use just to see if the ration would have given us enough. We stopped at Lake Louise on the way home.

Saturday night Nora and Gwen brought Burton James down. he is head of the repertory theater in Seattle and funnily enough studied in Boston, lived on Gainsborough St and so did his future wife, he told a nice story about her, evidently she was a year or two ahead of him and as the Freshman or first year students each have an older pupil as their adviser he asked her if she would be his adviser and said " She has been my adviser ever since. "e told us about going to Durgin and Barks for steaks and also used to super for Southern and Marlowe, He spoke of Marlowe as having such a wonderful voice though didn't consider her much of an actress. but he said in those days diction was what counted not acting as much. He also acted with John Craig. He was there in 1909.

And so our days go, Next summer everything will be open again and we will plan to be out more but this year it has been rather nice staying home.

Will send this along, haven't answered your letters for ages but may get to them soon.

Loads of love,

Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.
Sunday, August 26, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

We are having our first bad weather since June. Yesterday, after a week of smoky weather from fires in B.C. (when it would have been quite warm but for the smoke) it started being thundery yesterday morning and we had a lot of thunder all afternoon and finally a very heavy shower which turned into a steady rain all night and this morning it is lifting a bit, but there is fresh snow on the mountain tops and as Pearl said yesterday! "We always have a snow storm around the 25th of August." I know we usually did at Lake O'hara. actually we are glad to see the rain for everything was so awfully dry and there is always the forest fire danger, a good soaking will help a lot. The summer school was surely lucky for they had a month of excellent weather and went home yesterday, their first really bad day. The exhibition was excellent, some really lovely things that one would like to live with. mostly water colors, but really good.

Sam and Pete have been tackling the chimney, you may not remember the problem we had over what to do for a chimney for the furnace in the cellar. The kitchen stone chimney was in the right place but from the hole for the stove pipe upstairs down to the heavy block it stands on in the cellar, it is one so solid piece. Sam was hoping it was filled with rubble inside and that by cutting a hole in the bottom it would pour out and then one could put in a new flu. last spring we got around it by building a bit under the foundation and up the outside of the stone chimney and then entering one flu, however it didn't draw as well as it should have. so Friday Sam and Pete decided to do a little investigating. It was too difficult to try to pound through from below as there was a great block of concrete in the way. so they took a rock out in the kitchen and then little by little worked the rocks and rubble out inside the chimney. It was quite a job but they have worked 2 days on it and feel they have found a way out of our difficulties, also found that the stone mason had done a poor job last spring, he was a very stubborn fellow and none of us liked him but he was the only one we could get. Now that the inside of the chimney is cleaned out up to above the little fireplace upstairs, they are going to get flu lining and put inside and build a brick bit from the basement up to the hole in the chimney that is really in the cupboard. It is hard to explain but when finished should be a great improvement. We wanted to get it done before the cold weather started in and also while Sam is waiting for permission to build a couple of houses. The only trouble with the work is that it makes a fine dust over everything in the kitchen and old bedroom, but Pete says he will help me dust and actually the upstairs room needed a good dusting anyway.

We haven't had as many callers lately, Miss Savard left Friday and Nora yesterday, now we just have Pat and Claire going through this week and Tom Link the middle of next month.

And now to answer some of your letters. A whole pile has collected and it will be rather hit or miss.

We are so glad to think that Cousin Jane is feeling herself again for she did have a difficult time of it. It will be nice for you to be able to have her back this fall for I

know how nice it is for both of you to do things together and enjoy things together too, for you are one who doesn't get much pleasure by yourself but must share your enthusiasm with some one else.

We were glad to see Russells letter about his weekend in Banff and what he thought of our house, We were pleased to think that he liked our kitchen which looked more like a library with a desk in it. The desk is the one they had at the store and we fixed up a bit, it is very useful too. We were amused about the Indian things placed "casually" about "you well know how most of our things are not exactly "Placed" but "left"! Well anyway he liked it. The low ceiling in the living room is the greatest improvement of all and like to-day, the fireplace heats it nicely and spreads the heat into the kitchen instead of sending it all upstairs.

I understand now about the blueberry puddings, I guess you are like Aunt Mary and really like to cook even if it does make you tired. but with all you were doing, when you wrote of having to get the meals ^{on Monday} it sounded more work than pleasure. I was also amused that Russ thought I was a good cook, it really is Pete who has a flair for it not me. I can only do things that are minutely explained in a cookbook, but he likes experimenting and does things like boiling radishes in with the vegetables and they were very delicate and good.

I only met Mrs Cullis that time in New Jersey, it was nice of Mrs Prescott to have her visit her. How nice for you all to have gas again, especially people like Mrs Motte, in a village like Banff it doesn't make as much difference for one can walk most anywhere, but in Concord the distances are too far.

That was quite a story about the Crow stealing the pin. Whiskey Jacks or Camp robbers are the birds here that take their things. The Watkins were amused for we had hardly gotten out the picnic supper when the birds appeared looking for food.

Jimmy Watkins is in India still and John in the states yet. Margie is pretty hefty but has the same little expression with dimples and a twinkle in her eye that she had when she was a little girl. She has a wonderful appetite and looks well fed, she is about as large as Olive was as a girl but then she might get thinner later on. I don't know whether Margaret thought our house was very well planned or that she approved of our informality, but Margie would love to live this way I think.

Did you know that big Ira Waterman lives in Washington and so does Jim Angell, both doing war work. Wonder if Russ has ever seen them?

We like to read the clippings you send, Have you read the Canadian novel "Two Solitudes" that you sent the review of? I was interested in what he said about Canadian backwardness in writing. After all how can one judge if you don't ^{know} what is written. People in the states invariably forget that the population of the United States is nearly 12 times that of Canada, only a 12 million at the most here and nearly 140 million by the new figuring in the states. Also a good proportion of our population is French and I don't suppose he has read any of the French Canadian works. However he was very enthusiastic about this new writer.

About time for lunch now, Hope you had a lovely time at York Beach or is it Harbor I always do get them mixed, hope you are still there in fact for now that you have gas you will enjoy it more. Nice that Mildred could come and stay.

Loads of love,

Catharine -

Banff, Alberta,
Tues. Aug 28, 1945

Dearest Mother,

So glad to hear that you got to York Harbor safely and started out by taking it easy. The sea air relaxes one and I do hope you have a restful time. It may be just as well the children are in a cottage where they can come & go & no trouble for you. Nice that Mildred could come down & Cousin Jane & Emma bring her. Now if only the weather is nice and you will have the needed change.

Our weather has changed alright. In Calgary Saturday they had $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches of rain in 6 hours. It flooded streets & alleys for the sewers aren't enough above the river to cope with downbursts. In Brooks they had hail stones the size of marbles, an inch in diameter. Will send you the dipping. Must be discouraging for farmers to lose their whole crops. It cleared here & was nice Sunday afternoon, and yesterday wasn't bad though looked like rain. But today is quite wet, a down pour every little while.

Sam & Pete are busy working on the chimney. Are in the basement now starting to build up - Luckily there is a good hefty foundation. Sam knows a good deal about brick laying & certainly should be better than the man we got last spring. It all is to be used on the stone chimney so is more awkward than any thing else. They will have all day to-morrow to work and then have to lay off Thursday as Pat & Jane will be here.

I wonder if Mrs Marshall's daughter-in-law is the one
Eunice Pepper went to Japan with? and if so Pete
knows her & I met her once. Where is Eunice now
I wonder.

Of course Home can take you little drives but expect
there aren't many places you want to go. rather just
enjoy the ocean. The reason I thought of you being
able to get a man was the amount one reads about
men being laid off. but they mostly want big
paying jobs these days. A lot in British Columbia
who were lumbering went into ship building & now
that the ship yards are cutting down they don't want
to return to lumbering.

We use Maxwell House Coffee, and think it is
better than it was a few months ago. Not getting
it in vacuum packed in this way make a difference.

We missed hearing Truman that Thursday
before the Japs surrendered as it was the evening the
Watkins were here. but he is a good speaker on the
radio & probably will improve. Alee is good too.

Are the Elms in Concord getting that Dutch Elm
disease that has been moving gradually north?
It would be such a pity. We hear that soon they
will have a spray to kill dauberians in the
lawn.

Bette take this over & it will go today.

Goods of love

Catherine.

Have you read Alexander Woolcott's life. Should be
amusing -

Barff, Alberta.
Sat. Sept 1, 1945

Dearest Mother,

Sam & Pete are putting the last flue lining into the kitchen chimney & then have a few bricks to go in, some rocks to fit in & one more job is done. We just hope it works as well as it should. If it does it will be really good for the smoke from the furnace will go right up up inside the old kitchen chimney & we still have a stove pipe hole left in the kitchen, but lose the use of the little fire place ^{upstairs} which we never used anyway. Then we have the stone work round the coal chute hole to do and after that most of the important jobs will be done, oh yes & sanding out the door frame where the water in the spring leaks into the basement. They shouldn't take more than a few days to complete.

Got another nice letter from you today from York Harbor. I'm glad the weather cleared up, especially when the Newberrys & Penneys went down for the day. It is nice having gas again. Wish you could stay longer than a week but kids you like home best.

We had another frost last night & today is very sunny & clear. Thousands of brown & orange butterflies the last few days. I'm sitting on the bench by the back door and the shadows as they fly over cross the paper. It's continued at least one every 2 or 3 seconds. They are awfully pretty things.

I think I mentioned that Pat & Claire were to stop off for a day if they could change their reservations going back to Ottawa. They had gone to Victoria to visit Pat's family, but there is still no mention of a wedding or engagement & we don't really know. Pat told Pete once in Ottawa that he was going to wait until after

the war & he was more settled. Claire is as vague as ever. Can't seem to concentrate or rather can't absorb things quickly. Maybe they won't get married.

Anyway we suggested that they come on the morning train & go back on the evening train east. Got a letter from Claire saying that they would arrive at 10 A.M. on the 30th & "were looking forward to their short stay." We worked Wednesday with six on the chimney. Sam was good to stay so long for it was hard work getting down inside the chimney & being so cramped. Then after a late supper, Pete helped me dust the kitchen so it would look a bit better for Pat & Claire. I'd cleaned the rest of the house in the morning, but the kitchen had gotten most of the white dust from breaking mortar etc.

We met them at the train & they after a while Pete asked which of the 2 trains they would be going on & Pat said is today the 30th? & it was & he said to Pete "Claire wrote you didn't she that ~~she~~ we got reservations east on the 31st?" Pete sort of gulped & thought quickly & said that he thought she had, that I had read the letter so he wasn't sure. Luckily we got a room for Claire at Barbaras and one for Pat at Mildreds. rooms they were saving for the Labor Day weekend. ~~Sam~~ Sam didn't come ~~Thursday~~ anyway as Pete wanted the day with Pat but we had counted on all yesterday to finish the job. However Sam & Pete worked yesterday in the morning while I drove Pat & Claire to the Cave & Basin etc & then Pete took us around in the afternoon.

The first afternoon we drove up to Lake Louise & back which neither of them had ever seen & they enjoyed that though it wasn't a very sunny day. However Pat thought the cloud effects the finest he had ever seen. We had a big dinner, steaks etc & then drove out to see the bears at the dump.

There were about seven all told & Claire was very interested. We met a waitress from one of the Cafes & 5 little boys. They had walked the 3 miles out after the 2 oldest boys had finished selling their newspapers. It was nine ^{PM} & starting to rain so Pete offered them a ride home. We each had at least one little boy on our laps. 10 of us in all in the car. 5 grownups & 5 little boys.

Yesterday we showed them Bauff. all the drives etc. They saw them off. The Moores were at the station seeing an ^{American} army couple off, said they had brought them down to the house the afternoon before. but of course we were at Lake Louise.

Pete's uncle Clifford from Calgary came for the week end. will stay with Thom. They are coming for dinner tonight. With this wonderful weather, it should be a busy weekend. also with the gas rationing over a lot more will come up. We are beginning to see lots of cars from the states again.

Loads of love to you all

Catharine

Sunday. P.S. never got this mailed. The last 3 Waenoes came to say good-bye & they leave this afternoon, and we gave them ginger-ale & cake. Then Goon Wip & a friend (also Chinese) came to tea. Goon went to school with Pete in Bauff. Then supper for Uncle Clifford & Mom. Roast Beef. Roast potatoes. Fresh Peas, gravy & Melon for dessert. Uncle Clifford had 3 helpings of everything. He is a good eater. We also listened to the signing of the Surrender on the Messager very impressive & thought Mac Arthur's speech quite wonderful.

Bauff, Alberta.
Wednesday.
Sept 4. 1945.

Dearest Mother.

Seems as if you had quite a variety of weather in your week at York Harbor. Northeast storm, great heat etc. Wish you could have stayed longer but perhaps another year you can. Nice that Muddie could go back to Concord with you for a few days.

We have had a lot of holidays this summer, for a wonder the Labor Day weekend was fine. So often we have a good cold storm. Think I told you that Pete's Uncle Clifford came up Saturday to celebrate his 50th Anniversary leaving Bauff. He was one of the first school teachers in Bauff and married Pete's father's sister. He & Mom came for supper here that night as we had a small roast to cook. Aunt Sizzie evidently isn't an awfully good cook according to Mom & Uncle Clifford found the food here to his liking. He's a large man being over 6 ft & a lot of turkey to fill. He had three helpings of every thing & you would have enjoyed feeding him. We listened to the jazz serenades afterwards. Seems to me I wrote you that.

Sunday the Graysons came up from Cochrane. Mrs Grayson was the wife of Dan White. Pete's oldest uncle who died many years ago. & later his wife married Charlie Grayson, a widower in Cochrane. He was out here in 1852 & so knew Mary when she was a little girl. They are a fine couple. We had Uncle Clifford down for lunch & supper, a favorite of his - & Davy too.

In the evening the little boys, Davy, Harold and Peter & Grace who are friends. the same size ^{children} they asked if we could take them to the Cave & Basin where they were to have a swimming lesson. We took them up & stayed to watch.

Then Monday the Graysons came down for tea & we had a nice talk, it was cold & looked like rain so was nice by the fire.

Yesterday, Tuesday, Sam came about 10 AM They had had rather a busy weekend. & he & Pete managed to finish the flue in the chimney & this morning put the stones back in in the kitchen, so that's another job done. We hope it works as well as it should for we have saved the original stove part. still have a stove pipe hole in the kitchen & the little fire place now has an opening about 6 inches deep & we are planning to get an electric heater to go in that. for chilly mornings when the furnace isn't on.

Now they are repairing a bit of the floor under the furnace which was cracked by the weight of it. It looks like rain this afternoon, so a good time to get the odd jobs done.

Last evening Murl & Jack Brewster came down & spent a nice evening. They were up at the Columbia Ice fields when we were there & so nice to us they. We also saw her at Vancouver 3 years ago & the last 2 years they have been in Whitehorse. He is a brother of Pearl Moores.

Not much to tell you & some I think I told you before. Well never mind. may do better next letter.

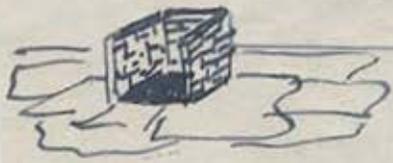
Loads of love
Catherine

Bay, Alberta.
Sat. Sept. 8, 1945.

Dearest Mother

You know you said in one letter not to feel I must write you every other day but only when I had plenty of time. Well I think I better return to the old system for 2 days go by then 3, and if I write a little every other day why then if I miss one it isn't so long between.

Well the new ~~fire~~ chimney (or rather the ^{the stone chimney} furnace is finished & works like a charm. Had the stone mason we got to look at in the spring done the work, the other idea would have been fine, but he sent his assistant who didn't care and wasn't very experienced either & when Pete & Sam took the brick work down they realized he had not made the opening big enough in one place. Sam & Pete finished it Wednesday and then Thursday morning Sam replaced the bit of roof that had been cut out for the temporary chimney. They even found the bit of rafter that had been cut out. In the afternoon they started on the coal shoot and it really is something. They first laid bricks around three sides of the square hole into the coal bin which is directly under the stone terrace, so it looked like this. Then Friday they laid big flat stones up against the brick work - wider at the bottom than on top and then across the top two large stones with a few smaller ones in between.



It makes a nice table and also a grand place to feed the birds & you can see the top from our kitchen window while sitting on the window seat. It now looks something like this & will make a door where the coal goes in. There is a large stone on each of the 3 sides & maybe a small one. The top is like this.



front.



side



Top

Its very rustic & solid looking. If you have a flat door over the hole the water works its way

in. That's the reason for building it up off the ground level. X

Last night the Goddards came to call. We first had a little drive up the West road to see if the color had started changing, but it hasn't as yet. They brought a couple of paintings for Pete to photograph, and were only to stay a few minutes but we got swapping yarns and it was after 11 when they left. We had quite a thunder storm as they were leaving & it rained all night I guess & most of today. Now it is nearly five & clearing & there is fresh snow way down on the mountains.

We been up to call on Jerry Baker. Carr's wife's aunt who is at the hospital here with arthritis & had dia with her. Now I have a chicken in the oven & we expect Mom & both Marion & Mavis to supper & the last year of the season. The girls will soon be going back to Vancouver -

Lots of love

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Mon. Sept 10, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

A nice letter from you today and don't you worry, your letters are just fine & never seem badly written to us. Guess you will be all excited thinking of Russell coming home. Does that mean he will be home for good Oct 1st. or is it leave? That was a nice letter from Waldo about his work.

Dorothy Brown will have been and gone by the time you get this. She must have wanted to see you a lot to make the trip and I guess it was partly because Aunt Frankie was always so fond of you. for over 60 years you were friends weren't you?

X We had rather a quiet weekend. It cleared up yesterday but was rather chilly because of the sub zero low down on the mountains. We had an early lunch and then went for a prospecting trip for spots to paint. The light was rather milky & the color hasn't changed as yet. We drove all over little wood roads and the clearings they made in back of Tunnel Mt several years ago as a Golf Course. We never knew they were so extensive. The course was never finished only the clearings for the Fairways. It was a bit rough but we picked our way slowly & it was lots of fun. We came across some lovely groves

of old Fir trees & nice spots too. Then we went
towards the new dam at Munnawanka & Pete
thought he'd like to try the old road near the mine
at Anthracite where they used to drive with the
horse when he was a little boy. That was ~~fun~~ fun
too for he had never been there since he was
7 or 8 years old. One road we turned off on led
to Johnson's Lake and followed the outlet and
right in a ravine where the trees were thick
was a new beaver dam. The water so still
& mirrored all the trees & was really
lovely. We mean to go back there some time.

* Then we came back by Munnawanka.

Meat rationing started for us today. But
we have a good start as the hobbles brought
us a lot of Sheep or Goat or Venison steaks
as we lent them a sleeping bag for their
hunting trip.

Haven't really answered your letters for
ages or done up the little frames for Gabe. I
love them though.

Loads of love to you all
Catherine

Banff, Alberta,
Thurs. Sept. 13, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Am sitting in the sun (when its shining
between clouds) on the terrace. Its really a lovely
place to sit, and I'm also getting lazier by the
minute. Have a number of letters to write so hope
I can keep awake long enough to do them. Pete is
busy completing the Coal chute. This morning he
made the wooden door & now he is getting boards to
block the door at the bottom & we will be all set
for the load of winter's coal when it comes. You are
never quite sure when it will arrive. Mr. Blaymore
gets a car load at a time & it is put up a siding
at the Station & he works like mad to unload it
as quickly as possible. Bringing the coal right
from the car to the various bins. The store & I
think the school & us ~~etc~~ & a few others too. But
you only know the approximate date to expect it.

Yesterday we had a lovely trip to Lake
Louise. Telephoned up the night before & arranged with
Tom Seale to meet him about 11:30 the next morning.
He had just arrived from Lake O'Hara & will
be in Banff Saturday with us, coming in on the
morning train & going east at night! We hustled
around in the morning getting a picnic lunch ready.
Just an ordinary one. Boiled eggs, sardines, lettuce
& tomatoes & brown bread sand wiches - tea etc.

It was one of those extra clear blue
days "Super" as Dave would say. Not a cloud
all day & the sun was very potent. It was still
too & as we went by the 2nd Lake a big cow
moose was swimming across leaving a ripple

behind. She looked as if she were doing the breast stroke but I don't suppose she was!

We met Tom & then found that the small bus carrying 8 people was going up to Temple & back leaving the Station at 2 o'clock. So as we wanted to see the new work they had done on the road we decided to go up & right back. Pete hasn't been up since you were there he thinks & its 2 years since I was there.

We ate our lunch by the river and then at 2 went up. Mrs Aship of the Mountain Inn & her two cousins going up too. It took just 20 minutes up. We went across one new section of road but couldn't use the other short cut. Up at the top there was a bull dozer working & it was rather noisy. 2 girls were taking the train east so came back with us. We had over half an hour there & could see all the improvements. Marie who does the cooking or running of the place had planted some several peas in the upstairs window boxes & they had climbed up the screens of the windows & were blooming nicely. though it had been only 26° above that morning.

We were back at Lake Louise soon after 4 o'clock & were home here in good time. The fall color still isn't here though the larches are starting to turn. Maybe next ~~year~~ week it will all be yellow.

Loads of love

Catharine



Sunday, Sept. 16, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

I intended writing you a long letter earlier this afternoon but as it was cloudy and rainy Pete decided to do some photographs and as it makes it so much easier if I help with the developing part, I helped him instead of writing you. Now it will soon be time to go up to Mom's for supper, Jackie is to be there too and the two girls will be leaving next week.

Had a nice day yesterday with Tom Link here, he came on the 10 O'clock train, we talked a bit and did the shopping in the morning, then Sid Graves who used to run O'hara came up from Canmore where she now lives and had lunch with us. We had saved some of the sheep steak and I made sweet potatoes in the pressure cooker with butter and brown sugar, an easy way to do, and creamed onions, (no buttered) and vanilla ice cream with peaches. I find that one can make the ice cream with that Londonderry stuff in an hour, in fact it stays more creamy when not frozen too hard.

After lunch Tom drew us a plan of the landscaping he did this summer around Lake O'hara camp. He was up there with the caretaker. It must have been a lot of work for he made stone paths and terraces and intends to bring in all the plants and shrubs that are native to the region and put them in the beds. Then he also plans to write a book on the history, the geology flora and fauna of the district. He also buried all the wiring that used to be strung from tree to tree for lights etc. Now it is underground in pipe and so won't get into photographs any more!

Sid had errands to do and we drove around a bit and looked at the gardens, as he said he was more interested than he used to be in such things. It started raining then so we came back to the house until train time and looked at the sketches and had a bit more to eat. It was a nice day altogether but we find it a little tiring having someone to sort of be with all day like that.

"Son of Lassie" was here Friday night so we went, only the 2nd time we have been to the movies this summer. It was fun to see how they had used the shots I saw them take last summer. The parts taken in the Rockies were after the hero escaped from the little cabin that was blown up. The cabin was at Morraine lake, and then it jumped all over the mountains from there on.

I think you would enjoy seeing it for the scenery is nice and in color and the dogs are lovely. One shot is from the Pelly Lookout where you & Mildred walked to near Bow Lake. Mildred would enjoy it I think.

In looking over some of your letters I see that you asked if you had told us about Miss Everatt's 75th birthday, no you didn't. Must have been quite a while ago.

It was nice you had that trip to York Harbor, I think you pointed out the hotel to me once on the way to Portland but I can't remember it very well, isn't it long and rather plain? You spoke of Roosevelt's grandchildren. I think that must be the Cushing girl, I used to know her sister quite well, they were the daughters of Harvey Cushing the great brain specialist. and lived in Brookline.

Am glad that Dorothy's visit went so well, and it was better that she came alone for had Margaret come too she would have had people to see and it would have been too hectic for you. Also nice that you had gas, for with rationing it was hard to get about easily.

Monday- It is about 35° and trying to snow, the clouds are low around the mountains and you can see that the snow is lying pretty low. On the radio it said that they had 2½ inches in Calgary and the same at Lake Louise, funny that it should miss us. Usually after a bit of cold and dull weather ending in a snow storm it is followed by Indian summer, so we hope that is the case. Just the odd branch has turned now.

We got the loveliest box from Mrs Lovelady this morning in token of her appreciation of all we did for her. It is made of wood like mahogany and very plain, oblong with a goose flying carved on the top, very nicely carved and raised. It was nice of her to send it.

Loads of love

Catherine



Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. Sept 20, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

We are having a real rainy day and it is very dark too, Maybe after this it will be Indian summer, seems to me the middle of September usually has some sort of weather disturbance.

Yesterday started out clear and lovely and after fresh snow Monday night and part of Tuesday we thought it had cleared, I hustled round and we put up a lunch and Pete got his camera stuff together and we decided to go up the west road to see if the color had really changed, I guess we are a bit overanx anxious and most likely in the end will only get a couple of days painting of the aspens turning. They are just on the verge now. As we went west the clouds began coming over and we just kept on up to Louise and then decided it was a good day to go to Bow lakes as we hadn't been up there this year. It was pretty dull in that direction but the sun came out most of the time we were there. They are closed now but Mrs Simpson and Jim were there and we had a nice visit with them for about an hour and then as other friends came in we decided to head for home. We planned to go to Calgary early this morning and I spent all last evening getting the necessary papers and measurements etc together but when it started pouring when we went to bed we had an idea we might not go. It is too miserable a trip when stormy and also as it is only 40' out it might easily turn to snow.

Monday we had the good news that ~~Mr~~ d'Arcy Baker-Carr has been released from a Jap prison and is on his way home. They worded Mrs Hanna (Kay's aunt who is at the hospital) and she sent Mrs Myers the nurse right down to the store to tell us. which was very nice of her. Evidently it wasn't direct word or official word but a British cossespondent wired the names to London. d' Arcy being a civilian wouldn't be on the army lists. I hope he can come direct to Canada and not have to go to England, there is some talk of establishing camps in British Columbia for the British prisoners of War to get them sort of accustomed to freedom and the diet before they go home. It was wonderful news and almost too good to be true, for he was in Osaka which was bombed so much. I went up to see Mrs Hanna Tues, afternoon, her daughter comes Tuesday so that will be nice for her.

The afternoon Tom Link was here Margie Brown and her husband Mr King (I don't know his first name came to call. Pete was to take their picture as when they were married recently

they had none taken. However she has to go to Vancouver to get her release from the Air force so it was to tell us they would have to do it later. They came on bicycles and he walked in with a cane. I knew he was rather lame having been injured in the Army (I think it was through an accident in Canada) but I didn't realize until Pete said so later that he had lost a leg. When they left it was raining so Pete wiped off the bike seats and he said it was quite for when King got on, his leg sort of snapped across and hit Pete. Pete said it was the queerest feeling like being hit with a piece of wood. King apologized but Pete said it was a new experience being kicked by a wooden leg. I think he is pretty spunky riding a bicycle. There is also a man in Banff being wheeled around when it was nice, and he had lost both legs. However when we went to the Movie the other night and came out there was a long line of people waiting for the second show and in the midst of it the man in the chair. He was such a strong looking man too, but it is wonderful what they can do these days.

Tuesday we had a bear, he strolled across the yard and had a taste of our garbage, it was just after lunch, then he wandered across the lawn and as the dogs next door were barking he sort of glanced at the tree, then he decided it would be a nice spot to rest. slowly stood up on his hind legs and then up he went. Got nicely stretched out for a rest with his chin lying over one branch. Pete took a picture but it was a little too dull really. My bird feeding place is very nice but after putting crumbs out the other day a big buck deer came along and lapped them all up !

Time to be getting lunch so all for now.

Loads of love to all.

Catherine .

P.S. Could you please mail the enclosed card for me.
saves a stamp .

Banff, Alberta.
Sunday, Sept. 23, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

The Fall equinox or whatever it is called has been quite a storm across the praries with lots of snow and rain, we are getting the tail end of it only with occasional snow which melts quickly, but the mountains are very white when you can see them and it is snowing right now. The only nice day all week was Wednesday morning. Erling claims that Indian summer is always the first week in October, and I guess he is right. By the way he has had a good summer at last and is ready to pay off some more of the loan, he asked if he could pay me as the money he makes here, he is not supposed to take into the states. and then when the restrictions are off it can be sent to you. I thought it would be allright to do it that way.

We gather from Cousin Janes letter that Russell is to get his release from the Army October first. You said he would be in Concord Oct. first but we weren't sure whether it was for good or just his leave. How fine it will be for everyone concerned and they will be glad to be back in their own house again and more room too. Lucky that the children had planned to start school in Concord for it all works out well. and I know it will be a relief to you to have someone look after the farm and all the questions that come up. I hope that Cousin Jane will be able to return to you for seems to me the nicest part of having her is that you have someone to go places with you and enjoy things with, for you both have similar interests and taste about most things. I expect she won't be able to do as much reading as before but perhaps with more gas Mrs Motte will be able to come and read aloud to you both and maybe Mrs Loring too.

Too bad about Mr Dearborn and hard for Mrs Dearborn now to be so alone, wasn't there a niece named Hilda who used to live with them?

No we haven't read " Robin Cruse " except I think it was in LIFE or the newspapers, you know, a short account of his experience.

This snow will sort of delay the last bit of road building they planned to do at Temple. Remember the steep hill at the Ford, where one crossed the stream? There they are planning to go around the hill at a more gradual angle and it will be a better grade but means a lot of work with a bulldozer. Below they have made two short cuts but they may not be much use this winter as they will get very muddy when the snow starts melting. the whole hill side is spongy and it is hard to get any drainage. The road is not a highway by any means only a little better than it was. The bus that goes up is like a big passenger car with two back seats instead of little seats. It is longer than the usual open car. Sir Norman Watson is expected to arrive to-day or to-morrow. Nearly three weeks ago Cliff received word he was leaving England and flying to the states via South America, Miami and Washington D.C. Then there was that crash of a plane between Miami and Wash. just about the time he was there. Not a word did they hear from Watson and he never arrived when he expected to and we began to wonder could he be on that plane and no one out here would know. Cliff finally ~~fixed~~ cabled and found out he was in California and coming now.

The bus to Temple is run by George Murray a driver for Rocky Mountain Tours and he goes up and down as often as there is any one to go, meets the trains too. It works very well and he is a fine driver.

You sound busy and of course with gas rationing lifted more people will feel like driving out. wonder are you all affected by the gas strike, hope not. They don't think we will be here in Canada but Detroit seems to be hit hard.

Too bad your refrigerator gave out. Henry Kingman of Minneapolis told us that they have everything in their house as modern as possible, electric stove and appliances and the furnace automatic etc. but his ambition is to live in a one room cabin with outside conveniences for he says it seems as if there was always one of their things out of order and he thinks like would be comparatively simple if you had just wood to get and carry your water !

It is still snowing gently but the sun is trying to come out.

Loads of love,,

Catherine

20' above this morning -

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs, Sept. 27, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Well the weather is still none too good, We have had lovely starry nights only to wake the following morning and find it is snowing, and now the leaves are starting to fall off the trees without turning, most discouraging for we have been rather looking forward to Indian summer. We shouldn't complain for it is the wheat growers on the prairies who are really hard hit, they have had more snow than we have and it will take about 2 weeks of sunny weather to dry things out. The bus was even stuck in snow drifts coming up from Calgary Sunday, on the Cochrane hill.

Pete has been busy doing odd jobs the last couple of days, The last duct work for heat into the bathroom has to be changed and as the men are in Banff on another job he has cut the hole in the floor ready for them, then we needed a bit of electrical work done and so Cecil was here for an hour or so. Pete also got the coal shoot ready for a load of coal, and such things that one has to do. He also has been looking over possible locations for a ski jump and goes again this afternoon perhaps. I am supposed to go up to tea at the hospital to meet Mrs Hanna's daughter and perhaps hear the latest on d'Arcy. We are rather marking time hoping that the weather clears up soon and even if we can't paint can get a day of good weather for Kodachromes.

Yesterday afternoon Nick Morant and Willi his wife came to tea and told us about their summer of picture taking, they are off to Vancouver Island for a month now taking pictures for tourist purposes.

The girls left night before last, hoping to go to University this winter but it is still doubtful whether or not they can get in as there are so many ex-service men taking the opportunity of going, as part of their repatriation help entitles them to finish their schooling with the help of the government. The girls had been with Mom for 4 months and wanted to get home but also hated to leave, She feels very lonely now they have gone, for it was awfully nice for her.

I can imagine how busy you will all be getting the family settled back in the farm, a good idea of moving them gradually and not as confusing, but I can see all the shifting about of furniture you will be doing.

Wonder if you are short of gas again due to strikes, it does seem too bad so many feel they must strike right now, but I guess we have a very unsettling period to go through. It makes us mad to think of the meat dealers striking in Montreal and parts of Alberta too. Most people seem anxious to do what they can to send more meat overseas but there is a bit of complaining among the butchers, and now the coal miners out here are striking because they want more meat to work on and the longshoreman in Montreal for the same reason, or rather they are striking because the butcher stores are closed, well I guess it will all work out somehow,

Can't think of much news to-day so will call this a letter, Loads of love to you all

Catherine -

~~75. Do we still address letters Col.?~~ Got the wrong letter -



Banff, Alberta.
Sat. Sept. 29, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Well it still isn't Indian summer, though the weather has improved and yesterday was lovely, the trees on the verge of turning, sort of a yellowish green but none of the beautiful golden brilliant yellow that we look forward too, May be we won't get the beautiful color this year, we need warmer days and frosty nights.

Thank you for sending the recipe for that cheese dish it sounds very good. funny but to-day I was glancing at the cook book that came with the stove and in that they give a rule for Cheese Strata and it sounded so much like yours, but for the moment I have forgotten where I put that letter. I will copy this one off and enclose (if I can remember) but the interesting part is that you put it in the refrigerator until ready to bake and the thorough chilling makes the strata puff up like a souffle.

Think I told you I was to go up to tea at the hospital with Mrs Hanna Thursday, which I did and met the daughter Mrs Spaulding and the granddaughter Mrs Mozril, both very nice and they will be here about three weeks. I brought them down to the house as we all walked home together. There is an uncle who lives in Vancouver so I expect that if d'Arcy comes back that way which we are hoping, he will let us know if he comes through here, There has been much talk on the radio about the British coming via Canada, but instead of 60,000 they now say it may be only 4 or 5 thousand and for sure only 2000. Quite a difference ! We thought that d'Arcy would be classed as a civilian but he joined up when he reached Hongkong and so is in the Army, that is possibly why there was no chance of his being repatriated. The carrier he spoke of in the letter to Kay was a " troop carrier" he was on going to Manila, we had hoped it referred to an " aircraft carrier " which would mean he was on his way to Vancouver. so now we will just have to wait and see.

Where did Aunt Julie's baby come from ? I should think that would be quite a job but know that Aunt Julie loves babies and I believe that is an easier age than when they are in to everything, unless of course they cry a lot.

By the way you spoke of the Chamberlain land up on the way to Carlisle, which is that, before you get to the Curtis place ?

It is too bad that Cousin Harriet hasn't more of her friends near her and I expect she is losing a lot too being pretty old. I do think that people who live in the country have a happier time growing old for the neighbors take an interest in

them and there is always a lot going on among people you at least have heard of.

Mrs Spaulding was saying that she is here partly to find out what her mother wants to do with her home in Sarnia. She evidently moved into a house across the street from her mothers when she was married. And both houses are great big Victorian kind of places. The old house Mrs Hanna fixed over and gave to the I.O.D.E . but her own house is very large and the last two years she has been too ill to even go downstairs so Mrs Spaulding says she doesn't think she will really ever go back there to live. Mrs Hanna is 76 now, looks a bit like Aunt Frankie did in a way. Mrs Spaulding said that she too is rattling around in a house built for a family of four and all but one of the four children are married and she doesn't intend to keep the house full of inlaws. She thought a house with a living room, kitchen and 2 bedrooms would be plenty big enough! I guess lots of people have the same problem.

Having a chicken to-dgith and Mom is to come to supper so won't write more now.

Lads of love to all

Catherine .



Banff
Alberta.
Mon. Oct. 1, 1945 .

Dearest Mother,

This may end abruptly for I am waiting for Pete to come back for lunch and then we hope to go out this afternoon for at last it is "Indian Summer"; Yesterday was a lovely day and we were off quite early with a picnic lunch. However we found that we were still early on the color and the trees around Banff were still quite green, there was a little more color further west but not really enough to do much with. Sunday mornings there are few cars about and we stopped to photograph with Infra Red as Pete wanted to experiment a bit, and also looked for compositions as the trees have grown quite a bit in some places and died off in others where we used to go, also the beavers have transformed some of the foregrounds cutting down whole clumps of aspens and damming up the water to kill other trees. It is rather surprising how much change there is. We ended up going to the summit of the Windermere road and having our lunch in a camp ground, it was good to feel the hot sun and we really enjoyed it. We came back slowly, investigated one sort of wood road Pete had never been on before and found it went up behind Johnsons Canyon, we went over a mile steadily up not knowing where we would end up and you know how a tiny wood road that you crawl along seems a long distance. We figured it had been used to bring down wood at some time. Finally at the top it seemed to peter out in a grove of Spruce so we decided not to try to go further, got out to investigate and found we were at the top of a slope leading directly down to Johnsons Canyon felt we were miles from anywhere, when suddenly we saw 2 figures, and 2 Air Force men in uniform were walking down the slope below us, I guess they were as surprised to see us as we to see them. Though there was a trail near by.

On the way back we noticed the trees were more yellow the hot fall sun sort of cooks them and if you have frosty nights it really turns them to a brilliant yellow.

Towards
around the last bend coming back and onto the straight stretch of road to the C.P.R. tracks, we passed a very nice looking lady on a bicycle with a dog trotting peacefully beside her. Then as we rounded the turn, suddenly from out of the woods on our left bounded a Cow Moose with another big moose with large antlers after her, They went right across the road in front of us and into the woods on ~~our~~ right. We slowed down to watch them and wondered what would have happened had the lady been a minute quicker on her bike. Then as we expected her to round the bend

The cow moose crossed the road again, We had to move on slowly as a car was coming but as I looked back I could see the lady on her bike round the bend just after the moose had crossed over and the second she had passed the bull moose went racing across too. ~~However~~ she easily could have been unaware of either of them, for she seemed to come on quite oblivious of the whole thing. The dog did chase off into the woods after the Moose but not very far, ~~so she could have been oblivious of~~ If I see her again and recognize her I think I will ask her if she saw either of the moose. But wouldn't she have been surprised had they charged across in front of her as they did in front of us?

As soon as Pete got back he developed the film and because of the change of time we were hungry and so started to get supper early. I always save some of the fat etc to make gravy after our roast on Sat. and this time we had the chicken gravy with a bit of onion and then I sliced up just enough meat for us both, to go in it and we also had some corn on the cob, I debated whether or not to do the three ears but decided I might as well. I was just dishing the chicken out of the pan onto our plates when who should come up the walk but Sir Norman Watson. We hadn't seen him for 2 years, asked if he would like to have supper and so just decided the chicken off the plates. We each had corn and he liked milk so that was pretty good and there was just barely enough ice cream left over, it was a bit skimpy but I guess he didn't mind. For not expecting anyone we didn't have much on hand. We stayed until 9.30 and after 3 1/2 hours we were pretty tired.

He is an interesting talker but does it all and he says lots of things you don't quite agree with but never gives one a chance to get more than a word in now and then, He is better than he used to be but still thinks he can make the Ptarmigan Valley work as Switzerland does, not realizing how different so many angles are. He was very interesting about the situation in England but not very optimistic, thinks they will have a lot of trouble this winter, He says that the way people live compared with the old days is appalling and that people are so worn out and tired after the six years of war that they show it very much in their faces. He said a lot of people are already regretting that they voted Churchill out and he doesn't think that the Labor party will stay in more than about 2 years. but in the meantime they will have great trouble. I won't go into all he said but it was very interesting.

This morning we had all the dishes to do and then as Pete had to go up and help measure out a ski hill we decided not to try to go painting until after lunch, I had a number of things to do too and also the sky was rather milky with little clouds high up so not good light for painting or photographing. We had a frost last night so the leaves here are getting yellow this morning.

It is noon so expect Pete any minute,
Loads of love



Banff.
Alberta.
Wed. Oct, 3, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Well, Indian summer turned out very disappointing. at least from the photographic and painting point of view. You have to have the leaves really turned and the day sparkling to get any worthwhile photographs for we have tried it often before and only been disappointed when they came back developed. and for painting it is much the same.

Monday we woke to find ~~it~~ very milky sky and so Pete and Norman Knight went up to where they want to make a ski hill for the younger boys and surveyed a jump, Norman having worked all summer on surveys. Then we had an early lunch and took the camera and the paints and drove up the west road a ways, however though some of the trees were quite bright most of them were a sickly green and we were sure Tuesday would be perfect and it looked like a frosty night. Tuesday came and with it a wind, a very high wind and when we heard it in the night I was sure there wouldn't be a leaf left on the trees. However ~~the~~ very few seemed to have blown off, maybe because they were ^{not} really turned, but instead the high wind had brought in smoke from somewhere west of here and the sky was dull and the mountains very far away. So again Pete worked on the survey in the morning and then as it still wasn't too good we offered to drive Cliff to Lake Louise and also had a good chance to ask him how things were going up at Temple and what Sir Norman had planned, not that he could tell us very much. It was lovely when we got to Lake Louise but there are few aspens up that way, so in the end we got only a few photographs but we knew that to-day would be perfect if the weather was good. It was still blowing hard. Well this morning we woke to find it overcast and now it is settling in to rain, so maybe that is all there will be to our Indian summer. Pete thinks we will do better painting inside!

Pete has just finished repairing his mother's roof as the last heavy rain she suddenly had a drip right through the plaster ceiling in her living room which was a bit upsetting, it was in one of the valleys. It is almost impossible to get anyone to fix things these days so Pete did what he could. It is nice to be handy but I told Pete maybe that is why some artists do better by being perfectly helpless, however I must say I prefer a more practical kind. Speaking of artists. Russell takes the London Illustrated News and in the last copy is a picture of Belmore Brown who is an American artist who has a house in Banff, he is

Johnny

showing - the Lovat Scouts how to build igloos like the Eskimos when they were training in Jasper, he is still with the American army. The Lindsays used to know them well.

I have just been over and was lucky and got my hair washed while Mrs Boon was waiting ~~to have her hair~~ for someone else to dye. Now I must start looking out clothes for the Clothing drive. We have been wearing ours for so long and we mustn't give anything we would have to replace so it is hard to know what to send.

A nice letter from you yesterday about Russell flying up from New York for lunch, must have been exciting. and I can remember when we used to drive to Portland and stop for the night in Portsmouth New Hampshire, how times have changed. They will maybe be in Concord for good when you get this, though I imagine it will take a little while to get settled.

Loads of love to you all,

Catherine

P.S. I forgot. Monday when we went out we saw 2 pairs of moose in First Lake. We hadn't the big lens with us but as it is very unusual to see four moose all at once that way we came back for the lens. Then of course we couldn't get them all in the picture at once. but managed 3 of them. There were lots of Canada geese in the Lake too.



Banff, Alberta.
Sunday, Oct. 7, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

I think it has been several days since I wrote you, for we were pretty busy trying to get pictures of the color. We didn't have exactly Indian summer but the color was beautiful for three days, but we had very strong winds and how the leaves stuck on as long as they did I don't know. Thursday morning after the rain Wednesday night was fresh and the low clouds lifted showing fresh snow on the mountain tops, some effects were lovely though there was more cloud than sunshine. We took our lunch and drove out around by Anthracite and Lake Minnewanka, got a few Kodachromes and Pete took some black and whites, oh yes first we drove up Norquay but didn't get much there, the trees were nice but no good compositions. We ate our lunch at the camp ground at Minnewaka, the only ones there except for nine lovely little deer. When we saw the first group of five little deer they were standing in a group in the trees and all their ears went up together, they were the prettiest sight you ever saw, but of course in the shade and couldn't be photographed well, We tried to get them in the sun but they were too timid. Everytime we turned our backs and walked away they were so curious that they would follow us and the minute we turned they would bound off into the woods. The other group came down out of the trees every little while and then would bound away again at the slightest movement. They were around all the time we were there and one little deer was specially cunning for it started bounding about through the trees and evidently was chasing a mag pie for we saw it fly off, the deer still after it.

After lunch the clouds came in and killed the light so we came home and I took the chance to go up and see Mrs Hanna, Mrs Hanna They had left a note on our door saying that a letter from Kay had told them that John Baker-Carr had wired he would meet D'arcy and fly him in a bomber to Toronto on the 10th of October. When I went up they were all much excited, they too had wondered where

John would meet d'arcy and it seems another letter said it would be when his boat arrived in San Francisco. We had all thought that d'arcy might come through here by train but of course this is so much better.

Friday we again took our lunch and went up the West road, Pete tried some large Kodachrome, the first he has taken in his Speed Graphic and it was all very beautiful out, the trees had turned to there brightest, the aspen this year are very lovely, I may enclose a few leaves though they may not have as much color by the time they reach you. They are a lovely bright

yellow and every leaf seemed to be so clear and pure, some trees look almost eggy but wabh fall one feels that it is more beautiful than ever before. The valley is a mass of yellow and then on the mountain sides are patches of yellow where ~~would~~ one didn't realize there were little trees. The fresh snow on the mountain tops made it even more beautiful than usual and the high wind made clouds. We took all our color rolls and then came back when the light grew more milky. George Noble is away on holiday but his brother opened the store and got us 2 more rolls of Kodachrome, so yesterday we started out again, The clouds were entirely different and lovely strong ones, the mountains looked so near that Pete was sure it would blow up a storm but I couldn't believe it would, the wind was blowing the leaves off in great clouds of yellow pieces and the road was yellow in places. When cars went by the leaves would sort of race on behind.

Well Pete was right, for this morning the clouds are low and the wind from the east and with the strong winds nearly all the leaves have blown off, it looks a bit sad this morning. It rained in the night too. Now after lunch which we had right now. It is clearing in the west but the wind is cold from the other direction.

We have been quite gay, to supper Thursday night with Mom and Friday evening we went to a cocktail party which was a farewell party to Gwen Hammond who leaves to-day for England. She has been here about five years or more. The party was in one of the apartments over the store being given by Muriel MacDougal, and next door Erling was busy at Molly Hamiltons and Bunny Macgiversns cutting up Elk meat so on the way home he gave us a big hunk, about 8 pounds I should think for us to roast or cook as steaks, we also had a turkey ordered for Thanksgiving which is to-morrow, and Carl is going to give us some Moose meat so our little refrigerator will be stuffed this week. The elk was delicious as steaks and last night I roasted the 6 pound turkey which Mom helped us eat. That was good too, We will be saving meat coupons this week.

It is too sunny to say in so will send this along.

Loads of love to you all

The tiny leaves are
aspens the larger
Balm of Gileads

Catherine

75. That "Robinson Crusoe" Book sounds very interesting,
so if you want to send us one. do -



Califf. Alberta.
Wed. Oct. 10, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Eliup has borrowed the typewriter and as I
am not sure when he will bring it back thought I'd
write long hand for a change.

We had our Thanksgiving Monday. It
is always early in the fall in Canada, but rather
nice for people are more apt to have a fine week-
end for a Holiday. Also it's usually on a Monday.
It was fine here and many cars going by so I
guess a lot of people came up from Calgary. We
didn't go out. It's not much fun driving. Either
people with broken down cars or others going too fast.
Lots of American cars & they drive a little too fast
these days for our roads & their tires. In fact the
other day coming back from Lake Louise we got
side swiped by a trailer. We were driving slow
rather slowly (as we need a new timing gear &
don't go fast until it is put in) & Pete noticed
a car coming up behind, pretty fast. However

It was a straight stretch of road & plenty of room to pass. The car suddenly swung out to pass us & swung in again. The little trailer behind scraped our front mudguard & fastened it in as well as the hub cap. The car stopped after it was by & the driver looked very scared. He was young & nice looking, had a wife & three small children, maybe four & lots of baggage. He was white as a sheet & got more of a fright than we did. Said he had been "nodding" so whether he saw us at all or just ~~dropped~~ pulled in in front of us too quickly forgetting the trailer. Anyway we felt sorry for him & it luckily didn't put us off the road. However it makes one wary.

It was warm Monday pm so we decided to clean the windows in kitchen & front room & put on the storm windows. It isn't much of a job when we do it together & it was such a nice day to get it done. We listened in between to the World Series baseball game. It was a very exciting one. However we finished the windows before they finished the game.

Yesterday was still warm but overcast. Pete oiled the storm doors & I washed the windows in the back one & Erling dropped in & we got talking so didn't do more. In the afternoon we tidied up the shed as so much was piled



in you couldn't get more in or find things that were in there. We should have done it this summer but the wasps at the door were not conducive to going in & out. Got rid of quite a lot but one saves so much these days that we might use & can't get, & so many odd bits of wood etc. Also we fell heir to odd boxes of tools etc. belonging to Peter's father & grand father & Mom in cleaning out her basement gave them to us & at the time we couldn't look them over. Most of it is junk but mixed in with it are very useful things like tent pegs & bolts etc.

Last evening before supper we thought we would take some Elk meat to the Wards. Friend Cis was away in Calgary so asked Sam down to supper with us. We have a new way of cooking vegetables. Put Potatoes, carrots, onions & celery into the pressure cooking & cooked them all together, like a stew. They are awfully good that way.

Seeing its Wednesday guess I'd better go over town. Its a lovely day, wish the leaves hadn't blown off so quickly.

Loads of love

Catharine



Banff, Alberta.
Friday, Oct. 12, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

I am going to the east bound train to say good-bye to Mrs Spaulding and her daughter (Darcy's wife's aunt) and can mail this then, it may not be very long as I only have half an hour. I feel rather badly not to have been able to introduce them to anyone but we have been busy and as they have tea with Mrs Hanna every day there is not a very good chance to do anything. She may come back for a while this winter and then I can do better.

We have had a busy week and got a lot done as well around the house, the usual fall things. But it is a nice feeling to have them done. Sam is building a small house for George MacKenzie, (no one you know) and while the cement was drying in the foundation he came over here yesterday and this morning and he and

Pete got the storm window fitted on the big new dormer upstairs. We had used the storm window on the workshop one for the main window upstairs and so had to put on a set of storm windows on both. (Sounds complicated) when they started to fit the windows they found that the sill plank had bowed and so spent a couple of hours fixing that. However all the windows are on now except for the little bedroom ones which Pete plans to do himself as they will go inside. It makes a lot of difference in the heating, I believe that ^{they} and storm doors and weather stripping saves 30%, which is a lot. Also with the moisture in the furnace heat we need storm windows as otherwise they frost up so badly. We have them all cleaned too.

Got a letter from Margaret Watkins and she has heard from Dorothy who has bought a house in Banning and moves into it on November 1st, has sent for Kate and the furniture so as Margaret says it will look just like Rochester inside. "I'll send the letter to you when I have answered it."

There is so much to write you about, just little things but while the good weather lasts we will be busy I expect. Went to a funeral this afternoon and that took a lot of time. It is still lovely weather, over sixty every day and hardly a frost at night. the nicest weather since August. It was Major Bagley's funeral, he was one of the 2 remaining original mounted police to come to western Canada, the other man is 95 and lives in Winnipeg. The Major was 87 and active until 10 days ago, a wonderful man, he was band leader for the first R.C.M.P. band, went to Queen Victoria Jubilee and also went to the Boer War, came back a Major. We thought it might be quite colorful and it was, 6 mounties were pall bearers. the casket had a flag over it, and the trees were a lovely gold ^{beside} the church and the after noon quite sunny.

Guess you are busy getting the family settled we should have you out here to help us with the spring cleaning in the fall.

Must run - loads of love
Catherine



Banff, Alberta.
Mon. Oct. 15, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

We had quite a full weekend and so I never wrote you as I intended to. Saturday about ten thirty the furnace men suddenly appeared, they were supposed to have let us know a day ahead when to expect them but they found that they could fix the duct into the bath room (which we decided to have changed to give us more heat up there) and naturally we were anxious to have it done so they went right to work. Pete had hoped to have them come round and tell him what holes to cut in the floor, at least how wide they should be, so having them come unexpected Pete had to do some hustling. While they went to lunch Pete broke cement and chopped out room, sitting practically on top of the furnace in a most awkward position, however by the time they came back to work he had gotten out of their way but it was 2.30 by the time he could eat. Incidentally he got very warm and put his hat out in the sun to dry inside the head band, when he brought it in he found that buck deer had nibbled all the inside, probably he liked the salt taste.

Well the men worked away all afternoon, and Pete cut one more hole into the bathroom wall upstairs which was easy compared to the one in the basement. It took the men longer to fit the thing because none of us had noticed that because of the little fireplace upstairs, the rock work is wider in the bedroom than in the kitchen chimney so the duct had to gather over as they call it. I had ordered a chicken for supper but when it looked as if they would be working by the stove we decided to try frying it in the pressure cooker, in the end we didn't have the chicken at all, for the men never finished until six o'clock. They were good to carry on until it was finished and I think they wanted to get through as much as we did so as to go back to Calgary for the weekend, they aren't to come back now to Banff for a couple of weeks. Willard has so much work to do up here he is thinking of opening a branch. But our work is done now except for a few grills which haven't come from the factory and which we can put on our selves.

Margie Brown and her husband came round to see when Pete could take their wedding picture which he promised to do, they are just back from the coast. He is the man with the wooden leg. So we said we would telephone Sunday morning. When Pete called up yesterday he found that the man, Harold King, had cut his hand and had to go to the doctor to have some stitches taken in it, so they came around later and it was arranged to take the pictures in the afternoon.

We decided to have the chicken at noon, I never tried it before in the large pressure cooker, wonder if Frances ever has. You simply melt the fat in the bottom, then dredge the chicken with flour and ~~fat~~ brown it well in the fat. At first I browned only enough for us and it looked so good that we decided to do the whole chicken and invite Mom down and Mildred who was alone as the boys had all gone up to Temple. After you brown the chicken well you add half a cup of water and put the pieces of chicken on a rack in the pressure cooker and cook them 10 to 15 minutes at full pressure. They were really good and nice and tender and moist. you add flour and milk to the stuff in the bottom of the cooker and get delicious gravy. We had mashed potatoes and string beans too, Ate practically the whole chicken.

Did a bit of tree trimming as it was a lovely clear day. Helped Mom before lunch with her bushes and then after helping Pete while he took the pictures did some cutting of dead branches off our spruce trees. He developed the films and then in the evening we printed a few test prints. and took them down after nine. So it was quite a busy day.

We are still having lovely weather, never a cloud though it doesn't seem as if it could last much longer, its a week now. It was over seventy yesterday in Calgary, about 65 here but much warmer in the sun.

Have to go to the bank so will take this over.

Loads of love to you all.

Catherine



Banff, Alberta.
Wed. Oct. 17, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Well our spell of good weather seems to be over. Monday was another lovely day but a funny one where we didn't get much done, had to see quite a few people and that always takes time and a trip to the bank etc. Jean Valance came to call before lunch and tell us of her three months visit to a Swiss couple in Montana, they have a ranch in Paradise Valley I think it is called about 12 miles from Livingston. We knew that we would be going up to Temple Tuesday and as she is waiting for her husband to come home from overseas and we know that Sir Norman needs a stenographer we suggested she might get the job for a short time, so arranged for her to go up with us. She came down again in the evening with one of the schoolteachers, a Miss Catley, who we had ~~never~~ met before. but who had never been down here. Incidentally Miss Catley's brother left in 1939 to join the army and was sent overseas without even time for embarkation leave, so he never even came home in uniform. I don't know if he is back yet but think so, anyway his fiancée had to wait over five years for him. Jean's husband hasn't seen his father since the beginning of the war, he is in the airforce himself and his father in the army. His father came back after three years overseas and came into Halifax the day after Bill sailed and so they just missed.

Yesterday Jackie was going up to Temple with a Mr Teare to sort of talk over the reorganizing of the whole ski thing and wanted us to go up too. We were to meet them at Lake Louise at one and so we left a little after eleven taking Jean Valance with us and a picnic lunch, which we had near the river. Cliff appeared but they phoned up that Mr Teare was delayed so wouldn't be there until 2 o'clock. So we went up to Temple first and as it looked like a storm with great clouds coming over the mountains we decided not to stay very long. Jackie had a tire and in the end it was after three when they arrived and time for us to leave to catch the train for Jean to go back to Calgary. So we didn't get in on any business discussion, however we were just as pleased for it is very tiring to us to listen to them discuss business. Jackie gets very longwinded and Sir Norman doesn't like to listen to others ideas much and after all we were only interested in seeing the thing go and so as long as they want to develop it we don't mind much how they go about it, for they have rarely listened to our ideas.

It rained hard all evening so we were glad ~~not~~ to have stayed up there over night. This morning was nice enough but now it is overcast and spitting snow.

And now to answer some of your letters, I am sorry that you are getting tired with the uncertainty etc. I really think ~~for~~ there is nothing more trying than waiting to know what is to happen when. That was the hardest part of the Air force life and I guess Frances finds it hard not knowing what Gill is to do. If you are a person who likes to plan things ahead it is worse, for otherwise if you just took things as they came you might get into frightful muddles but also you wouldn't do much so called worrying. I hope by now that Russ and Kitty got the movers and are in Concord. I imagine ~~e~~ they couldn't let you know thinking that any moment they would know something themselves. These days it is so hard getting anything done for certain. We have been waiting to have the timing geer replaced in our car, not daring to go too far with it as it is. First the wrong part came and then Bill Bunn has been so busy he has had to keep putting us off. We were going to Calgary a month ago and haven't gone yet.

No I haven't read Woolcott's book. ~~don't~~ think I would like it. I am in the midst of William Rothensteins life. It is a great big book, the 2 volumes bound to-gether, you may have read it before sending it to us several years ago. He was an English artist from 1885 on and I find it most interesting telling about the various artists and how they worked etc in Paris and London. When the news is on in the evening I look through the old copies of The Studio and find it extra interesting for these are often reproductions of the work of the men he writes about. and I sort of go along with the book.

We didn't know the artist at the Child who did the Interiors.

Am glad you are all fitted out with a new hat and coat, don't think I will need anything new this year, though our clothes were too worn to even give to the National Salvage. But I have plenty for Banff.

You asked about the road to Temple, the Governm^{en}t is doing it with Consientious objectors who have been in a camp at Lake Louise and doing all sorts of work, However they aren't workers at all and unless the foreman is right with them they just laze around. The one on the bulldozer does something but it does make it slow.

That was areally wonderful making three hundred thousand dollars at the Caledonia market, we could hardly believe it was such a large amount.

Bert and Annes house sounds awfully nice and just the right size as I believe they haven 't a maid. hOpe that little Sammy (Thats his name isn't it ?) is better.

Did you ever know anything like the strikes, seems as if it was caused by adquatation and just now it is so hard when most people are trying to get things back to Normal. Guess you were referring to the coal strikes or was it the butchers in the east because of meat rationing. I think it was partly political, for we had meat rationing before for several months and it was given up as they hadn't room to store or ship the meat saved. No one here complains *because they realize meat rationing is necessary right now.*



and though ~~some~~ butchers started to ^{strike} nothing came of it out here. It is all the ~~tokens~~ they didn't like and also rationing the things like liver and inards, no one would give up points for them and they just went to waste, ~~not~~ that is regulated better, Its as bad as all the Longshoreman strikes, they may have just grievences but I think they should try arbitration first as a strike effects everyone so.

That was quite a story about the four people going to New York and having to sleep in their cars. People still think that there must be room somewhere and there just isn't. Jean Valance went to Yellowstone Park this summer with her friends, no buses were running and Old Faithful was closed, but she said it was just jammed, but one thing, when you found there wasn't a cabin there weren't any other places to look so one night they just slept in their car. One place the lady said to come back at four and by then they would know how many cabins the girls had been able to get cleaned, for they were so short hadned they sometimes couldn't clean them all.

Must go now and call on Mrs Hanna, haven't seen her since the others left and she may have news of d'arcy.

Loads of love,

Catherine.



Banff, Alberta.
Sun. Oct. 21, 1945.

Dearest Mother.

Mrs. Mae borrowed the type writer yesterday so will just write a bit long hand. We are still having good weather though it has been a bit colder. Around the thirties and forties the last few days and this morning 20° above. The bathroom was so nice and cozy when we got up, 74° that we are glad we had the duct changed. Now the heat seems to be pretty well regulated. Some time we have to insulate the roof but may leave it until another year.

Guess I haven't written you for a few days. Wednesday evening Eth. (the furnace engineer) came as we were eating supper. He had his little girl aged nine with him. A dear little girl, and so interested in everything. They had some pie (which Ma had made) with us and then he looked over the furnace & enquired how it worked etc. The little girl

evidently likes to draw and later made some pictures for us. They were beautifully done and all very carefully in outline. One of Eskimo's. While they were in the basement she made a sand house in parts we haven't finished off. They stayed until nine.

Then Thursday we went up to Mous for supper & I also went to the Red Cross in the afternoon. First time since early summer. We made boys shorts & baby's jackets. Did you have a clothing drive in the States? Ours is over now, but in Calgary they collected 110 tops & it has gone to Europe. Don't know how much they got there.

~~Friday~~ evening Mary Mac Donald was down for the type writer. I clipped trees most all afternoon. getting dead branches off. Its rather fun to do & it does make the spruce trees look better. I'd like to cut some branches off so we get more of a view. but when one gets outside they are way out of reach. & it will be quite an undertaking.

Yesterday the Two Young Man was here to see us & as I was getting tea. Helen Macpherson of Olds, her husband & daughter



came to see us. She used to work at Lake O'Hara and is a great big good natured girl. They ranch near Olds which is north of Calgary & when they finished harvesting decided to take a few days holiday. Her husband is a fine type and you can just imagine they would be good farmers. The hail missed them this year by just half a mile.

Mrs Hanna sent us a wire from her daughter about D'Arcy Baker-Carr's arrival in Toronto. I'll quote it in case Mrs Mott Shaw would be interested though no doubt she has heard too - it was dated Toronto, Oct 18th.

"D'Arcy arrived this afternoon at five thirty in B 25 Bomber escorted by John and crew of six men, great excitement at Malton airport. He looks simply wonderful, is strong and well and does not look a day older, his eyes and hearing are unimpaired, his weight almost up to normal. Full of laughter and jokes. He and Babe" (that is Kay) "so happy it is wonderful to see them." *

We felt awfully sorry to hear about Mr Lindsay. Has he been ill a long time we wonder. He always seemed such a ~~young~~ young & active person. How is Mrs Hutchins?

It must be fun having the family back in Concord at last and by now Cousin Jane will be with you. With 2 more cars to look after perhaps George can become a chauffeur once more, and take you where you like in a really comfortable car. I think you deserve the best and should use the big car after being jinxed about so long in the Ford. I don't expect you will get 80 but you should be comfortable.

Time for lunch already -
Loads of love to you all
Catharine.

P.S. Forgot to answer your questions about the books. Would it be a good idea to make enquiries just about the Rollo books & the ones you had as a girl, for these might be people anxious to get them. ~~as~~ Lauriat's might know, or an ad in the Sat. Rev. of Lit. I doubt if many children would find them interesting. & yet so few may have kept their children's book they might be quite rare. You can send the St Nicholas books to Miss Holman, I think they would mean more there than here.

with children dressed as flowers & a poem under
to Johnny. It's about the size of this page only narrower

P.S. If you have the Flower book
about picture I would like that
with green & yellowish.



Banff, Alberta.
Wed. Oct 24, 1945.

Dearest Mother

I'm not doing very well in writing you. Mrs Mae brought the typewriter back Monday morning but as Mary had forgotten how one thing worked she hadn't dared use it. I was going to write a letter here but it was so near lunch time I told her to borrow it again & rather expected it back yesterday or this morning. However it hasn't showed up yet so I guess I won't wait longer, and I shan't lend it again. We haven't the car or I would go & get it.

At last we are having the car fixed. First the part didn't come, then when it did arrive it was the wrong size and so when the right size came the men were too busy to take the engine apart. Then one man went off to fix the machinery at Skolvi and so after nearly 2 months it is being done today - yesterday too. As soon as it is in good order we will venture to Calgary on business, that is if the weather is good.

Pete is busy doing the three storm windows for the old bedroom. We had them before

but they were never fitted. but now that we don't open the windows in that bedroom anymore it will save a lot of heat having them on. Also it keeps the windows from frosting up, ^{when its cold and} melting & dripping.

The other thing we are waiting for is the coal. It has been coming in a few days since the first of September. We have to be here when its put in. 1st the mine was flooded, then when that was pumped out, the mine caved in some where, but its still supposed to come in "2 or 3 days". We had thought of going to the coast to see our dentist and the family but it is getting sort of late to go, and with 34 special trains meeting the "Queen Elizabeth" & "Le de France" in Halifax most of the sleepers have gone east & it might not be a good time to go anyway.

Rita also got Major Jennings down to give us permission to cut a few trees, most of them dead or dying. all in all we have done quite a bit. This morning I even got the studio cleaned & tidied a bit, so it will be ready for real work when we feel like starting.

How nice that Russell is to take a months vacation. did that count the work of waiting in Washington. I hope not. It will give him a chance to get settled too. for I



can imagine it is quite a job getting the house
all settled again. and everything in its place. or
finding a place for everything might be a better
way to put it.

have some sewing to do on the machine
and so will not write more now but get it in
the mail.

Loads of love to you all
Catharine.



Banff
Alberta.
Canada.
Oct. 26, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

It looks to-day as if we were suddenly shoved right into winter. For several days it has been rather dull and on the news from Vancouver it said that they had had a "southeast wind" (I could just picture Tofino with wind and rain.) and usually a day or two later we get a Chinook here. I noticed it when we had storms in Tofino that winter and afterwards in the Calgary paper they would speak of a Chinook. Well Wednesday I think it was or maybe it was Tuesday we had a very strong wind, bent the trees way over and then yesterday Pete said "I think we are going to have a storm for I feel my hand" and when he saw Sam his knees were stiff. It was in my afternoon at the Red Cross and while there a fine snow started falling. The ground was white by three o'clock and there was a couple of inches when we went home.

Mom had invited us for a stew for supper and when we went up, there was a good four inches and coming home nearly six. It must have snowed all evening, but we thought it stopped in the night. This morning the trees were quite heavily laden and when Pete measured it with a ruler there was a good foot of snow. It was awfully pretty. The sky was a bit cloudy, soft clouds and some going across the sky quite fast, we began to see there was a high wind for drifts and of it were blowing off the tops of the mountains and all too soon chunks were falling off the trees, the first one was well aimed and went down the back of Pete's collar!

We were out right after breakfast and it was such a lovely world, no tracks anywhere. It seemed deeper than 12 inches in places and Pete put up his high rubber boots, when we got out on the river bank my stockings began to feel wet and so I came back and got into ski pants, of course had to undress completely in the end. We walked up the river and Pete got quite a few color shots with the Leica, I don't think they will be as good as that other October storm for then the sky was so blue. We had to keep waiting for the light. It was after 11 when we came in for the sky was all overcast again, we had lunch early so as to be ready in case it turned nice and have been in and out all day but haven't gotten anything this afternoon. The snow is very heavy now having turned warmer, and lots of cars have been stuck, even the snow plow was putting on chains. They should have been out plowing in the night the way they do in Concord but I guess they forgot it could snow as hard in October. Very few streets are plowed, we put our chains on right away.

Pete has a new enlarger, It came yesterday

and looks to be a pretty good one. The Leica one is still best for our leica sized pictures but we had nothing for the 4 x 5 size that Pete takes in his speed graphic. He made one out of a biscuit box and an old camera of his grandfathers last spring and we have used that up until now but it was very slow to focus and if you used it too long it got hot. This is a new one that George was able to get and has a condenser which makes the light better and then it is cooled too. So I expect this evening if nothing happens Pete will want to try some pictures.

We put a bone out with some fat on it for the birds and they have been busy at it all day. The big Clarks crows, sort of gray and black and like a blue jay have been on it and Pete tried to scare them off, I threw snow balls all around one bird and he never budged an inch. Pete even hit one but he didn't seem to notice it. However the little chick a dees get there in between and we are beginning to think they do quite well by letting the big birds loose on the stuff and they get the tiny bits that fall too.

You must miss the apple tree. Have you thought of a rope or wire strung between the two windows, across the corner. or to a post from your window to the stone wall. or from the corner of the porch to my old window. If it had a pulley you could pull the line back and forth and tie suet to it or the half grapefruit. We have a wire that hangs from a branch and it swings around making it hard for the big birds to balance on but easy for the tiny ones.

Sat. We woke this morning to find it snowing again, it seemed to be from the east this time a fine snow and about an inch by 8. It really looks like winter, Crumbled up a lot of old cake and bread for the birds that were already chirping for it and no sooner had we put it out than buck deer appeared, ambled over and licked it all up off the stone table. and the poor little chickadees got only the tiniest crumbs.

Have been cleaning this morning, we were up early as Pete had promised Allen Mather to help him get the float bridge across the river into place, it broke loose and swung down the river with the slush ice yesterday. However Allen said they might as well wait until this storm is over now.

Must go over and shop and then listen to Pres. Truman.

Loads of love to you all,

Catharine

No time to read this over -



Banff, Alberta.
Sun. Oct. 27, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

We are still in the midst of winter, It has been the lowliest storm and not very cold. 25° above at 8 O'clock this morning. In Calgary it was 14° and a fog so we were better off.

Friday morning was after the big snow, 14 inches by the Government measurement. It really was awfully pretty, but most of the snow blew off and it also clouded over so it was lucky we were out early in the morning.

Yesterday was Saturday and it was snowing very fine stuff from the east, just a couple of inches in the morning. but later on it got dark, guess it was really after lunch and it came down thick for a while and piled up about 3 more inches of fluffy snow. We had gotten up early and I cleaned the whole house in the morning, you know just the weekly cleaning and dusting. The furnace must be quite dust free for it wasn't really dirty. In the meantime Pete drove Mom to the station ^{and she went to Calgary in the day} and also got involved in carrying the mail. Mrs Harbidge who drives the mail truck was having difficulty with a broken chain and it ended by Pete getting under the truck and fixing that and taking the mail from the train as she hadn't any chains. Her new ones came on the train. but so many don't put their chains on until they get stuck.

In the afternoon I went up to call on Mrs Hanna and found her sister Mrs Price from Calgary there. She had been to the house with d'Arcy once and asked how we had changed it and also if she could come down and see us. I knew we would be busy if it cleared up so when she asked if she could come last night I said "of course." On the way down from the hospital it started to clear and there were the loveliest affects. I was on foot not wanted to take a chance having the car and when I got back to the house found that Pete was just ready to go out with the camera. We drove all around but didn't get any pictures to speak of. The affects were so unpredictable one never seemed to be in the right place at the right time.

We had fried chicken for supper and then as soon as we were washed up and had glanced at the paper we went over to get Mrs Price. for it had snowed again during supper, another 2 or 3 inches. but of course the snow has settled quite a bit but there is still a good foot of it.

Found Mrs Price talking to Sir Norman Watson so asked him over too and we had quite an evening, though luckily they didn't stay too late, she is a long winded talker so neither Pete or I said much, she is a bit of a socialist I think and was sort

of sounding Sir Norman out a bit. It was quite funny.

This morning was rather nice, still a few heavy clouds but sunny in between. We were out quite early and took a roll of Kodachrome as well as some Infra Red Pete wanted to try, he develops them as soon as he comes in. It has warmed up quite a bit and is dripping now, I wonder will the snow last for if it does it will be here all winter. I wouldn't mind but it makes a long winter for older people.

Allen and Grace Mather may come over to see us this afternoon for we see them so little, what between the skating season and the boating season there is not much time. For at both seasons he works in the evenings,

The birds have been feeding all day, in spite of young buck licking most of the chopped peanuts off the window sill, we have a lot of little sparrows too, but the chick-a-dees are the cunningest really, though we had a good laugh at breakfast time watching a clarks crow getting at the bone hanging from the tree.

Monday, Well if it isn't snowing again, only not hard enough to pile up much more and the sun is trying to shine. but it does feel like the middle of winter, 20 above this morning.

Had a busy afternoon yesterday, took a few photographs in the morning and almost did after lunch but the light didn't seem good enough. Allen and Grace with little Mary Lee came over to see us about three and then Mrs Mac came and stayed until six. we spent the rest of the evening doing photographs, so it was a busy day,

This morning Pete has gone to help Allen with his wharf, and I have had Mr McBride with the dry cleaning and Sam too. Pete was here with Sam and brought one roll of Kodachrome that came out pretty well and his big Kodachromes too.

A nice letter from you about the ~~the~~ Laughlins going to England, they wrote about some boots and Becky said that she hadn't expected to go but now it looked as if she would, I think she helps a lot with the business end, sort of Secretary to Henry as well as helping with interviewing or entertaining people, for I know that she went to California with Henry in the same capacity. You seem to get places for business reasons.

Mrs Hanna lent me a letter from her daughter about d'Arcy, much like the wire. ^{my daughter} She said d'Arcy hadn't changed a bit and looked much the same only thinner. but is in good spirits and full of plans for the future, seeing it was a personal letter I didn't like to copy it though I could have for she lent it to me to show to Pete. But will tell you the parts I can remember so that you can tell Mrs Saaw in case she hasn't heard yet. D

D'Arcy didn't even know that John was in the states until he saw the pilot boat come along side off San Francisco and there was John aboard. He could hardly believe his eyes I guess. John had somehow wangled him a priority and he went off the ship before ~~the~~ Brigadiers or anyone else, He is a gunner in the British Army, (and he may be an officer for I believe from what Mrs Price said he was in an officers prison camp) John then flew him to Toronto and he has 42 days leave though they don't know yet if that means including travelling time or not. They were in Torotno a day or two and then went to Sarnia.

He evidently talks about his experiences and seems to be in the best of spirits. He is going back to England and I think is anxious to return to China. As Mrs Spaulding wrote , having bought a pair of boots while in Brison camp for 7 cigarettes he believes that there is a good future in tobacco, and in spite of what happens it is still a good business to be in !

Time I was going to get lunch bought so all for now.

Loads of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. Nov. 1, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Seems to me I mentioned the fact that it was snowing Monday morning, well it snowed all day and into the evening and piled up another 6 inches I should say, of course before that our first snow had melted down, sort of settled so it is still about a foot, a bit less on the roofs for it was a perfect sunny day Tuesday and melted a bit then and yesterday it was 40° all day so dripped off the roofs. But last night it snowed another inch or two and this noon is only 29° above though warmer in the sun. Looks as if the snow might be with us until spring. I wouldn't mind for the mountains are lovely.

Think I told you that Pete was to help Allen with his wharfs that he floats across the river by the skating rink, which makes a bridge for the skaters and curlers to go across the river on all winter. The slush ice floating down the river in the big storm sort of banked up against the floats that he had all in place and broke them apart, sinwging them down the river. Allen asked Pete if he would give him a hand in tying them up and Pete thinking it would be about an hours job said he would. He went down about ten Monday morning and on my way over town I walked that way, saw that Allen still had two big floats to shovel off so when I came back I took our snow shovel down and got one cleaned off before lunch. We went back at one thirty, it was snowing quite hard all day but as we were exercising we didn't really notice it. Pete helped Allen try to pole one float into place and I nearly shoveled the second float. It was quite hard shoveling being over a foot deep and on the 2nd float the weight of snow had sunk one end so the water had flowed over and made it icy and soggy. I could hear Allen say to Pete " Do you suppose Cathating would give us a hand on the ropes ? " so pretty soon he came for me in the row boat and I got onto the float they were trying to get into place. In order to move it up the river from where it was downstream one had to clear an open bit of water for it to move into and that was no easy job. I never realized what a river is like in the process of freezing. The part that was actually frozen was comparitively easy to break as it was from two to four inches thick, but what they call slush ice was awful. The snow falling on the water makes a thin film which will even roll about like a veil in the water and looks more like gold fish food than anything else. but as it piles up against a float obr other ice it packs solid, just like slush, and it would be five and six feet deep. We had to break off bits at a time with the snow shovel and then as it rose to the surface push it along out of the way. The hard part was that there really wasn't enough open water to move it into. We all worked as hard as we could, some times moving the slush ice and at other times pulling on icy ropes which had been in and out of snow and water. Pete and Allen poled which was a bit tricky for if one put too much weight on the pole you might just keep on going and land in the river. Allen came awful near taking a header when his boat hock slipped when he was pushing against another wharf and then again near the end of the afternoon when we were all a bit weary and he sort of stumbled as he got into the row boat and just didn't fall in. Pete had I were so careful that we didn't come near an icy plunge. Allen got a winch near the end and we were able to get all the floats in place though it took us until quarter to six and we never stopped working. It is the nearest I have come to yachting

since I came west, but I have never handled wet ropes before, our mitts were wet through and it was hard to hang on.

Allen didn't dare take a chance in waiting for a thaw, for if the river had frozen over he never could have gotten them in place. However to-day Pete said the river is nicely open and it would have been quite easy to-day. Well never mind it was quite an experience. Allen said when we finished that he was going to bring a bottle of rum over to the house and treat us, which he did, I had a hot one and it did taste good. I felt quite complimented when he poured out my drink, I said "Oh. that's enough." and Allen said "You ought to be able to handle a man's drink when you have done a man's job." Well to tell the truth I was rather surprised I could keep going as long as they did, but wish I could have put that energy into writing letters!

We went up to Sam's that night and had a nice visit, had to see him about something too.

Tuesday we were a little stiff, especially our arms but the sorest part of me was where I had slipped on the ice in the morning when I went out with a bowl of crumbs for the birds. I did feel silly for my feet went out from under me so quickly and when I looked at the bowl still held out in my hand there wasn't a crumb left, they had all jounced out!

It was the loveliest day Tuesday sunny and a bright blue sky. We set out early to take some Kodachromes and Pete some Black and whites. When we were taking one out the west road a car from Florida went by however the license being only on the back we didn't have time to snap it. Some people from Missouri were in the store and got a complete outfit including skis I think/.

We took pictures nearly all day doing quite a bit of driving about to get them and as soon as we came home Pete would "soup" them and see his results. One gets a storm like this so seldom one feels one should take advantage of it. Incidentally some of our Kodachromes came back and I think we have some good ones. of the fall color.

Yesterday I spent doing up overseas packages, 7 in all for I am afraid that I won't get to Calgary in time to order them there, which is much easier. I will weigh them at the store first before tying the string firmly, for less than an ounce over weight is too much.

Cliff was in and said that Sir Norman's friend got to Temple all right and is staying another ten days, he is Campbell Ord and I think has something to do with British Overseas Airways, for he is just over from England on a business trip and I guess is taking the chance to get some rest and good food. Cliff says he is just as nice as anyone they ever had up there and also that Jean Vallance is there, the girl we took up, and she is working out so well they are to get her back for the winter. So things seem to be going well.

Not much room to answer you letters so will do that next time, it is time for lunch anyway. Oyster stew to-day.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. Nov. 4, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Well our snow is nearly all gone, Yesterday we had a real Chinook, a strong wind from the west, and the snow was fairly licked up. Lots of slush over town but luckily about half the snow had gone or the streets would have been even worse. It blew very hard towards night and then sometime early this morning it started raining, It was over 40° when we went to bed, and this morning was 36°. However at breakfast time, which was a bit late it was so dark, it started to blow from the east and now is snowing a bit, but whether it will stay or not I don't know. Anyway it is a dreary looking Sunday. Had the rain been snow last night we would have had a lot by now.

We have had quite a bit of company lately, Thursday a boy from Banff, who Pete went to school with, and is now a Surgeon Commander in the Navy and was in the Pacific on the Canadian ship Uganda, brought his wife of two months down to see us. She is from Victoria and a fine looking girl. They stayed until half past six, were very interested in the sketches, her brother is an artist and has spent five years in a concentration camp, for he was in Paris before the war. Just as I write this, I realize that she said "concentration and not " prison camp "So he must have been picked up in Paris. Then Friday afternoon Fern came down for a chat as we haven't seen her all summer to really visit with, and yesterday Mrs Simpson came in.

Mom was down for supper last night and the night before, and we have done a few photographs too. (Rete has a new job, a fossil to photograph for Mr Sanson. Mr Sanson thinks it may be a dinosaur egg cant spell that) egg. It looks like a stone cannon ball with the remains of a quarter inch layer of something else around it. Some man here this summer thought it might be an egg, but Mr Sanson thinks it is too valuable to send to Ottawa to find out, also he is afraid they might keep it, so he wants the picture to send them. Pete went round to get it yesterday and was quite amused for though it was so very valuable Mr Sanson couldn't find it in his shed!

We are so glad that Russ is having a good vacation, I remember that Gill said he was saving up his leaves for after the war as in the U.S. Army they can accumulate them. Wonder if Gill and Francis will come skiing on theirs? In the Services here officers get a month a year, or two weeks twice a year, but if they don't take them they lose them. In most every case I know of the men took their leaves as they really went back refreshed and could work better, but of course there were some higher up who never did take time off. Hope that Russ takes it all, for once he starts in at the office it will be hard to get away again. No. We didn't know that Whitney Stone is President now.

Could you or Jean do something for me? I don't think I am allowed to send money to the states yet for such things so will have to ask you to bear the cost and perhaps Jean could have the package sent when she is in Boston unless it is possible to send one from Concord. The story is this. Asta Hauge, our Norwegian friend who used to cook up at Temple, hasn't been able to send any parcels yet to Norway, for some reason one hasn't been able to mail things to Norway, ^{from Canada} whether it is because no Norwegian boats carry mail from here I don't know, but naturally she is anxious to send things as Anne did. I thought maybe you could send a box for they certainly need things badly with winter coming on. Either food or clothing would be fine. I should have asked about the sizes

but food would be easier for you to send anyway and would mean such a lot. The address is -

Christoffer Haüge

Hokksund

Eiker, Norway.

I think she has a Mother, father and grownup sister but any food would be wonderful. and just say from you, for Asta writes them, it is just parcels that they can't send yet.

Am glad that Gale enjoys the St Nicholas, why not give them to her for Robin might find them interesting too. Your children's books I think must have a sort of antique value if you know what I mean not that they are so very old but a place like the Antiquarian society or that old house in Waltham where they had a play room with old toys might be a good place. Cousin Jane would know better than I do.

When we ~~zanzk~~ cook several vegetables to-gether we did it in the pressure cooker so they are more like a stew than a hash.

I can't get over that plane you wrote about flying from Bedford to London, somehow it seems so funny to have a plane take off from the sort of unimportant town of Bedford to fly across the Atlantic. I guess it will be a good airport because of the lack of fog. Nice for Olive to just fly across for a weekend, if she could afford it! What a world we live in.

The leaves you sent must have been lovely and it was good to have a smell of Lemon verbena.

Do keep on sending the London Studio we enjoy it so much.

How are Mr Lindsay and Mrs Hutchins, too bad that Berts baby is no better, how sad for a little baby to be so sick.

Time for lunch and it is beginning to look like a blizzard outside, everything white about an inch of snow already while I have been writing this and sometimes it comes almost horizontally with the wind.

Loads of love,

Catherine
7.9. Monday noon. It's a blizzard alright and we have over a foot of snow & it is still snowing & blowing & drifting. 15° above this morning 12° above now. Wind from the North. a foot of snow in Calgary too. The light was very beautiful all night, evidently the street & town lights reflecting against the low clouds and made a peculiar soft light so you could see quite clearly & the snow laden trees were very lovely! It was like pale moon light. We kept waking up and taking another look.

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. Nov. 7, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

We are still having what might be called "wintry weather". The trees are still loaded with snow, the rain early Sunday morning turned to snow and I guess sort of froze on, at least the branches crackle when you touch them and the snow hangs on, it is lovely to look at but a bit cold to enjoy. Yesterday morning Pete thinks it was 10° or 15° below, and this morning it was 5° below at nine. All yesterday it was frosty and though the sun was out in the morning it didn't get much above 15° above and dropped to zero again by five o'clock. It has been quite a storm on the praries and the road to Calgary is still blocked. Whether we will have winter from now on I don't know. Monday afternoon when we drove out of the yard I made the remark that it was lucky Allen got the bridge fixed and had barely finished saying it than we could see it had broken loose again. This time I don't know how he will fix it for the river is freezing over with zero weather. He has his man back so won't need us this time, I hope.

We had the most amusing time yesterday morning and it kept us busy until lunch time feeding the birds and deer and taking pictures in between. It all began by my looking out after breakfast and seeing a huge Elk with a great spread of antlers eating his breakfast out of our Garbage pail. Of course we wanted pictures, so rushed about and got a roll of color film in the Leica, and then I tried to take him out of one of the little windows upstairs, but when I opened it the noise scared him and so I think I missed getting him as he crossed the driveway, he found some garbage strewn by other animals under the trees and so paused there. If there hadn't been a tree in the way I might have gotten him with a paper bag hanging from his mouth. He finally wandered off but later we discovered him across by the little Indian cabin near Barbaras lying in the sun. Pete thought he would like to try a picture with the long lens, so set it up on a tripod in the kitchen. We had already taken a few pictures of the birds feeding on suet and the deer licking off the birds food and even fed the young buck at the back door. Well evidently the buck was still hungry for just as Pete was about ready to take the picture through the window buck stuck his head up and looked in at us. He was so interested in what we were doing he wouldn't scare off, so I had to get bread and entice him to the back door but before Pete got more than one picture he was back again looking in the window. He was awfully funny about it and gazed in at us with such a soulful expression. We tried a picture of him too but are not sure how it will come out. Later Pete was feeding him and the chick-a-dees at the back door and one little bird sat right on the deer's antlers but of course we had no camera then. It certainly kept us busy trying to feed the livestock and get the pictures, 2 buck deer staged a sort of fight out at the back but the trees were too heavy with snow and the windows too frosty to get them. *a good view of them.*

The big Elk came back and a magpie lit on his back right in the driveway, The elk stood motionless while the magpie hunted for bugs or whatever it is they find. He was there three or four minutes, Pete got a picture from upstairs and then wanted one with the big camera, had just got up there when the Elk walked off. We did more running about up and down stairs. Pete walked outside but the Elk just moved further all the time, He spent the night under the big tree in the front yard and is lying

there chewing his cud this morning, When the sun comes out bright we might get a good shot of him, You have to have a lot of patience taking bird or animal pictures.

I have been busy mounting slides, the fall ones having come back recently. We got some very good ones this year.

Had a nice letter from d'Arcy Monday and in that he spoke of their going down to see the Mott Shaws, that he was going to England to see his Mother and family and then back here to spend his leave with Kay and the Children. I expect that is a long leave. The joke was on me for I had only just written him that morning to sort of say 'Welcome back' and had just mailed it when his letter came!

A lot of nice letters from you, about your ~~trip~~ trip to Salem to see the Agges and also the one to Boston, It is nice to have enough gas to go when you feel like it and I am glad to know that you use George and the Packard.

How in the world did Curley get in as Mayor again? We were surprised to hear he was running, people have short memories if they have forgotten what kind of person he is. but expect it is a powerful group that does it.

Loads of love to you all.

Catherine -

This morning. Never got over to mail this yesterday & Mrs Mac brought the Pattans of Winnipeg to tea.

A beautiful day to-day & a bright sun, but guess what 25° below zero this morning. A bit chilly for Fall weather!

By the way the big Elk came right up to the back door and ate the bird food off the stone table yesterday afternoon. We were looking out the window but he didn't seem to see us. I was afraid he would break a window with his antlers. You may have squirrels in your bird food, we have Elk in ours.

Banff, Alberta.
Sat. Nov. 10, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

We have a nice five pound chicken roasting and thought I would write you in between bastings. Also have some Londonderry Ice Cream freezing and mustn't forget to whip it at the right time.

We are still " In the grip of winter " Not one flake of the last storm has melted by the looks of things though I guess it has settled a bit, but the snow is still on the trees in spite of a little west wind last night. It is even plastered on the east side of the tree trunks and that has been there since Monday. Looks as if we were starting winter for the chances are it won't melt now, the days are getting short for the sun to do much good and we have had one chinook already and can hardly expect warm weather from the coast when they are having record cold for this time of year. Actually it is rather fun and very pretty.

Did I tell you we had thought of going to the coast to see our favorite dentist, but now we are giving up the idea as it is getting so late and we just heard to-day that the car load of stoker coal won't be in for another 10 days and we don't want to miss that. We think we have enough to last until then, that is if we don't have too much below zero weather, it was quite warm out to-day got up to 20° above this afternoon, yesterday I don't think it got any warmer than 16° above. Wonder if you will get the storm for it covers a large area and has reached Winnepeg and goes down to the Texas PahHandle.

Every one has been having colds, I expect the great changes in weather, but we are getting over the slight ones we had, and feeling more ambitious. It was the real head cold variety and such a nuisance. Luckily Allen didn't call us on the bridge again, we noticed to-day he has three or four men on the job so guess they will get it back in pãce. But they have a lot of ice to break this time. *6 inches thick -*

And now to answer some of your letters. I was so glad to have the picture of the Bagley house, it is the best one I have ever seen.

I had forgotten that Dudley Murphy died, I remember that his wife did. his things must have been lovely.

A nice letter from Sam Manierre, so they are to move to a more modern house, I can imagine it will be a wrench for them to leave the house that has been home for so long, and has so many family memories, for they feel so deeply about things like that, but of course Lake Mills is home too, and it is the only sensible thing to do. that is one trouble about cities, the districts change so.

The picture of Belmore ^{was} not in Life but in the Illustrated London News that Russell gets.

It is too bad the Agges are so frail and what an age they are now, it will be hard unless they both go at once. I don't wonder you were tired for when you visit like that it is so concentrated that it becomes very tiring, especially when people are deaf and I find it more tiring when several people talk at once. That is one reason why I like the way ^{we} visit out here, unless there are a lot of people, we find that with just four or five of us, only one of us talks at a time, and in that way you don't find yourself listening to the wrong conversation. It just seems to happen that way, but with a deaf person you have to talk right to them.

X I have tried the half grapefruit for the birds and at first they never noticed it, but after hanging a bit of fat near it the chick-dees tried it and now go to it regularly, We are going to hang another one from the eave right by the window, we have some fat there now and

the birds aren't a bit timid though it is only a foot from the window. We have stopped putting crumbs out as we got a flock of sparrows and didn't realize how dirty they are, as bad as pigeons, they only seem to eat in flocks and don't go one at a time to the fat or peanut butter. We have never had them before. Our wood peckers are lovely, 2 little ones and a big one. Have you tried holding your hand out and letting the chick a dees eat off it. they are so cunning.

I think I told you that we like the Studios very much, so do keep on subscribing.

So the Chambers are to build by the ice pond. It is interesting how Concord gradually gets built up without ones realizing it.

We saw Asta yesterday and she is so excited for she can now send parcels to Norway, so if you haven't sent the one I wrote about, never mind but if you have I know it will certainly be appreciated.

I remember the Childs garden of Verses you speak of and if Gale would like it do give it to her. Any books you want to know about just mention for I can remember all the ones I like.

It is nice if Mrs Motte can come and read to you and now that she can drive her car as much as she likes it is not so hard to arrange.

It is Sunday now, rather sunny but still around 10° above. There isn't even a drip from the roof, if it keeps up we will be glad when spring comes in 6 months!

It is now Monday - time to go marketing for lunch - will tell you all that happened between these 2 sentences in my next. It was a busy Sunday for us -

Lots of love

Catharine

P.S. Shall I address you Mrs Edith M Robb to make it less confusing!

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. Nov. 14, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Funny that your letter saying you would be glad to send a parcel to Norway came yesterday afternoon and last evening we were invited out to dinner by Asta. It is awfully good of you to take an interest and she was so tickled at the thought. So if you still feel like sending the clothing as well as food here are the sizes. Asta hasn't been home ~~for~~ for 8 years. Her father is 75 and her mother about the same I think, She used to be tall and thin but Asta said she seemed to have shrunk the last time she was home. I would think ~~they~~ she might be about Jean's size. Her sisters, there are 2 of them, are 35 and 45 years old. and Asta said one is tall the other short. but a size 16 or 18 should fit. and they all have big feet. she thinks about a size 8. Asta herself is tall and thin, so I guess they are the same. They live on a ~~farm~~ farm near Drammen which is a large town near Oslo. Anything would be very much appreciated I am sure, especially warm things. You could send my spring coat too for I don't think I shall use it again and it would do nicely for them next spring. That is if you hadn't other ideas for it. There are no children in the family, I guess none of the 3 girls were married, though Asta is a girl with lots of friends. You are awfully good to take an interest.

We have been rather gay ever since Sunday. When I wrote you that morning it looked as if we might have a quiet Sunday as usual and I had lots of things planned to do, (I should know better than to do that) First Barbara came about 11 saying that Jackie had asked her to meet him here and then he came, they evidently felt they could get further by discussing their problems in front of us, and I guess it helped, but we weren't any too anxious to be in on their talks. It was after one when they had finished, then as we were eating a very late lunch Fern and her Uncle Fred Brewster came down, she to ask me to go with her to Mrs Sakanders, to tea. In the end they stayed here about an hour and then we met them at four and drove to Mrs Sakanders. She is quite a character, (the one who told about the sister or friend who had a Service man to Christmas dinner and his mother sent them a whole dinner service etc afterwards.) She is Scotch and very hearty. Evidently she misses her son and daughter-in-law and so asked a few young people in to tea. After we had been there a while consuming hot scones and strawberry jam, Ethel Knight and Norman, Lonna Wellman and a young lad with a bad leg just back from overseas, came in and it was quite a party. I really think that older people should do that when they get lonely, invite a few young people in, Mrs Sakander seemed to enjoy it the more we ate.

After an early supper we spent an hour doing photos. and then went up to Sam Wards for a minute and stayed until about 11 as the Ashleys were there and we started discussing the problems of rehabilitation. Jack having gone through the last war and knowing quite a bit about it.

Monday We had lots of things to see to, paying bills etc and then after supper Sam appeared and wanted Pete to go with him to the Legion to a smoker, Pete isn't much on such things but

went along anyway, and it was 11 when he got home and we had to talk it all over so it was another late night. Yesterday I mounted slides, good ones of the Autumn but rather disappointing of the snow storm. We don't know whether to blame it on the light or on the developing. Then as Asta had invited us to dinner at the Hansons where she stays when in Banff and not working, we went over there. They told her to have whoever she liked for supper and they asked us which was nice. But such a meal. Pheasant and Hungarian Partridge which Sven had shot ~~and~~ on the praries, and then all sorts of fixings. The vegetables looked so pretty, a big Cawliflower in the center of a platter and around it scoops of turnip and something white and brussels sprouts. the color was very attractive. Then a wonderful desert, whipped up, rice and chopped almonds and then jam on top. It was 11 again when we got home and later by the time we got to bed.

Now it is snowing hard this morning and I guess it is winter all right. 3° above in Calgary but 20° above here.

Wednesday so I must go and get the provisions, and mail a couple of parcels.

Heaps of love,

Catharine .

P.S. Got the nicest letter from Frances yesterday.

Does it make it better now Russell & family are home to address you Mrs Edith M.?

Banff, Alberta.
Fri. Nov. 16, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

We have had rather a busy time since I last wrote you. It must have been Wednesday morning and we went over town to do a few errands as the stores close Wednesday afternoons. We were right on the main street, I was in the Bay, and the fire siren went. It goes every day at noon but this was early and sure enough in a few minutes out came the fire engine. As we were headed in the right direction we followed it and a couple of other cars. and then as we turned and headed down Otter st. we could see smoke. It was a house up near Edmee Moorés and flames were coming out the front door and smoke pouring out the windows when we got there. It took a few minutes to get the water as it was cold and snowing and then they also put chemicals on. But it evidently burned out most of the inside and saddest of all the little dog was smothered. though a neighbor tried to go in after it.

The Balls lived there, the husband is working at Kelowna. B.C. but the wife and three children stayed on here as the boy has Asthma badly and is best off in Banff. Being about 11. 30 when the fire started the children were at school and the mother upstairs. The kitchen stove always smoked badly so she had opened the doors and gone up stairs to change the beds, smelt smoke but at first didn't think of it because of the stove but when it kept on she went downstairs, found the children's toy box in the dining room a mass of flames and also a clothes horse thing, she rushed to the telephone and got central but even then her hair was singed. She ran across to the neighbors who's door was locked, and by the time she telephoned from there she could hear the siren go. She was afraid the first call hadn't gotten in. Evidently most everything in the living room and dining room was burnt and all her kitchen things scorched and they didn't save really anything to speak of. The clean sheets on the line was about all and a bit of bedding and the cooking things, but all the nice things were gone.

We couldn't do much to help at the fire and were getting cold so came home, then after lunch thought we ought to find out a bit about how they were. Friends had taken her in for lunch but most of them haven't much room. Pete went to find one of the Government men who seemed to be the closest friend, and Major Jennings was on the job and arranging for a place for them to go to. They have a house to be used as an isolation hospital, and he said they should have that until they can find some other place to go. The Gov't did everything, a bulldozer plowed a road in and they took down beds and of course there is all the linen and dishes etc for the place. Pete offered to get the food so we got Jackie and made up two boxes of everything we could think of that they might need. and then took it down. It really was rather pathetic for they just lost everything. The house was rented and of course they didn't have insurance on the furniture, and had just recently bought a new Chesterfield suite and a lovely radio. They are the kind who don't buy things until they have the money saved up and are never very far ahead. She didn't even have a coat, just a sweater and skirt and some old shoes. The children what they wore to school.

We also got them all pajamas, luckily flannel ones had just come in for boys, but so many things like underwear you just can't get. She is about my size so yesterday I looked out some clothes.

the only trouble is that most of the things I have are for summer. I nearly gave some to the clothing drive but they didn't come back from the laundry in time and the cleaners, so I was tickled I had a good place to give them to.

We took the clothing down yesterday and the husband had arrived from Kelona, he just barely caught the train. If they can find another house he may come back here to work. They are such nice people and have had a lot of bad luck.

Yesterday was RED Cross for me. Pete was trying new coal for the stoker, some from Cammore which we can get anytime and they say is better than it used to be. If the kind that works so well doesn't show up, at least we won't be stuck. But we have waited for a ton to be put in all morning and now it is after two and just arrived. Pete's mother was in Calgary for the Old Timers dinner and we had her fires to keep an eye on and then Mario who is Janitor at the store was on vacation and supposed to return yesterday and isn't coming until to-day. so all in all there have been several things to think of. Yesterday it did warm up to above 32° but to-day hasn't managed to get as warm. It certainly is winter. Everyone is having trouble with their exees backing up. Ours are pretty icy where the roof isn't insulated and Pete had to work on them a bit. but as yet we haven't had much trouble inside with drips. If it isn't one thing it seems to be another.

If you see Russell, thank him for his letter and tell him that Sir Norman Watson hasn't left yet. (He has another friend up at Temple as well as ~~the~~ Campbell Ord) I will tell him to get in touch with Russell before he goes to the states, and then if they have a chance they could meet. I don't know whether he will have time now to stop off in Boston anyway.

Must go up and see Mrs Hanna this afternoon so all for now.

Loads of love.

Catharine

P.S. You wrote in your letter about giving something to Gale but did not say what. (I have an idea you were interrupted) then you said that she needed a desk. but didn't mention what I was to do about it.

Banff, Alberta.
Nov. 19, 1945.
Monday.

Dearest Mother,

We do have a funny time, and last week was a busy one for us. especially the evenings. Last Sunday I wrote you of going to tea and up to Sam's in the evening, then Monday Pete was at the Vets smoker, Tuesday we were at the Hansons for dinner, Wednesday was the fire and we recuperated that night. Thursday was Red cross and I can't remember that evening. "ut Friday was a "humdinger".

Friday morning we expected the Canmore coal to come about 11. and we had Mom to meet at the train which was late. but she arrived and so did the coal about 2 something. Then I decided to go up to the hospital to see Mrs Hanna, had tea and stayed a bit longer than I meant to. She is leaving at the end of the week for Calgary to stay at the Paliser, will be near her sister and after living in a little hospital with supper at five every night I think the idea of meals when she likes and a bit of freedom sounds rather nice, and later she will go to the coast. On the way down from the hospital I thought to myself " Well at last there is no one to think ofm (for she won't be feeling like coming to tea) and no one on our minds for Christmas etc." I was feeling rather light hearted, for when there is someone like that here who you want to sort of do a little for I always have them sort of on my mind. I got to the Burns corner and hesitated a bit and thought, maybe I had better go through the store just in case there is a message from someone, and headed that way and a six foot young man stepped up to me and asked if I remembered him. he was John Gibbon, Murray Gibbon's son. I think I had met him only once but have heard Pete speak of him often, ^{so} when he asked for Pete I said to come right over to the house, he had a perscription to pick up at the drug store, so we got that first. He seemed a bit vague and got mixed up, thinking I was going down the street to do an errand we walked the lengthh of the main street, I thinking each drug store we passed that it must be the one further down. However we got it straightened out and walked back again to Harmons and then over to the house. He is just out of the ~~Army~~ B.A.F. after 4½ years and we figured that something must have happened at home. He is a very sensitive sort of person and was very bright in school, (finished high school at 15) He has been out only 2 weeks, tried a job in Montreal and said that after 2 days it was all a haze to him and he decided to come west and get in shape physically. His sister married Ernest Sheperd's son, (the one that does the illustrations for Winnie the Pooh and Wind in the Willows etc.) and he was lost in the North Atlantic I think, a couple of years ago, so Faith has come back with her little 8 year old girl and is living on a British Navy pension which amounts to very little, and looking after the ~~family~~ ^{family} as they have no servants. They also had divided the house into 2 small usits so we have an idea when he came home after four years away it just

wasn't home and very disappointing. ^{coming out} He found the train didn't stop in Kananaskis where he hoped to get off and stay with Claude Brewster on the ranch and when he got to Banff he found Dan Macowan away, and he had always stayed with them in recent years, so when he saw me I looked familiar (I think from the awful pictures in the Hikers Bullitens) and so he spoke to me.

John had been here just a few minutes, enough time to pour out some beer and I was making cheese things, when Mr Ball arrived with his house problems (we have offered to sort of back him on buying a house) and then I drove him back to the isolation hospital where they are staying picking up the ~~the~~ family on the way. There was just time for me to get another steak at the meat market before it closed at six. Mom was coming to supper and she arrived at six, but while I had been away John had had a chance to talk a bit to Pete about his problems. It helped a lot haveing Mom come down and she told us about the Old timers dinner in Calgary and the odd days and we managed to joke a bit and get John laughing, but it is not easy for the boys to adjust themselves. She went to the Eastern Star and John helped us dry dishes and then we sat and talked until he went home at ten. He told Pete that it was the first time he has sort of felt relaxed at all and asked if he could come down Sat. and just sit and read a book, We looked for him all day yesterday but he never came, so guess he has managed alright.

Well Saturday Mr Ball came in the morning (we were up early in order to check on the stoker using the new coal) and I had cleaned house, so we went with him to see Sam to have Sam help him look at a house he has a chance to buy, for we felt better about it having Sam's advise. and then we stayed home all afternoon in case John came. Instead after supper Barbara Whyte came down, she is a young girl who is a most enthusiastic skier and a real card as well. We laughed so over all her experiences, especially when she visited her relations in Liverpool. She stayed until nearly one in the morning, came a little after eight. I guess none of us realized how late it was though we did get sleepy. But we both decided that it was really rather a relaxing evening as she had no problem.

Yesterday we slept late, worked on some slides we are making of Ava that we thought would be interesting right now. and about 4.30 Sir Norman walked in, We sat awhile and then Pete offered him beer but he said if it weren't too much trouble he would rather have tea, so I made him tea and toast which he enjoyed and then we had supper about seven and he didn't go until ten o'clock. Quite a bit of talking but each visit we like him more, I guess he was having a hard time getting adjusted too. Now he can laugh and lets the other person do a bit of the talking. He has large factories in England and made Spitfires during the war, We asked him if he still made planes andwif he would continue to and he said they still had some planes to deliver but they were going to make Radophones. (Which are a combination radio and phonograph which changes records.) Dingys (14 foot boats) and suitcases! This struck us as awfully funny somehow and we all had a good laugh. He helped dry dishes and said of course everybody has to do it in England now, that they are quite used to it, I made some remarké about its being harder in the English houses to do such work when they were planned for servants and he said "Well of course in the big houses people live

in the kitchen as it is the only warm room. " Shows what a change they have had to make.

I saw Cis this morning and asked her how she liked the Weed book and she said "Tell your mother that we have every~~w~~ weed but two in our garden."

Your letter just came telling about sending the package off to Norway, Thank you all so much and I know it will be appreciated.

It is lunch time ~~for~~ so all for now.

Loads of love,

Catherine .

P.S. I didn't quite get it straight about the London Studios. We haven't gotten to Calgary yet in the car, but will ask at the Crag and Canyon here, whether they send things to be bound. they might, as there is a new man there. in which case it would be simple here. but we go to Calgary so seldom it might be easier if they were done in Co~~gnord~~ even if it does mean a delay in our seeing them.

Banff, Alberta.
Friday, Nov. 23, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Yesterday was your Thanksgiving day, we thought of you several times. When I was making Oyster stew at noon we figured that the whole family was at that moment, (about two o'clock with you,) complaining over having eaten too much. What a family there must have been of you, quite like old times with lots of children, I expect that the Palmers were out and about the first time for ages that Gale and Robin have been with them. and then Nancy and David too. Quite exciting and Russell to carve the turkey. You should go back to having charades again with so many young people.

We thought for a time yesterday when the wind blew strong from the west that we were going to have a Chinook but it didn't get warmer than ~~20°~~ 20° above and so didn't melt at all, in Calgary it was 40° all night so their snow and ice started to go. but for the last 2 weeks I can't see that it has melted at all. It is still clean and nice, even on the main street.

Tuesday night was lovely moonlight and Pete thought it a good idea to go for a little ski and try out our shoes and bindings. So after supper we went for a jaunt up the River road and across the tracks and up to the corner. It was bright and still but only 10° above, however it was nice to get out and brought back the times we used to ski in the dark at Skoki, the smell of the snow and the sounds and all.

Wednesday night the Moores came down in the evening. Mrs Strong from Vancouver is staying at the Hotel having been on the verge of a nervous breakdown. She is one of those public spirited people who is on all sorts of committees and does wonderful work but too busy to really give a lot of time to her home and when she is worn out with her activities she is lost and has a hard time occupying herself with a house etc. She has been rather a worry to Pearl I think, is in her room most of the time and doesn't know what she wants to do etc. Pete asked them to come down last Saturday night but she was going to a movie with Edmé and said Wednesday would be fine. It was Mrs Strong who picked the time, Evidently she forgot a previous engagement she had made and couldn't break and Pearl was so provoked she said she was coming anyway, so Down came the Moores and we had a very pleasant time.

Yesterday was Red Cross in the afternoon and then we had supper up at Moms and a quiet evening going to bed early for a change. To-day is dull and looks like more snow. I must go over soon for the groceries and then this afternoon up to see Mrs Hanna as she is leaving for Calgary soon. John Gibbon got off to the ranch so we hope he will be all right, they will be good to him there and physical exercise will be the best thing for him.

Thanks for the drawing of the Nazi U.boat by Robin. It is really good and especially the goose stepping Nazis. What a time he and Gibby had falling into the brook. I think it was this fall that Johnnie had the doctor's little boy to play, and somehow they managed to both fall into mud puddles, for it had been raining or something before, anyway they came in covered with mud from head to foot and Barbara had to take off everything they had on and dress the other little boy in Johnnie's cloths and send him home that way.

I believe she even had to wash all of their clothes.

If it would help any in sorting the books, if you made a list of those you wondered about I might be able to tell from the author, title and Illustrator which books they are. and then tell you whether to save them or not.

Too bad about Uncle Billy, do let us know how he is and what he has.

Guess I had better go.

Loads of love,

Catherine .

Banff.
Alberta.
Monday, Nov. 26, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

I am trying to get my courage up to go to Calgary before Christmas but I don't know whether or not I will make it. We planned to go by car this fall and then when the snow came so early we put it off until the roads had cleared but guess there is not much hope of that for a time yet. I can go by bus at 8 A.M. and come back in the evening by 8, but it means a long ride in the dark. or I can take the 10 A.M. train which gets in later and coming back if the train is on time I get in at 1.30' in the morning. It is hard to know which is best. At this season the train is usually more reliable and warmer and yet the bus is more convenient. Well maybe I will end by not going at all!

Yesterday was the warmest day for a long time, it got up to 37' above so the radio said. I will send you the weather reports from the paper just for fun, it hasn't seemed very cold but the snow is still with us. We decided to go for a ski jaunt after lunch for we badly need limbering up. We went right across the river in front of the house, then over to the Cave & Basin road, took our ~~Kis~~ skis off and climbed straight up the old toboggan run, then up an old fire guard and Pete hoped to cross to the Middle Springs near the Alpine club but the new growth of little Jack Pine was too thick. We came down a rather gentle run on the fire guard and road and landed in back of the Administration Building. It was just the right speed when we haven't skied for so long and our legs feel weak in the wrong places, Pete has always claimed that the slopes if cleared on the Sulphur side of town would provide fine ski runs for the average skier and so near town, and just recently they have formed a winter sports Committee to organize 6 weekends this winter and have Norman Knight as a manager and he is prospecting a run from the Hot Springs down and we got interested in the possibilities too. Especially as the Government has promised to cut a run. It is really very nice in the woods, we ran into lots of deer and even a small herd of Elk and it was quiet and peaceful. We rather enjoyed it. Norquay neither of us like for there are a lot of people and it consists of sliding down one slope and showing off how well you ski on hard snow and doing a lot of standing around watching others.

Saturday we were quite busy, the Balls came to call with a lady who is staying with them, and then I just had time to cook the potatoes etc for Mom came to supper to help us eat Chicken. Bubby dropped in after her steak supper to show us her marks in the Summer school drawing class, that she had just gotten. Pete asked if she liked Chicken which of course she did, and said she would just have a little. In the end she ate more than any of us, even of mashed potatoe and peas. We can get the frozen ones again and also the fruit which is delicious as it is sweetened too. When we were washing the dishes Bubby dropped her towel and had to get Pete to pick it up as she was so full she couldn't stoop over, ~~to pick it up~~. We teased her quite a bit. She certainly looks healthy, had been skiing all day four or five times down the trail from Norquay and then got rides back up in cars. She was then going to skate at the rink all evening. The children certainly have wonderful opportunities here.

Your letter just came written the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, all about the table which sounded so pretty. You must have had a nice party. I didn't realize that the McCouches were there. About the desk, do you mean the little one you gave me years ago? I sort of lost track of whether you or Frances were using it. It would be just right for Gale and I will send you a card to go with it. How about a present for Robin? Or it doesn't seem quite fair to give Gale such a big thing and not give Robin something equally nice. Is there anything he would like. I can't get much in Banff and if I send anything worth more than a dollar there is duty to pay. If you can think of anything let me know. I can now send money if not too much, to a person in the states and so could pay you, unless there is something that I had that he might like. How about the bound St Nicholas? or is he too young for those?

Will Mildred and Cousin Jane be with you for Christmas? Let me know. About the books for Pete. He hasn't seen either of those you mentioned. "Up front" by Mauldin. or "Many a Watchful Night" by John Brown. Isn't that the John Brown who was in college with Russell and was at the house one weekend I think. If there is a "New Yorker Album" this year I am sure Pete would love that, but not the book of STIEG Drawings, as we don't like them. Also we would love any candy or nuts as we rarely see either, nuts only when we go to Calgary and Candy one can't get there either. sometimes Charlee Reid has a box but we always feel sort of mean not to send it overseas.

Must get going on my morning chores.

Loads of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. Nov. 29, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

This may be rather a short note as I am behind in things in General as we have been doing a bit of skiing lately. I told you that we went out on Sunday and then Tuesday morning it was lovely and sunny and a couple of inches of fresh snow so we took the car and drove to the bottom of the gully run down from Norquay, (I think it was Tuesday and not Monday but can't remember) It took us an hour to climb up with skins on and we were a bit winded but figured to climb up was the best way to get into condition. Then we had a nice run down feeling very poor when it came to turning. Then yesterday we went up about three quarters of the way on the road and parked the car, Pete had taken me to the top first and I had the run down to where the car was parked. then we spent an hour doing our bit in packing the deep snow to make the trail better and wider. For some reason the Norquay skiers all run down the same groove and you have to turn where they have, but by packing it on the sides it makes it good running all across the trail. *then I drove the car down & Pete skied*

Last night we also went over to watch a bonspiel for the Red Cross and stopped in to see quite a crowd skating. There were lots curling too. Maybe this will be a good winter all round, having the snow come early it seems as if people had gotten off to a better start. Met Horace Brown who is just back from overseas. It took him just nine days from Southhampton to Calgary. 4½ on the Queen Elizabeth and about the same on the train.

Your Thanksgiving sounded very nice and so much easier setting the table the day before. It was always sort of a rush doing it that morning no matter how early one started and also confusing because of the food being prepared. Robins prayer must have been awfully cunning. Do you suppose he is taking after the deacons and preachers among our Ancesters?

Have thought of just the thing for him for Christmas. An Indian buckskin jacket that he can wear in the woods. That might be a bit of duty but I can send enough to pay for that. The Bay Colong Bookshop list of books came yesterday but I could only find about 3 books that sounded interesting. "Raw Material" by Oliver La Farge "Ploughman of the Moon" by Robert Service and "A Star Danced" by Gertrude Lawrence. Maybe because I know of the authors. Have you read the life of Enrico Caruso? Heard it reviewed on the radio and it sounded very good. Jean asked if there ~~was~~ any books we would like for Christmas. and to get them if I happened to see any. The day I got her letter I saw two books that we have thought of getting for some time. one is "Head Hunters in the Solomons" and the other "Under a Lucky star" by Roy Chapman Andrews. The joke was that they are both reprints ~~and~~ by now and so not too expensive. one was \$1.39 and the other \$1.69 so you tell her that I got them and if she would like to give them to us we would be delighted.

Sent you a little something for your birthday and in a day or two will send you a proper Birthday letter. I think you would enjoy reading the book aloud to Cousin Jane.

Guess that is all for now.

Loads of love to you all.

Catherine

P.S. Will send the card to go with the little desk in my next letter.

Banff, Alberta.
Sat. Dec. 1st. 1945.

Dec.

Dearest Mother,

Pete is out on a little ski jaunt with Davy. He had promised to take him skiing and of course it ended in more of a thing than he expected. The kids were over yesterday to show Pete their new Brownie caps and scarves and the ski trip was planned then for to-day. After lunch when there was still no sign of Davy, Pete decided to go over and find out if they still wanted to go. Davy and Harold had been scraping and it had ended in Harold kicking Davy in his leg and it hurt too much for him to go and his feelings were hurt even more than the leg, very much more. Davy is a funny child and very sensitive and takes a long time to get over anything. Harold was going to a birthday party and so Pete said that he would go home and if Davy wanted to go skiing to come right over. Well about 10 or 15 minutes later Davy strolled over he was still very sulky and limped a good deal, However it was decided that they would go as soon as Davy brought his skis over and Pete had taken his wax off and put our kind on. This took quite a while but finally we were ready and Davy discovered he hadn't his sweater, so he ran home for that, the limp entirely gone by now. and then we were all getting into the car when he realized he had the wrong shoes on and had to run back again and get his ski boots. He has the makings of an absent minded professor. He is bright for his age, I drove them up to the middle springs which is on the road to the Upper Hot springs. not right up but just to the turn and that was an hour ago so they should be back soon. But Pete's afternoon is pretty well shot.

Yesterday I went to Calgary. Took the 10 o'clock train down. ate my lunch in the day coach to save time and we got in sharp at one so I had a good three hours to shop. Had a number of errands for Pete in connection with Photographic supplies, it is hard to get the kind of paper etc one needs or wants and the only way is to go and see what they have. Then I looked at a cedar chest that was advertised in the paper for \$12.45. just a little one that looked just the thing for sweaters and of course it looked as cheap as it was. However I didn't really need it and got some material for curtains in the front room and now am in fear and trembling for fear in case the color is not what I thought. But if you don't get things when you see them these days you don't get them at all. In the store here they will get something in one morning and the word spreads around so fast that by the end of the afternoon there are none left. Also glanced at the book dept. which is usually fatal for one sees lots that look interesting and some how when you read about them in reviews they don't sound half as good.

By the way could one of you when in Boston get me some "Bun Nets" I can't get them in Canada. about a doz would last me for a few months. They are tiny nets that just fit over a bun and keep ones hair a bit tidier.

I also got some Goat's cheese and smoked salmon and by then it was time to go to the bus for one is always a bit afraid that there won't be room. Ivy Paris and her little girl Zona were on and we sat together all the way up. Zona entertaining me with songs and verses. Pete was at the bus to meet me and we were only a little late. So I guess it worked out alright, but one does feel a bit rushed trying to shop and of course it was quite crowded too.

Sunday- It is now afternoon and I must start getting a list made

of those to send Christmas cards too. We have made a photograph of an old drawing of Pete's and are going to tone it. We haven't sent cards for several years and it is such a good way to keep in touch with people.

Mom came down for fried chicken, only I didn't cook it just right. The first time it was perfect and now I can't seem to repeat and we have promised the Moores a demonstration so will have to learn how.

Then we went up to see the Wards and are to go up for supper to-night for corned beef.

This morning we slept late, getting up about ten which is really late for us. Then Harold came over to call and Mrs McGivern to ask us to supper to-night to meet a Frank Hamilton who is just back from England. She also told us that hardly any of the Vancouver crowd are to be here for Christmas this year as they are going to the Ski places in Washington which are open again and also nearer. It will make it simpler for us as sometimes it got pretty complicated with all their cocktail parties and reciprocating with tea, Is Frances and Gil really coming out and when? The skiing will be a bit different than they are used to but I think they will like it, especially at a place like Temple.

Better wish you Many Happy Returns of the day in case my next letter doesn't reach you in time.

Loads of love,

Catherine .

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. Dec. 4, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Many Happy Returns of the Day! We wish we were with you to help celebrate. I got quite a shock this morning looking at the calender and thinking it was Dec. I was looking at and instead November had fallen down and I thought it was the 6th already. feel better to find it is the 4th.

Yesterday I spent nearly all day getting to-gether addresses for our Christmas card list. Also we got our last roll of Kodachrome back and I mounted those, they came out awfully well of the animals, mostly Elk and Deer. but I don't dare send them through the mail so you will have to wait until our next trip east to see them. I must get busy and do up the Christmas presents, I bought them early but haven't had a chance to parcel them up.

Pete went to the Rotary lunch to show about 50 slides we had made of Switzerland last year. At least we made the slides last year, the photographs covered several years. As a lot of people are anxious to make this a good winter resort there was a lot of interest and it was rather amusing Pete said to hear the repercussions. Most of the pictures were of how they do things over there, sleighs on the streets etc. However it took most of Pete's day, the thought of it took all morning and recovering all afternoon. Last night we were off to bed at 9.30 and then realized we hadn't looked at the slides I had mounted so Pete slipped on his trousers again and a sweater and we were in the midst of the slides when an insistant knocking we heard at the back door. Like a telegram we always think the worst and was sure someone was sick or something at that hour, so Pete went and it was George Eisenshiml. He had spoken of coming down to show us some photos of his but it turned out he wanted Pete to design a trade mark for an invention he has made for Skis. Pete says he always gets the good jobs ! Last week he made a design for Bud Gourley who has invented a base wax for Skis and evidently the boys liked it so much that George now wants Pete to do his. From that we got onto the subject of what to do with Germany and what had happened to various skiers and it was after eleven when he left and we were very sleepy and this morning a bit grogy. When there are too many things to think of it can be very tiring.

Sunday

We had a nice time at the Wards last night and ate too much as usual. Corned beef that Cis has Ted Evans make, he puts a piece of round steak into the brine and it is delicious. We finished off with Crepe Suzettes (can't spell it) it is an old joke that Sam tells on himself. When they were in London last time, Cis' sister and brother-in-law who like to do things in the right way, especially the brother-in-law, Will, took Sam and Cis to the Savoy for dinner and then to

the theater. Sam had been looking forward to having real sole at the Savoy and was in the midst of enjoying his filet of sole when the waiters appeared in the distance wheeling a wagon etc. They told Sam to hurry because of the theater and he said for them to have their desert and let him finish enjoying his sole. but no, the waiters lifted his plate with the sole half eaten and then started preparing the crepe suzettes (remember we had them in Paris once, little thin pancakes cooked in a special sauce with wine and brandy etc.) Well Sam refused to be impressed and when he was ~~handed~~ the served the Crepe Suzettes he said " Why these are what we call Pancakes in Canada and we eat them for breakfast ! " So we always joke with ~~me~~ him about them and when I was east got a jar at S.S. Pérces and we have never gotten to-gether to eat them until now. They were awfully good.

Hope you have a Happy birthday and Pete joins me in sending you a great deal of love and best wishes.

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Sat. Dec. 8, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

It is your birthday to-morrow, and hope you have a very happy day, we will be thinking of you. Hope the book arrived alright and that you enjoy it. They are just short bits but like sketches that tell so much.

It is Mom's birthday to-day, she is coming to supper to-night, we went up for a minute this morning, Jackie was there with a present and Mildred came in while we were there and she had just received some chrysanthemums from the Stockands at the coast picked out of their own garden. So she was quite pleased.

At last I got the Christmas packages off yesterday afternoon. It is quite a job doing them up. I mean't to get them off early but got delayed with one thing or another. Tried to do them up Thursday morning and Barbara came over which sort of interrupted so it wasn't until yesterday that I really got at them. They are all in separate parcels this year and the postoffice said that ~~under~~ anything under a dollar in value was not dutiable so each thing being separate I hope they won't open them. If there is any duty on any of them Please let me know and I will send the amount after Christmas. There might be on yours and Jeans, I meant to mark CANADIAN HANDICRAFT on the outside for some one said they were not subject to duty. I had one present bought for you early in the summer, an interesting kind of handicraft I thought you might like to see and give away, but I can't find it now. I put it away carefully somewhere and have hunted high and low. If I can find it before Christmas will send it along. The present I did send I thought might give you an idea of a kind of work one could do. The only trouble is the handle is poor.

By the way a package that looks like a book came and one parcel about 2 feet square has arrived too. neither opened. They are kind here and lenient with anything under five dollars. I have not paid any duty on Christmas presents since the first year you sent the things all in one parcel.

There is apt to be quite a bit of duty on the Indian jacket for Robin. We got a really nice one with good bead work and I hope it won't smell too strong at first. That will wear off actually. The sleeves may need to be shortened and it may be too large, but he can grow into it and if they come west it will be just the thing for him. Will also enclose the card for Gale to go with the little desk. I hope you aren't thinking of the big desk that came from Grandpas for of course I shall get that out here some day. I hope!

We have had rather a hectic week in many ways and lots of things to do, last night we had to take some slides over to Mr Lonsdale at nine, he is going to show them at the entertainment camp and wanted us to explain them first. Then stopped in to see Molly Hamilton who was anxious for us to see her brother, they have been down three times always to find us out, so he is coming to tea this afternoon, we stopped in at the Mount Royal for about half an hour last night.

Will have to mail this before tea so all for now. Expect you are listening to the opera so are we.

Loads of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. Dec, 11, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Thought I had better write a bit to-night for to-morrow is Wednesday and I will be going over town in the morning and want to get started on the Christmas cards in the afternoon, if I can? Somehow I haven't been able to really get at them. and its just 2 weeks until Christmas. Also I expect that my letters soon will take longer to reach you. Am glad to know that the book reached you in time for your birthday and now hope the Christmas presents arrive in good order, we mailed them all on the 7th. Also could you please let me know how much the duty is so I can pay it?

Can't quite remember when I last wrote, maybe I had better start working backwards! This morning I spotted prints that we made for Margie Brown and her husband, their wedding pictures, we finished printing them yesterday afternoon and got them off to-day. We would have done them before had we been able to get paper. Then there were bills to pay and banking to do etc. and this afternoon the dentist to go to, to have a back tooth filled. I also went at 10.30 yesterday morning and had them cleaned. We have the two dentists y back at last after four or five years without any at all in Banff.

The days are very short now though better in the mornings than last year when we had daylight saving. but it gets dark by five. Sunday I was going to do lots of things, but as the Hamiltons, Molly and her brother, were here for tea Saturday and stayed until supper time we didn't fry the chicken as I had planned and so did it Sunday instead. and it took most of the middle of the day to prepare and cook it, Mom came down and then in the afternoon we called on Pearl who has had her tonsils out. Sam and Cis were down in the evening.

Molly's brother Frank Hamilton was most interesting to talk with as he was in the orient for several years and left Singapore just before the Japs arrived, He is an agent for the Moller line and left on their last boat, they were torpedoed and divebombed in life-boats and finally were picked up and landed in Sorebaya Java, fitted out with clothes for they only had what they stood up in, and he was lucky enough to get another boat out, but again was torpedoed and landed back in Java again. they were torpedoed twice in Three days. The first time they got the wounded into the life boats but the second time the wounded never got off. He didn't say very much about it all. He somehow got to India after wards, and then recently back to England But he too is headed back to Singapore eventually. He was interesting talking about the Indian question, He is Canadian but born in Ireland. One thing he said was that the head men were nearly all British, that is of business firms but that they employed a majority of Eurasians and Indians, but somehow though they were capable men they were never the head men, and it seemed to be a social reason that just happened. The British often had their own clubs and there fore it didn't work so well if an Indian or Eurasian was head of a firm. Then he said in talking to an Indian who was well educated and had gone to Cambridge University, about this sort of thing. (The Indian worked for a purely Indian firm) The Indian was complaining

about the way the British treated the Indians who worked for them, so Frank Hamilton asked him how he was treated by the Indian firm he worked for, and he admitted that the treatment by his own people was much worse than by the British. ~~Frank~~ said that the British make mistakes but on the whole they are the fairest and the best colonizers he had seen. I haven't written this very well, wish he had been here longer for he was so interesting.

Funny your letter written the fourth came ~~before~~ after the one written the 6th. one this morning one this afternoon.

Yes you can show the Ski Movies, but they may be brittle by this time and might break. However try them if you like, Wonder did you get the Laura Hills, I think you should if you like it, but I laughed when you thought she was remarkable for over 80, well of course she is but I don't believe she is a bit smarter than you, after all look at the two pictures you sewed for me! We didn't know any of the artists in that other exhibition, though Alphonse Shelton who had an exhibition at the Guild before Laura Hills was in school when we were. but several years ahead.

I am glad that we are rationed on meat, for we can get all kinds 1 lb of the best or 3 lbs of the poorest cuts per person per week. For instance 1 lb of bacon to a coupon, or 4 tokens for a half pound. (there are 8 tokens to a coupon) and that gives one a chance to get a little at a time. Then spare ribs and liver etc are not rationed, so we find we are way ahead on it. So far we have always been able to get what we are entitled to in the way of meat, sugar and butter and I think they have done a wonderful job ~~here~~.

We were interested in hearing of Tom Archibald again, You spoke of not being able to hear him well. I met Mrs Simpson to-day and she is getting very deaf but is going to Calgary to get her ear "blown out" I think she said. she had it done once before and it helped her a lot. I think it might be a good idea to see a doctor and maybe as you say one of those hearing aids would help, it must be very tiring straining to hear. Might be fun to see how they work.

Well its bed time, not much of a letter but we have had a lot going on and interruptions.

Loads of love,

Catherine

X P.S. The Brester's dog which is a regular clown came yesterday and after rummaging in our garbage took a fancy to the fat we had hung from a branch for the birds, one leap and he had the fat and then another leap and the grapefruit was gone. Poor birds!

Banff, Alberta.
Sunday, Dec. 16, 1945

Dearest Mother,

Don't expect that this will be much of a letter, Have been working hard to get the Christmas cards off and have done most of them. It always takes longer than one expects.

Want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I hope that this reaches you in time for Christmas, Know it will be a real Christmas this year with the children home and what fun it will be.

We registered Pete's envelope to you and one for Jean yesterday hoping they would get to Concord safely. and don't forget that I expect to pay the duty on all the presents especially the one to Robin. By the way we got a lovely card from him yesterday and directed in gay red and blue.

Your packages have arrived very well, I think there are three and one that looks very tempting from Mildred. I mailed a book that I hope will be good yesterday but it may not reach you in time.

Don't you all laugh about the hair nets, I could have gotten them for you a month or so ago here, and the only Bun nets I have been able to get since the war was at Stearns in Boston, they had lots a year ago!

I was going to finish cards to-day especially as a fine snow was falling but Pete thought a bit of skiing would be good for us so out we went at 11 and back a little after one feeling very much better for the exercise. Then as we finished lunch Davy and Harold appeared on their skis and so Pete is to take them on the little tour we went this morning, only we walked up and I will drive them in the car this afternoon. They have their lunch in a packsack and we have made cocoa to go with it so it will be a real expediton. Great excitement! but also while they are busy skiing I may get those cards finished!

They are ready so will mail this while I am out.
Again best wishes to you all and lots of love,

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. Dec. 18, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

At last I got all the Christmas cards done, did a lot on Sunday and got the last three off to-day, the more you start sending the more people one thinks of. It is an awfully good way to answer letters. I also have nearly all the Christmas presents done up for the family here and now there is the house to give a special dusting and tidying too before the weekend.

Enclosed are two presents for those who like mauve, perhaps Jean and Cousin Jane having had hysterics might use them. They are the last of a bunch they had in the store and may get more after New Years. Evidently the human hair ones come from China but no doubt they will be on the market again soon. They claim that mauve doesn't show on white hair! I am still in the market for brown bun nets,

We are having quite cold weather, below zero most every day night and around 10° above during the day, but blue sky which helps. Last night we were doing up parcels and had just finished about 9 o'clock when Ted White called. and he stayed until after midnight. He is an old friend of Pete's, used to work here when he was single. He is English and an army officer in the last war, has travelled a good deal and lived at the coast recently, during this war when they needed carpenters so badly he went to Victoria and worked on buildings for Army camps and also in the ship yards, then he had a nervous breakdown and really isn't over it yet. We do get more people with problems. He seems to take a poor view of things, and not knowing his wife, don't know all the cause, they have two little children 3 and 5 and they are full of it and get on his nerves. We think that perhaps the wife is the kind that decides things for they bought the Belmore Brown house here and are planning to make two suites but he realizes it is not built for winter and isn't very keen on the idea, anyway we did all we could to help and Pete felt we had done a little when he left smiling and had laughed a couple of times. There is nothing more difficult to cope with than nervous troubles.

Slept late this morning and the days are so short now one doesn't seem to get much done.

This will be quite a busy week, Davy has invited me to his school play to-morrow and at night there is the Christmas play at the Mountain school. Then Thursday the Red Cross and in the evening we go to a sketch class at the school. They have just started in, a group interested in drawing and asked us to help them as there was no one to take charge. We went last Thursday too. They are very enthusiastic, and most of them draw quite well.

Friday we are to demonstrate fried chicken to the Moores. and then it is practically Christmas.

I wonder could you order us a copy of "Jacovleff and other Artists" by Martin Birnbaum. the Regular Limited Edition. The folder just came so it is too late to get it for \$600 but if it is sent to you, and then you address it to us, there is no duty to pay. You might enjoy looking at it too. They might get it in Concord for you, if not you could order it by mail from the Boston Book and Art Shop. I hope it won't be too much trouble,

About the chest, thank you so much, can we think about

it a while. It would be very nice to have one. Could you describe them a bit more, are they in your attic? and what was in them, for then I might remember.

All for now, Again Merry Christmas and a Happy New year.

Loads of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Sat. Dec. 22, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Don't know when this will reach you for the trains are very late what with the cold weather and the heavy mails. Hope the parcels all got there but it is hard to tell. Your first lot came in good time but the others haven't appeared yet, we got 4 and the only one not yet arrived is the one you marked to Mom from Jean.

We got a letter the other day from Chris Sinclair who lived in the house at Tofino, (the one who was burned when the iron blew up) and she and Gordon are going through to Victoria for Christmas. They were to go yesterday but she wrote again that his leave was delayed a day so they are on the train that was supposed to come in at noon to-day, but now it is late and won't be in until 7.30. We have had supper and Pete is just going up to telephone to see if it is any later.

We have been pretty busy, Thursday I cleaned the kitchen and Red Cross in the afternoon until five, then after supper we went to the sketch class, it was almost a blizzard out the snow blowing in drifts and the bus never got through at all. The six who went drew an anatomical drawing of a horse and it was really quite hard for every one but Agnes who knows horses. However they drew until eleven which is an hour longer than they intended so they must have enjoyed it. Next morning we were pretty tired, I had ~~intend~~ mean't to wash and wax the kitchen floor not having done it since the snow came in October but didn't get around to it until this morning. Also we got word that Gray Cambell got the D.F.C. He is the ex-mountie who was in the R.A.F. and who's wife we saw a bit of, He paid his way to England in 1939 to join the R.A.F. trained there and then was sent over here as an instructor, was finally a Squadron leader and then sent back to England with a lower rank, given a new course and then flew Lancaster during the end of the war in Europe. at least all last winter. So he has seen a good deal. his wife is English.

we had to spread the news - Wednesday I went to the school program of Davy's class. It is always interesting to see the children and they did very well. They have a new way of teaching now out here. instead of a little of this and a little of that they take all angles of a certain subject. Daveys class have been working on Wheat since fall and have a bit of reading spelling and arithmetic along with it but not as much as before. The whole program was based on wheat even the little play that they made up at the end. They each have a book that they make and in it they write and also draw pictures and different ones read from their own books, also sang a few appropriate songs with no accompaniment and they all sang well. The teacher spoke in the beginning about the new way of teaching, and how they tried to stress cooperation and helping each other. and from then on they did everything themselves. There was a program on the board and the head of each group introduced the next number. No one got self conscious or tongue tied and it didn't seem to bother them getting up in front of all the parents. Another new thing they do here, at least new to me. They have done away with desks in most of the classes, have about four long tables and chairs on each side, in some rooms each child has a drawer of their own, but they find it far easier to work on large maps or such and also can move the tables out of the way so easily.

After the program Mrs Moffat asked me to walk around her way and as it was blowing hard and snowing I did, then of course she insisted I come in to tea and it was nearly 5.30 then I got home. and Agnes Hammond was here to ask Pete to make a poster for her as she is getting a team of horses up to use for sleigh riding.

so all in all we have been quite busy, Christmas is day after to-morrow and then the next day is boxing day and a holiday here, they are to open the winter carnival so most likely it will be bitterly cold.

It has been near zero the last few days, but not as cold as some places, Edmonton was 36° below. night before last.

We are thinking of cooking our goose on Christmas eve which gives us all the next day free. We also have a turkey to eat and may save that until New years, haven't decided just who to have down or our plans. We have been asked to drop in a lot of places but there aren't as many Vancouver people this year so ~~it~~ won't be quite as hectic.

A happy New Year to you all and I am sure you will have a happy Christmas.

Loads of love.

Catherine .

Banff, Alberta.
Wednesday, Dec. 26, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Such a hectic time as Christmas is and I am afraid that I have sadly neglected you.

The above is as far as I got yesterday and now it is Thursday and my day to take tea and sandwiches to the Red Cross so I shall have to be going soon. There has been so much going on over last weekend and Christmas and it will take me sometime to tell you all about it. Will just send this to let you know that we had a wonderful Christmas, one of the best. Even got mild weather up to 30 above since Monday and to-day it is 24.

Had Mom and Sam and Cis for a goose Christmas eve, The Moores dropped in later in the evening and it was 11.30 when the Wards went home. Christmas we had dinner with Mom and Jackie and Harold wisely dropped in about the time we were eating and ate a good dinner was to have his that same night so don't know how he fared. We were calling all afternoon and again in the evening. so were pretty tired yesterday. The Carnival opened and we were out most all day and up to see Cis for a short while last night so that when we came home at nine we went right to bed.

The presents all reached us on time and in good order and not one opened or a cent of duty to pay, we only once have even had to pay duty and that was years ago. You certainly figured out all the little things we needed most and we are eager to get at the candy which is a real treat, like greedy squirrels we have it safely stowed away for later on when we are not so full of turkey, mince pie etc. The books are most interesting looking and the cheques are to be great fun to figure out what to spend them on. The bag is lovely and so is everything else. I will thank you better next time. Must run.

Loads of love,

Catherine .

Banff, Alberta.
Sat. Dec. 29, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Will start a letter though I don't know how far I will get, or where to begin.

I am so sorry that I didn't get the Christmas parcels off earlier, but I think that the heavy blizzards most likely delayed the mail, for they were all mailed with Mildreds, that is all but the coat to Robin and the little book to you. The little book I sent letter post and Pete's photographs which he made up especially for you we sent registered mail thinking that it would be sure to get there for it was mailed quite late. We should have sent some of the house, well perhaps later on we can, it is hard to get film right now and we couldn't find the negatives to the outside but will try to get you some pictures one of these days, actually the interior is not completed yet. Uncle Marshall might be interested in the Elk for he has already thanked us for the calender with one of the Elk pictures on it. Lately we have had a moose around, he sleeps over near Barbaras but comes by the house quite often, the children call him "Feeddy "

The book called Johnny Chinook you may find amusing and afterwards I think that the Lindsays would enjoy having it. I still haven't found one of the presents I was going to send you, may when I spring clean.

We did enjoy all the presents and parcels you sent and had great fun opening them. The books look most interesting, I was glad to think there was another one of Barbour's. and am reading the Alaska one now. Asked Jack Brewster who was up in Whitehorse if he had run across any of the American artists up North, told him that I was reading a book by one, Poor, and he said " all he saw were Poor " but I know that the ones who painted for the National Geographic were very good.

What a remarkable opener on the knitting bag, it is a lovely one and I shall use it, also the little plaid purse will be most useful to carry in my pocket marketing, I have nearly worn out the one Jean sent that Miss Leedham made. It is so handy.

The little chest of red leather drawers I especially like, it is just right for so many things that I haven't decided where to keep it, either on the desk next to the one full of Dennison's things that Ebbs sent us once or in the living room to hold odd things. But did we have a good laugh over it, I naturally opened the drawers and in the middle one were a lot of little Christmas tags, they were very attractive ones and we thought perhaps you had sent them for us to look at, for they were all marked to "Aunt Edith from so and so or to Mrs Robb etc " and then one " to mother from Catharine " Did you by any chance get it for a Christmas present last year ! You and Jean are great ones but anyway I am very glad you sent it to us for it is one of the presents we like most of all. The nuts and candy are a great treat and we have them rather carefully stowed away to eat a little at a time, for we only offer them to very special people. The apron is lovely and so are the white mules, a little fancy for me but I do like them. Oh yes the lovely silver pin is a beauty and looks like the Arts and Crafts. One of the cleverest things was the book of labels, such a nice way to have them. in fact all the tape and tags and clips are always nice to have. and the dear little box of mending spools.

We had a nice calender from Robin and also a cook book cover and then the chocolate peppermints from Gale. This morning a letter came from her thanking us for the desk and written on Christmas Day on her typewriter. She and Cousin Jane will haveto get together writing.

Do write us what Russ is to do, Uncle Marshall said that he read in a Financial paper that he is back as a Director I think it was in Stone and Webster, but rather hard to go back and forth or will he fly?

We are quite interested in the United Nations picking a site after reading how some think it should be in Concord. It would be an honor but I hope they don't choose Concord for it would I am afraid change the place too much. Also I think they should think of the heat in summer, the north shore might be better in that way, though now it looks as if it might be ~~New York~~. *Hyde Park.*

To-night we are invited to Mrs Oakanders for supper, Mr and Mrs Walker are to be there and also their son Keith who is just married, he came back from overseas quite recently.

Last evening we went to a cocktail party at the Mount Royal with a Mr Everett Erling from Seattle, We has been coming for several years and it was quite a party for a lot of Vancouver people had arrived the night before. They do it quite well for they have a big turkey cold and plain bread and butter and you just cut off what you want. and help yourself.

We havetried not to be too gay this year for it is so easy to over do things. Christmas eve Mom and Sam and Cis came and ate goose with us, the Moores dropped in and it was nearly 12 when the Wards left. But it was a nice evening all round.

Christmas morning we were up early to hear the Empire Broadcast, even heard a friend speak on it from the Queen Elizabeth in mid ocean. Then we opened most of our things and washed the pots and pans we hadn't finished the night before, then went to Moms and to Barbaras to see the children in the first excitement of new toys and up to Mildreds. Back here to finish opening out things, then to Mom's for 1.30 dinner, turkey and all the fixings. By the time we had helped wash up etc. it was nearly three. so we started out to see a few older friends. Mrs Knight who was just changing her dress so while we waited for her to come down Ethel poured us a hot rum, Ethel is her daughter, and before we could leave another friend dropped in so we had to have another to be polite, we were well het up by then but a call on Mrs Paris where we didn't take anything cooled us off a bit, then to Ted Whites, for they don't know many and we thought we ought to just say hello. They had friends for dinner who also are new to Banff, so we didn't stay too long. Then ~~to~~ *to* cold goose and down to the Ashleys for about an hour, they wanted us to stay all evening but we made our excuses, we knew we couldn't last until 2 or 3 in the morning when their parties of old folk usually break up, but Mom stayed until 3, they played Bummy and had a big meal about midnight. Instead we called on the Matheres and after Allen had finished at the rink they came over here for about half an hour on their way somewhere else, and we retired about midnight calling it a day.

Must mail this now, many thanks for everything and also the nice check will let you know just what we get with it,

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

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Mon. Dec 31, 1945.

Dearest Mother,

Your letter about Christmas came to-day and I am so sorry that ^{the} other parcels didn't reach you in time. they were all mailed the same time as Mildreds and should have gotten there, I think they were sent the first week in December. Well next year I will try and do better.

We have had it very mild all week which is nice for the holiday and people who want to skate and ski. It has been a rather hectic time for us as they always have Boxing day as well as Christmas which makes two holidays in a row and then as the day after New Years is a half holiday for the stores they are having that as well as New Years. We expect to be very quiet and stay home. Have a turkey ready to cook to-night and were going to ask the Moores over, but Pete has had a touch of flu and we don't want to do too much and sure enough as we go to see the Moores we will run into others and be invited somewhere else, one party leads to another so.

I think I told you all that we did on Christmas day, We were rather tired Boxing day, I went over to see the opening of the Carnival and was asked to judge the snow sculpture the Children had done down the boulevard in the centre of the main street. Was to be there after the banquet to the Queen which we didn't go to. Jack Brewster and a Mr Christie were to be the other judges, Pete took me ~~over~~ over about three and Jack was on hand but Mr Christie had a cold and couldn't come so they asked Pete to be the third judge, We did our judging and then had to stay on while the winners were announced, so it was five by the time we got away. Some of the little boys working to-gether made a really remarkable cougar, it was beautifully done.

In the evening we ran up to the Wards until nine, Cis was alone as Sam was learning some ritual for a Mason ceremony. Then we came home and went right to bed.

Thursday I had Red Cross and we were also asked to go on a sleigh ride in the evening, but we were both tired and didn't feel ambitious enough. The Vancouver people nearly always bring a germ with them from the coast and then all the people here catch it having no immunity to it. Jackie brought his cold home, it gives one sort of chills and weak legs and lots of children have had it. Col Moore was very sick and so ~~his~~ is Allen Mather now. Pete had a touch of it but has been able to be up and around, it seemed to settle in his sinus not in his chest. So in order not to make it worse we haven't done as much as we do sometimes.

Friday we were invited to a cocktail party at the hotel which we went to, then Saturday afternoon there were some coasting races for children but we didn't stay on to see the events on the street. We went to dinner at Mrs Wakanders for Keith and his bride, and Mr and Mrs Walker and ate far too much but had a pleasant evening. Yesterday we had no one but the children in the morning but after lunch the Simpsons came to see us and then the Walkers, five of them including Arnold's wife, much excited for he came across on the Queen Elizabeth and arrives to-morrow or the next day. Then after they left we went up to Bileen Harmons for beer and sherry, quite a large party, and of course met a Mrs MacMeeken who wants us to come to cocktails at the hotel Wednesday, I put her off a couple of days but couldn't think up excuses fast enough.

So now we are trying to be a bit quiet.

X Did I tell you about the lovely decorations I put up very hurriedly Christmas Eve. A sort of wild huckleberry which stays green all year at the coast and is in sort of sprays, very easy to arrange, for I was rushed and just tied a bit of holly together with the green and a big red bow and put them inside on each window and a nice spray on the back door. A couple of days later the buck deer came round and Pete fed it some bread before lunch, as we were sitting at the table we heard him knock his antlers against the back door and we thought he was getting pretty bald knocking on the door for more food, However he soon strolled away and we thought no more about it. Later on when Pete went out there was the big red bow ~~lying~~ lying on the doorstep a couple of red berries scattered about and two or three holly leaves but the rest was eaten, and as far as we know the thumbtack had gone too! Wonder what buck would say to the wreaths of fruit etc on the Beacon hill doors, they would have a grand time there.

X Time to be cooking the turkey so all for now. X
Heaps of love,

Catherine