

Jan 1947 — Dec '47

Sept 12 1947 - Trip of George + Mrs McLean +
10 year old Kathleen from Reddy Mt House to Pauff
+ Morley. "Imagine going all that way in a wagon
when you are over 70 years old."

"They used to go up what is now Johnson's Canyon
across to Baker Lake to the head of the Little Red Deer up
Pipestone + to the Sopleur (which they called the "Trail" to
the Deep Snow" + then to the Rostenay Plains Johnson's
Canyon was called 'White Goat Little River'.

He also told us that the Buffalo used to come up into the
mountain valleys every fall in the old days, + then
the fall snows would gradually drive them back to the
Prairies. George said his father could remember when
the buffalo were so thick that they looked like a sea of
black as they crossed the hills near Cochrane. We
told him about a skull with a spear nearby that

one of the game wardens (Ulles Lelasse) had found
near Castle Mountain or later Cliff told us that
he had found Buffalo skulls, two of them near
Temple when they were digging a ditch for the road.
About rope of team fairing lead —

Rained every day on trail that Tom Leik said only
2 mil days in Aug at 0'Hara

Aug 7th 1947 - to meet Trail Hikers when they
came in to massive about 9 miles up the west side.
The first lot came in soon after we got there.
The first ones down were a Capt. McCarthy + Ser
Oliver + Lady Wheeler. great alpine Chambers

Aug 7th 1947

Capt Mc Carthy was the Leader of the Mt Logan
expedition ~~over~~ is over 70 so they say, he doesn't
look it. The Wheeler's have lived in India many
years. He was Surveyor General of India &
knighted after the war for his work.
1947 July 2nd copy of letter from old David
Beaupaw.

Banff, Alberta.
New Years Day.
Jan. 1st. 1947.

Dearest Mother,

Another year and my first letter is to you. It is the most perfect New Years Day you ever saw, frosty and clear and calm. Being up late last night we were also up late this morning, the latest we have been for ages. It was ten I think when we got up. During breakfast we spied a cow moose and her calf browsing on the willows between our yard and Barbaras. We were watching them when a young girl with the most brilliant red fuzzy wooly pants began floundering through the deep snow from the road with a camera all aimed at the moose. She had a white ski jacket but the bright red pants were enough to frighten more than a moose. They aren't like deer and one doesn't dare approach too close for Moose will charge one. However she kept taking pictures and then walking a few steps nearer. We wondered what would happen and whether to try and warn her off but were afraid we would only make matters worse. The cow had been lying down when she first ~~got up~~ walked towards it, but got up and flicked her ears a bit. The calf was between the cow and the girl. When she got closer the little calf got very nervous and I am sure what it did wouldn't make a pretty picture at all. Then it went over to the mother moose. And still the girl in the red pants kept walking through the snow nearer and nearer, taking more photos right into the sun so probably none will come out unless she is awfully lucky. The cow got nervous too and did exactly as the calf had done ! but she never backed up at all. We began hoping the young girl would run out of film but she kept on going nearer until she couldn't have been more than 15 or 20 feet from the two moose and we began to think she would try to pet them. Luckily the film must have run out for she turned back and went back to the road where her young boy friend had evidently been standing. Quite delighted we imagine, but isn't it funny how a person with no idea of the chance she was taking can get away with a thing like that, red pants and all. If the pictures come out they should be wonders.

We went out ourselves later to try my new camera but were satisfied with two shots of the back door, the view, and one of the moose from Barbaras house, for by then they were over there mostly in the shade of the Simpsons trees. Went in to Barbaras and the kids told us about their presents and Johnny thanked me for the book with the boats in it. They are having a 16 day vacation this year, the longest ever and the mothers are finding it a bit trying with the kids at home in the house so much of the time ! Then we came back and tried a few shots of the chickadees feeding out of our hands, hope they come out but I am not sure I got them focussed right.

Yesterday we did a bit of running round errands, the bank and the mail etc. Then in the afternoon Mrs Mac called with two girls from Calgary. At least Paddy Arnold is, she is one of the best golfers in these parts and is building a log house and Mrs Mac wanted her to see ours. The other girl is Audrey Gardiner who is a great horse person, rides in all the horse shows and comes from one of the best known ranches in the country. A most attractive girl. We had a nice time with them.

We had been up to see how Sam and Cis were earlier in the day and they wanted us to bring Mom up in evening as the Meltons were to be there for dinner. So about nine we went up, taking Mom with us and had one of the pleasantest New Years ^{evening} I can remember. Elsie and Mel, Roy their son who was in the R.C.A.F and very interested in hockey though he isn't strong enough to play himself. His father Mel was w wonderful player once. Then Jack Ashley came in too and we had a very jolly evening, played a fool game until midnight and then had sandwiches and beer etc. mince pie and cake and then Sam gave a few recitations and we had a bit of singing and all came home about two. Of course we joined hands and sang old Lang Syne at midnight. and everyone kissed each other ! It was good fun.

I haven't answered any of your last letters, the one about Christmas came and what a busy day you had, as I wrote Mildred from "one egg nog to the other." I really felt that you had gotten even with little Nancy for saying " 80 and still alive " when at her age she was too tired by afternoon to come up and see you but you still had enough vim and vigor to go down and see them !

We are expecting a call from Tully Montgomery this afternoon, in the bank yesterday he asked if we would be home. seeing that we don't go to his church I think it very nice of him to call, he goes to one member of the family each year I think.

All for now, but a great deal of love and best wishes for the New Year to you and all.

Catharine

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Banff, Alberta.
Mon. Jan, 6, 1947

Dearest Mother,

Mean't to write you last evening but Sam and Cis dropped in and so of course it was too late by the time they went home. Its the first time they have been down since we missed them Christmas Eve, so now we will take the Christmas tree down. I got a picture of it, though it isn't awfully good which I will send. The lights were on but don't show. My first attempts with the new camera aren't too successful but I hope to improve! Anyway it will give you an idea of things.

The Moores left Saturday by train for Miami via Chicago. Fern going with them. She has been out at Sunshine with hundreds of skiers over Christmas and as this is the slack season I imagine she could get away. We hope she stays more than the two or three weeks she is planning on, for it will do her good, and will be fun for the Moores. They are going to Shaw Park this time instead of Montego Bay. There are pictures of it in the last Life, very good ones of the falls nearby and of the little beach at Montego Bay. We are waiting until we can go back to the Hawaiian islands. The Kennedy's here (he is a dentist) have a son in the hotel business in Kauai and a daughter living in Honolulu and they sent a whole package of magazines to them. We happened to give Mrs Kennedy a lift down from the post office when they came and she lent us several copies which we have been reading over the weekend. It looks as if they were going to have more places to stay in the out of the way places on the other islands. To us it makes all the difference having the natives happy and friendly and full of music, compared to the negroes in the West Indies. There were about 20 people down to see the Moores off, (I thought of Jean and the crowd she had seeing them off in Dundee) A good many family but lots of friends too and it was really cold with a strong west wind. We didn't do much standing talking on the platform, though we did wait until the train pulled out, to wave, and we were the only ones who did. After supper we went up to see Edmee, in case she was feeling the let down but she was so tired from all the waiting around while they did last minute things that she only wanted to go to bed and read, (we had thought of bringing her down here as we knew Charlie would be working) after she had yawned a couple of times we knew she mean't it and so came home. There was a hocky game so we thought even if it was cold we would go and show our interest and then come home after the first period, but in the end stayed for the whole game though it wasn't a very good one. Canmore beat Banff 8 or 9 to 2. The boys in Canmore are all coal miners and their one sport is hockey. the coal company has a coach for them and an indoor rink , whereas here the boys are nearly all working in stores or offices and get very little practise so they did well in a way. There was a good crowd and the trees give a bit of shelter from the wind.

We are glad to have the holidays over for it sort of mixes up the week when there are so many. One reason the stores close on Boxing Day and the day after New Years ,is because one Labor day and one other in the summer they stay open for the tourists and this makes up for those days. The clerks are entitled to so many holidays a year.

There are lots of nice letters from you to comment on and I have still a number of cards with letters to send out. for I didn't send any of the distant ones before Christmas. and now it seems hard to get around to it. Will answer your letters later on.

Loads of love to you all from us both.

Callarrie .

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. Jan. 8, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

We are still having mild weather, really haven't had more than a couple of inches of fresh snow since + came back, yet it isn't warm enough to really melt what there is, but we could do with a little to clean up what there is.

Haven't done a great deal lately. Pete had a bit of trouble with his shoulder muscles and the last three days has been going to Mr Masterson who massages, used to be at the hospital working on compensation men, giving them exercises to get back the use of legs, arms etc. and he also helps to massage people who have broken bones and are just out of a cast. He is on his own now, the doctors sending people to him. It seems to help Pete, his muscles got so tense, as they do if at one time they are well developed and you don't keep up exercising as you did once, the cold he had sort of settled in there, but we are hoping to get a bit of skiing near Banff and that will help too. This flu everyone has had, (at least most everyone,) seems to settle in one weak spot. Lots have had it, Pete doesn't have to go again.

Edmee came down Monday afternoon about tea time to borrow the Paridice of the Pacific, then yesterday Tuesday, just as we were going over town Syd Feuz of Golden came to see us. He went with us and then back to lunch here. It was nice to see him, he used to be up at Temple as a ski guide and then was in the navy several years, is married, has one child and runs a small hotel in Golden. He was full of the troubles they have trying to get staff. They do most of the work themselves. He is having a few days holiday, was going up to Temple to-day and just by luck Cliff came down for supplies with young Cliff and Mamie in the

Jeep so we think they all went back together, which worked well. Arnold Walker and Ruth went up to-day. She broke a bone in her leg going up the ski tow, but it is in one of those walking casks so she went too. They haven't many guests if any this week so should be fun for them

To-day + have been writing the notes to go with the cards we are sending overseas, it is easier than writing letters to the various friends it is nice to keep up with. Note 12 - Pete even wrote a letter when he came back from the massage, but he is the worst person for writing! It takes him so long to get started, and he has to ask me where everything is. you would laugh at him. First he rummages around on or in the desk, then "Catharine, where is my pen?" Finds it, sits down, "Is there any ink?" I show him where it is, he is up and down again. "Have we any writing paper?" We find that. Then the seat is too low, so he gets a pillow, is all settled at the dining room table and the light is wrong. To tell the truth I was trying to write myself during all this so I didn't pay a great deal of attention while he was up and down and rummaging around. Finally he wanted a blotter and I handed him a green one that you sent long ago with pictures pasted on each one. He started again and then the finishing touch, the picture had to come off as it stuck to his hand. I told him no one would ever want him to write them if they could see the anguish he goes through. Maybe the Christmas letters you used to make me write saying thank you for crocheted chemises was good training!

I keep forgetting to tell you what a wonderful gadget that little sponge is with a green handle. We never would have gotten the Christmas cards licked and stamped without it. It puts on just the right amount of moisture. It wasn't until later that we discovered that you unscrew the plastic handle and fill it with water and it lets enough water through a little hole onto the sponge. Had we not been so hurried we might not have been so stupid.

And now to answer some of your letters which have been so wonderful during the Christmas and New Years holidays .

Am so glad that you enjoyed the Mary Petty book that ~~Missredxxxxxxx~~ of the New Yorker. I remember you often marked them in the copies you sent to me, and it is nice to have them in a book. Then the book by the Peter Rabbit lady. that Mildred read aloud. it looked very good but too bad she had such a sad life when she gave so much pleasure to children. I notice they still have the little books in the book store.

Have read " From the top of the stairs" which I enjoyed very much, it brought back a lot of things I remember, she must be about 10 years older than I am. Am now reading the one on religions about things I never knew. Pete is finding the book on Bali most interesting, He has a much better memory than I do, I catch on to things quicker and then forget them just as quickly, he surprises me in the things he remembers. Colin McPhee evidently tells about so many little things we saw too.

Cousin Harriet sent us a card and said she was sorry she didn't see me while in the east. Too bad that everything was wrong the day you went to see her before Christmas.

No we didn't have to pay duty on any of the things, the only package I could see that had been opened was the one of that big climbing book, its being so heavy may have made them wonder what it was.

Did you ever hear of such a price for a tailor made dress as that one Kitty saw at Filenes \$400. or more. Can't imagine who buys them. but gradually things will get back to normal.

It is getting near bedtime and I want to put stuff on my hair, Red Cross to-morrow. So will answer more of your letters next time. perhaps! I never know quite what each day will bring forth.

Loads of love,

Catharine .

Banff, Alberta.
Sat. Jan. 11th. 1947

Dearest Mother,

Am not doing very well on my correspondence for haven't written any letters since the last one to you and still have a few more to go to England. Also one to Jean, maybe I will get that written to-morrow. I waited for we have had such very nice letters from Dundee and wanted to answer them with the cards before sending them to Jean to read. Alec sent us the loveliest calendar of Scotch mountain scenery. We have had lots of nice cards and letters in answer to ours. Even Miss Annie Agge and Miss Cooke in Sandwich wrote. It makes one feel a little guilty to have so much of interest going on when they have so little.

We are still having mild weather, though it was supposed to get colder and snow to-day, maybe it will to-morrow. We went skiing for the first time yesterday and it felt good to get a bit of outdoor exercise. It is getting started that is hard. Once you go the first time it is easier the next, for one has so many things like mits and scarfs and hats etc to find. It was just right Friday afternoon, for we parked the car at the parking place for the toboggan slide, then with the skins on our skis walked up the trail about half way and made a new line down to avoid the slide. It was just enough for the first day. We were going part way to put up some signs to-day but there was a Ski club meeting which took longer than we expected so guess now we will have to wait until to-morrow morning.

There is a hockey game to see to-night. the Juveniles and Donny may be playing. it is against a Calgary team. Ira - can't think what I was going to write for I got up to baste the potatoes just then. Anyway it should be a mild evening and nice for the onlookers. Cliff was down for the meeting and said the skiing is just perfect up at Temple now.

Better have a look at some of your letters. I have only read one of John Buckans books, they are sort of adventure stories but based on people he knew or experiences he had or his friends had and the same characters go through many of them. They are well written I believe and fine characters a bit like Walpole perhaps only more exciting. Why not try some.

Mildred was delighted with the needlepoint by her letter, I imagine it looked very pretty when framed. By the way how did the frame come out on the picture I gave you? Hope it wasn't too bad when finished.

Sunday afternoon - Didn't finish this last night as Mom came early for supper and I had been writing while the roast was cooking. We went to the hockey game in the evening and it was extra fun for Banff won. It was boys Donny's age and a nice clean game and the teams were really well matched. They only have enough boys the right age to make one good lone so they had three or four older boys to help out and made the game more even. actually they didn't play as well as the younger lads. Calgary has a greater population and more to choose from being a city. It was a nice mild evening for sitting outside and we were home by ten.

That blizzard coming down from the north still hasn't showed up yet here, it tried to snow all morning but has stopped now. Was 20° above at breakfast and is 15° now. in Calgary it is six above, we might get it colder yet. This morning we took

up two signs for the Ski trail down from the Hot Springs and
Pete nailed them up, Then we had a run down the lower part of
the trail only. Now we have finished lunch and can 't make up
our minds whether or not to go out again. If this letter
stops abruptly it will mean we have gone skiing again!

Guess we are going somewhere.

Loads of love,

Catherine .

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. Jan. 14, 1947

Dearest Mother,

It was real cold yesterday with a fine snow, wind from the north and zero. This morning 20° below but clear and sparkling. We just had the coal bin filled up as Pete likes to keep it that way. Mrs Mac. is going east to make Mary a visit and so brought down some of her silver for us to keep for her. but she didn't stay long. I have been writing one difficult letter and thought before Pete came back for lunch I would type off a few lines to you. Wrote a number of notes yesterday and still have quite a few to do. maybe I can get them done this afternoon. for there is not much use doing anything else until they are out of the way.

A letter from you yesterday and I am so sorry the frame man made such a mess of it. I thought he had such good taste that we were safe in leaving it up to him but guess he got too arty with it. Wonder could he make one similar to the frame in the dining room on Pete's picture of Norway. I am sorry you had to do the ~~part~~ disagreeable part of telling him it wasn't right. Maybe he can use it for one of his own pictures.

This seems to be the season of the year that gets older people down, probably because they can't get out easily. Mom gets discouraged too with the cold and the snow and isn't nearly as cheerful in cold weather. Also in her house she gets the noise of the Government bleeder on the water main, and it makes a singing whistle in her pipes all the time. It is really a very annoying noise and if it gets on your mind you can't sleep or rest. They can't seem to do anything about it either, so we are going to see if her own pipes can't be wrapped so that the noise is muffled. I guess everyone has their troubles!

Just now I noticed a shadow and a deer looked in the window, much as that one did in the slide, only this one isn't really good looking enough to photograph as it has only one horn and a chewed ear.

About the Christmas cards that you don't know who sent them. Don't you think maybe they are some friends daughters who you sent nice wedding presents but of course can't remember their married name! I have never heard of either. Did you look at the post mark for that often helps.

To-morrow is the Rotary Club Bonspiel and Pete was asked to curl on Sven Hansons rink. seeing that he hasn't curled for several years and never did curl much he thought they were fooling, but it is serious and he has to play. just three games and all in one day. most likely he will be nice and stiff afterwards! Some of the Roatarians have never even curled before so that is why they don't want all the players to be good and even it up more.

The maccaroons you sent were hard but softened up *with water* and were awfully good. We have the goose and turkey carcass hung up, one at each window and the birds are on them most of the time, the big birds loosening the bits so that the little ones can get the meat off, two get on at a time now. Woodpeckers and chic-a-dees mostly.

Am glad you got the pictures hung at last in the guest room, for I know things undone worry you. I feel the same about a lot of things but try not to let it bother me, after all

many things are better done later for waiting, and here you have to expect interruptions.

About the money you gave me in Concord. I thought it was seven hundred, I know it was a lot. Trouble is that if you give any one person over a certain amount there is some sort of tax on the amount, but actually most of it was spent on presents, even to the "lovely frame" ! I can't see the difference in your paying my expenses while visiting you ~~or~~ in giving me the money to pay them myself. But guess they know best. Anyway it was a very nice present on your part.

I never told you that Pete thinks the needle point you made for us is too lovely to sit on. We are wondering if it would look well in a tray. Of course I might put it where people don't sit often. How did Ebbs like the chair? Nancy wrote me such a cunning little letter.

Yes we did hear Lionel Barrymore before Christmas, but it was several days before this year. Pete thought it sounded as if it would be his last one, he sounded so old.

The New Yorker hasn't started coming yet but we had the notice saying that you were sending it to us so it should be starting soon. They are often slow starting a subscription. So you might save the January copies you have until I let you now with what issue ours starts. Also Jasper Kerr is sending us "The Studio" and we ~~still~~ have the December and January copy, why not give yours to Mrs Sohler? I don't know for how many years it will come, might be for just one year.

Did I ever thank you for your wonderful letter all about Christmas, I think I must have.

Here comes Pete, having had a hair cut and now it is time to go shopping. Will write more in my next.

Loads of love to all.

Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.
Friday, Jan. 17, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

Don't know how much of a letter I will write for Johnny ----- Later, Well Johnny went about the time I got this far but then Arnold Walker and Ruth came in and Pete is just taking them home so I may not even finish this letter to-day. for it is three o'clock now.

We have been quite busy lately. Wednesday being a very full day with the Rotarians bonspiel. Pete had promised to curl on Sven Hansens rink and they played at 10.30, 1.30 and 4.30. the others playing at 9.12. and 2.10 rinks in all. That is 4 on each team and 8 teams playing each draw, making 64 players in all. It was more fun than you might think for some were old curlers who had never curled ~~before~~ for years and some had never even curled before, others do it quite a lot. It was a lot to do all at once and now all over town the various ones are comparing notes on how stiff they are. Some of the wives served lunch up in the ladies waiting room where they have a big stove and it was all very sociable. We came home for our lunch though Pete could have stayed, and then went over for the next game. They won two and lost one which was pretty good. In between times we seemed to have callers. for Geof Staples came down about four to see us about something and after supper Allen and Grace dropped in to see our new table,

The table was the highlight of the day. When we came back about three, there was a huge crate sitting at the back door and of course we thought it must be a mistake, and began wondering how we would ever move it to the house where it should have been delivered, Pete said we hadn't ordered anything and I didn't think you would send anything like that (for it looked like a table) without telling us first. Then when we got to the door we could see it was addressed to Pete and it was from Earl Spencer from Vancouver. The man who built the house. It really is the most wonderful present. a large slab of wood on top, about four feet by two, and at least 2 inches thick, all one piece and Pete is sure it is a burl off a tree, then there is a post of light white pine we think with diamond insets of dark cedar and four nicely shaped feet. The top is oblong in shape and really it is most unusual and we can just imagine the time and effort and thought that Earl must have put into it. Imagine his making that in his spare time for us!

That was really the reason Allen came over, to see the table for he knew Earl very well.

Later in the evening we had a call from John Prosser about the Indian cabin for he wants to live in it instead of having a room in Barbaras basement and could use her plumbing so we had a chat about that. Quite a day, even I was weary from having watched the curling even if I didn't work as Pete did.

Yesterday was nearly as busy, I tried to write Earl in the morning with numerous interruptions and then there was Red Cross in the afternoon and in the evening Mom came for salmon chowder and Davey came over to show us a book on electric trains, he is crazy to get one, a Lionel. They are studying in their class at school by taking a trip. It is kind of a race

First they go to Ottawa and the one who gets their spelling right first gets there first, or something like that, but later they fly from Montreal to Scotland, then London and finally to Switzerland, they will be in Switzerland until July, but all in one month at school. So we got out the books and folders on Switzerland and Davy is to take them to school next week.

He then asked Pete what church he went to and Pete said he really didn't go to church but if he did he would go to Tully Montgomery's church, (that is the English church) because he likes Tully. So then Davy said " I wondered if you would go to the Presbyterian Church with me ? " That had Pete stumped a bit, for Davy was very serious about it. It seems that he goes there to Sunday school and the new minister they all like and he is going to start a boys club and they are going to make the church the best in town. They haven't had very up and coming ministers lately and I think the attendance has fallen off so this man who was in the service was most likely sent to spruce things up.

To-day we have been busy. Got the letters to Earl written and mailed on the west bound train but coming home noticed an Indian, Paul Francis heading for our house. So we drove around a bit, and not long after coming back we were in the front room and heard a knock but didn't answer it. He really is a friend of the Luxtons and we try not to encourage him too much. So it was late when we finished lunch. Then Johnny came and Arnold and Ruth to tell us about their trip to Temple and then Cliff so we haven't done half what we intended to do to-day.

Must get this on the train to-night.

Loads of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. Jan. 19, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

This has been a quiet Sunday, we only went out to mail a letter this morning and no one has come in. We maybe should have gone skiing but the fire seemed rather nice to sit by and we didn't. I did get a couple of letters written and Pete got a few things done and we re-roasted the chicken which we partly cooked last night and then found Mom had cooked the one the Campbells had sent her for Christmas and wanted us to help her eat it. She had muffins made and vegetables half done so we just took ours out of the oven and put it in again this noon for about an hour, it was one of the best we have had so I guess it was a good thing to know. It was overcast all day and we were supposed to get a storm from the north but they all seem to go east and don't bother us.

Friday when we went down to mail my last letter to you. (I think that was what it was) The cow and calf moose were standing in the driveway by Moms. We went very slow and they went over to Mildreds. the calf right up to her dining room window then they went out her front gate and along towards the Macleods. Mildred came out to have a look and we stopped too, but the Martins were coming along in their truck going to the Mcleods (the house on the corner) and by then the Moose were brouseing on their best willow, which even has a wire around it to keep the deer away but the Moose just reached up over the top. We went on down to the station and when we came back the Martins were stuck in the deep snow and couldn't get out and as we were in the Jeep we tried to help. Mrs Martin said she had gone to shoo the Moose from eating the shrubs and it went after her and she had to run for the steps! It is the same one that didn't chase the girl. The reason we didn't interfere when the girl in red pants was taking pictures and kept going closer is that we were afraid of scaring them by calling or making a movement and it was better to make a noise from another direction. They were way over near Barbaras. and she went so carefully I guess it didn't scare the cow. Yesterday the calf was right by the back kitchen window and we had a wonderful look at it for it wasn't ten feet from us and brouseing on the spruce trees. We could see where its antlers will grow so it is a bull calf. After eating a bit of spruce it ate some dry leaves that had blown under the tree and where there is no snow. But because of its long legs it had to get down on its knees to eat them. It did look funny for its rear was sticking way up. We never knew they did that before.

Yesterday we seemed busy, cleaning in the morning and Pete polished and sanded, or visa versa, the table top of Earls table. Then we sent some blankets to Asta Hauge in Norway for we heard that the Germans took all their blankets and she couldn't buy any for the family over there. Hope they reach them all-right. In the evening we went to the best hockey game yet, for Banff beat Exshaw 5 -3. It was an even game all the way and fast. they have a few new players on the Banff team and that helps also they have had more practise lately and are getting pretty good. It snowed most all day and they nearly gave it up, but then it let up in the afternoon so they had it in the end. It was a

nice warm night, about 30 above and snowing gently.

We have been listening to various programs and I have been mending. so now I will go back and maybe add some more to tomorrow. I am reading the book about Bali, we like it so much and it is so true of Bali. but we too are wondering what happened to the wife. We got out all the books we have on Bali and find that the wife is mentioned in some footnotes having written various papers on Bali under the name Jane Belo. Pete thinks that she was a bit of an artist. but we think he probably wasn't an easy person to live with.

Haven't read this over.

Lots of love

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Jan. 20, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

And now to answer some of your letters and then I will mail this regular mail as I have an idea at this season Airmail is not too dependable. Am glad that you found out who the Pratts were, I had an idea it might be someone newly married. We had over 175 cards and some letters thanking us for the cards like the enclosed from the Agges and I still have several letters to write, one I have started twice already, then when I read over what is written I get disgusted and start again.

Peter must have missed up on thanking you for the Alpine calendar for he got it and was very pleased with it and we have it on the desk where we can really enjoy it. Mom loved hers too and I thought she had written but maybe not yet, too busy watching curling perhaps! She is just crazy about it and spent the whole day of the "otarians down there.

The lecture about T. Wharf sounded good, reminds me I must get the slides mounted, have several rolls to do of last fall. Nice about Miss Barrett's dress, and we are glad you are enjoying the pocketful of Canada. We enjoy all the letters you enclose, we also had cards from Zella, the Watkins and Sergeant Newbury, but not from Olive Adams or George Watkins.

What a lot of icy weather you have had, that is one thing we seldom have here, in fact never have had an ice storm on the trees.

What happened to Isabel Shaw? is she alright and did she get over the operation.

Have the two parcels of books for Pete's birthday and one that we had to pay duty on, a ten dollar book and the duty and tax was \$1.88, maybe they opened it as we have had so many books coming! I sent the money and so it should come from Calgary any day.

Your cook has a bottle of Almond flavoring that we borrowed from Kitty for your birthday cake, I forgot to return it so perhaps you could get her another bottle or just never mind.

By the way have you Louise and Allen Newbury's address? and also Olive Buttricks? ~~new one?~~

Haven't read Growing Pains yet, as Cis has it, but will soon and will send you Klee Wyck sometime soon?

That must have been scary having the squirrel run over your head, I think I would have screamed.

That was a nice party Ebbs and Anne gave, and sounded rather simple though there must have been an awful lot of glasses to wash!

The book on religion is the one written by the friend of Cousin Janes, Fitch I think is her name.

Am glad you got the tray for Christmas, I guess you remember hinting as we went out of the bookshop, but then when I told Kitty she went down and was sure one they had made of wicker with sort of side pockets for books was much better for breakfast. So I am glad that she got the silver light one in the end.

The bubble game you spoke of they had here a few years ago and the children always love it, but they didn't blow, they used to run holding the thing out and it left a string of bubbles behind, or you can swing your arm across with the same effect. I should imagine the blowing would make less of a mess.

That whirly thing that goes down stairs that Mildred wanted
came from Mrs Pratts store in Concord. they were a dollar.

We just had a buck deer come to the back door &
2 of the prettiest little deer - must be twins for they
look identical. If only the sun had been out but
of course it is dull today.

Loads of love

Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs, Jan. 23, 1947

Dearest Mother,

Am having my first head cold in about two years. can't remember the last one, so haven't gone out to-day or to the Red Cross, it would only give it to the rest. It is very mild, 40 yesterday and to-day, it is taking most of the snow but I know is helping on the praries. Most likely it is our January thaw and we will be getting colder weather, and I hope more snow to make it look nicer.

Pete had a nice birthday yesterday and loved all the books you sent. I gave him a Parker 51 pen with a broad point that rights easily and doesn't blot for you use a special ink made for it, and perhaps it will write so easily that he won't find it so hard doing letters! Mom arrived as we were eating breakfast with a wonderful cake she had just made as she was off to the hair-dressers and then the lady's bonspiel. She had played again the evening before for a lady who was ill and was so provoked as she lost them the game on the last rock and they were three ahead. I think she does well for she really hasn't curled but the odd time during the last few years. but of course she doesn't do the sweeping which is hard. but the rocks are pretty heavy. Pete went up to see how the man was getting on with the trail and then Sam and Cis game in last evening. helped eat some cake while it was still fresh. Sam won a pair of rocks worth 60 dollars on a lucky ticket last week.

They stayed quite late with one thing or another to talk about and then we were late getting up this morning. Had just finished dishes etc and Pete was getting the car out to go up the trail when Mr and Mrs Walter Phillips came in. they stayed until nearly one, we didn't ask them for lunch not having very much on hand and I being stuffed up too. Mr Phillips is the water colorist and does wood blocks too. Wants us to send some pictures to the spring exhibition in Montreal with the Calgary group. They have had one of their children's family staying with them for three months and I guess it was quite a strain for they have only just left to go into a new house, and the Philips are up here for a couple of days rest. Were going to Sunshine but Fern is in Jamaica with the Moores.

Pete hopes to have the trail finished by to-morrow. He has to go up and see how the man chopping out a few trees to widen one section is getting on. They left it up to Pete and he figured that if they were good enough to send a man to do the work he might as well do his share. Mr Wakelyn told him that he thought they should pay Pete on the Gov't pay roll after all the work he has done!

Don't you worry about making mistakes in any letters to us we can always figure out what you mean't to say if you leave out a word. I know + do the same writing on this.

Too bad that Cousin Alma has to have an operation on her gall bladder. Pearl had hers out several years ago and quite a few have here and they all feel better afterwards though they find some foods don't agree with them. I would think one thing at a time would be enough but maybe that is the new way. Do you notice in the papers now that the new way is to get people right up a day or two after an operation, that they recover quicker?

By the way, remember that Cousin Harriet and Miss Agge most likely spend a whole morning on one little letter to you

and don't have a great big house and place to run or all the numerous people you have to think of. I think your letters are fine, of course if you wrote the way Grandpa did and no one could read your writing they would never notice the mistakes. that is another way of getting around it.

Speaking of old people not going out . a Mrs Alexander died here the other day of a stroke at 75 and Pete said the last time he remembers her being out was when he hurt his knee so badly as a little boy and she used to make him fudge. and Cis said she doesn't think she has been out for the last 25 years ! Why I don't know. Mom doesn't usually go to the coast until March when it is spring out there and still might be winter here.

What a lot of callers you had that Sunday. funny you should mention that English tea cake, for only last night I was telling Cis about it and saying I must ask you for the recipe. Could you send it ?

Guess I will call this a letter and at last send you the pictures. They aren't too good but I know you won't mind.

Loads of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Mon. Jan. 27, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

Haven't written for a couple of days, but my head cold is going fast, just a bit more left to blow. Guess I wrote last Thursday when I didn't go to the Red Cross but stayed in. Pete went up and helped the man finish the work they were doing on the lower part of the trail and it was just as well he did for it was all done by night and the next afternoon we had a sudden snow storm which would make it just right, we have not been up since.

Friday we had a terrific wind from the west and then it snowed hard for a short time, like a bad blizzard but made it fine for the races over the weekend. There were some University Ski races held here. the first they have had. British Columbia won. Montana State 2nd, and Alberta 3rd. ^{Manitoba 4th} We didn't go up but went down to see the trains of skiers come in on Sunday thinking it would be fun to see the crowds. The Calgary train had arrived at ten and so we were too late for that and the Edmonton train, with special sleepers, had gotten stuck at Canmore by a broken rail on the track and so the busses all went down and took them right from there up to Norquay, so they weren't really much later getting up than they would have been in any case. We saw all the buses and couldn't imagine where they were coming from loaded with people. They had the biggest crowds yet up there. But knowing how icy the road is and how poor some of the drivers it wasn't much temptation to go up. We prefer our skiing on Sulphur Mountain!

A nice letter from you this morning. What icy streets you have had. but I am glad it doesn't keep you from getting out and that you get the odd game of bridge. How is Mrs Motte? you haven't mentioned her for ages. What nice letters from the Ballous. I never met Sylvia Short (I should have said Short not Ballou) but she sounds a very nice sort and its interesting that she loves the theater and acting so. The card from the Sanborns is clever. Cousin Alma will have had her operation. I am relieved she isn't to have her leg done at the same time for I would think it would be too much for one body to deal with at one time if you know what I mean and might make her sicker.

Met Mrs Simpson over town and she said that Jim had gotten a letter from Rusty and was so pleased with it. You know Big Jim took a great shine to Rusty and they got along very well together.

The next five weekends are sort of Carnival week-ends and we are trying to keep out of it all, for it does take so much of ones time. now that all the lads are back home from overseas there are more people to help run things and as they never run them the way we think they should it is always annoying to find your name as one of the judges or something when you have no say beforehand, and they don't always ask. This year there is a new committee so we hope it will be better.

This isn't much of a letter but will be writing again soon and as Pete is going out he can mail it if I stop now. Loads of love to all.

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. Jan. 30, 1947

Dearest Mother,

We are having a bit of real winter now. Yesterday was frosty and cold all day. below zero most of the time and then this morning it had dropped to -22° or -25° below (the thermometer on one side of the house said one, on the back the other) and now a strong wind from the north has sprung up and is drifting the two or three inches of new snow that has fallen in the last couple of days and it does look cold out. This is when one is glad of the heating system for as it drops more heat comes on and the house has stayed the same. It is good weather to stay indoors. I have been mounting slides the last few afternoons and Pete has been working on some snow pictures. I hope to start next week but there always seems to be something come up. Actually the light has only just begun to get good enough for long enough to really work and I have gotten most of the letters answered and such like.

What awful weather they are having in Europe. the coldest in England in 54 years and a week already of snow around London. Really one does feel so selfish being warm and having food enough when they have had so little for over seven years now. I must send some more parcels. Sent a pair of blankets to Asta ^{in Norway} as we heard the Germans had taken all theirs at her fathers house. They did them up at the store for me which was easy, but after mailing them I got a little note in the box saying that they were just too big a parcel, so had to go up and get it and bring it down and make two parcels of it. Have sent one and the other is all ready but the tying up. I sure wish I had Jean here.

Wonder if you will get this cold wave, expect you will, for we had it 54° in Banff before this, and it too felt like spring. In the paper last night it said that Robins and blue birds had been seen at Turner Valley but the old timers were skeptical about it really being spring and they were right. It was -76° below zero in the Yukon yesterday morning. within two degrees of the all time low for Canada.

How nice that you got up to see Dolly with Mrs Cabot. Did the husband get a job all right? for remember Mrs Cabot told us how he wouldn't let her live up in Maine or Vermont or where ever it was he liked his work. It was a lumber town I think.

You are right it isn't often the Moose come into town but just the deer. They really don't go very near people and only are on the outskirts of town. the river being frozen over they come across here. But they don't bother people as a rule.

Wonder if Cousin Jane will be with you now. a nice time for her to come for you don't get out as much as this season. By the way I notice in the Journal that the Valentines are to open a travel bureau. rather nice and convenient. Next time Jean goes to Scotland she will be able to do it all right in Concord!

Shall be anxious to hear how Cousin Alma is getting on. and do hope everything goes well.

You may have gotten mixed but I have Ann Buchans book "Unforgettable, unforgotten" Got it in Calgary before I went east. and did enjoy it.

Miss Agge's letters are really wonderful aren't they? Speaking of the snow piled on the streets in Boston. On the radio last night at North Bay Ontario, they had carefully

removed the snow out to the country, that is the excess snow from the city streets and then along came a mild spell and all the snow went in North Bay. but they were to have some sort of winter sports affair and had to then bring all the snow back in from the country to make enough on the streets for the various events. Did you ever?

Yes . I have read a number of Elizabeth Goudges books but don't care for them an awful lot. As a matter of fact I don't read many stories. prefer travel or biographys or war books. You know fo'oreign affair kinds.

Thanks for finding out about the New Yorker. will let you know when it starts coming.

Wasn't that awful about Miss Price ? Such terrible things happen to people , perhaps it is the aftermath of war. or maybe we just hear more about them now that there isn't so much war news in the papers.

I do hope that Polly Kussin gets her new shop it would be a great addition to Concord and who deserves it more being a real Concordian ! Sorry to hear she has been in hospital.

The table we have by the stairs wight now. think it will be handy to put the tea tray on and it looks quitewell there, and there didn't seem any other place. Our rooms are all full *except on bedroom.*

Quite a day taking Gale into Boston but fun for you to have her company. That was an unusually nice letter from Eleanor Short and it is awfully nice when people really appreciate things so much.

Must be going over now but think I have answered most of your letters.

Loads of love to you all

Catherine .

Banff, Alberta.
Sunday Feb. 2, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

We are so busy with the weather that I haven't written you for a couple of days. Think it may have been Thursday when I last wrote. Wednesday was really cold, about 19° below and a strong east wind that made it felt. Thursday was 30° or 35° below in the morning and a fine snow falling, but in a way it didn't feel quite as cold without the strong wind. The 'ord turned right over first time we tried to start. (Not literally but the ignition or starter turned over first try) I went to the Red Cross that afternoon and though we only have electric heaters it felt very warm and we did pretty well.

Friday morning it was 42° below zero with us and some said 44° , but in a place called Snag Harbor in the Yukon north of Whitehorse it was 78.7° below, a new record for north America. It is an airfield I think. It was so cold that when people walked it left a vapor trail behind them, as the planes do. Wonder did I write you this? Seems as if I did. Anyway it was awfully cold and then this morning on the radio it said that it had been over 80° below up there this morning. 80° was the official temperature for the thermometer wouldn't register any lower though it had gone below that reading. It was so cold you could hear a man speaking three miles away. Sound seems to travel further in intense cold.

Friday with us was a beautiful day. We had to go out about several things (too much to go into here but it meant a trip up to the boys in the camp at Tunnel Mt. the bungalow camp, both before and after lunch and several trips over town) the car started easily though there is no heat in the garage, but the grease was so congealed that we had to wait quite a while for it to loosen up enough to steer or even make the wheels go round it seemed. Every chimney in town was smoking and it was awfully pretty with a queer frosty light. The sun felt nice and warmed it up during the day to 20° below but it dropped down to 30° below by supper time. However in the night it warmed up with a west wind and so yesterday was even 12° above I think.

The ladies bonspiel was on and they looked pretty cold walking over to the rink all bundled up and carrying their brooms. Mom was off by ten as she had food to take over. Now that I think of it that must have been the reason she had a taxi come for her, for she isn't kept at home by cold. ^{is} ^{was} in Calgary to see a fashion show of English maniquins (?) wearing English clothes, and she said it was so cold there that the men had either ear muffs or scarfs tied over their hats and to protect their ears, for they had a wind there. She said lots of people held their hands up to their foreheads for that was where they felt the cold most. The street cars had an awful time and the passengers waiting on the corners even worse.

To-day it was about 12° below and snowing lightly, had been snowing about four inches in the night. We decided to see if the ski train was coming thinking we might get some nice color in the snow. By the time we went out it had dropped more and a really heavy snow fell, and we must have had about a foot of snow fall this morning and it was soon 20° below. We usually don't expect snow when it is so cold. It is awfully pretty out and we kept watching a lovely deer and the birds for they were so hungry. We had the moose walk down the road

but not a car went by that we saw! Pete started the Jeep and we went around some of the streets in that to warm it up a bit, but the wind shield frosted up so we could hardly see enough. Some of the trees are laden with snow and so pretty but there was a bit of wind taking some snow off and I am afraid it won't stay nice for to-morrow. It was very dark all day and no light for pictures, but cleared by evening. They are having an awfull time east of us, one of the worst winters of all. The cattle have the worst time and have to be fed hay. but it is hard to reach them.

Paul Francis, the Indian came yesterday again. He had some bead work to sell, His blind boy died a few weeeeks ago and they were selling a belt and gloves, and also a birch bark basket. They were nice things and though we didn't really want more we bought them. Poor Paul he saves his money to makê the jouney in summer up to Lac-St-Anne north west of Edmonton hoping to cure some member of the family for he is very religious and there is a shrine up there for sick people. He said it was very cold in Morely, colder than here and lots of snow. It is hard on the Indians and they will lose a lot of horses and cattle

Edmêe was down for a while too in the afternoon and I have been trying to do up a few parcels. finally got them finished to-day and the forms made out etc. Just hope the biggest one isn't too heavy or I will have to do it again.

This isn't much of a letter but we seem to have been thinking only of winter. It is really pretty out now.

They postponed the first carnival weekend which was lucky. It was to have been yesterday and to-day. I will send the program of what it was to have been for it will take place this coming Saturday.

I forgot to say they cancelled the ski train from Calgary yesterday & the regular trains from the east were 8-10 hours late. They had cold. snow & a 60 mile an hour wind in Regina. The street cars couldn't run the tracks filling in so fast. & finally even the taxis gave up. Imagine trying to run trains. They said they were trying to keep the main line open but all freight were stopped on sidings.

Monday. The sun is out but not very bright. it was 20° below last night but about 3° or 4° below this morning. It was the most beautiful moon light night last night.

Loads of love

Catharine

P.S. On the coldest day we saw Jimmy Lemjooon taking the dog for a walk. He wore an ordinary sweater open at the neck. no gloves & his big hat.

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. Feb. 6, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

Our weather is settling down a bit and to-day is a perfect morning, clear and frosty, about 12° above. It was really warm yesterday as we had a chinook and it was over 40°. In Calgary they joked about it for it was warmer than in Florida, where they are having a cold spell. The snow settled a lot and Pete had to clean the ice out of the gutters or valleys in the roof. Once we get the upstairs ceilings insulated we won't have as much trouble. But most houses here have difficulties. The heat from the house melts the snow next the roof and it runs down the roof but when it hits the cold eave it freezes and ice forms thicker and thicker until it backs up and the ~~snow~~ melting and running down can't get by the ice and backs up under the shingles. and on some houses you see it running down the wall of the house and quite often it will leak inside the house. Our eaves being wide with a good overhang it takes longer to back up, but it does eventually. The Studio roof that is insulated doesn't cause us the same trouble. Sometime then materials aren't so scarce we intend to have it done but not now. *If we remove the snow after each storm there is no trouble.*

In Saskatchewan they are having their troubles still, I think I told you it is the worst snow and cold conditions the Railways have ever had to contend with. On a branch line south of Regina they have one drift on the railway over half a mile long and 18 feet deep. Under it is buried 3 or 4 locomotives, 2 snow plows and a work train! They think they will have to wait until spring to get them out!

The papers came for sending paintings to Montreal but don't think I will send as I have nothing big enough, there being a minimum size. Pete has several large ones but wants to improve the foreground of one, Was figuring what to do when Herb Paris dropped down Monday night (We were just going upstairs to bed about nine for a read, lucky we hadn't gone) and it seems the Legion is to have a float in the Carnival Parade. the subject a "House for a Vet". They want a man in Uniform sitting dreaming of the house he will build and then another man building the house at the other end of the truck. They want the dream house painted.

Their first idea was to have it on either side of a big board in the centre of the truck, but Pete explained that it would be very difficult to do that on one piece of veneer. so then he was to do two pictures alike. However when he went to get the veneer the next morning there was only one piece there, the other someone had cut in two, so now he has just the one picture and it will sit back to the cab of the truck. Pete sized the board and then painted it yesterday afternoon. A lovely blue sky and a little house with a red roof sitting up on a pile of clouds to mean a dream. As he said, he couldn't very well let the boys down and not do it, but it mean't putting aside the painting for Montreal! The pictures have to be in by March 1st^a and February is a short month. but

he may get on with it now the Legion one is done. I have been trying to work on my sketches but not too successfully. However will get a few drawn in and then have some to work on. The light is really just getting good now.

We went to a really good hockey game Tuesday night. Intended to just make an appearance and come home after the first period but it started late and then of course we stayed until the end and it was nearly eleven when we got home. It was the senior team. The intermediates and they really played well and beat the Calgary team 3-2. It was close and exciting. I suppose after driving up from Calgary after work and going right on the ice isn't too easy for the Calgary boys. It is a long drive in this weather, though it was warm that night. A strong west wind. We stood for a while in front of the ladies dressing room with our backs to the building and then it was so hard looking through the wire we moved up to the bleachers. We hadn't been up there five minutes when Jimmy Raby fired a shot at the goal and it went over the fence and through the window next to where I had been standing a short time before. It would have gone over my right shoulder! There was a good crowd and we all enjoyed it. Allen has some new lights that are quite wonderful. flood lights on high poles. Before they had the lights strung across the rink and after a snow the globes on the shades would drop on the ice if it was at all windy, also they were hard on the eyes.

We had a nice letter from Rusty, he writes very well and this one was a wonder and right to the point. Also a nice letter from Miss Evelyn Morrison about Lady Byng's book. I wonder if they wouldn't like Emily Carr's books? Ask them for they both know and like Victoria so much.

Better send this along.

Loads of love to all

Catherine

P.S. Many thanks for the recipes + Olive's address too.

Banff, Alberta.
Sat. Feb. 8, 1947.

Dearest Mother

Just a hurried note as this is the first day of the Carnival and there isn't much time to write, also the main line of the C.P.R. is plugged with snow near Medicine Hat or Regina & the trans continental trains are held up. so will send this Air mail. They are having their 3rd blizzard in a week in Saskatchewan & its getting serious with food & coal shortages in many places. Up in Dawson in the Yukon they had an average of -60° below zero for 15 days steady and they couldn't run the tractors to get more wood in. Were burning fences, wood sheds & furniture. In Inuvik where it was -81° when they poured water out of a cup it froze ^{before hitting the ground} & ^{scattered} on the ground in little balls when dropped out. Must be awful cold. Yesterday & today have been perfect here. About -20° below each morning but warm in the sun & so clear & sparkling & not a breath of wind. Perfect for the Carnival opening. The Queen couldn't get here due to planes being grounded out of Winnipeg but they had the Parade and it was a really good one.

The Calgary Highlanders band + Cadets + Soldiers
on skis etc. The sem and all helped too +
there were lots of people in town.

Next week is the Annual Curling Bonspiel +
they have 40 outside rinks entered + fair to
a rub. Some from the States even. They have
so many entered they will have to curl all
night until 6.30 in the morning. Did you ever?

Francis James is going through on the
train, we just got a wire so will go down
+ mail this too.

Lots of love

Catharine .

Banff, Alberta.
Mon. Feb. 10, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

We are still having lovely weather, though to-day for the first time since Wednesday there was a cloud in the sky and it warmed up to 32° above. It has been -20° below or -12° below each morning and still cold all day but the sun is getting so much warmer and the days are lengthening out. It is light now until after five.

The first Carnival weekend was a great success, the weather perfect. About -20° below each morning and then warming up later in the sun. not a cloud and so very blue, both the sky and the shadows which reflect the blue of the sky. Because of the delays in the trains east the Carnival queen couldn't get here ~~unt~~ to open the carnival, so a girl took her place, but she arrived in the early afternoon, having been flown up from Calgary. Some of the trains westbound were snowbound in Regina for 60 hours. that is nearly three days. They had heat but part of the time no light on the trains but plenty of food. No one dared leave the station in case the trains were freed and I guess there wasn't really any inducement to go. but just imagine the impatience of the passengers.

They had the Carnival parade in the morning. The Calgary Highlanders pipers had come up and some cadets and then there was the I.O.D.E. women dressed up as a band and quite funny. The cubs and a float of the skaters and the Mounteen club. The teen age high school students. and bringing up the rear the Legion float. I don't know if the people got the real idea for the man who was supposed to be the soldier sitting dreaming of the house he would build after the war, wasn't too successful in the part. maybe because Bill Ridgeway (who works in the hardware in the store, used to be in the R.C.A.F. in Ucluelet near Tofino) was so good in his part. He was supposed to be building the house. and they had a rough frame and roof up and an old W.C. bowl inside and Bill was working away the whole time hammering bits on and sawing bits off. he never stopped a minute and was really funny. After the parade had gone up from the station, through town and up to the hospital and back. they had the opening of the carnival by a throne built at one end of the bridge out of ice cakes. There was a good crowd and such a lovely day.

In the afternoon there was the queens luncheon which was rather late because the queen was so late arriving and in the meantime there was the boys ski jumping. Pete was working on the foreground of his painting and got hold of Carl Oakander to take his place. they were down to the house as we were trying to eat lunch before the parade at 12.30. Seems to me we bolted each meal. We ate lunch in about ten minutes. Cliff was down and I had quite a chat with him and then saw a bit of the jumping. Carl Oakander drove me down when he and Cyril finished judging and a man stopped us, wanting a push as his car was stuck, It was rather amusing for we had to push him right to the garage on the main street. We had offered to take Carl and his wife up to the Hot Springs for the run down, but, Laura was at the banquet and it all got a bit complicated.

I was to go home and tell Pete what had been decided when we saw him in the car drive by, followed and found he was going for an important telegram. It was from Frances Ames that she was going through on the east bound train, so we called the ski run off. Didn't see the broom ball game between the Kinsmen and Rotarians. They said it was quite funny, played on snowshoes on the main st.

We had asked Mom down for steak as she had missed last weekend and we haven't had her for a meal for ages. However the train was late and later, so it was after six when it came in. We saw Frances alright. She had gone to the coast to give a concert for the students at the University of British Columbia. It was the first of a series the students were running. Then the Lords Day Alliance stepped in and they ~~never~~ never held the concert. They even gave up the series. There evidently was great writings of letters to the papers and even the Calgary Herald had an editorial about it. Makes you mad to think a small group like the Lords Day Alliance who got some act passed long ago can prevent concerts on Sundays. Because of it they can't run excursion trains to the mountains, ^{on Sundays} have to call them something else.

Well as soon as the train pulled out we dashed back and Mom came down to supper and then at 7 o'clock there was a parade to what they call the ice palace on the frozen river below the bridge. It is made by running hoses and letting the water freeze as it falls and it is gradually built up. We didn't see the parade. It was the Highlanders I guess followed by people, but we saw the fireworks and the crowd, which was large for Banff. Then we came home until it was time to go to the Hockey game. It was a good one. Banff beating High River in an exhibition game 5 - 2 I think it was. The Banff team is so much better than usual that it makes it fun to go. I think it is the fine goalye they have that makes most of the difference. The trouble here is that as soon as a few players are good enough they are offered jobs in towns like Trail or Lethbridge where they play on the better teams and of course Banff hasn't much of a population to draw from.

Sunday we went down to the station and saw the train come in. We had really started out to take photographs but noticed the many busses lined up so waited to see how many came. It was such a perfect day. nearly 500 came on the special train, most of them running for busses up to Morquay, but quite a few with skates and just walking towards town. They had a tremendous crowd up the hill and the town was full of people too. All day they seemed to be taking each others pictures in front of the ice throne or ice palace and some skated on the rink and others went to the tobogan slide. We drove up to Castle mountain it was so lovely out and we hadn't been west that far since fall. *Lots drive up from Calgary by car.*

Yesterday was quite a day. Went over town thinking there might be mail. Did I write that some trains were 3 days late. yes I did. and they have found another drift in Saskatchewan. nearly a mile long and 25 feet deep. Imagine trying to clear that!

Then we were all set to paint in the afternoon. as we were eating lunch Eileen Harmon came to ask if there would be any space in the store her brother could have next summer, and

she stayed and talked skiing and pictures for nearly an hour, until 1.30. Then we got started. Pete works upstairs and I work down. Have the windows curtained in such a way any one peeking in can't see me. We expected Ken Bunn to bring the Jeep back as he had it fixing a double glass on the windshield. So when there was a knock on the door Pete went and it was Ken Ford. the Gov't surveyor, He wondered if we had any photos of the trip we took in the Jeep over Citadel pass last summer. So I looked out the Kodachromes and other pictures we had of the district and we had a long talk and it was after three when he left, so we gave up trying to paint yesterday, maybe we will have better luck to-day.

Went over to see how Sam was getting on dividing the apartments and got supper etc. Then when we were already to eat, Dave Prosser came in about something, so we decided it was our day at home with three callers. Last evening about 8.30 we went over to the curling rink to see how the Bonspiel was going, there were four serious games on and we watched until nine. Did I tell you that 40 outside rinks are entered and 18 local ones, and they curl all day and night except from 6.30 to 8 A.M. when I expect they fix up the ice. Imagine starting a game at 2 A.M. or 4 A.M.? It hardly seems as if it would be much fun.

This is quite a letter so will write no more to-day. The game came yesterday and I am sure the children will love it. It was valued at \$5.00, someone having filled out the form for you, but there was no duty.

Couldn't get any hair nets.

Lots of love and to Cousin Jane too, I am glad she is with you at this time.

More love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. Feb. 13, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

> Now that the trains are coming through we are
getting lots of nice letters from you. Had a busy day yesterday.
On the 8 o'clock news we heard that Jim Brewster had died very
suddenly in the night. I don't think you ever met him, he is
one of Pearl Moores brothers and probably has done more than
any one in Banff for the tourist business, was one of the first
to take parties out on pack trips and founded the Brewster
Transport Company etc. Entertained all the noted visitors from
way back, even the King and Queen and was very strong politically
as well as a great friend to many in Banff. was always very
generous in support of things in Banff, and he will be greatly
missed. We felt we should do something knowing them all so well
but not knowing how ~~he~~ he had died didn't like to go right over to
the house, went up by Edmée's but could see their bedroom shades
still down. It was evidently a cerebral hemorrhage about 11 or 12
Tuesday night, for the doctors were all called from the Bonspiel.

X Mrs Simpson came over after lunch to ask Pete if
he would open the Skating show Saturday, for Jim Brewster had
always done it and they seemed to think Pete would do it all-
right. Not very easy to do under the circumstances but at least
it is at the start of the show and we can enjoy the performance
once the speech is over. I never have heard Pete make one so hope
for the best. as he always says " We seem to get all the good
jobs ! " We were both trying to paint and did a bit in the
morning luckily for we had been up early, but with Mrs Simpson's
call and then the day being dull we didn't do so well later.
About 3.30 Edmée came over (Pete had already gone over to the
Brewsters to see if there was anything he could do) and she had
had quite a time. Had been to Calgary all day Tuesday to get
their car and drove one back while Charlie drove the other. They
were late getting home and to bed and then Charlie went to curl
at 2 in the morning, being in the Bonspiel. He hadn't been gone
long when they were told of Jim's death and she went right down
to the house and was there with Dell (the wife) and family
until 6 o'clock. then back again at ten until she came over here.
so she was all in as times like that are difficult and Dell went
to pieces and is a bit of the narcotic type anyway. Fern the
daughter is on her way back from Jamaica and was staying with a
friend in Toronto and luckily the friend is coming west with her
for Fern is going to feel terribly she was so close to her father.
They don't know when she will get here and hadn't heard ~~any~~ from
the Moores. Don't know if they will try to come back now or not.
We went home with Edmée for a while, I think she misses her
family at a time like this and we felt quite complimented that
she came to us as being sort of familylike to her.

Had a late supper as it was a slice of ham to bake
and then about nine, Norah Cornwall of Victoria came to see us.

She was here summer before last at the summer school and she and her family were awfully nice to me when in Victoria. She is a nurse and was in the navy for a long time, also a hostess on a plane for a while before the war. Her sister has just gone to China to join her husband over there. Her father is the Col. Cornwall mentioned in that book on the west that I left for you to look at or read in Concord. We had a nice visit with her.

This morning is very mild, 40° out now, rather hard on the curlers. *as the ice melts when so warm out.*

What a good picture that was of Mildred in the Portland paper.

Have you been to the exhibition of Mr Jewell's Water colors at the Guild? I notice in the folder that there are several of Concord. We don't know him or his work but the one on the cover looks rather nice.

Wouldn't Mrs Miller let you borrow one or two of the embroideries to copy the designs off. How nice that you went to that particular Tuesday club.

I will try to get you "Unforgettable, Unforgotten" have Klee Wyck ordered but it hasn't come yet.

Am so glad that Cousin Alma got along so well and is at Frances by now I guess. It was a good time of year to have it done.

Am glad they liked your afgans so much and the other work at the Kings Daughters. Rather nice if you can keep Miss Chatarina busy too. You might put an add in the Journal for bits of wool to be cut up and then if you don't want to make the puffs, couldn't you conveniently let the moths get in it or maybe someone else would make them up for you.

That photograph was of our dining room table cleared for the picture! We try to keep it less cluttered and do better than we used to, the desk gets the odds and ends now. The picture over it is different from the one over the fireplace, more amusing and sketchy. The partition by the front door in the Christmas tree one, is just about 3 feet wide. It was a section left from the old winter partition before we put the new ceiling in the front room, and we left it up for the present as it sort of makes the fireplace end more cozy.

Am enjoying the book about Ireland so much. read a bit everyday, you know where. the chapters are so short. Also am reading Ellery Sedgewicks book and it is fine.

Saw in the journal that Alice Chittenden Smith had died. How very sad when she was so young. I wonder is she the red headed one or the other. I never could get the Smith brothers straightened out properly. It spoke of a long illness. I think she must be the red haired one.

Got mixed about the Kussins for I somehow think of Polly writing the little booklet. Did they get the permit to build yet I wonder?

Must stop now and get to work.

Loads of love to you all

Catherine .

Banff, Alberta.
Fri. Feb. 14, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

Valentines day and such a pretty one from you. Did you get the card from Pete? or didn't you read the sentiment on the back.

Our weather seems to have gone on the blink and yesterday was so mild they had to give up the Bonspiel for the ice all went to pieces and it was impossible to curl, to-day is worse and it is raining. About the first real rain since fall. For it is seldom that it rains in Banff in the winter. The snow is going fast and very slushy, seems too bad when it was so nice and tomorrow is the Skating frolic or whatever they call it. We are wondering if they will be able to have it. They can't skate to-day and the Hockey game the boys were to play to-night is also off. It has stayed about 36° or 38° all day. Jim Brewster's funeral won't be until Monday which is just as well for otherwise it would be hard for people to be interested in winter sports over the weekend, but with this weather there won't be any anyway.

Went to Red Cross yesterday, we are still making little boys sort of short overalls out of gray flannel and they are very easy. I made three yesterday but four the last time going earlier and staying later. Maybe I should give up the Red Cross but it won't keep up much longer anyway so might as well go till the end.

Pete has been working on his picture to go to Montreal, but it has been a week full of interruptions and he and Charlie Reid sort of got together on the funeral. Fern is not back yet, doesn't arrive until Saturday morning and the rest of the family seemed undecided about when the funeral should be. Charlie realized a definite date should be set because of flowers and people coming from a distance and the weekend activities and so went to the brothers and told them they should have it Monday in case the train was late Saturday and in any case hard for Fern to have the funeral right when she got home, and Monday they will close the stores and schools in the afternoon. Jim himself was so much the head of the family that I think they have a hard time making decisions. *with him gone + Pearl not home either.*

I have been trying to paint but not very successfully and to-day was so dark because of the rain. Also had to reply to a letter from one of the Art school teachers coming this summer. the wife wants to bring her four children and wondered if we would rent our house or know of a place, and so it goes.

Jean writes that you have started a new bit of needlepoint, what will it be like? and by the letters it sounds as if you and Cousin Jane were being quite gay. Well it is nice that you can play bridge and have your friends in etc. Wonder if you got the cold we had. expect you may have gotten the tail end of it. This mild weather will help them on the praries.

Too bad about George, but lucky that Cousin Jane is there to run you round. Hope Cousin Alma is feeling better,

I think it takes sometime to get on~~o~~ ones feet again and you have to be careful what you eat and can take no~~y~~ Alcohol which she won't miss ! Pearl had hers out some time ago and Jim Brewster his. It is a serious operation.

Got a pen for Pete for his birthday, a "Parker 51" it is called and you get special ink for it, it really works so easily and the ink won't blot, sort of dries as you write but you can't use it in other pens. I got the broad point and I think you would find it very good, for it writes without any effort, at least I think it does but it still takes a lot of effort on Pete's part ! They showed me one with a fine point too but it worked with too much pressure. When you fill it you follow directions, doing it ten times before the final fill. I would say it holds a lot of ink but then maybe Pete hasn't written three pages since he got it!

I was surprised to hear how old Mr Sawyer seemed, but then it must be over ten years since I have seen him. Is Mrs Sawyer still alive, she~~s~~ was always such a lovely sort of person.

We are going to Mom's for supper, now the curling is over she is not as busy !

Loads of love and to Cousin Jane too.

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Feb. 17, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

Just got your letter about the 24 hour flu and am so sorry that you had to have it when you were feeling so fine, but perhaps one gets over it pretty quickly too. What a strange thing it must be and for you to sleep so afterwards. Lots of people here have had what they call stomach flu but it isn't really like that. Jackie thought he had it before Christmas for he was quite sick and had a temperature but in the end it turned out he had measles, but they never let on for it was over before he really knew he had it. There had been a lot in Calgary anyway. I think our moose has perhaps had stomach flu too! This morning when Pete went to get the milk and opened the door, he called "Come look what is on our doorstep" It was covered with the Moose droppings, a bit larger than deers or elks and scattered all over the back flag stones showing the Moose had been right by the back door. Pete doesn't want me to sweep them away they are too interesting! We had three ladies to call on us last night. Nora Cornwall, Marcia Prior from Victoria and Mrs Bunny Macgovern also from Vancouver Island, though she lives at the Mount Royal most of the time as her daughter is at the mountain school. Marcia comes each year for about a month for skating and skiing. They came about nine and it was eleven when they left, but we were thinking what a surprise it would have been had the Moose been at the back door when they went out.

Have been busy with all sorts of things in connection with Jim Brewster's death. Saturday we knew that Fern would arrive, her friend Helen Baux (?) having come on the train with her from Toronto. Fern and her father were very close to one another, her mother having died when she was ten or eleven and then later Jim married again, a girl not much older than Fern and it hasn't been easy for Fern, in fact though most people think of her as having everything, she may have had a lot materially but it is often the other part that means the most to anyone. Her uncles were at the station, Edméé and a few friends. Then after lunch we thought maybe we should just drop in at the house, which we did and saw Dell too. Quite a few were there and they seemed glad we came.

Edméé told us about Mrs Hayes too. Jean will remember her as the one at the Red Cross who invariably got into worse messes making things, either spilt tea on her work or burnt a whole with her cigarettes, or the sewing machine would fall apart, but always something would happen to her until it became a great joke. But she was such a likeable sort and worked so hard. Now they think she has cancer of the bowels and is to be operated on in Calgary this week. I met her on the road going to Dr. Robinsons just a week ago Saturday. I do hope it won't be as bad as it sounds, but it looks pretty serious.

Did I tell you that Mrs Simpson was down last week asking Pete if he would fill in for Jim Brewster and open the Skating Frolic for them. Pete just couldn't refuse, we were rather glad when it was too mild to hold it Saturday and now it will have to be held sometime this week, either an evening or this coming Saturday. In a way I wish it was over. Pete had an idea that as Fern will be carrying on for her father that she might be willing to just appear, and she said she would, which pleased Mrs Simpson too, so just hope it all goes off well. It would have been better had they not published the fact that Pete would give the "address" It sounds rather important and it is on the program too.

Yesterday was a perfect day and a lot came up for Skiing and skating on the special train. they had 8 cars. Leaves Calgary at 8 A.M. and gets in at 11. starts back at 6 and costs \$2.00 round trip. Seems a long way to go.

The funeral is this afternoon at 2.30, had to go over town just now and there were a lot of Indians up, they looked so very colorful, the squaws all wearing bright shawls and the men looking as only Indians can. Jim was good to the Morely Indians and they don't forget. We are wondering if any will come around to see us.

In your letter you send the little folder of the Guild but we don't know Willian Jewell or his work. but they look nice and see that there are some of Concord.

Better call this a letter and hope you are feeling all right again and we were sorry you had to have that fly but thankful it was no worse. Hope Cousin Alma doesn't get it, must have been awkward Bert's family having it one right after the other but of course children recover quickly from anything like that.

Loads of love to all.

Catherine -

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. Feb. 18, 1947

Dearest Mother,

Just asked Pete if this was Monday or Tuesday ? and he said "Tuesday, Garbage day " Told him that wasn't a very pretty name for it ! We have to take our garbage tins up to the street now on a certain afternoon in each district and last week we forgot , so thats why we call Tuesday "Garbage day."

We are having a bit of winter again, it was hard to realize that you had a Johnny Jump up blooming in Concord, but bet you haven't one showing this week, for didn't you have quite a storm over the weekend. Funny they had 8 inches of snow in Calgary but ours didn't amount to anything and it stopped in the late afternoon, though to-day has been snowing a little all day and about 10' above. I expect we will have warm weather by the weekend. It seems to go that way.

Am glad you got over the 24 hour grip alright. It must have been a horrid thing to have.

You asked if you could tell the difference between 15' or 25' below? no , I don't think you could but as it gets to 30' below it does feel colder, and that morning when it was 42' below I felt it in my knees a bit and breathing is a bit frosty. However the ladies were having a bonspiel and walked across the river to the curling, the rinks are in a large sort of barn with no heat and they said that their coats were all covered with frost after they had curled, some even froze a finger a bit. But actually the wind makes more difference than anything and around zero or below all feels much the same. *Sounds are different when its very cold.*

You asked about the Cypresses that grow in Canada. mentioned in Maria Chapdelaine (I read it in school too) We haven't any trees in the Rockies called Cypress, but there is a place in southern Saskatchewan or Alberta which is called the "Cypress Hills " but have never been there to know what they are like, it is north of Montana and Cousin Bert might know. They also have a tree at the coast called "Cyprees or Yellow Cedar " for the leg of Earls table is made of it. Sometimes the people who came out in the early days misnamed trees and plants and the name stuck. Like the Crocus on the prairie and here, its the first flower to come in the spring and is a light purple or lavender but is really an anemone, at a distance it looks like a real crocus but is not crisp, hairy in fact. So perhaps the so called cypress here isn't really one. Just looked the tree up in the Encyclopedia, there are 12 species, one being the Italian kind (once cut down it never grows again) then there is a Monterey Cypress. ~~and~~ It grows in Oregon and Alaska, in Japan and China too, and then they mention the swamp Cypress in the southern states that grows near water and the Bald Cypress in Mexico, or New Mexico. anyway it is a conifer and grows to heights of 100 feet on the west coast.

I will see if I can get the book you wrote of *The Rainbow* one. Have *Klee Wyke* + will send it soon.

Yes I remember the street cars in Concord, mostly because it was so hard to ride a bicycle over the tracks near the Mill Dam. But I had forgotten one was buried by snow. They are talking of using dynamite to break up some of the drifts, and oneman had to cut steps in a drift near his house to get to the well. It was 30 feet deep and he had 28 steps up and 28 down, or something like that. I was wondering how John and Eileens baby chicks fared in the storm, for if they got snow in Maryland and New York expect they got it too. Wonder if they have read the "Egg and I" Ask Aunt Julie? I bet they would appreciate it.

You know it is strange but I never remember the exact date that Father died, I always think of it just as in the first part of February. that was why I was so glad that Cousin Jane could be with you at this time. Wonder did she get home before the snow storm.

Pearl Moore was Jim Brewsters sister. When he died we began to think of others about his age who are apt to go too, and this morning Arthur Unwin died, had been sick since Sunday but actually he hasn't looked well for ages. He had the lumber yard here and was strong politically as Jim was. It will make quite a change in Banff for they are sort of the old school.

Why not get one of the model ships you spoke of for Russell for next Christmas. Sounds like the kind of thing he would like. The ones you saw in the library *made by the Acton Bay.*

Am enclosing two very nice letters from the Palmers, for Ediths sake hope that Bobs canaries aren't as prolific as the Wards, she still has 21 and is trying to keep the ones she thinks are males away from the females this year for she figures she has enough. I thought it was so nice of the kids to write, Edith wrote a nice letter too, said that they used to take the children out to supper quite often on Sunday nights, but they found that to give them enough to eat it would usually come to ten dollars, so lately they have suggested staying at home and putting the ten dollars towards the phonograph. I think that a really good idea, though it is a bit hard on Mother.

It is bedtime so all for now.

Loads of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Friday Feb. 21st. 1947.

Dearest Mother,

Such a running around as we seem to have done the last few days, Just a lot of odd things to see about but they all take time. Mostly it is in connection with the Skating Frolic which was one thing last week had it been held, but then when it was put off a week because of the watery ice it seemed to involve a lot more. Mrs Simpson was over yesterday noon and again to-day about what Pete had to mention and of course we got talking about other things such as inventions and ghosts and the old times in Banff and both visits were very nice and over an hour long! To-day she wondered if we could bring Mrs Paris down who has a grand daughter in the show, who is so lame with arthritic she can't get round very easily. We couldn't do it ourselves as we had arranged to walk over with Fern but told Mrs Simpson we would see that she got there somehow. So as soon as lunch we set out, first over to Allen Mathers to ask if he would have his car inside next the fence for her to sit in it. Then to see Charlie Reid and ask him if he would drive her over, then to Mrs Paris to see if she would like to go. She had just finished a wash and had wiped up the floor. How she does it I don't know but sits on a stool while working, said that it was the only thing to keep her limbered up! She was delighted so then back to tell Charlie, then to catch Allen and tell him, and we even saw Mrs Simpson and was able to tell her. but it is those kind of things that take time. Then when we got back the Express man came for Pete's paintings and he had no sooner started in working on a different picture than Fred Waterworth came about plumbing for a bathroom for the store. The new apartment which Sam is building by taking a room off the biggest of the other apartments. and so it goes. Soon we will have to mail a parcel I have ready for London, and a letter about Income Tax for Miss Publicover.

They were wise to hold the skating to-night for it is mild again and I am afraid might be to-morrow. Once this is over it will be rather a relief and we have no more to do for the carnival. It hasn't amounted to much this year anyway. Oh I forgot, Pete has to help time the speed skating races to-morrow afternoon and evening, but they aren't championships but mostly kids. Mr Crosby was away and Allen asked him to help out.

Maybe I didn't explain very well about the pictures, ^{in Montreal show} But the smallest size they would accept was about four times the size of the sketches which I took east with me, and I haven't any recent work as large. Pete has quite a few that size partly finished and one large one 36 x 40 about the size of your big Hibbard I should think, which he exhibited in Calgary once when I only sent sketch size. He worked a bit on the foreground and sky and sent that as well as the Indian camp on the Christmas card. I may try a bigger one soon as I get going well, but we

haven't a great deal of canvas and I am funny, like to work on a new canvas and yet if I feel there is a scarcity of it I can't be carefree enough. Soon I expect one will be able to buy good linen canvas again but it may be sometime yet and I would rather use mine for sketches done outside. Pete is working on old ones and sometimes uses ~~boards~~ boards but now that is as hard to get.

About the boy's wages. a 19 year old boy here would be paid a man's wage. in fact last summer Donny aged 14 got a mans wage for moving hoses on the gold course all night. A laborer here gets 90¢ an hour, like a person helping Sam carpentering. but the Gov't laborer gets 50 or 60 cents an hour I think. and a boy would get the same. But on a farm his board would be included in the wage I think. But I will find out for sure.

Understand that you are having snow in the east with a lot in New York and Washington and that it was moving up to Boston, so hope it will make good skiing for over Washington's birthday. Somehow I never think of his birthday as so many of the holidays I don't associate with Banff.

Guess I had better call this a letter and hope no one drops it off the train! What a lot of trouble the loss of one mailbag must cost. to people, I am glad you didn't miss my letter anyway. Will write you how the Frolic goes, hope it goes well.

Loads of love,

Catharine.

P.S. Nearly forgot again, the New Yorkers have started coming, and two arrived from you to-day, one of which we have, so you don't need to send any more, and many thanks.

Sam told me you had sent Cis a lovely letter & lots of pressed flowers which Cis has arranged & think would be nice in a little frame! a job for Sam. He's going to have a talk with you! Then Cis had to tell me all about the various flowers. thinks it must have taken you hours to press them all. one or two were black & she wondered could they have frozen. think they were geranium leaves. though most were alright. Her shrimp plant flowers are the size of yours but she cut her down so its the size of a Jerusalem cherry tree. She was awfully pleased with the letter & all & now we are anxious to know how the shrimp plant fares at the flower show. Will Pietro have to go in each day to water it?

Banff, Alberta.
Sunday, Feb. 23, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

It looks as if this would be our quiet Sunday at home, the Philamonic is playing and it is rather nice not to have to go out. There are ski races between Calgary and Edmonton skiers up at Norquay but we hadn't planned to go up anyway. It was a miserable morning. Hadn't frozen all night and about 40° above out. everything wet and dirty looking for the ground is still covered with snow in spite of all our mild weather. Then about noon it started to rain lightly, the 2nd time this winter and that is really unusual. We thought of the people who had come up for the day. There were 400 on sleepers from Edmonton (so the paper said) Four large greyhound busses of people from Red Deer, about 100 miles north of Calgary, and then the special train from Calgary, about a hundred of them walked up town so they had come for other things than to ski, skate or swim or just enjoy the mountains. Then it started raining and we felt so badly to think how awful everything looked. Piles of old dirty snow and water, about the only thing to do was to swim in the Hot springs for there was no skating we knew. Then on the news at 1 o'clock it spoke of 6 inches of fresh snow in Calgary and all over the province and sure enough the temperature started to drop here, has gone down to 33° already and we had great big flakes of snow come down, like large feathers, so hope we get it here. At least snow is prettier than rain.

The last two days have been rather busy. Friday went better than we expected. At least the Frolic did. We took Fern over with us, it must have been hard for her but think she was in a way glad to have to meet people when she was with someone. At the start of the thing we three had to walk half way down the rink and into the penalty box. Where the hockey teams sit, the players that aren't on the ice, timers etc. Casper McCulloch was in there doing the announcing and Ethel Knight doing the music, as they use records for the skating, and the three of us. Then they played "Oh Canada", and after that Pete had to say his few words. All week he had been telling me what he might say and then Friday morning wrote down the essential bits and read it off. I timed him and it took just 29 seconds ! We decided that most people opening things speak too long without saying anything and after all the people go to see the skating not to hear speeches. So he in the end read off what he had to say very slowly and it sounded alright. you just speak in your natural voice into the microphone but the confusing thing is that your voice comes back to you a moment later, over the amplifier, so to me it is very confusing. Anyway they applauded at the end so that was something. Then all the skaters came on. To me the tiny tots were the cunningest. They have quite a few 4 and 5 year olds and they are so little on such a big rink and whatever they do is funny. Some of the older girls about 12 or 14 are awfully good. Mrs

Simpson I think is remarkable to be able to do it all, with a little help only from one or two of the older skaters. But there were over 70 in it and nearly as many mothers all thinking their own offspring the best in the show and having to have their hair just right etc. etc. You can imagine! One mother made a new costume when her tot was to skate a few twirls alone and no time between the opening and the number to change the dress, so at the last minute Mrs Simpson had to put her in later and poor Wthel got the music mixed, but all in all it went very well. Fern didn't want to stay more than about half an hour and then we two left Pete, and I walked up to the Mt Royal with her while she listened to the broadcast to Sunshine over their short wave radio and then home with her, so I didn't see the rest of the show, but it is much the same each year. Pete had to present gifts to two out of town girls at the end and flowers to Mrs Simpson, which he hadn't counted on, but evidently survived the ordeal! It was a lovely mild night for the spectators.

Yesterday was to be a Midjet Hockey game in the afternoon with speed skating in between periods, the same with a Senior game at night. but it was so mild that they couldn't have it in the afternoon and so started at 7.30 last night and had both games and 16 speed skating races by 11.30. It was quite an evening. Mr Crosby usually does the skating but is away so Allen Mather had to get the people for that and Pete had to help with the timing and I recorded it. that is the times, for they have 3 or 4 watches on each race and we write the time each man gets and average it later. It really went very well and the man starting the races was very good. a Calgary man. There were lots of skaters and they were a nice group too. But the ice was terrible with several soft parts. Infact when we got down there was water on parts of it. It was bad for the hockey too. and made both games very slow. It was warm enough for watching and a good crowd of people.

It has stopped snowing and is almost raining again. I had better get on with one or two things there ~~are~~ to be done. so all for now.

Loads of love,

Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.
Fri. Feb. 28, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

Goodness, February has almost gone. the time does slip by. However we are having more wintry weather the last few days. so spring doesn't seem quite so near.

Your letters sound very busy and rather gay. It was nice for the winter sports addicts that you had snow over Washingtons birthday, but then they nearly always do. Russ and Kitty were lucky to get back from New York without any trouble for guess they had quite a blizzard there.

We have been quite busy lately and this is the last weekend of the Carnival, so hope the weather stays nice, the snow is good anyway if only a thaw doesn't come. Wednesday was just perfect, clear and a warm sun. We drove Cyril and Mary Paris up to Norquay after lunch in the Jeep. Pete wanted to have a look at the ski jump and see what work had been done on it, for so often they don't tramp it well. The sun was so warm we stayed for a while though we didn't take our skis. There were quite a lot of local people up as it was Wednesday afternoon and the stores closed. A nice crowd, at one time they use to act sort of funny and snooty but the crowd skiing this year seems much nicer and friendly.

Yesterday I went to the Red Cross in the afternoon and Pete cleaned the furnace. Alec Krom the Neilson man in Banff, has a vacuum for cleaning the furnace and pulling the soot out of the pipes, He came around in the morning and said he could come in the afternoon if we wanted him to, so it gave Pete a chance to let the fire out, though it was cold out the house stayed warm. The thing worked like a charm and he even sucked up all the cobwebs and dirt around the cellar and then just as he finished the hose pulled loose from the vacuum and there was a blast of black dirt, so thick Pete said he couldn't even see Alec. They switched it off as quick as they could but the damage was done and I guess black soot well spread over the basement but luckily for me none came upstairs! Both Pete and Alec were black, but I guess they got most of it sucked up again.

Last evening there was a hockey game, one of the Play off games between Banff and Sarathmore, It really was cold watching, being about 8° above when we went over and nearer zero when we got home at 11 o'clock. We decided that we would go only when the lights went on and we could hear the players, for so often the teams don't arrive on time and one has to wait. We listened at 8.30 and heard them shooting the puck about we thought, so over we went and then only half the team had arrived and it must have been nearly 9. 30 before the game actually started. There was a cold wind from the east and a little snow

but we stood with our backs to it and it wasn't too bad, but not too pleasant standing for so long in the cold. The game was good and a tie. We had a nice time talking with the Ski Jumpers who have just come back from Quebec where they were in the Dominion Championships. Tom Moberaten won and we haven't seen him since the Dominions were here in 1937. ten years ago. He doesn't look much older, lives in Vancouver now. Also Earl Pletch and two younger lads. Earl was at Tofino with Pete. They are going to ~~be~~ jumping at Norquay on Sunday. We went up right after lunch today to see if they were practising and we could get some pictures. They were up the downhill course and we watched them come down that and then waited while they had lunch. they each jumped 2 or 3 times and we took a few kodachromes but the light was gone and don't expect we got much. We may go up again to-morrow afternoon, and then will be there all day Sunday. But after that should have a chance to do our own things.

One of the ladies who was on the train when I came west wrote that she would be going through Thursday on #8. Mrs Mundy from Montreal, so we went down at six and as usual it was cold and windy on the platform, about 2 above and the train late. It always is if you have any one to see on it.

Saturday, must clean house, shop and go up to Norquay this afternoon.

Loads of love

Catharine ,

Banff, Alberta.
Friday March 7, 1947

Dearest Mother,

Am afraid that this won't be much of a letter for the afternoon is nearly gone. Major Jennings asked the other day if he could bring Mrs Jennings down one afternoon and so we made it to-day. Then I saw Evelyn Atkins the other day and she wanted us to set a night when they could come down but I wasn't certain. However we saw her husband Ken Ford yesterday and decided as we would have to tidy the house up for the Jennings we might as well have the Fords that evening and make it a day. So they come to-night. In the meantime Mom is in the mixed Bonspiel and though she lost one match she is still in the consolation and is to play Cyril Paris's rink to-night at 7 O'clock, so we expect to see a few ends of that and then come home to show slides to the Fords.

I made some date bread last night and was making cookies to-day. Had just gone upstairs to have a shower while they were chilling when Major Jennings came round to tell us that Mrs Jennings didn't feel well enough (I think she is a bit marotic) to come and to return the books. It was about two then and he stayed until 3.30 and just as he was leaving Mrs Simpson came in to return books, and now Pete is still trying to paint and I have had my shower and will have to run this down to the station for the train.

We had grand weather this week. -35° below Monday AM. -25° below Tuesday, -15° below Wednesday and then about -5° yesterday and it is really milder to-day. At least I think that is the way it went. The days have been clear and sparkling but never above freezing until to-day. But it seems mild compared to what they are having in England.

Got a nice letter from Jean about her trip to Portland, glad she had such a nice time. and you have been busy too. Didn't realize that Kitty was off to Florida and the children for their vacation, later. That was a nice letter from the Bartletts.

Was at Red Cross yesterday, I think we will be finished by May. I go now for as much to see the people as to sew. Edmee is usually there and Mrs MacAuley and Cis. Otherwise we have been painting each afternoon. The mornings seem so short and we have light quite late now.

~~It is it~~ I will send this along and write over the weekend. It is nice we might go up to Lake Louise on Sunday.

Loads of love

Catharine.

P.S. Sent 2 books to you. "Klee Wyck" by Emily Carr for you to keep. By the way Edmee brought Kate Mather down yesterday morning for a few minutes before train

time. She was a great friend of Emily Carrs
& lived in the house of all sorts at one time.
Said she used to get so mad at her some times
for she was a regular character. Has a lot of
her letters she may publish.

The 2nd book "With the Best in Her Eyes".
think Cousin Jane & Mabel Brown would enjoy
it thinking of their friend. - Pickering

Banff, Alberta.
Sunday, March 10, 1947

Dearest Mother,

We really should have stayed home to-day and I might have gotten some letters written. I never do catch up, but you are a pleasure to write to so I am apt to write you first and then get lazy and don't do the others. Had it been a nice day we were going to Lake Louise and perhaps if early enough would have gone up to Temple, but though mild there were lots of snow flurries up high and not much sun in between so we didn't go. Instead went for a short drive around town to see how the Wet's houses were coming along and to take a book to Cis and then after lunch we went up the west road a way, saw lots of elk and then out by Anthracite and Minnewanka. We didn't really mean to go so far but one bit led to another. We have had 7 deer in the yard all day, all but one has lost its antlers, as they do at this time of year. This noon I saw a young couple walking in the driveway and was sure we had callers until the camera came out and they were taking pictures of the deer, so we took out some bread for them to feed the deer with and they were very pleased. Then this afternoon a man wandered in, went away bringing back his wife and so Pete took bread to them too. Luckily I had a whole loaf this weekend, but both couples got a great kick out of it though I don't know if their pictures would come out well.

Have had a lot of callers lately, starting Wednesday when Fern came in late in the afternoon, we were just finishing painting. Then Thursday Edmee brought Kate Mather down, she is very interested in Art and Handicrafts and the kind of person there is so much to say to that you can't get the words in. She has been working in hospitals in Winnipeg but wants to come back to Banff or to the coast and have her own establishment, making and selling things. she is interested in using the Indian designs. Also was a friend of Emily Carrs. I think I told you, has a lot of her letters but unfortunately said many she didn't keep for at times she got sort of mad at Emily Carr and so destroyed some of the letters. I guess she was quite a character. This call was before the noon train which was late. then I went to Red Cross. Friday we expected the Jennings to tea but he came down about two to say they couldn't come hoping to keep me from getting tea. (I had made nut bread the night before and had cookies half made) then we talked for over an hour. Mrs Simpson coming as ~~wxxxxx~~ he was going. In the evening we had the Ben Fords coming but put them off until 8.30 and went to the skating curling rink to see Mom play the first few ends of her game against Cyril Paris. It was close and she won by 10 to 7 I think, but had to play the semi finals at nine the same night, which was really too much all in one evening. and she lost that. One of her players was sick and curled badly and the other was too tired to sweep hard, other wise she might have won the consolation. but we think she did awfully well. Lots of the newcomers were quite surprised that the " old Lady" curled so well. I never think of her as an old lady so was amused. but she hasn't curled much ~~sinee~~ for the last 15 years. Being skip she doesn't have to sweep, but still it isn't easy throwing the rocks.

The Fords seemed to enjoy themselves for they stayed until after 12 o'clock, quite late for us !

Tennis friend

Yesterday Helen Box came down in the morning, really for an address but she stayed for quite a visit and we talked art, for she draws and paints, going to the summer school last year and her husband who is a dentist would like to come out here for 3 months of the year to practise and she needs a dry climate for her arthritis. Wish he could come for he is a well known Toronto dentist.

Then last night we went to what is likely to be the last hockey game of the season. It was an exhibition game really and Donny played. The young Juniors only have one line so the younger members of the older team helped them out, but the joke was that the schoolboys scored all the goals for Banff. It was 7-3 or 4 and rather a good game. for once it started on time and we were home a little after ten.

Haven't answered any of your letters for ages but will try to next time.

One question I remember was that you asked why Lady Byng had to come to Canada during the war. Where she lived was taken over by the army in England for army manoeuvres and all the people living there had to move out of the district. and I suppose as she was too sickly to be of any help but only another person to take care of her friends insisted she come over to Canada. one less mouth to feed.

Got such a cunning letter from Gale. expect they will soon be off to Florida and shell collecting!

Loads of love,

Catherine

GREAT WESTERN
PAPE IN CANADA

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. March 12, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

Wednesday and I think our first bit of thaw and spring in the air. the sun is getting high and warmer and it is really melting on the sunny slopes though the air is only 35° a strong wind and it might be a chinook to take the snow. 40° at now 4 PM.

We have been busy working on figures this week for Ken Teare who does the Income Tax is up and was over this morning for an hour. It was so lovely out ~~that~~ ^{for lunch} we decided to go up to Norquay to see the school kids ski races. They all get off for one day during the year and are taken up in buses and I believe only two kids didn't go up, most of them ski. But by the time we got up there most of the races were over.

Maybe I can answer some of your recent letters for there are various questions I have missed.

Am so glad that the big Tuesday club supper went all right and that the votes the Kussins might have lost at the town meeting didn't keep them from getting the right to build on that property ! Seems to me you gave a " Last big supper " some time ago so shall expect to hear of another big affair before long. Why not, if you enjoy doing it, and don't get more tired than you can recover from! Too bad the flu effects are still with you but perhaps they will soon disappear, was awfully glad to hear that Cousin Alma is feeling so well for several people who had the operation here said it was a full year before you felt the benefits of it. One person is a bit neurotic, but the other was a man, so hope Cousin Alma continues to feel better. You evidently have to find out the things you can't eat, like fried things and nuts and alcohol which I guess won't bother her.

I am glad that Mildred can take advantage of the offer of the trip to Florida, for you never know what will happen in another year or two. anyone of them might be ill or something to prevent her going. I am glad you advised her to go.

Each year on the anniversary of the first New Yorker they always use the man that was on the original cover. that is why that copy you wrote of looked so familiar.

I am sort of sorry now I didn't leave you more new slides, but do you remember saying that now that Cousin Jane wasn't there you weren't apt to use them any more. Lucky that I arranged them that last evening. so what you had weren't too mixed up.

We enjoy all the clippings that you send.

Yes I would love to have "Driftwood Valley " by Fletcher about life spent in British Columbia in 1937. Read reviews of it but haven't seen it yet. and also the one that Mildred wrote of coming out in book form soon, now in the Atlantic. "Mrs Mike " Mr birthday is coming.

The quirky thing you had for Gale is the same toy Mildred got at Thanksgiving time and I got one to bring back to Johnny, they are funny

That letter of mine that you got in 3 days must have gone Air Mail by mistake or something, for that was quicker than a person could go, unless it made all the right connections.

The vacuum cleaner that blew soot, belongs to the furnace man, is large and the hose pulled off by mistake, unless you use that kind it is hard to explain.

Am so glad that you got the cupboard cleaned when Cousin Jane was there. for there never did seem to be time when I was in Concord.

Please tell Jean I will be writing her one of these days, we enjoy her letters and I feel rather guilty never really answering them.

Loads of love to all,

^{Catherine}
Wasn't that amusing, the conversation Cousin Jane heard about the boys figuring they would be all right sleeping with the girls in some one's back yard -

Banff, Alberta.
Friday, March 14, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

I am afraid that you have been sicker with that darn intestinal flu than I realized, Your Friday letter came Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday morning telling how you felt like the dickens and I don't wonder, and were going to call the doctor, but didn't realize until Jean's Sunday letter came yesterday that you had been really sick with it since you wrote. We are so sorry for there is nothing that makes one feel so weak and funny as having to run to the bathroom continually. I know lots of people have had it here during the last few years and we often wondered if it wasn't some germ brought back by the men from overseas, sort of a result of the war. I know some doctors have expected awful epidemics with Air travel, for people now can get from one part of the world to the other in such a short space of time and before they develop some disease they may have caught while in the orient or India and the doctors in the states might find it difficult to diagnose the illness never having seen a case over here. They nearly had a bad time with small pox I think it was at the coast a few years ago and we all got inoculated here because of ~~people~~ tourists who might bring it to Banff from Seattle. Pete had one time last summer when he felt ~~the~~ something like you do, it was when we were at Bow Lakes and most inconvenient when he had to tear for the woods, and the Simpsons having cleared out more trees and underbrush one has to go further back! I have been rather lucky so far, but know that various of the staff at the store have had a form of intestinal flu from time to time. Just hope you are over it by now and that you don't have to miss the flower show. Perhaps it (the flower show) lasts for a whole week and by ~~then~~ you could go. Just realized it is the end of the flower show week as I write. *Did Ruth take the Shrimp plant in.*

We are having our thaw and for the first time since way last fall it was below freezing all night, has been raining on the praries since yesterday but none here so far. Wednesday was lovely and sunny in the morning and up to about two I guess. We had asked Mr Teare (who audits the store books and figures out 'ete' income Tax) to come down to the house for an hour and he said he would be here Wednesday at 10.30. He was only 15 minutes late, but that brought it to nearly noon when he left, but it was a good chance for us to ask him questions about various things. He used to work for the Income Tax dep't so knows what they want. The school races were on up at Norquay so as it was so lovely out and melting and our heads were buzzing from figures, we decided to go up and see what was going on.

Every year they have one day when the children get off for the ski races. They went up at 9.30 in busses and only 2 children were missing. all grades, both high school and the lower grades ~~and~~ well as some parents and even younger children. The teachers with the help of a few others run the races. they are divided into many classes and it takes all day to run them off. We only saw part of the girls downhill, Bubby came ~~3rd~~ 2nd in that and 1st in the slalom I think. Harold was ~~5th~~ 4th in his group. Davy said he couldn't ski as Bubby had his cables, those are part of

the ski harness, but we think he uses that for an excuse, he isn't very interested in things unless he is better than the others, and isn't athletic really. But has a good mind and can tell you all about engines and machine things and is the studious type. We were at the hockey game last Saturday and the puck was knocked over the fence and the players didn't notice where it went, nor did we. Pete is pretty good at finding things but in the deep snow with lots of holes it might have gone in anywhere. Pete had just been reading a book of life in the woods in the north and so studied the snow until he found the place where the snow had been freshly broken, dug down and found the puck, long after the rest of us had left it to be found in the spring.

Yesterday was Red Cross, I wouldn't have gone had it not been my turn for sandwiches as it was lovely at noon, bright spring sun and you could hear the snow melt and drip from roofs. However it clouded over which was just as well for then it didn't melt too fast and had a chance to evaporate and run away. The same to-day, it is over cast and over 40 above, got to 45 yesterday.

X We often test people out for the fun on whether or not they notice the pictures. It is very interesting for some see the pictures before noticing anything else in the house. Little Johnny came over the other evening and right away noticed that we had an Indian head instead of the camp over the table and then he remarked on the new pictures Pete had staked on the floor, he often stands them where he can look at them to figure out what to do next. Johnny will sit on his heels and study them for a minute and then look up at me and say "they are pretty good aren't they Catharine?" in the most professional manner. Mom never seems to notice them, at least she never remarks about them. Cliff will say something if he hasn't too much ski business on his mind, and when Ken Teare came about the Income Tax he never saw any of them I guess too engrossed in figures.

X I had better be doing the typing of the information for him right now, but wanted to send you a letter first, though I expect by the time you get this you may be all over the flu, I certainly hope so.

Loads of love always
Catharine .

P.S. By the way I got the Ann Buchan (O. Douglas) book yesterday and the one "Stand on a Rainbow" which I have just started to read before sending you. It is well done isn't it? and so true from what I have seen of familys. Edith Morse would enjoy it I think.

X just had a note from Marjorie Hess of Calgary asking if she can bring a Jocelyn Robb of Winnipeg + her two fellow artists J.W.G. Mac Donald + Stan Perrot of Calgary down this evening. They are driving up for the weekend. We have wanted to meet Mac Donald as he is a well known Canadian artist from Vancouver. So now will have to run around with the duster.

Banff, Alberta.
Sunday Mar. 16, 1947

Dearest Mother,

Got Jean's second letter yesterday afternoon and we feel so sorry to think that you are still sick with that flu. but hope that by now it is all over. I' ll bet you felt even worse to be missing the flower show, it was just too bad. Sometimes those bugs get a hold on one and it is hard to shake. Wish you were having lovely weather as we are then you would really feel better, though on the other hand if it was lovely weather and you had to stay close to the bathroom and couldn't be out that might be worse!

We started the thaw Thursday, though it was cloudy but the water ran in the streets. Friday was better and still mild, then it didn't really freeze Friday night so that yesterday when it got up to fifty and over it really made the snow and ice go fast. We got spring fever and sat out on our terrace under the kitchen window and broke the ice off the path. it was about three inches thick. also washed the downstairs windows inside and out, though it is really in between the storm windows that there is a haze that should be cleaned. Today after a frosty night we had another perfect spring day. You have no idea how lovely it is. The sky so very blue and reflected in all the puddles and the snow melting on the mountains so that there is a sort of glisten to it up high in the late afternoon. We won't mind seeing the snow go in town for it has gotten dirty and also it has been here so long. The grass underneath seems quite green, I suppose because the snow came so early last fall. so there shouldn't be much frost in the ground.

Friday night we expected the Calgary friend to come down and bring her friends, but began to wonder when nine o'clock came and no callers. However a little later they drove in, the roads having been bad coming up and so they were a bit delayed. There was "armie Hess who we met at Temple last and has been here before, the J.W.G. Macdonald, a scotthman really but who came to Canada after the last war and (or first great war) and painted at the coast, taught in Vancouver and at the summer school here last year, and now is head of the Art at the technical school in Calgary. We were anxious to meet him knowing his work. Then a Dr Joyclyn Robb of Winnepeg. A young girl at the Holy Cross Hospital, don't know quite what she is a doctor of but Bunny her name was Robb. (and did I tell you that when watching the Jumping two weeks ago a young man with army skis came along and stood beside me for a time and I happened to glance down and saw Al Robb printed on his skis) Besides these 3 there was a Mr Perrault who also teaches at the Art school and a Miss Cowles, a student. At first when they came in and had sat down the conversation didn't seem to go very easily, partly because there were enough so that we talked to each other in couples, but after we had gotten beer and crackers and cheese and cake we talked as a group and it seems to go better that way. I think they expected to just come to another house in Banff and then felt they had landed in a museum and by the time they left they were all very enthusiastic about things and it had been a nice evening.

Had a letter from Lila and she has had her hands full, Mavis with measles and Bette with Mumps and Cam and David with

bad colds.

We have the doors both open and Pete is reading by the front door and I suddenly heard him say "Oh. No. No!" a squirrel had come in and was sitting on the other chair looking at him. We heard a robin yesterday morning but haven't seen him yet.

Will take this down as the train will soon be going. they had another sleeper from Edmonton # 150 I think on it. about 14 cars and then a special from Calgary too. A bus load of skiers went up to Lake Louise today for the day, not to Temple but from Calgary up to the Lake itself. A wonderful day for them to go but we are wondering if they will have difficulties coming back as the melting snow makes those steep mud banks cave in and ooze across the road. We went part way up but Pete was afraid that later in the afternoon it might be hard to get back so we turned round, had our lunch on the bridge of the road that turns off near castle Mt. It was lovely.

Do hope you are feeling all right again and loads of love from us both.

Catherine

P.S. Don't bother sending us "Mrs Duke" it wasn't what I thought it was. and after you read "With the West in Her Eyes" send it to Cousin Jane & Uncle Marshall for Jim since he would like it.

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. March 18, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

Another nice letter from you to-day and we are so glad that you are up and dressed and even downstairs for lunch, but don't try and write too much or do too much until you really have your strength back. A bug like that can take more out of one and to think how many pounds you lost, I am glad it is spring that is coming and not winter for there is nothing like spring and the afternoons lengthening out to make one feel better. I am really sorry that you had to miss the flower show but nice that the Shrimp plant could go! Cousin Alma wrote such a nice letter and told about having been up to see you and also about going to the flower show and seeing people looking at the shrimp plant. Pietro must be awfully proud.

We are really having a spell of weather though I don't see how it can last much longer. It has been warm since last Wednesday and since Saturday lovely clear days. The snow is melting fast but except for one night it has frozen each night again and is nearly noon before it gets melting again the following day. It gets down to 22 or 26 each night and up to 50 or 57 above the next day. in the sun it is even warmer. Yesterday we were all set to go sketching after lunch, having a number of other things to see to in the morning and thinking the afternoon would be warmer to stand outside, but the thin clouds came up in the early afternoon and spoiled the light so we didn't go after all. This morning we were supposed to have clouds by the radio but it was clear again so we took our lunch and drove up to 3rd lake on the west road, about 3 miles and each made a sketch, Pete of Rundle and I of the melting ice. they weren't so wonderful but it was a start. The light is pretty bright so that was enough. Coming home we did the shopping and I met Edmee and she wants me to go up there to tea, so I said I would. Soon after we got home Sam dropped down and Pete has taken him home with his tools from the bank. I think we all have a bit of spring fever and it is awfully easy to just want to sit in the sun. Here is Pete now so will not write more now but send this in the mail.

We had word, a card that Pete's two pictures were accepted for the exhibition in Montreal and an invitation to the opening this week. It was nice to know that they got in and are to be hung.

This hardly seems worth sending but will let you know we are thinking of you as always.

Loads of love.

Catharine

No time to read over.

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. March 19, 1947

Dearest Mother,

Another lovely day, it is hard to believe that we are having such a stretch of wonderful weather. It is what we hoped to have last fall for Indian summer, frosty nights, down to about 20 above and then it gets up to 50 above or more by noon. Each morning things are frozen but loosen up as soon as the sun hits the snow and ice. A warm wind takes the snow away quicker but it is really **lucky** this year that it is going gradually for otherwise back yards would be really lakes. Some on Banff Avenue are, and in Calgary they have had basements flooded etc. To-night we thought the weather was changing but it is clearing up with a lovely sunset *at 7 o'clock.*

X Went out again this morning to sketch up the west road. taking our lunch with us. A game warden went by and then stopped to talk on his way back but otherwise only one car passed. However we did get a surprise when about ten school boys ^{in winter} suddenly came along all talking and laughing, right in the middle of the morning. Two others followed and stopped when they saw me painting near the road, I don't think they saw Pete at all. So I asked them how they happened to get out like that right in the nicest part of the morning and they said it was instead of P.T. (Physical training) When it is such a nice day the teacher lets them go off on their bikes for the exercise instead of doing setting up exercises or whatever the period consists of. We asked where the teacher was and they figured having coffee or taking a snooze! Well it did seem a good idea and I am sure the boys must have enjoyed a spin up the west road. *The warden school had been like that when he was a boy.*

There were some sheep near where we had lunch, they are very curious and stood and watched us for a long time. We also saw a lovely bluebird, the first for us this year, so spring must really be here. My larkspur are just barely sticking up near the house where it is warm. X One picture is about all we can do in such bright light, so after we had come back and washed brushes etc. we went up Tunnel Mt. and looked for places that would be good to sketch. The old spots that Pete used to paint from are so grown up that they are all changed from a sketching standpoint. One doesn't realize how much the trees grow in ten or fifteen years.

We were back at four o'clock and soon after Joe Kingman of Minneapolis came to see us. He is on his way to Skoki for three weeks, Two friends are to go out for a few days and then his two boys are coming for their spring vacations, one way from Amherst College. The two friends were to come in from Sunshine tonight and he may bring them down this evening or to-morrow morning, before the noon train, but if it is a nice day we told him we would be out sketching, now that we are started we want to keep on while the weather lasts.

I hope you are feeling much better and getting really over the flu this time. It is nice to get your letters again, though actually it wasn't very long between for you wrote just before having the doctor, and then Jean's letters kept us posted.

Did I tell you I was going to Edmees to tea yesterday? She asked me in the store when shopping. Fern and Helen Cox were also there and we had a very pleasant time. Helen's father is the "Eureka" head man in Canada, they make vacuum cleaners and electric irons without cords, and toasters etc. She was telling us of a garbage disposal unit they make for sinks, similar to the ones made by General electric. A thing in the drain that grinds up all the refuse and then you just wash it down with warm water. When we can make the change and get one we might. That would solve a lot of our difficulties I think. We have often spoken of a stove to burn the stuff but that is an awful nuisance and green stuff doesn't burn easily and is apt to smell too.

Quite exciting Monument Hall burning, I remember plays used to be given there, wonder will they build something in its place, might make a better looking building that fit in. I notice that the Colonial Inn is to be painted again, gray, white and black. I didn't care for the deep yellow ochre color too much, though I like a sunny yellow. and did you see that the chef ds from the Union Club in Boston. I wonder if we ate club sandwiches there as recently as 26 years ago? Remember how we used to have them when we ate there on special occasions with father before plays or circuees or things like that.

Don't you write us unless you really feel like it and aren't tired. I will send this one Air mail and then start regular mail again. Joe Kingman said there was still lots of snow in Saskatchewan but that they had hardly any in Minneapolis this year, it seemed to go all around them in a big circle and usually they have a lot. What a time poor England is having.

Loads of love,

Catherine -

Banff, Alberta.

March 21, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

Your nice letter of the 17th, Monday, just came with all those enclosed. That was such an interesting one of Cousin Jane's about the wreck and storm at the cape, and I can sympathize with the Collecting for the Red Cross. Mrs Lonsdale asked me to again this year but when you are consciencious about it and go back several times until you find the person in, it takes several afternoons or mornings and a lot of time, and you have to be fairly clean not just in your old clothes as I would be otherwise, also this kind of weather one has to take off over shoes about every house. So I was mean and said I would give more myself. I don't really mind going but it is the time it takes.

Poor Mildred, I do feel sorry that she can't eat as she loves to, and hope that with this strict diet she won't have to start taking insulin, though of course there are many people who do it all their lives. I suppose it was the diabetes that made her crave the sugar in things, that is the hard part. but fortunate she found out in time.

I was glad to see the long letter from Miss Annie Agge for it shows she must be feeling pretty well.

Do hope you don't have to miss the operas you planned to see the 2nd week. But perhaps if you just go to them and don't try to do even one errand on the way it would be all-right. Could you go to say half an opera and then meet someone and give them your stub for the last part. They might stand through part of it and meet you at the end of the 2nd Act or something. Then a long opera wouldn't be too much and you would miss the dieing scenes in that way. Its just an idea.

Didn't get very far on this yesterday. It rained last night, a sort of spring rain and sounded nice on the roof. This morning we woke to find it snowing hard and already four or five inches on the trees, it has snowed most all day with a few bursts of sunlight, about 34° so wet snow but we have a good foot and it is awfully pretty. a bit discouraging for the 2nd day of spring, but we expected something after so much good weather. It should go quickly. We have been out trying to get photographs but not with any real success as there wasn't enough sun where one wanted it. However we did get help a number of people who were stuck. *in Snowbanks pulling them out with the Jeep.*

Yesterday I did the kitchen floor in the morning and Mr Walker came down to ask Pete if he had a picture of Mt Brewster, Pete did ~~one~~ for him in the afternoon and then of course it clouded over so he couldn't take a new or better one. I went to Davy's school program, about their imaginary trip to Switzerland. Mom going with me. It was very good and they all spoke of their imaginary experiences as if they were real. Some went by coach to Montreal, others by tourist sleeper, and 1st class, another group by plane and some by bus. They were all sitting in chairs on one side of the room and each told a little of what they did on the trip to Berne. It was a clever way to teach them Geography and

they spoke as if the places were very real. Then they had three scenes they acted. One a breakfast of a Swiss family, " what still cheese and nothing else for breakfast ! " The cheese had made a great impression on them. another scene of the same family later and then a bit of the Heidi story. They evidently get the things up as you would a charade so there are no lines to forget. Later they had a few poems to recited and a dance and some songs and they played part of the William Tell overture on the phonograph and told the story of William Tell.

Must ~~th~~ this down to the station and then come back and put the chicken in the oven for supper.

Loads of love and hope you are feeling better.

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
March 24, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

We seem to be having winter again. It was 12 above this morning, rather hard on that bluebird we saw last Wednesday!

Saturday it snowed nearly all day and we had a good foot of it. It stayed on the trees quite well and as it got warm in the late afternoon little icicles formed which are lovely when the sun shines through them.

Mom came down to help eat the chicken and then as she was going about eight. Ethan Compson and his wife came to see us. He was in the R.C.A.F. and up at Tofino when Pete was there, in fact he had a lot to do with getting a place for us to stay there as she was there before I was, only had left because of sickness in the family so I never knew her until later. He went overseas towards the end of the War and we hadn't seen him since. They have a new sporting goods store in Calgary, and had just been up at Temple and Skoki for a weeks skiing. When overseas he had skied at Chamonieux (can't spell it) but near Mont Blanc in France and there seemed to be a lot to talk of. They stayed until nearly 11.

Yesterday it was clear and lovely when we woke up so got up early, but by the time we got out it had all clouded over. We took a short drive to see where a good place would be to take the picture of Mt Brewster for Mr Walker, and then didn't get enough light the rest of the day for anything. It would be perfectly lovely one minute with a brilliant sun and beautiful effects and then for the next hour it would snow and look as if it had settled in for the rest of the day. Kept doing that all afternoon so we finally gave up trying to be in the right spot for the few good minutes and I would need a roll of Kodachrome instead.

To-day it was clear early but again clouds came in and now it is clear again but maybe not for long. It is like spring showers only snow squalls instead of rain. The snow has settled quite a bit but there is a good 6 inches on top of what was left of the winter snow. we never did see the lawn!

A nice letter from you this morning. Am glad the books arrived and will send the other two soon. Funny I should have thought of Edith when I read "Stand on a Rainbow" and that was who you wanted it for. Have a new Canadian book which I will read first "Who has seen the Wind" by W.O. Mitchell. It is about a boy on the prairies and has had good reviews. The one "With the West in Her eyes" I think Uncle Marshall might enjoy and the Newburys too.

That is wonderful that the hospital is to have a new wing and I hope you never have to spend any time there yourself!

The family will be back from Florida soon after you get this, How nice that they have a house to go to and not just a hotel vacation. I imagine the children will love it now that they are older and can do more it. That was fine Russ being made a director of the State Street Trust Co

So glad that the tea for the Kings Daughters went so well and I am sure they must have enjoyed it a lot.

Don't ever be afraid of writing too much in your letters
for we always enjoy them.

We are to have an early lunch and then see about the
picture for Mr Walker. so all for this letter.

Loads of love,

Catharine

P.S. I keep meaning to write to Jean and ask her for Jessie
Bruce address. I think that is the friend that I was to send
a parcel to. Jean will know.

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. March 26, 1947

Dearest Mother,

Am so glad that you are feeling better, try not to do too much until you are really feeling fine again. Lots of people here have a sort of flu, with the most awful dounding cough. Davy and Harold have had it and Jackie and Florence, but of course Jackie picks up most anything going. So far we have stayed away from movies and crowds so haven't had it but you never know, those bugs one can catch very easily. I don't think it effects your tummy as yours did.

We are still having fine weather though the last few afternoons it clouds up and snows a bit and in between there is brilliant sunshine. It hasn't been over 40° this week and the snow of the last storm is still with us, about 3 inches of it and until yesterday we didn't even see patches of bare ground. We drove out the west road a way late in the afternoon and the open water we painted at 3rd lake a week ago is more frozen than then. one open patch I sketched has a thin skim of ice on it. A bit discouraging for the gardeners. At least it made the town look nice and clean. We haven't been out sketching this week but if it warms up and is nice out we will go again. Have been working inside. I am trying out new paint called "Permanent Pigments" made scientifically in the states and Canada and so far like them very much. Mr Phillips told us about them. he used the water colors of the same make. We always used Winsor Newton and would have run out had it not been that Pete used our own paint at first when working for the R.C.A.F. and they told him to keep the stuff they bought him when he was to go overseas. otherwise we couldn't have gotten it as private citizens. I expect soon they will be sending it over from England again but certain colors are hard to get. Also good linen canvas. Most artists use what they had on hand but we haven't a great deal left. so Pete is working on old pictures that he laid in some time ago and I am working on old sketches, that is until I am pretty sure what I want to do. It has been fine in getting used to the new paints which I think I am going to like better than the others. The trouble is that one gets used to mixing colors in a certain way and you do it unconsciously. We have a new system of working. Now that we have heat in the end of the big room downstairs, (which we didn't have until we moved the furnace into the basement), I work in the big room. have curtains I pull over the front windows and by draping others over the stair banisters any one peaking in the kitchen windows or the front windows can't see me. Pete works upstairs. When if anyone knocks at the door, we just ignore it, and as neither of us can see who it is we aren't tempted to let them in. We think that maybe people will get used to our not being in until say 4.30 and by having an early lunch we get quite a long afternoon. Someone has knocked nearly every afternoon but we find they come back later if it is important, and if we let them in they would be sure to stay and talk.

Have quite a few clippings that I put aside for you some are quite old but will send them in the next two letters. Though you would be interested in the symphony in Calgary, as you

know it isn't a very large place , but they are rather a musical city.

Sent the two books yesterday, the Ann Buckan and the Stand-on-a-Rainbow. The others I just did up and marked books on the outside, but yesterday they made me fill out a declaration so hope you don't have to pay duty, but you may. They said it must have been a mistake that I didn't last time.

The family will soon be back from Florida. Mom is going to the coast after Easter, she stayed to sing the Easter music with the choir. They are having real spring at the coast and are giving away daffodills the weather has been so warm and they have come on so fast.

Loads of love,

Catharine -
75, meat rationing ended in Canada to-day - rather nice, but they will still have 2 meatless days a week in restaurants & hotels -

Banff, Alberta.
March 29, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

It is Saturday afternoon and I am simmering a ham before baking it. it smells awfully good right now. Think I told you that the lady from Montreal that was on the train when I came back in December went through back east a while ago. She is a Mrs Mundy wife of a conductor who has been on the eastern C.P.R. for many years and she went out to B.C. to be with her daughter who was having a baby. She sent me an envelope addressed to you with a stamp on it that I lost on the train and the porter found. Just to show how funny things are. The porter asked her to send it to me. they had my address as we had all signed a letter saying that the lady who complained about our porter had been causing trouble all the way out. (I think I wrote you about her) and Mrs Mundy told me about the rest of the trip. So when I thanked her after Christmas I sent her a Christmas card of the Stoney Indians and told her it was one of Pete's pictures. She let us know when she was going east and we went down to the train to see her a minute on the way through. She thanked us for the picture and so we told her it had gone to Montreal where she lives and she said she would be sure and go to the exhibition and see it. Got a letter the other day saying that it ~~was~~ mentioned Pete in the newspaper and she was going to send it to us. that she hadn't had time to go to the exhibition yet but would write us all about it when she did. We thought it awfully nice of her and yesterday the paper came.

Viscount Alexander the Governor General of Canada opened the show and also being an artist himself had two oils in it. There were pictures of them with various dignitaries and about ~~three~~ photos of oils and then a long article about the exhibiton. Started out with a bit about the two oils of Alexanders and then it said ~~xxxxxxx the notable painting xxxxxxxx~~ "Landscapes again make up a great part of this exhibition. Some of the more notable of these are a Laurentian scene by Richard Jack RA, R.C.A." (He is the British portrait painter who now lives in Montreal, stayed with us once when painting here, is quite famous) - "and a snow scene by Thomas Farside A.R.C.A." (that means Associate of the Royal Canadian Academy) Then it mentions two pictures by Franklin Arbuckle R.C.A who was here last summer doing covers for McLeans magazine) and a picture by Hugh Jones R.C.A. and three by Harold Beament R.C.A (he was a navy artist being a Commander in the navy too) and " a striking composition of mountains by Peter Whyte." It mentions three more artists after Pete and their pictures and then under "other successful landscapes" a list of a dozen more names.

We thought it rather exciting to have Pete's picture mentioned like that for there were over 150 oils in the show. Then it has a similar paragraph on the portraits and on the still life and the water colors and then a long list of artists exhibiting. It must have been well hung I guess.

Pete was very touched at the thought of your wishing you were young enough to fly to Montreal to see them in the exhibition. Another year we may send some more or better ones and then we might all go and have a look! With a good few months to paint we hope to have something to show.

Our snow from last week is now down to about an inch in depth and bits of the dirty unmelted snow of the winter shows through in spots. We have been having quite good weather but as it freezes each night it takes a long time to go.

It looks as if it would cloud up to-day so we are going out now for a little while (it is now Sunday as Mrs Simpson came in and I didn't finish my other start)

Will enclose a ~~few~~ hair nets I got. can't remember if you use gray or white. so send both. they are for bobbed hair, the only thing that came in. Maybe it is white you want so will send those two first and you can let me know if you would like two gray or white next trip?

Loads of love.

Catherine .

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. April 1, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

Don't know what kind of letter you are apt to get to-night, for last night we did films after supper and as they were "glossy" prints and you have to dry them on a sheet of high polished metal and we have just two sheets. It took us until after 11.P.M. before they were all washed and dried. and now to-night I am already yawning.

Got your letter to-day about the opera and am so glad that you have been able to go to them and didn't miss Boheme. It sounded lovely. I think you should keep up getting season tickets. When you can't go yourself I am sure the other people love it and after all it does support the opera. *I think I was in Venice we saw La Boheme*

We haven't been doing anything very exciting lately. Sunday was almost nice out but turned cloudy so thought we were going to take our lunbb were glad later we hadn't. Drove up around Tunnel Mountain and saw a whole flock of robins. They were flying by twos and threes across the road and hopping about as if they could find worms in the snow. There must have been a hundred. The next day your letter came about seeing a flock too. We still have snow in the drifts and what ground that is bare is too wet and soggy to rake. The weather is warm enough but there is nothing yet we can do around the place. Somehow when you first smell the earth you want to get out and clean up the yard. I also have a yearn to clean house but think I will wait until after Easter, and do it in bits.

Went over to the Simpsons Sunday to see if Little Jimmy wouldn't like to go up to Temple and Skoki to see the skiing. and how they run things. in case some year he might like to do something in that line ~~too~~. It seems that the Gov't. has plowed the main road part way up to Bow Lakes already as they want it to dry out so they can surface the first 20 or 25 miles this summer, so Jimmy is anxious to get up to Bow as they plow the road further up to the summit. and as they won't get their new truck until the middle of April we are to take Jim up in the Jeep. If the road isn't too bad we might go up for a bit of skiing, as well as sketching. for the snow that high lasts well into May. We are just hoping that ~~it works out~~ *at Temple & Skoki* for they have so many people coming for Spring skiing that there is no room for us, and the road is hard to get up and down to Temple sometimes.

Mom is going to the coast after Easter and visit the family there, so we will then hear how things are going. Cam is working on a trade magazine which the Pacific Mills is getting out for their employees etc. Cam is the first editor and they have gotten out one number and the next issue comes out this month. Pacific Mills is the same company that owns Ocean Falls where the Lindsays were ~~at~~ one time. They are a great big lumbering and paper people. It has great possibilities, the job, for Cam and we hope he

maked a success of it. He is very clever in writing and does their public relations work and reporting as well as taking photographs and writing reports and editing the magazine.

I am not doing too well for a young lad came in to talk to Pete and I didn't like to stay in the front room as he asked this afternoon for Pete and I thought maybe he didn't want me in on it. However from the bits I have heard I might as well have stayed. He wants a bit of backing.

Wednesday, I didn't do so well last night, had intended to read over your reason letters for questions but with Dick Pike in I didn't, and then listening with one ear and writing with the other ! I didn't get along very well. To-day it is trying to snow from the east. They say it is snowing in Calgary and north to Edmonton, but we are only getting the odd flake.

I wonder will the family be home for Easter, I expect so and looking very brown from the sunshine in Florida.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Good Friday
April 4, 1947

Dearest Mother,

This is a holiday with us but not a very nice day for people. 20 above this morning and snowing a very fine snow from the east and it looks just like November out. most discouraging! It has been wintry for several days and snowed Wednesday quite a bit, enough to make 3 or 4 inches and then yesterday there was more snow and a cold wind. Everything is white again, oh well I guess we will get a warm spell in a few days, in my diary it snowed last year on the 3rd too. but we were raking a week later.

Have been quite busy with odd things, trying to figure out a new rental for Jackie to pay for the store building now that there is the new suite and that is always a bit difficult. Then a boy named Dick Pike came down a few days ago, or nights ago wanting some backing for a business enterprise for the summer but we told him we were helping others and couldn't do too much but were glad to talk to him, so he came back yesterday afternoon again. He seems a nice lad but we don't know him very well. He is a person one would take to but the family have a bad reputation for owing a lot in town so we didn't want to commit ourselves before we found out a bit more. Then Donny was down to sell us some tickets to a hockey dance and as he is hockey crazy we had a long talk with him. He may have a chance to take his last two years in high school in Edmonton and play on a junior team there. That is what they do now with promising players, but Pete warned him not to go too young on these teams and they are apt to burn him out. Then we spoke of University as he could go there and play on the hockey team as well as get an education. Then we had the bright idea that Dr Costigan who is one of the best hockey players would be a good person to give Donny advise, so Pete spoke to him and he is to speak to Donny on his own without saying anything about us. Costigan is the great hero of the boys and he was glad to do it, so we are hoping it works out alright.

Last night Harold and Davy came over to borrow "Land Below the Wind" as Barbara has "Three came back" Have you read it? The girl who was married and went to Borneo and I always wondered how they came through the war. Over three years in a prison camp and it is all about that. It was the first night of vacation so we showed them the slides of Switzerland, not colored ones and they were very interested and we were surprised how much they knew about it, even Harold who hadn't studied it in school. They also each had a new pair of rubber boots which was another reason for coming over. They are good boys and well behaved. Mom was just down to ask us for supper to-night, and she said this morning she heard sweeping going on at her back door, looked out and there was Harold sweeping off her path. So she asked if he would do it in front too and she would give him ten cents. He evidently did it all and very nicely, so when he came in she asked him what had made him think of doing it? and he said "Oh, I was just passing and thought it was a good chance to do a good deed."

I found your letter asking for hair nets and find you only wanted the large ones. Well maybe someone else can use the ones I sent. they had no large ones in the store, but having had none at all for so long I thought maybe any would do. They seemed quite good sized.

That was a nice letter from Russ from Florida and I am glad the vacation worked out so well, the children must have loved it.

Later. It is now nearly five. We have been painting a bit. and then I had a shower so I wouldn't need to bother to-morrow, (being Saturday) and I am going to cook a turkey for Easter.

Johnny came to show us his rubber boots after lunch. We figured that he would be over to-day for if one boy comes and borrows a book soon the others follow. I had some old Christmas cards with the names torn off I had saved for him and then some nuts in the shell left over and a few candys, hard kind, so we gave him all those things, he was very pleased and when he started to go he said " you have sure fixed me all up ! " He is really funny and very good natured.

Thought I would answer a few of your old letters. It is still a wind from the east and a very fine snow, hope it clears for Easter Sunday.

Those were lovely pressed flowers you sent, are they the butterfly ones ? Cis showed me the ones you sent her but some went black so she didn't keep them after all. she thought perhaps the frost had gotten them.

How nice having goldfinches feeding. Why not plant another apple tree so that you have a place to put the food and suet etc. I imagine they can plant larger ones than they used to. Or how would a hawthorne tree be!

That concert sounded lovely and I am sure it must be more rewarding to sing before a country audience who have little chance to hear wonderful singers than the Statler concert. I always felt that too many of those going were more anxious to be seen there than just to enjoy the music, if you know what I mean. I often read the criticisms in the Calgary Herald of the concerts they have, for there is a series each year of really top notch performers, and they are usually very enthusiastic and often mention the many encores the person gives etc. Remember how mad you used to be at some of the thing they said in the Boston papers after you had enjoyed a concert and then the critic would run it down.

Sorry Midge is not well, seems to me you have recovered very well, I bet what you had would have kept some people miserable for months. Am glad you are beginning to really feel yourself again.

Too bad about Sam Manierre having to have another operation. I expect it is much like the one he had before, long ago, where they graft a piece from his leg onto his back. Its too bad that he couldn't have had a few months in Arizona or some sunny clime where he could have built up for it. Seems to me living in a city must be hard for a person like that. He should be in California by rights, Are you thinking of helping him a bit ? After all its Cousin Kathie who does all the hinting and not Sam, who is the one who most likely needs some help.

We would love a bit of maple sugar, the regular block kind not the creamy candy which is a bit too sweet sometimes. We get good syrup from Quebec, which I use in a baked custard out of that New England cook book you sent once, it has some awfully good recipes, made some banana bread out of it Wednesday and was surprised how well it came out.

Did I tell you we did receive the Norman Rockwell book and

have read it and studied it several times. He goes to such pains to get the things accurate but I like the sketchy things the best but of course for Magazine covers they may want more detail.

It is really worth sending a plant to the flower show for the chance of getting in ahead of the crowd to water it. You will have to send something next year. By the way does Pietro cut down his shrimp plant each year.?Cis said she did hers last year and wonders if she should have?

Mr Walker came in yesterday morning to get the photograph Pete took of Mt Brewster for him. His son Kieth is married and lives in Montreal and they wrote the Walkers that they had been to the Art Exhibition and ^{had} seen Pete's pictures. that they are prominently hung and that there were quite a few people standing looking at them. Said they made them homesick. Mr Walker is the chief Engineer for all the roads in the parks in Western Alberta and some in British Columbia. travels a good deal. He came the other day when we didn't ask him inside the kitchen as the floor was just washed and ready to be waxed. He was much interested in how it came out for I told him I just used non polishing kind and he said that Mrs Walker always makes him polish theirs, but he refuses to get down on his knees to do any of it. We agree. They haven't had a maid for several years so I guess he has to help do floors at times.

Don't worry your letters are never too long and I really think they are very interesting even when you don't think there is much news.

We had some Cross Bills (birds) the other day, some quite red, and black and white wings. we have a real good bird book but it is only for Western birds . However there is its counterpart called "Field Guide to the Birds " by Roger Tory Peterson of the Nat'l Audubon Society and published by Houghton Mifflin Company.

It tells you the differences to look for and the pictures give the size of the birds in comparison with others. The cross bill were picking pine cones up in their beaks and then flying to a low branch on the spruce and in the book it said that they can often be spotted by the noise they make eating cones. Speaking of eating our squirrel by the house found a chicken wish bone the other day and he was too cunning holding it in his paws and chewing the meat off.

Sat. Lovely Day at last
Loads of love
Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.
Monday, April 7, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

Easter Sunday was yesterday, not a very nice day as to weather for it was overcast all day, not too cold but in the afternoon a cold wind, to-day looks more springlike with the sun shining through thin clouds. We were up early this morning which was just as well for Jackie appeared soon after eight as we were finishing breakfast to say that Mildred was being operated on for an acute Gall Bladder and thought they should go up to the hospital right away and see how things were going. She had an attack of what looked like Jaundice a week ago but thought it was flu and wouldn't see the doctor and that must have been the beginning of it or the first attack. Had awful pains in the night and called the doctor at 3.30 and he took her right to the hospital and at 7.30 AM. Dr Mackenzie called Mom to say he was operating and had wired Cliff to come down from Temple. This was the morning that Mom was to leave for the coast and Jackie and Florence were going too. Donny was to leave at nine with some boys for the Halfway cabin for their vacation young Peter and Cliff having already gone skiing. Things like this always happen at a time like this.

When we got up to Moma's they had already telephoned from the hospital that the operation was over and Mildred was asking for Mom, she had got it in her mind that Mom was leaving today and didn't want her to put off the trip. ^{on account of her} So we ran her up, saw Dr Mackenzie and he advised Mom to tell Mildred she was going but to wait a few days until they saw how things went. They found the gall bladder about ~~twice~~ ten times the normal size and instead of taking it out have drained it, as that is not quite as hard on a person I guess. She has a very high blood pressure as a rule and they also are worried about her kidneys, but should know in a few days if she will be alright. It would come just at the busiest time at Temple and Sir Norman with 2 Swiss and Capt. Head arrive this week and all sorts of things happening. Donny was the one we felt the sorriest for, especially when the other boys were at the house waiting for him to go and the doctor thought he really should stay. Peter went up last weekend and this is their Easter vacation. Young Cliff and Bill Holmes were down Saturday night to borrow the Army tent Russ gave us. They are camping out for four or five days up near Redoubt Lake. They are both in the Reserve Army and later on are to go on a trip from Yoho to Bow Lakes and I guess want to get experience first.

Yesterday we didn't go to church, went for a short drive in the Jeep before lunch and got a bunch of pussy willows. Then Pete thought seeing it was Easter it might be a good time to drop in on some of the older people we knew as one does at Christmas. He isn't much on making calls as a rule so off we went. First to Mrs Edwards, Rupe's mother, she was tickled to pieces. As a person who has had a very hard life full of tragedy and when Rupe was killed in Burma it was the crowning blow. She doesn't go out much and we didn't realize that she wasn't away this winter or we should have gone before. Then to the Parises where we arrived just as they were about to have a late lunch. Georgie the daughter was up from Calgary, we didn't want to stay but they insisted so we sat with them and had ice cream. Then to the Coopers, an old couple that lives down the road, both well over 80 and he has had a stroke. Mrs Copper was out driving but we saw Mr Cooper a minute. Then down to Mrs Oakanders. She was just back from Claresholm where she had been visiting her son, and curiously enough she spoke of hearing Portia

White sing. You know I wrote you about how I thought it must be more rewarding for a singer to perform before a country audience when they are so appreciative, than in a city. and the next day read in the paper the enclosed about this Portia White (at least I hope I can find it to enclose) Mrs Oakander said it was the most wonderful concert and she never heard an audience so appreciative. you could have heard a pin drop. Then last night on the Vancouver news it mentioned the wonderful reception that Kirstine Flagstad got in Boston, how they rose and cheered and gave her one of the greatest ovations. I was interested that they mentioned it on our news. but guess the city audiences can be appreciative too.

When we got home after four Sam and Cis were just knocking on our door so they made a nice call. We had a late supper and Davy came in then so all in all it was quite a day. Mrs Oakander is the most generous of people and insisted we take home a jar of the thickest cream I ever saw. Whipping cream that was so thick it didn't need whipping, and two dozen fresh eggs.

Barbara's family did enough church going for all of us. Davy went to the Presbyterian Sunday school, (he is crazy about the minister there) and to church, Bubby sang in the choir at the Presbyterian. Then Hrold went to Sunday school at the Anglican church (where his friends go) and then to the United church in the morning to sing in their choir. and Johnny goes to Sunday school at the United and I don't know where he goes to church! Davy said they have talked Mr Blackburn (the Presbyterian minister) into letting boys sing in the Junior choir and so Harold is apt to shift churches to sing with Davy and Earl Foster, with Bubby's choir. Harold was going to church again last night to hear Mom sing but had a rash on his back so couldn't go.

Better send this along now. Loads of love to all

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. April 8, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

Don't know how far I will get with this start of a letter, we are waiting for Cliff and Johnny is here talking with Pete. Mildred is much better to-day and the Doctor told Mom when she went up this morning that she could pack up and go to the coast any time. Yesterday he asked her to stay a few days until he could see how things were going so he must feel things are going to be alright. We haven't done very much but be here both yesterday and to-day with a lot of running round. Donny went up to Temple yesterday afternoon after having lunch with us and Mom came down to supper. Then we drove her up to the hospital for a few minutes and brought her back down to listen to a radio program. Murray Adaskin was to play his own Sonata for violin and piano that he wrote last year. It ~~was~~ a half hour instrumental program, a different artist each time. It was a good program they played two things first and then Murrays Sonata. It was a bit deep for us being quite modern but seemed very unusual and exotic, a bit like Balinese music and would have been good for a ballet to dance too.

Now it is supper time, we are having spare ribs.

Now it is supper time, we are having salmon chowder ! This is as far as I got yesterday and actually we have also finished the chowder. and it is Wednesday night. We seem to have had rather a mixed up time this week with Mildred being so sick and all the rest of it. Mom went up yesterday morning to the hospital, I see I have mentioned that above, and so got her reservations for the coast and leaves to-morrow morning and after that we can maybe get down to doing our own things again.

Yesterday we went over to see how the new bathroom was coming along in the apartment that is being fixed over and a few things like that, We were to have a new motor put in the Ford this week but then thought we better keep the car until Mom goes to the coast as the Jeep is hard for her to get in and out of and taking her up and down to the hospital and all the Ford is better. Cliff was down again yesterday and we waited around as he was to come back and tell us how things were going and also to get a bite to eat. Mildred seems to be getting on well, I haven't seen her yet as it seemed best to let her rest. Mom was sitting with her all last evening as the sisters had asked if she would. The night before Mildred had been restless and a bit delirious and they were afraid she would tear the bandage and tube (that is draining the gall bladder) off in her sleep. They finally had to get a special nurse and they have so few they can call in, though there are some in the village. nurses married and with families, so often they just can't go up to the hospital. Mom was here for supper and then we drove her up to the hospital and she stayed until eleven when Mildred was asleep.

We went down to take the bag back to Mrs Vakander the one she had loaded with fresh eggs and the jar of whipping cream, We got some butter and sugar and filled the knitting bag; but when we left the second time we had our arms full of fresh scones and cake. She just insists on giving away all she can. She is a wonderful person. Came from Inverness in Scotland and lived in Edinburgh and worked for some family there before coming to Canada. then she married a carpenter a Mr Vakander, he was Scandinavian.

She is a tremendous person, about as tall as Betty Dumaine but larger all the way down and has trouble with her legs, I suppose because of her weight. She has the loudest laugh you ever heard and is the heartiest person you can imagine. In fact I have never seen anyone like her. Is an Albino too with very pale eyebrows and lashes. When she comes into the store you can hear her from one end of the other but her heart is just as big as her voice.

We were talking about funerals and she said she didn't know why but with all the sadness something funny always seemed to happen when she went to a funeral. One she told us of where she was a great friend of the lady who had died and so sat in the pew right behind the husband, and during the ceremony she looked down and there were the husband's false teeth right by her foot so that she almost kicked them with her toe. The upper set. It struck her so funny that she said she had to get up and go out of the church, and the minister told her later he had seen it too and didn't dare catch her eye or he couldn't have gone on with the service!

Then she told us about Jim Bresters funeral this year. They sent a car around for her and she evidently sat in front with the young driver and in the back seat were Mr and Mrs Fullbrook and a Mrs Wheatley. The latter is a very tall important person to herself and family, the kind that loves to be the head of ladies things and sort of dignified. Well the line of cars was so great that their car in the procession just got inside the cemetery gates, but none of them got out of the car. Mrs Oakander can't walk very far anyway. There were lots of Indians up from Morely and much to Mrs Oakanders surprise and amusement one great big squaw lifted her skirt and squatted right down beside their car., even pulled out a little Robin Hood flour sack she carried and got a bit of paper out of it. I guess Mrs Oakander's shoulders must have been shaking a bit, for Mrs Wheatley wanted to know what the squaw was doing, so Mrs Oakander said " she is just relieving herself." " Relieving herself of what ? " piped up Mrs Wheatley. I guess that nearly finished Mrs Oakander and if you only knew Mrs Wheatley.

This is an awfully mixed up letter but every time I try to write something interrupts and as you see I can't spell either. Will enclose a funny that struck us as really quite funny. "Blondie"

Did you notice in the last New Yorker March 23th. under books that there is quite a review of "Henry Adams and his friends" That must be the same Henry Adams that was in the play we saw about Holmes. I never connected him with the "Education of Henry Adams," did you?

Well guess I will call this a letter and in my next will try to answer questions.

Loads of love,

Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. April 10, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

This time I am going to start out by reading over some of your letters I have saved to answer and maybe I will do better. Got a nice one from Mildred which I will enclose. She must have had a wonderful vacation in Florida and I am so glad. Just looked Jacksonville up, I forgot it was in the Northern part. *can't find it!*

I do have a hard time sitting down to write you this week and never got any further than the above yesterday. But from now on perhaps we will get back to normal. Yesterday morning Mom left for the coast. We took her bags down and checked them, then were to take her up to see Mildred for a minute but couldn't find her, she having walked up to save bothering us. When the train was late as it invariably is if you have anyone going or coming on it. But we got her on allright and started on her trip. Had a late lunch and then ~~then~~ went looking for Mildred Ashley as Allan Carscallen had written us for two rooms and a bath for July if we knew of a place. After that I decided I might as well go to the Red Cross for a while and made a couple of pairs of pants. Pete in the meantime was here when Cliff got down and they hunted for a Mrs Case who might come and look after the boys and the house, but they couldn't find her so we went down just before supper to see her. However she has had to stay with someone ~~having~~ having bronchial Ashma, and isn't well enough to take on the job. George Brewster called us in to his house and they said they would gladly take Peter as their boy Joey is Peter's best friend. and also suggested someone who might know of a person to come. We were eating our supper when Mario came over, had some desert with us, and wanted to know about keeping Mom's furnace going and also Mildred's cat. and so it went. Then after seven I went up to see Mildred a minute and was surprised to find her sitting up a bit in bed and really looking quite well, though the thing is still draining. She can read and is feeling much better.

To-day we had a load of coal come to carry us through to fall, and were glad it, the truck, didn't sink into the ground where it crosses the lawn. The boy Jimmy Harbidge is just a boy of about 18, no more and the best worker you ever saw, in fact their problem is to keep him from working too hard. He is so careful and put planks down first to back on and then afterwards cleans up all the coal he spills. We also had arranged to take Mom's plants up to Cis Wards for her to care for, I really was afraid of killing them with too much or too little water and also we wanted to turn off the heat in her house. Mildred was to have taken them. It took us 2 trips in the Jeep after lunch to get them all up there, for they had so many branches and long spikes sticking up and we were scared to death we would do something awful. Cis has them on a table in the basement. Its good of her to look after them and right away she glanced at one and said it needed a little water and the others looked just the same to us.

Then we stopped to see how the apartment bathroom is coming along and spoke to Sam and soon after we got back young Cliff arrived with the Jeep to return the tent and other things he had borrowed and told us about their trip. It evidently snowed

quite a bit but they had a good time and found how the things worked. He went up to see his mother and then when he came back on his way to Louise I made a couple of toasted cheese sandwiches for him to eat and we talked some more. Now we are going out to get some chinese supper and see how the Ford is coming along.

Later - It is now Saturday and feels really spring like out. It is 55° now after lunch and a warm wind blowing so perhaps the rest of the snow will go, we are anxious to rake but there is still a drift on the front lawn and other parts are too soggy yet. I never saw snow go so slowly.

The two Gliffs are down, came in for a few minutes this morning. They are still expecting Sir Norman and the road is so bad that they aren't promising transportation to anyone. We haven't gotten up to Bow lake yet as the road hasn't been plowed far enough. It was just as well that we wouldn't go this week. The road to Lake Louise was alright it is the Temple road that is bad.

Must send this along. Our days have been so interrupted lately.

Loads of love

Catharine



Banff, Alberta.
Tues. April 15, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

We haven't done too well lately, I guess too many odd things to think of and not enough time for our own activities! Every time I have started a letter lately there has been one interruption after another, I can't even remember when I last wrote you! Guess it was Friday.

Saturday I did the usual weekly cleaning and the two Cliffs came in to see what success we had had finding someone to look after the house and the boys. (Evie from Temple came down yesterday for a week I think and the boys like her and she is a good worker and will be just right in looking after things) They were here a while. Then in the afternoon we were just going out the drive when a car stopped and Mr Turner of the Art Gallery stopped to speak to us. He is hunting for space to open an Art Gallery here (if we ever build onto the store we had that in mind) but it is impossible to find anything, especially this year. Had quite a chat with him. Have forgotten the other things we did, except take the long clippers up to Cis for Sam to use Sunday on their trees and such odd errands.

About five thirty, so it was about six, Saturday afternoon Luigi Foeger and George Eisenschiml dropped in. We had planned an early supper but for just the two of us had a potatoe/ each and a bit of left over vegetable and knowing that Mrs Luigi was at the hotel didn't think to ask them for supper and in fact were afraid if we did they would leave. So I turned off the oven and we had a nice visit. Luigi is very enthusiastic once we gets going and he spoke of the new Kodachrome he is to use this year for his ski movie. a professional type that hasn't been used before and will give better color if it works. I gave him the copy of the Concord Journal with the picture of the three skiers taken from his film. "Ski Pros Holiday" they were interested that it had been reproduced in the Journal. Then he talked of the difficulty using the new film and how each time they shot with some color missing they had to use a different filter. it sounded so complicated that I wonder they will get anything, and no one could tell them much about using it it is so new. He also spoke of the various ski resorts and was most amusing about skiers in general. He claims he is a deep snow skier but 95% of the skiers now-a-days know nothing but packed slopes and runs and he said he used to think they would come back to preferring new snow but he has given up hope! He really was amusing and interesting and before we knew it it was 7.30. The roast a bit dry when we ate it! Then we took a run up to the hospital to see Mildred and after being home a short time Nick Morant and his wife and Eileen Harmon dropped in. They had come around the evening before but we had gone to bed early. They stayed until after midnight and were we tired. Nick too is so intensely interested in things that it becomes quite exciting discussing things with them. He was asking for his ideas on photography and painting and composition. Nick is one of the best commercial photographers in Canada. Has just had the graflex camera people in the states put on an exhibition of his work and he goes all over the country taking pictures for the C.P.R. and

Photos

the Government. He too is going out to Sunshine to take ~~photos~~ of skiing, but stills, not movies. We are wondering how he will get along with Luigi and his bunch. Luigi knows better than most anyone how to take ski pictures and he has a lot of the best skiers with him. Nick knows about Mountain photography but not from the skiing angle.

Later - Sunday we were a bit weary from so much talk and a late night. It was not such a nice day and too wet to rake. Luigi had said that his wife would like to see us and would we be home so we said we would all day, rather foolish of us for we should have invited them to tea and then known when they would come. But anyway we sort of sat around. Jonny was over in the morning when we were outside and we joked with him and then in the afternoon when Davy went off on his bike with friends it left Harold and he soon came over here and asked if he could "Play with us a while" We had a long talk about being a Sailor which Harold wants to be when he grows up, only in the Navy, he knows about swabbing decks and has already started practising by doing the kitchen floor! At noon as we were eating lunch and older man came in from church. He had thought of us in church for he has many problems with a sick wife and a daughter who has a mother complex and stays with the mother rather than with the young husband. The family have to move, have the chance of a house to buy, but also the married daughter would go to her husband if he can find a house which he too would have to buy. So he was wanting to borrow a bit. It really is funny, but actually so far most all those we have loaned to have repaid the loans, and the ones with the least money have been the first to try and pay us back. That was another problem, we sure had a lot of diversified subjects to deal with.

Mrs Luiggi and the little boy Chris didn't appear until five and stayed about an hour. Then in the evening we again went up to see Mildred for a few minutes.

Yesterday I was all set to start cleaning, spring cleaning but it was so dark and snowing hard that I couldn't get into the swing of it and before doing more than write a letter with Pete to Mr Vallance (who we knew was away but want to have draw up the new store lease for us with Jackie) when Dick Pike called. We started talking about one thing or another and Pete was so afraid that he wanted a loan and we would have to refuse that he kept talking himself and told stories and we told of trips to Skoki etc and about all Dick asked about was if we knew of a house they could rent and we still aren't sure whether or not that was what he really came for! He left at 12.30 and then Cliff came with Evie from Temple and the boys but didn't come in. Somehow we couldn't settle to anything after all the goings on and as it cleared up went out, over to see Sam and talked some more and found that Mr Vallance was arriving to-day from the coast, but we had already mailed the letter.

Now to-day we have had a nice talk with Mr Vallance this morning and he will look after things for us, he is such a very nice person. Sam is building a house for him, and as it is a perfect day we are going out this afternoon. No all for this letter. Oh yes Edmee was down last night for the evening, but no problems with her!

Loads of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. April 17, 1947

Dearest Mother,

When we have cold snowy weather one doesn't feel much like spring cleaning and then when you have a few fine days we get bad attacks of spring fever. What is one to do?

Monday it snowed hard in the morning but cleared in the afternoon and since then it has been warm and nice. Did I tell you about all we managed to do Monday? I wrote a letter to Mr Vallance the lawyer and had no sooner mailed it that Sam told us he was arriving Tuesday morning. So Tuesday we planned to see him most of all. It was the most perfect spring day you ever saw, clear and lovely, so nice for them to have such nice weather the one day here. We went looking for them and they came looking for us at the same time but we eventually connected and they spent the rest of the morning down here. Mr Vallance and Pete and Sam talking outside while Mrs Vallance and I conversed indoors. It was a relief to us to find that he would look after any of the things we need a lawyer's advise on for Pete's uncle is a bit old now and with the Vallances coming up here to live it will be nice to be able to ask him things. He is a fine sort of person and so easy to talk to, we first knew him on the Trail Hike and they have a fine boy and girl.

After lunch we decided to take the car for its first run up the west road as one has to drive and work in the new motor as one does a new car. We went up to Castle Mountain and back. I have been up to see Mildred each evening for a little while, depending on how many people are there, then we took a run up to see Sam but he was at the show but we stayed a few minutes with Cis and saw her cactus plant. It had two lovely blooms, a pale pink as large as an easter lily but more petals and lovely things inside. It lasts just 24 hours and when we took Johnny up the next morning they were already faded. The cactus itself is like a round ball and homely and it only blooms maybe once in several years I think.

Yesterday, Wednesday, I was going to start to spring clean, for my idea this year is to do it just in the morning, a little each day and not too seriously. but before I got started Sam came down as he had a stiff neck as well as spring fever and so we sat in the sun on the bench and watched the birds and talked, each encouraging the other not to start working. We took the car after lunch and went up beyond Castle Mt. It wasn't nearly as nice a day being too milky for pictures but was warm and we had the top down. Stopped in to see Ulysses Lecasse. He was building a most attractive fence in front of his house, he is the game warden at Castle and used to be at Lake Louise. He has built four posts of rock and then has logs in between, the proportions are fine, he has made things out of odd bits of wood, burls and twisted branches and insisted we go inside and see his collection of rocks. One very interesting thing is an old buffalo skull he found near there and an old spear point was nearby, must have belonged to the Indians. When we came back we raked the front lawn, it was all matted down with the heavy snow on it all winter so we were glad to get it dry enough to rake. Have raked the back bit too to-night after supper. The part we filled in last year and are hoping will grow well with seed. We went down Tuesday and asked Casper about burning the grass that we didn't have sythed last year and is quite long. He is in charge of the golf course and knows a lot about such

such things. He said he would come and have a look at it but one thing he could tell us not to do was to burn it. Said that was an old fashioned idea but that it only burned the roots and never did anything any good. So that is something to know. Wish our neighbor knew it for he scares us someyears when he starts to burn his grass.

To-day was warm again but not too clear and to-night clouds are coming up and the barometer has dropped so maybe we have had the lovely weather. However I did get started on my house cleaning and worked about 3 hours this morning on the big bedroom. *Wife painted the worktop.* vacuumed the ceiling and finished about half of it. When we get the room really finished it will be much easier ^{to clean} out there is no use thinking of doing anything in the way of building these days, and if we are patient a few more years there will be more and better material and no doubt new things as well. We want to insulate the ceiling and finish it in some board or veneer and then maybe get the real permanent cupboards built.

This afternoon I was drawn between raking outside or going to Red Cross, but decided to do something sitting down after the mornings exercise, for house cleaning with the windows all open is good exercise I figure. Actually there were several errands to do so it was after two when I went to the Red Cross and we were all there and made a nightgown each.

Now this evening we have raked, called on Mildred and I have written this and it is nearly bedtime. Mildred will not be home until sometime next week but is getting on fine and out of bed part of the time as the drains are all out.

Loads of love

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Sunday, April 20, 1947

Dearest Mother,

See what luck I have this time in writing you ! We seem to go through periods of unexpected interruptions and the last two weeks have been like that. However we are hoping soon to get straightened away. Banff is a great place for things to happen I suppose because it is growing still and new ideas and developments.

We have had nice spring weather lately and last night a good hard rain, the first real one this year, to-day is cloudy with sudden rain or snow squalls but it is over 40. We had hoped to rake a bit to-day but it is too wet, we only have the actual lawn done so far and not the grass we have sythed ~~in summer~~.

Cliff was down yesterday and Sir Norman and Capt. Head with two Swiss have reached Calgary and he spoke to them on the phone, they were to come up to Banff yesterday afternoon or to-day and then go on to Lake Louise Monday. so yesterday we decided that they might appear at any moment and thinking of the time we had last Saturday decided not to cook a chicken as planned and have a steak instead which can be cooked any time. So of course no one came. We think they might drop around to-day so aren't going out or doing anything special. We could have raked had it been nicer but instead will do odd things.

Mildred is still in the hospital but up in a chair during the day, she may come home next week, perhaps Tuesday. Cliff has a person named Doris to come and look after the house, she was doing rooms at the Lake Louise lodge last summer, a fine worker and will be fine to stay here for a month or so for it may be some time before Mildred can do much.

Jackie and Florence are back from their trip to the coast. I haven't seen either of them and Pete has only seen Florence but we hope that Jackie's health has improved and also that he is more amiable. We would like to get all the leases and things straightened out for once and have Mr Vallance to help us this time and see that things are decided and that then they make up their minds they stick to what they decide. With Sir Norman here the ski business may get organized too and once it is all ~~arranged~~ ^{agreed} on ~~arranged~~ it will be much better for we should all know where we stand. We would like to get everything cleared up so that we can put all our mind to painting.

Had a long call from Major Jennings on Friday afternoon. He is the retired superintendent and told us all his family problems and a lot of other things. Don't know why he comes to us except that he knows we are good friends and don't carry tales.

We were up at the Wards that night, went up for a few minutes to give Sam a check for Benny Woodworth who was working at the store, and stayed until ten.

My housecleaning hasn't progressed very rapidly. All I got done was half the big room upstairs and the cupboard which I had neglected to do last year, mice had eaten a chain of seed beads we got in Honolulu and scattered it all over the place. Will see if I can do some more to-morrow.

And now to answer some of your letters etc.

" Driftwood Valley " arrived yesterday and I have taken it to Mildred to read it looks awfully good. Many thanks.

You spoke of the colored singer Portia White staying at the Palliser Hotel. a while ago there were 4 or 5 colored singers and they couldn't get into any of the hotels and there were letters to the paper and very insensed ones, but it turned out that some of the hotels were full and no room for anyone and it wasn't because they were negroes. Did you read in the paper about the 5000 babies born to British mothers, their fathers the negro soldiers. They find that the colored babies are hard to fit into the life in England and some committee is arranging to have the children sent to the fathers in the states, there are still 5000 more being kept in England. but what problems. Evidently the women had no feeling about the color.

Mildred lives where Lila used to. Evie from Temple came down for a few days from Temple to look after the boys and their meals but went back yesterday as she was needed for Sir Norman and also a house full of other guests. The boys are alone right now and we are to keep an eye on them until Tuesday.

Later. Got this far and Fern Brewster Clarkson came to bring some books back and borrow some more. Had a nice visit and while she was here it snowed hard for about 15 minutes, made the ground white but it soon melted. The others haven't showed up at all. Just as well. When you expect anyone they seldom appear but when least expected in they drop.

Wonder did Margaret Watkins come to Concord. Expect now that the garden is lovely you are having lots of people sundays. Don't blame you for not liking house cleaning, if it weren't for the fear of moths I might not do so much. But do think I had better dust behind the bed once a year ! Luckily our house has little dust from week to week and I should say at the end of a year it has as much dust as a city house in a week.

Am afraid I forget to tell you the most amusing things that happen. this photographer Nick Morant is the most amusing person and will say anything. Has great fun speaking what he calls Russian in a wonderful accent. using the names of towns like "minsk, Pinsk etc " At the time of the Communist trials someone warned him to be careful not to joke too much he might be arrested. The other day at the Mt Royal Fern noticed that the sign at the dining room door saying " no dogs allowed " had been moved way down near the floor, and she asked how that had happened, and the head waitress said that Nick Morant had come along, moved the sign down saying " How do you expect the dogs to read it way up there " He really is comical and when he gets going and finds someone he can shock a bit he " goes to town " and without any help but a few laughs can keep up a running conversation.

Aren't miss Annie Agges letters wondrefful for a person her age? and how nice of Russ to take the children in to see her.

We got another letter from the Montreal friend who was on the train and sent us the Montreal paper about the Art Exhibition.

Telling us that she had been to see it herself. To quote from her letter she wrote " I went down to the Art Gallery before Easter & was very pleased to find your husbands pictures well hung. 'Stonies' had a section of space all to itself- there is a sort of Gallery all around at the head of the main stairway. with various rooms opening off this gallery ' Stonies ' was hung here upon a section of wall to itself, where it showed up wonderfully well, and I saw a number of people looking at it. Then the "Rockies " was hung in one of the other rooms together with a few others. It showed up to good advantage too as they don't crowd them. There was a wonderful color effect, I thought, in that picture. But thought you would be glad to know that Stonies was exceptionally well hung. - - - there were some pretty crude looking pictures there, especially the modernistics where you just stand in front of them and wonder what its all about, and whether they made a mistake and hung them upside down etc. It was all very interesting. " I thought it awfully good of her to write.

Yes we have northern lights but because of the trees near us we don't often notice them and then too the high mountains hide a good deal of them unless they are directly overhead. Maybe if we had an outdoor privy to go to each evening we might not smiss them but we don't go out at night very often and with the lights you don't see them as well.

That was such a nice letter from Margaret Watkins and on re-reading it I see that it is this weekend she is in Concord. I never thought of what a nice weekend it was for you all with the 19th on a Saturday. Don't expect there was much skiing left in N.H, yet Mrs Munday in her letter from Montreal said they had a blizzard on the 16th of April tying up all Traffic again. She called it a severe blizzard.

Am glad you liked " With the West in her Eyes" it gives a good idea of life on the praries. Did you ever read " Never a Dull Moment ? " it was her husbands life before she married him. He was in the Yukon and Honolulu and all sorts of interesting experiences. If you haven't I can send it to you.

Don't you think one reason that Cousin Berts and Frances flowers don't bloom more is because there are so many trees around both their houses compared to yours which get the sun? That is one reason Cis has such luck as her sunroom is on a S.E. corner and high.

You certainly had a successful ^{half} day in Boston and what a lot you did in no time at all, we were much interested in Cousin "arriet making the night gown. wish we had her in the Red Cross for we are making nightgowns with rose buds right now. What a price for evening gowns they are charging.

I liked "Three Came back" and think you would. It is hard to understand how they survived those three years and as Barbara said to think that all the children lived through it. and she. Mrs Keith wasn't really bitter about it at all. She was quite wonderful I thought.

Loads of love,

Callanice

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. April 24, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

Haven't written you all week and the last three days have been the most hectic yet with so many varied problems, not disagreeable problems but time consuming ones. So much has happened that I can't even remember all we have done and seen about. I expect it was much like your day with Margaret there, and Annie Olson and the pig being killed !

Better start with Monday. I was all set to do my great house cleaning job and got started after breakfast to finish the big bedroom (it still isn't done with things lying on the floor yet) Pete went over for the mail and met Nick Morant who has just come in from Sunshine Ski Camp. He was rather critical of the way Cliff was running Temple and reservations and wants to get photographs for the C.B.R. advertising as they haven't any recent ones. Pete said that they were a bit late in showing an interest in the place having ignored it when Temple needed people and now because it is going ahead most interested to be in on developments. But because Nick is a good friend they could thrash it all out. It took most of Pete's time and got him all worked up with ideas etc. so when he came home about eleven it took him until time to get lunch to tell me all about it ! We had expected Sir Norman and the two Swiss fellows at noon but they didn't come until next day. What we did in the afternoon I can't remember very well but there was a lot of running around. Saw Jackie back from the coast, and a few other people about various things. Thought alot about what Nick had said and so met the train from Lake Louise (as he had gone up for the day only) and asked them down for the evening for some more talk. Then had Donny and Peter to supper and all went up to see Mildred at the Hospital right afterwards. She was to come home the next day at two o'clock. Nick and Willi came down about 8.30 but were to stay no later than 10.30 so they said, instead they left at 12.30 so it was quite an evening but we did have a good talk about things.

Cliff had told us he hoped to be down Tuesday in time to meet the 10 o'clock train from the west with Doris on it. She was the person who did all the rooms at Lake Louise Ski lodge last summer and said she would come early to help Mildred. We met the train " no Doris " went for the mail and Jackie said Doris was already here, came a day early and was at the King Edward. Went there and found her, took her to Mildred's to show her the house and explain things a bit. Then back to the hotel having arranged to pick her up after lunch so that she would be there when Mildred got home. Suddenly remembered we hadn't shut the front door so I went back to do that and was just coming away when a car drove up. Dr Costigan with Mildred. It was then about 11 Am. Pete saw them so went back to try and find Doris but couldn't and left messages. Then we stayed with Mildred until the boys came from school for lunch. They had the house nice and warm. Doris got the message and came over in a taxi and then we had to rush home for our lunch. In the meantime we had gotten a letter from Lila and a matter to attend to for her which meant three trips to try and find Dr Robinson and then a wire about my Income Tax to answer, and a rather exciting letter from Gray Cambell who has found a ranch to buy, to think about, and then in the afternoon Sir Norman and Capt.

Head appeared and stayed to tea, were talking from about three until after five. Then up to see how Mildred was making out and a rush over town to get our supper and her groceries as little Peter hadn't shown up from school, waiting until the last minute. In the evening there was a directors meeting of the Ski club, and besides that Davy was over during our lunch and there were other odd things to be done. We were pretty tired by evening/ Cliff never did come down so just as well we took it on ourselves to see that Doris got to Mildreds.

Yesterday was Wednesday, I wrote Lila and Mom, (so Mom wouldn't have to read Lilas letter) then we saw Head and Watson and took them to the Calgary Power man and introduced them there. then after lunch took them up to see the building at Charlie Vanzants and Norman Tabuteaus and a drive around. Pete in the morning had had to see Mr Hansen about papers for Bill Ridgway to get the Gov't grant to WWeterans. in the afternoon we found a note on the door that Vic Ball had been down twice, also hunted for him and found he has sold his house and moving to Fernie next week. and so it went one little thing after another. Pete also spoke to various people about a Jitney service to the camp ground in summer. an idea we gave to Dave Prosser. and also we spoke to Casper about whether or not to rake our grass and took Grace rather home with her groceries and a good many other odd things. It rained last night and we went to see if Head and Watson wanted to come down but they weren't in. This morning they went to Temple on the noon train and we went down to meet the two Swiss as they had stayed in Calgary and went right through. Also we wrote a long letter to Gray yesterday which took a bit of wording. It may not sound busy but it was, thinking of so many different things all at once.

Now to Red Cross.

Loads of love to all.

Catharine .

Banff, Alberta.
Sunday, April 27, 1947

Dearest Mother,

Sunday and a perfect spring day, up in the sixties and such a lovely sun, only this afternoon the wind blew pretty hard and for some reason there are lots of big flies to-night, indoors, maybe it means rain.

Daylight Saving started to-day and we dutifully turned our clocks forward and got up Daylight time, then the trains still came in standard time and the church bells rang by Standard so by noon we didn't know which time Banff was using and we still don't know. Calgary has changed to Daylight so it is most confusing and we don't know when to go to bed!

Have been doing a bit of raking to-day and yesterday. It was nice then too. The kids helped yesterday afternoon and hauled all the wheel barrow fulls to a fire, we find it is more fun and we get more help by burning the grass and leaves. It was funny for in the morning we did the usual errands and cleaning and took the laundry etc. Then had an early lunch and got on old clothes and started raking. Pete had to take the car over to Bill Bunns so I said I would start where the boys could see us and we might get help. Harold was the first to come running over and then Johnny, Billy Mackenzie and later Davy. Harold is the best worker and did all the hauling while Johnny and his little friend soon tired and went off. Davy merely tended the fire which was not exactly hard work. I raked beyond the grass we cut in front of the house. Last year Steve didn't sythe the grass early enough and we let it go when Russ and family were about to arrive thinking it looked greener long, but now we find it makes the raking pretty hard. Pete came back and raked near the fire to keep an eye on that and then after a while I looked up and found he was sitting talking to someone. It turned out to be Major Jennings and after a while Norman Luxton drove in and then after more talk Pete went off with him to see the stage coach, and after a few words with me Major Jennings went too. even the kids left when they heard "stage coach" so in the end I did most of the raking, for when Ken Bunn brought the car back Pete had to take him down to the Service Station! Actually I didn't mind. Both the men were down partly about the same thing. This time the Mountain School which the Greenhams have run for many years. The Lindsays were among the first pupils. They knew we had helped with the evacuees and wondered how interested we were in the continuation of the school. The Greenhams have retired and are to sell the school property, but though there is someone interested in buying it for tourist accomodation, the two teachers at present running the school haven't enough money. One is a relation of Norman Luxton's so that accounts for his interest but we said we weren't really interested in helping and didn't think many others would be. The other subject is the museum, they have lots of wonderful collections but no building.

The crocuses are out and last night we took Johnny up to the back of Tunnel Mountains to gather some and Friday he also talked us into going to the golf course at noon to find the first ones. We don't mind as we are still working in the new motor in the Ford.

Friday I went to a tea, felt I was dressing for a funeral as I wore a hat but it turned into quite a tea and some were very dressy. It was given by Mrs Kennedy for her son's mother-in-law, a Mrs Major who is just back from visiting them in Honolulu, she was a terribly nice person but it was one of those awkward teas where people don't know where to sit and too many for the first little room and we always seemed to be getting up and down and having conversations interrupted. I was anxious to hear a bit about the "awaiian islands but never got much chance. Bud (the son) is running a hotel on Kauai.

As soon as I got home I was so dressed up I had to get back into my old clothes so we could do a bit of work outside after supper.

Nearly forgot the most important thing, to thank you for the perfectly wonderful box full of candy and the maple sugar. It is a real treat for we haven't had any candy since that you sent us Christmas. I couldn't believe the whole parcel was candy at first, and as the customs declaration was torn we saw "MAP" and for a moment thought it meant "maps" there was no duty though it had been opened. This will keep us going until my birthday! Many thanks.

Don't know when I will ever catch up on my writing etc. Still have a few Christmas letters to write! Oh well we may have some rain before long and also if we have daylight saving one can do a bit outside in the evenings.

This isn't much of a letter but being outdoors all day made me sleepy. Hope I will feel energetic to-morrow morning. I still haven't gotten beyond that one big bedroom in my spring cleaning and that has only been rather well dusted not scrubbed! Can't decide whether to attempt the downstairs or finish upstairs first. If I only knew how many callers we are apt to have drop in.

Mary Simpson and little Jimmy came over for a talk this afternoon about Bow lakes, they can't decide just what to do first. Would like to add on to the big building but it is so hard to get materials that is out of the question. think they will finish two cabins at Hector Lake first so as to hold their site there and Big Jim and Mrs Simpson expect to be there this summer as Mary and Little Jim are taking over the running of the Bow lakes place.

Guess I will go to bed so all for now.

Loads of love

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
~~April~~
Thurs. May 1, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

April did go too fast for us and here it is May. Perhaps we can get more accomplished this month. I might even get the housecleaning done! I told Pete this morning that I wasn't a very good housekeeper, and he said that was one reason he liked me! Saw another moth flying round so that has made me more anxious to get the cupboards cleaned. Somehow it is so easy to put things off in the springtime.

That Catharine Wright you spoke of and sent the letter was a great friend of the Surretts and both Pete and I went there to a Sunday dinner one time to meet them. She is a Philadelphia person and may have been at the summer school in Concord at one time. By the way does the summer school of music still go on or did it stop during the war I wonder?

We have ^{been} doing a bit of running around as usual, so many little things to see to. Got a letter from Dorothy Whyte who runs the Georgian Club at the coast. A ladies club much like the Chilton Club in Boston. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ they have part of the top floor at the Hotel Georgia in Vancouver and very attractive rooms. Teas and lunches, and special parties are often held there by members. Dorothy is Secretary and runs it all, doing the catering as well and I used to help her shop for food. She worked hard to save them money in every possible way for they were trying to get a building fund. Now she writes that they are moving to another place and will have a bigger dining room and ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ the house committee have engaged a cook they used to have and paid \$85. a month, but who will look after the catering and will now be paid \$170. a month. While they still intend to pay Dorothy only \$135. a month and she is the one who has done all the managing for them for ages. She doesn't feel she can stay with this arrangement, and we suddenly thought perhaps they could use her at Lake Louise. Have talked to Cliff who is very much in favor of the idea but don't know that Sir Norman and Head would be as enthusiastic. We can only hope that if they see her at the coast they will like her and consider her. We have done what we could to recommend her but after all we haven't much influence. *Got a letter later that she is to stay on at the Georgian Club a while longer.*

Then we heard from Gray and Eleanor Campbell who have found a wonderful ranch in the Pincher Creek country. They can get the Government veterans loan of \$6000. available to approved veterans and their wives, also the ranch has to be approved. With their savings added they can almost get the place but need a bit more and as the Gov't won't let them start owing anyone but themselves they thought of taking on a partner. So we decided to offer to be partners if they would let us, and had to write a letter about that.

Later. It is now evening and such a day. This morning I wrote to Lila about a matter we had looked after for her and Pete came rushing home with the mail and said there was a Norwegian lady from Montreal who was selling homespun at the store and had some

most attractive colored pictures of her house in the Laurentians and wanted me to see them and meet her, it ended by our bringing her over here and she liked our house and especially the pictures. We thought she should show the pictures of the furniture to Sir Norman and were telling him about them when who should drive in but Sir Norman and Capt. Head. We had to go back to the store to get the photographs and she showed them to the two men and they were most interested. Then I took her to her hotel and after I got back we talked to Sir Norman and Head until one thirty. The time I usually start for the Red Cross. We had a hurried lunch and made sandwiches out of some orange bread I made last night and got to the Red Cross soon after 2.30. Made two brown dresses except for the hand work and was home about 5.30. That is the way things happen here, you never seem to know from one moment to the next what will turn up. The ski Club meeting will be Saturday but we won't have to go. However Sir Norman and Head want to talk to us Sunday, but if we can help we don't mind so much.

This week we have been to Lake Louise one afternoon, just up and back really. Have had a load of ashes for the driveway which Pete leveled this morning. Piled a whole lot of wood, raked a tiny bit. Kept our eye on our neighbors huge bonfires two evenings. Wrote numerous letters that had to be worded carefully. I dusted the downstairs quite carefully in case anyone came in. Started to clean but didn't several times. Figured out a basin for the new apartment. Spent last evening up at Sam's. Saw the Morants off on the noon train yesterday, etc.

Cis has a bit of forget-me-not out already which seems pretty early. Edmee has some daffodils out too and our larkspur is up a foot. However it is cloudy and squally, lots of wind lately. It was hard to believe that you had five inches of snow the 12th of April, or really the 20th, but remember the anniversary and how it snowed for the big parade. Margaretts visit must have been nice and I am sure she enjoyed the dinner party as they all must have.

That exhibition you went to where Mary Reardon had her pictures, we were quite interested as Manly Butler was in our class at school and we had lost track of him. He used to always send us a Christmas card each year, is quite a funny sort, rather arty, but he may have grown up more by now. Do you remember what his pictures were like? It was good of you to write to Mrs Wright and to go to her exhibition. (The paintings are back from Montreal, came yesterday). We have been meaning to urge Mr Hibbard to come out west and paint again for we think he needs new scenery and something different but it is so hard to get room for anyone right now and we just haven't done anything about it. Might be able to another year.

How lucky you are to be all set for the summer in the way of cloths, I am if I wear what I have had for sometime. It seems so silly to buy a dress to wear maybe once in a summer.

A new story on Nick Morant. He was up at Temple and when he left he and Willi (his wife) walked down, ~~1/2~~ ahead of the others who came later in Cliff's Jeep. When they came along there in the middle of the road was a large snowman with a great sliver of stone for a nose. Nick has a big nose himself. I guess they had to run over the snowman to get by. Funny you should say he sounds like Fred Allen for Nick thinks Allen one of the funniest Radio men.

You spoke of Miss Freda Morrison going to Victoria this summer, if she goes through Banff by train be sure and let us know and we would see her at the train, if she stops off going or coming we might be able to take her a drive or something. Of course she might fly right across from Montreal to Victoria without a change.

Tell Jean that I would like to write her but know you read her my letters, Have 2 dozen tins of baby food for Anna and

will get those mailed before writing to Jean. Wish I had her to do up bundles for me. It seems so silly to find it hard to get round to doing Maspad as the housecleaning!

Am glad you liked "Klee Wyck". The first village Emily Carr mentioned, where she visited the school teachers I think, was Uclulet. That was the little harbor where we used to take the boat from Port Alberni to. The first day in Tofino was the day after Halloween and there was a queer looking totem pole on the pier. We never saw another one all the time we were there. But after all we didn't go further than walking distance from Tofino most of the time. Some of the villages up the coast have more poles, and there were many more in the old days. No. she only wrote the four books. "House of all sorts" "the Book of Small" "Klee Wyck" and "Growing pains"

How are the Chases getting on? did Freddie ever get there? As I would like the book "Up the Steam of Time" by Lady Byng back, there are several people here might enjoy it. I think you said you lent it to Mrs Henderson. The reason she had to come to Canada during the War was because where her home was they had made all the residents move for they took great sections of the country for Defense of Army maneuvers, and I expect wherever she went she would have to be looked after as she was ill at the time, so they sent her over here.

It is now bedtime and I have had a nice evening visit with you, even if it is a bit onesided. I always enjoy writing you and its never an effort.

Pat says to tell you it will be quite a trip by plane to see the two pictures that were in Montreal, for they are back here.

*Loads of love
Catharine*

Banff, Alberta.
Monday, May 5, 1947 .

Dearest Mother,

The days slip by thick and fast and we have almost lost track of what happened when. Can't remember when I last wrote. Sir Norman and Capt. Head have been in and out nearly every day telling us their difficulties trying to re-organize things up at Lake Louise, Temple and Skoki. I think it was Friday afternoon they first dropped in for tea or was it? I am still confused. Said they would be in after the Skoki meeting on Saturday but instead stopped a minute just as we were going down to the station to meet the Moores coming home. Then they were to come back but we waited around all afternoon but the meeting didn't get over until goodness knows when they didn't arrive. Had supper and was just going to bed after nine when Sir Norman came around for a personal chat. I guess until after eleven. Then we finally got onto Daylight saving time this last Sunday. Wondered if we would see them again, and instead Elizabeth Rummel who runs Skoki dropped in, then about six Watson and Head were back their heads swimming from discussing things with Teare etc who was up from Calgary. So we gave them a cup of tea and talked some more while Head typed a couple of letters on the typewriter, and we had our supper after they left about 7.30.

Sir Norman dropped in as we were having lunch and ate a bite with us to-day and I forgot just as I was taking the milk and cold ham out of the refrigerator about 12 O'clock the first time, Mary Simpson arrived with six skates from the Icicles which is one of the skating shows in Calgary this week. Two girls and three boys I guess. There was one scared deer in the back yard which they finally fed and then they looked at all the things in the house, including pictures and the chest full of Indian things. This afternoon the chest has been opened again for the Hendersons, a couple of people staying at Temple and their precocious daughter of 12?, and in between all these various things I have been to the bank and taken the laundry which I forgot to do Saturday and you can see the fuzzyness of my mind for having taken one batch I forgot to bring back the wash that was done. We have lost our wonderful Mrs Manning who has done our laundry for so many years. I guess ever since we started. Luckily for us her daughter is to do ours but she won't take on anyone else, so had to say good-bye to Mrs Manning who left to-day for Calgary.

I forgot that we asked Mary Simpson for supper Friday night as she was in town alone we knew and then Fern came in that evening too and Mary didn't leave until after eleven. We had ham and I cooked it on Friday to be sure and not be too interrupted. What a week!

This isn't much of a letter but will let you know how busy we have been. Sent 2 doz little tins of baby food to Anna too.

The weather is lovely and no chance to make use of it worst luck.

Loads of love,

Catharine .

Banff, Alberta.
May 8, 1947

Dearest Mother,

This last week has been one of the hardest we have put in. Pete tells a story of a great runner, a worlds champion from Europe who broke all records over there and then came to the United States expecting to win everything on this side too. About the first race he was in he was forced off the track, or run off the track. Pete saw a picture of it in the movies . so he says that is just how he feels right now. As if someone had run us off the track.

It is all the difficulties of settling up the Ski Club thing. They finally managed to re-organize the old company into a newer one which will be much bigger and everything has to be done correctly. We were thinking that at last things would get straightened out and we would be well out of it all and not have to really help them out any more as we ~~we~~ have done so often in the past. ^{There} were meetings, the Director's meetings I went to and everything ran smoothly. Then Saturday was the shareholders meeting which we said we wouldn't be at and didn't go to. Cliff was down but never came near us, but in the evening about nine o'clock Sir Norman came around for a personal chat. It seems that Cliff hasn't been running Temple and particularly the transportation in a way Sir Norman wants and hasn't cooperated very well since they have been here this time and Sir Norman wanted us to know that he ~~he~~ feels Cliff has let him down and that he was to tell him things couldn't go on this way. He has come to the conclusion that ~~Cliff~~ Cliff is what we call "bushed" Has been up in the mountains too long without a vacation, has led too irregular a life etc. This was rather a shock to us as we had had the idea everything was running smoothly, but of course didn't really know for we haven't been up there ourselves. We do know that Sir Norman has impractical ideas at times and also that he really gave Cliff too responsible a job and one that Cliff is not cut out for. Sir Norman was very upset but hardly more than we were. It has been ^{very} difficult for us. We know so little about it and have no way of disproving what Sir Norman feels and even Cliff hasn't been in. Sir Norman has asked Elizabeth Rummel to take over and run the place this year, I should say run all three places and they feel the only way to do is to make a clean sweep and get all new staff. You can imagine all the pros and cons and of course Cliff has been the one to hold the thing together during the war and if it hadn't been for him it might not have been ^{open} now. Also it is true that in the past it has been Sir Normans money which has made the thing possible and he has given a ^{heap} of time to talking with government officials etc. To make matters worse Jackie has taken a dislike to Capt. Head and Jackie in any case is very hard to work with. He does things in a way we don't approve of at all. We like both Capt. Head and Sir Norman and Elizabeth and trust them all very much and this makes it hard too, for we can't let Cliff down, and haven't seen him to

to talk to. We felt very upset Saturday night. Then waited all day Sunday mulling over what Sir Norman had told us the evening before. Finally made up our minds to ask Sir Norman to reconsider letting Cliff out, and ran into Elizabeth Rummel who collaborated what Sir Norman had told us. (He wanted us to know before he ~~would~~ spoke to Cliff, what he planned to do) Then after Elizabeth had had a long talk, Sir Norman and Head came over for tea and more talk. Our heads were swimming.

Monday we were having an early lunch when Sir Norman came in, said Cliff was down and wondered if he knew about the change before he had had a chance to talk with him. We didn't think he had but didn't know. Then later another long talk with Elizabeth. All most difficult. Finally Tuesday Pete went to see Paris and he seemed to think as we had that everything was going allright and that Cliff ran the place as well or better than any Ski Lodge in the mountains. We have been able to think and talk of little else. Tuesday we saw the Jeep down about 9.30 ^{but} before we saw Cliff he and Jackie had gone to Calgary to see Mr Teare who has been auditor etc for the company. Yesterday we went over for the mail in the morning and ran into Jackie who is sure Head is up to no good, but we think that is because Jackie doesn't like him anyway, but it all makes it so very hard. In a way we have nothing to do with it and yet they all come and unburden themselves to us and with this darn time change, they come on Standard time and for instance yesterday morning we no sooner got back from the store provoked at Jackie than we found Elizabeth Rummel was here and she stayed until one her time, two ours. We asked her to lunch but she kept going saying she had others to see. ~~later~~ When I went by Mildreds she called me in and asked what I knew but I didn't like to say too much that would worry her and so it went. "o-day is the first morning someone hasn't been in. ~~Barbara was over too yesterday afternoon~~ -

Besides all this we had the Moores down Tuesday night and great fun talking about their winter and they left at 11, their time. ~~it~~ 12 ours. then last night Ken Ford came down for the evening, but that really was relaxing for it was at least a different subject. As to Painting we haven't had a chance to even think of it and my house cleaning hasn't progressed either. The weather has been lovely too and no chance to enjoy it to go sketching. Just too much on our minds. Well we hope it will get settled soon. I shouldn't have written somuch about it all but you can see things are not too easy right now. If we could just look after our own affairs but then you can't help be involved in family troubles.

Lunch time and so all for now,
Loads of love,

Catherine
P.S. you don't need to comment on all this, but will have a bit of an idea why we are doing what we are - feels as if we hadn't been able to do anything of our own.

Edmonton, Alberta.
Fri. night.
May 9, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

It is raining hard to-night and everything looks so green for it is a real spring rain. The weather for the last week has been mild and it brought out the buds on the aspens, some trees look quite green. The grass is very green, our larkspur is up over a foot and the river is rising rapidly, maybe a little too rapidly. It is usually later in May or the first of June before it gets so high, but just in the last few days we have noticed it. It has another couple of feet before going over its banks but with this rain and melting snow, we are wondering if it will flood.

X Yesterday it was very humid, like summer and in the evening we had several thunder storms, unusual for us at this time of year. I did a bit of gardening, sort of poking around the plants, but as Cis gave me some daisys last year I am not sure but that some of the little feathery things aren't little daisys that have seeded, so left them anyway. Then I rescued some poppies that had seeded themselves in the lawn, can't figure why they grow best out of the flower bed. It is like the grass that grows far better in the middle of the driveway than in the lawn!
X Went to the Red Cross yesterday. Mrs MacAuley was there and told me that Mr MacAuley had been weeding out forget-me-nots, so I said I could use a few plants and she said if we came up she would tell him to save me some. Up we went after supper with a box and he ~~xxxxxx~~ dug up some new plants as well as giving me all I could take of the ones dug during the day. Back we came and Pete was really good and helped plant them. Some I couldn't tell whether they were upside down or not, they were a bit dry and matted, but all but two clumps looked quite spry this morning. Mrs MacAuley gave me some vitamin B1 pills for them. Did you ever use them for plants? I asked if you gave them to the plant or to the gardener? You mix them one to a gallon of water and then just water the plants with a watering can. I am going to try it, will be awkward if I accidentally get some on our dandelions, they are so enormous anyway.

You get the pills at the Drug store. 35¢ a box. They are tiny little things. Edmee told me to-day that last year they were all enthused about them and wondered how a person like Carl Rungius would like them for his wild flowers as he is a great gardener. One day ~~xxxxxxx~~ Carl was told by the doctor that he should start taking vitamin B pills, so he went to Charlie and asked if he had any vitamin B pills and Charlie said " Oh. Yes " and produced the box, telling Carl to use a gallon of water with each pill. Whereupon Carl said " My God, how can one take them that way ? " Poor Carl trying to take a gallon of water with each pill. Charlie of course realized then it was for Carl not the plants!
Y They are supposed to be good for house plants too.

Last night we took a quick run out by the golf course to get a few crocuses, I have never seen them so pretty or so thick. They are lovely and stand out when the sun shines through them, some bits of meadow was lavender with them. They look like

crocus in the distance but are soft and much like a great big hepatica in color and texture. Really they are an anemone I guess. Darker on the outside than on the inside and lovely yellow stamens etc. Maybe I can press you one. If I remember.

Yesterday was our first really quiet day and we felt the better for it. and to-day was quiet too without people dropping in. Pete worked on some photographs for Ben Ford of the trip in the Jeep we made together last summer. He was down all Wednesday evening, is an awfully nice sort, was overseas with the Engineers during the war.

I laugh at my spring cleaning this year, thought it would be so simple to clean a little each morning and paint a little each afternoon, and with all the talk and interruptions have done neither! Hope I haven't missed all the fine weather, but perhaps next week will have a chance to get at things. I am not going to do very much this year. That is in the way of scrubbing. After all I bet our house doesn't collect any more dust in a year than most places do in a week.

You mentioned in your letter about going to Dr Crapo and having him advise you to get the bunions taken off. Wasn't that what Miss Morrison had done when we saw her in the hospital the time Gale fell off her horse? Would it be a long operation and who would do it? If it is rather serious or a shock to the system I'd like to be with you, what do you think? Maybe it is all more simple than it used to be.

It is Saturday now and afternoon. Elizabeth Rummel saw Pete over town and would like to speak to us, just what about I don't know. Pete saw Cliff for the first time this morning since the meeting last Saturday. We are glad to get his angle. I never knew such a mixed up affair and so involved it is hard to get to the bottom of it all. Elizabeth said she would be here at quarter of two it is now quarter past, that is the way our time goes and yet what can you do but wait. I may tie up hops while waiting.

Loads of love,

Callie

Will send the pressed flower next time

Banff, Alberta.
Monday, May, 12, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

Two letters from you this morning, written the 6th and 7th. and telling how sick Uncle Marshall is, or was. I do hope he is better by now, but it sounded pretty serious. Strange that he should have a stoppage for there have been several cases here of that sort of thing. One an old lady, another a lady with heart trouble and other complications, they both died, a man who lived. They were all in the hospital when Mildred was or right after. I wonder if it is because people talk about such things now-a-days, and didn't used to. Also there seem so many with Gall bladder trouble. It must be hard for Florence but how lucky they were to get three special nurses. Expect you will keep us posted as to how things are going.

Hope Rusty didn't end up with mumps, I imagine a lot of these flu epidemics are things brought back from the war etc. Also with people traveling around so fast these days they don't have a chance to contract the disease, or rather develop it before reaching home. In the old days if they caught anything it would appear on shipboard, now it might be two weeks after they get home.

What a time you had inviting the boys or girls to Sunday dinner, and how disappointing when you had expected five to get only two, but ⁴ bet they really enjoyed it. A nice thing to do but too bad that they couldn't have organized it better at the Cambridge end so they could at least have telephoned to Concord how many were coming, for then you might have invited Bert and Alma or someone else. The roast sounded a bit larger than our three pound one! Maybe if they do it again they will do it better, but when it turns out like that you aren't apt to offer again.

What a lot of rain, our weather has been rather nice and mild. Yesterday was perfect and warm and sunny, we would have gone to Bow Lake or somewhere for the day but Ken Teare from Calgary was coming up about the Ski Club business and wanted to see us especially in the afternoon, we are getting rather tired waiting round to see people and at least found he would be here in the afternoon, so did go out to Minnewanka for a drive. It was lovely and hardly any wind on the lake. We saw a badger on the way out, first one we have ever seen wild. Thought it was a porcupine at first as it waddled along the gutter at the side of the road, but then as we got nearer could see it was furry. Watched it quite a way and then it crossed the road. Looks a bit like a great big muskrat. About 3 feet long, a foot wide. After supper we drove out by Sundance canyon and saw two young moose, such ungainly things, must have been yearlings. they were only about 20 feet from the road and weren't a bit frightened by the car, we watched quite a while, they were browsing on the willows.

*Sam & Cis came in last evening as I was writing
this so never finished. Will enclose the focus.
Loads of love
Catharine.*

Banff, Alberta.

May 17, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

Well we are getting on. I have decided that we too are struggling artists but instead of struggling against poverty and hunger it is more family problems! Pete has started in on the portrait of Mrs Link which is anything but easy to do. Tom Link asked if he would do it last year and sent us a lot of photographs to work from. So many people have an idea that you sort of read a person's character and then paint it, but we find that the only way to get the expression typical of the person is to paint them as we see the various shapes ~~xxxxx~~ of light and dark. Mrs Link is the Chicago friend who died of a cerebral hemorrhage several years ago, she used to be at O'Hara when we were there.

Cliff and Lloyd Anderson (who worked up at Temple) were here just now. Cliff leaving Lloyd while he went and spoke to Mildred so we had a long talk, about all sorts of things, even to Sicily where Lloyd fought during the war and Holland too. He was in the army. Now they have just left and soon we will have to go down to the train to meet Mom who comes home to-day. This morning we aired her house out and started the furnace, went up to the Wards and brought back ~~Ward's~~ flowers, 14 pots of them, didn't break any luckily. got milk and eggs and butter etc, and probably she will eat with us to-night. We have some fryers.

Yesterday was quite a day, in fact most days have been busy. Can't remember when I last wrote. Wednesday afternoon we worked outside and raked as it was so lovely and thought it would be a good thing to do. Then Thursday I started cleaning the old bedroom and did most of it, all but the cupboards and bureau drawers. did the two clothes closets yesterday morning, and so far the only signs of moths have been in some old black silk stockings Pete hasn't worn for ten years. Sprayed thing and did others up in paper.

Thursday ^{afternoon} Fern came in for a while and Cliff was in too so I didn't get to Red Cross until late, they hadn't much to work on so it didn't matter. We half expected company so raked some more, most is done now.

Yesterday we had Cliff down several times, Norman Tabiteau with his truck that he had just got and to tell us about their new son born a couple of days before. He is one of the lads building cabins in back of Tunnel. Then both Mary and Jimmie Simpson were down to see if we could help with their new building for we had told them we would sometime. and then we even had an Indian who left a bag of meat and then arrived back just as I was about to dish out supper. He was going to the train, and said to Pete " I guess if you had your car you would take me to the train " We had put the car away so the odd person wouldn't think we were home. So Pete took the car out and drove him down, while I put the supper in the oven to warm. Then last evening Ken Ford and his wife came down until after eleven, had a tire go flat in the yard so Pete helped him change that too. quite a day. Made a little more disturbing as Mildred suddenly took it into her

head that she couldn't stand all that was going on or else for
no reason at all (we didn't see her) and up and left for
Calgary, suitcase and all. Cliff was pretty upset and the boys
didn't know just what to make of it but figured she would come
back and sure enough she came back this noon, had changed her
mind. But it just had us all wondering for a while what to do.
Poor Cliff, just one thing after another, However he and Lloyd
are going off in the Jeep for a few days and that may help him
figure things out.

Must get the chicken ready now. so will write soon.
Trust Uncle Marshall is getting on alright as we have heard
no more since he was so terribly sick.

Lots of love,

Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.
May 20, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

Think I wrote you on Saturday and mailed it when we went to the station to meet Mom. She had supper with us that evening, broiled chicken, (no fried) and we heard all about the family at the coast and what they were doing and how they had grown up etc.

Then Sunday was not a very nice day, a cold wind so we didn't go anywhere for the day. We did run up to see Sam and Cis in the morning. To tell Sam a story about Johnny who comes out with very surprising remarks at times. He was looking at the Architectural Forum with me and was much interested in the various ads and pictures. Came to a spiral staircase in an old southern house and said "How do they hold that up?" which I thought rather observing for a six year old. I told him he would have to ask a carpenter, to ask Sam Ward next time he saw him. Whereupon Johnny said "Jesus was a carpenter, we could ask him!" then he added "No, we couldn't, for he is dead." There was another picture illustrating an ad of a man painting a floor and right away Johnny said "Painting himself into a corner eh?" which was exactly what the caption under the picture said, and Johnny can't read. Yesterday he was looking at the cover on HOLIDAY magazine and it was a calendar with something in each square instead of the dates. like a tennis ball, fibbing line, a couple swimming etc. One was a drawing of a compass, and as Johnny was nameing each thing off he came to the compass, hesitated and then said "I know, that is the thing you use if you are lost in the woods and want to find the way out." He also asked me very suddenly one afternoon when Mamie was here and we were all conversing, "Catharine, is that a new set of teeth you have?" Barbara had to have all her teeth out not long ago and he is very interested. In fact one day she was over right after she had gotten the upper set and Johnny was very insistent that she take them out and show us what they looked like. of course she wouldn't so he said "well take out the lower ones then." He really is funny.

Anyway Sunday we had a late lunch, broiling the rest of the chicken. Then as twelve planes had flown over the house in the morning and a sea plane or amphibian flew over in the afternoon we thought we would go out to the lake and see if it was landing and taking off there. Passed four fellows on the road thumbing a ride and when they called "Airport" we stopped and found that they were some of the young lads who had flown the eight planes up from Calgary. We gave them a lift out to the Air port which is beyond the Indian grounds and they were very grateful. showed us the Cessnas which are nice little two seated planes and one was very insistent that Pete go up for a flip and Pete was just as insistent that he wouldn't! There were just four planes left to take off and we stayed to watch. It was very windy and gusty and it didn't look very easy, but they all managed though one had to try twice. They were just boys in their teens and one had been up and down to Calgary three times during the day.

When we got back we found that Vic Ball had been down to see us, and later we discovered that Jackie had been over and also Mrs Mac so we might have had a busy afternoon had we stayed home.

Yesterday, Monday was also busy. We were late getting up being rather tired lately from all the thinking and people, and as we were still eating breakfast Dick Pike came in. It was trying to snow but cleared up later. He had his new car for a taxi this summer, also told us they had a place to live, both of which he had wanted help with earlier in the year, but we didn't feel like helping buy a car not knowing the lad very well and his family having a very poor reputation for paying. He stayed over half an hour, then we went over to the store and had to hear all Jackie had done when he went to Lake Louise on Saturday to see that the inventory was taken at the Ski Lodge, etc. By then it was lunch time. After lunch we remembered it was Harold's Birthday and Pete was to give him his bike he had during the war, so we got that out and pumped up the tires etc. Barbara came over to see when we would go over and show slides for the birthday party and we talked a bit more, Mary Simpson came in to say they would be around in half an hour. Then I got the slides out and the Simpsons came, both Mary and Jimmie, it was about how much we could help them with their new addition at Bow Lakes. But before we had said much Mrs MacDonald arrived, first time we had seen her since her trip east. So after a few minutes Pete took Jimmie aside and they talked while us three ladies conversed inside about skating etc. The Simpsons left and Mrs Mac stayed until five when it was time to go over to show Harold and the other children the slides.

Harold came over earlier for his present and was awfully tickled about the bike, won't let any one touch it.

The children are all about nine and seemed to enjoy the slides, they were the transportation ones around the world. All ways of carrying things. Some of Japanese coolie women carrying baskets of gravel on their backs and Chinese coolies too. Johnny helped us carry the projector box home, Pete had the screen and I the hot projector. Johnny said "We are just like the Chinese carrying things aren't we?"

After supper we gardened a bit and then went up to see how Mom was getting on. She had stomach flu at the coast and hasn't felt like eating, was going to make some toast so Pete talked her into coming down here and we made her chicken soup toast and I even baked a half grapefruit and made tea and while talking with us she ate it all. It was after eleven before we went to bed.

This morning we were a little late again, did the shopping and then as we were finishing lunch Mary and Jimmie came in so made some soup for them as they were leaving as soon as a truck came for their things to go up to Bow Lakes. Now Pete has gone to see Dr Robinson, and not for medical advise, and I am finishing this.

All for now, oh yes Sunday evening Cliff and his friend Bill Holmes, (that is young Cliff) returned our tent they had borrowed for a reserve army maneuver over the Glacier from Yoko to Bow lakes and told us all about that. It was called expedition Mountain Goat and 12 of the boys all in their teens except the leader in charge made the trip. Quite an experience for most of them.

Loads of love,
Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Sunday May 25, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

We are having a perfect weekend as to weather and it makes it so nice for all the Calgary people up for the holiday yesterday. The 24th of May which corresponds to the 19th of April for a spring holiday. Its the Queens birthday. Queen Victoria. The town is full of people, they said all the rooms and cabins were full up Friday night and then yesterday there were excursions and we saw lots of people with their lunches streaming towards ~~the~~ park and many more cars in town. the streets were crowded. The stores stayed open until one o'clock yesterday and then in the afternoon they had the regatta on the river with boat races from about 2 o'clock until after five. Not awfully exciting races but canoe and row boats with girls, boys, men and school teachers etc. It was warm and a few clouds and just right for sitting on the river bank and watching. We went across to the opposite shore and Pete took pictures with the big lens on the Leica of the various people on the other side and if they come out well it will be really amusing for of course no one thought ~~of that~~. *They were being photographed.*

We came back home as soon as Pete had taken a roll and while he developed ~~them~~ I watched a few more races. Saw the Wards and Ashleys down there so asked them in for tea and they came here about 4.30. Mom came for supper as they were leaving. So it was a quiet and rather nice afternoon. and in the evening we just took a run out by Anthracite and found they were just loading the last of the train wreck onto the flat cars. so watched that until ten.

The train wreck was Thursday afternoon but we never heard about it until the next morning and guess we were about the only ones in Banff who didn't go down that evening. Thursday was a nice day and I decided that it would be a good idea to start cleaning the kitchen, did all the ceiling and dusted down most of the walls, with a few people dropping in during it. Then I gave the front room a bit of a dust for the holiday, which was lucky for I would have had no time the next day. Mrs Mac had come down early in the morning and we were only just getting breakfast and didn't notice her drive in but only saw her going out. so went up to her house later and she wanted to bring down two friends to tea Friday. That was partly my reason for wanting to clean a bit.

Pete was working on the portrait and then Mom asked us to supper and about five Sam drove in and we had quite a long talk about all sorts of things, even the Ski business. Until it was six and time to go and eat. She went to choir practise and we drove up by Carl Rungius and saw him working in his garden, so went in to see him and the work he is starting on and had a nice little visit. Unaware of all the excitement. He wanted some sheep pictures and was going to ~~have~~ a taxi to take him up the west road next morning so Pete said we would drive him up, and it was arranged we would be ready at nine. Went around to the various filling stations that evening to fill up the tank but none of the 3 we go to were open, I suppose everyone had gone out to see the wreck.

Friday morning we were up early, but it was overcast and so when Carl came down we decided not to go as the light was bad for pictures. Pete took him home and then heard about the train wreck. It seems that a freight train was going east about 6 miles east of Banff, just at the crossing at Anthracite. The Engine hit two horses and one rolled under the cars and derailed an empty one on the curve I guess and however it happened the result was that 13 or 14 freight cars were all piled up on top of one another and a lot of rail ripped up and the wires to Calgary all knocked down. It just missed the section house but was an awful mess even when we got down next morning. We went down about ten and they had cleared the track pushing the cars to the side and the two work trains, one from Calgary, one from Field were both working. the two derricks facing each other. We saw them turn a box car which was lying upside down, right over and then lift first one end and slip the wheels under it and then the other end in the same way. The car hardly looked damaged as they ~~pushed~~ ^{pushed} it away. One work train with the derrick car, a car full of wheels and the engine and a couple of other cars backed up on the main line, then the other work train pushed the righted car across the crossing and onto a siding, but as it did this the derrick was up in the air and wiped out all the telephone lines from Banff to Calgary which cross the tracks at the crossing. We didn't realize what was happening at first but when we went home soon after saw the line men up the pole and a lot of loose wires hanging. They were more careful after that! We took

Johnny down after lunch but had to wait for the noon trains to go through before the work trains could start in so didn't see a great deal.

Mrs Mac came about four, Erling Strom with her and the two Winnipeg ladies, Mrs Rattan and Mrs Joyce too. Cliff and Mamie had come back and Mackie was back from Calgary and Pete had had a talk with them but somehow with all the goings on we weren't too bright or entertaining I am afraid. We had a nice tea and they were interested in the pictures, Mrs Rattan having been here before Erling spoke of how nice it was of you to write him a letter. Sigrid hasn't come yet I expect waiting for school to finish for their little girl.

That evening we told the kids we would take them down to the wreck and had an early supper forgetting that with the change in time we would have to wait for the evening trains to go east before the work trains would come along and start work. Johnny got pretty sleepy before much happened but we did see a bit of lifting. It was all very interesting to watch.

Guess I better not write more now,

Loads of love,

Catharine
P.S. There was a Hobo on the freight & he was thrown off with a car load of new ties. We saw the people who were waiting at the crossing when it all happened. They picked the man up in a hut & took him to Calgary.

Banff, Alberta.

Tuesday, May 27, 194

Dearest Mother,

Just a start of a letter, for the way things go I don't get much time to write. It really is almost funny the way things have gone, just one thing after another even to a spike in Moms stoker which stopped it working!

Sunday after writing you in the morning we were working around the flower beds, Pete cutting a bit of lawn that looked ragged when Erling Strom came along, so we sat and talked and when it got near lunch time I asked if he would have some with us, but he had only just finished breakfast. However it was such a lovely day, like June, that we enjoyed sitting out so I got a salad and cold roast beef sandwiches and milk and we sat under the trees and he did eat a bit with us. All the time Harold was trying to learn to ride his bike. He and Davy had been bad and stayed out late the evening before, not realizing I guess how late it was but having Barbara worried, so they were not allowed to leave the yard on Sunday as punishment. Harold up to then had only been riding Bubby's bike by standing on the pedals but couldn't reach them from the seat. So Pete had him get his own new bike with the cross bar and took the seat off and padded the place where the seat goes on. By standing on a box Harold could get started and he rode around through the trees and over the lawn most all morning. Then Erling and Pete got him so that he could throw his leg over the back to get off. This was about the time we had chocolate cake for dessert. So we said if he could do that successfully he could have a piece. He had the bottom of the cake then and a few minutes later had learn't to throw his leg over the back of the bike to get on and then he ate the frosting! I thought he did awfully well, for he is just nine and the bike is a man's bike and yet in three hours of perserverence and our encouragement by watching, he had really learned to ride well. Erling stayed at least four hours for we were just —

Here I was interrupted and now it is 8.30 and I have been on the go all day with one person or another.

Well to go back to Sunday, Erling sat with us outdoors watching Harold most of the time and just chatting from about 11 or 11.30 in the morning until nearly 4.30 in the afternoon. Johnny wanted to go to a birthday party so we told him we would drive him around and as Erling was leaving we said we would take him too, dropping him at the Banff Springs. He was sort of lost as he had hit the holiday and hadn't realized he couldn't even get a license for his car on Saturday. In a way it was rather pleasant sitting under the trees, for it was such a lovely day and a light breeze off the river, no mosquitoes to bother, but I didn't get any letters written or much done and we were a bit weary in the end. The kids were over later for I had made some ice cream and then we went to bed early.

Monday we felt pretty good, a new week and I really was sure this week would be a good one for cleaning the living room! Went over town for the mail and did a few odd things, can't

remember much, but we had an early lunch and then had to go to the bank, sure I remember, Dick Pike came around to see if we could back a note from the bank for him, first time I stalled by saying I would ask Pete when he came back and for Dick to return at 11.30 which he did. Then I told him how much we could do it for and he had to go and get it made out and brought it back for us to sign, but this time I kept him on the threshold so we didn't have to do too much talking.

Any way when I went to the Bank Sid Wurtz the assistant manager asked me how Cliff was, I said alright as far as I knew and he said that he was rather worried having seen him collapse at the store. Naturally I asked more and evidently Cliff had come in after lunch, spoken to Jackie in the store, gone over to the Hardware and Bill Ridgway just said "Hello, How are you?" when Cliff clutched his breast, let out a scream and fell to the floor. They thought he had died, but got the doctor right away and Bill gave him artificial respiration or something until he breathed again, but it looked for a time like a heart attack, so Dr Mackenzie had the ambulance come and take him to the hospital. Cliff never knew a thing about it, but after a ~~short~~ ^{thorough} examination and an afternoon in the hospital, the doctors ~~were~~ ^{were} pretty sure it was what might be termed a "black out". It seems that with all the worry and upsetting things going on and an attack of intestinal flu over the weekend and no food on Monday, the blood all went to his stomach or something, etc. (the Doctor explained it all to me but I never could get it straight in a letter). But in the meantime of course I left the bank and told Pete and we went to the store where Jackie and Mamie and Lloyd were all waiting for the report from Dr Mackenzie. He ^{came} said he would let us know at 5.30 how things were but felt that Cliff would be leaving the hospital. ~~We went back and told Mom,~~ ^{at night} who Jackie had ^{come} told right after it happened, being afraid someone in the store ^{at the time Cliff collapsed} would be telephoning to ask how Cliff was. Mildred was there too, and you can imagine all the discussion etc. and the worry too. Jackie and Mom both have a way of looking on the darkest side of any sickness which makes it a bit harder on them.

One thing that made it awkward was that Cliff won't stay at the house with Mildred, and though Mom would gladly have him there she was afraid it would only upset Mildred. We wondered if the Doctor would go and talk to Mildred then maybe it would help. So when I went over town I saw that the Doctors car was at the clinic and thought I would just run in and speak to him. I must have waited about two hours, but it was worth it and in a way, as one lady there said, it was a rest just sitting, something you wouldn't think of doing in your own house. It was interesting too. A young girl who waits on a milk bar was speaking of the kids having such appetites, and then turned to me and said "are you Donny White's Mother?" then she told how many banana splits he could eat in one day. A young lad came in with a little dog, to have a distemper shot, then a couple with a baby, the dog and baby amused each other while waiting. Then there were several others too. I knew there was just one ahead of me but she was there a long time.

However it was worth the wait for Dr Mackenzie is quite wonderful to talk to and said he was glad I had come for he would just as soon explain things to me as to anyone. Both Cliff's and Mildred's troubles are emotional partly, and of course Cliff is worried and tired, but the Dr. feels he must get things settled before he will feel better. Mildred should go to a rest home like Dr Lunts, I guess, for if she goes on as she does it will be the

end of her. But he said she would have to go ~~to the doctor~~ on her own, in fact they would all have to act on their own free will, and a whole lot more, I was there quite a while, never got home until about five. Lloyd Harmon was here to see us when I got back and there was just time to run over and get meat for supper. Mom came down and naturally she was upset by the whole thing so we tried to cheer her up a bit. This thinking for others is not easy in a way. It reminds me a bit of all the Phinneys worries about each other and first you would hear one side and then another.

Mom left soon after supper, and then Jackie came down to say that Cliff was staying with him and that Mom was there with him. Mamie and Lloyd having gone back with the Jeep. Then we began to think that the fire was out up at Moms and maybe we should start it up so she wouldn't have to come home worried to a cold house. Up we went but after starting the fire Pete found that the coal wasn't feeding in ^{the furnace} and there was something caught in the "worm". That he fixed this morning.

To-day is another lovely day but we were hardly able to make use of it. ~~Mildred came~~ Cliff came over to see us after breakfast and then later Mildred came down much worried because no one tells her what is going on. She wanted to ask Doctor Mackenzie herself so I at once offered to take her over in the car which I did at two o'clock. Spent another afternoon waiting at the clinic, but I really felt sorry for Mildred she was so confused in her mind and I hoped I could help, even if it was just for her to see the doctor of her own accord. We sat out in the car until she could see him and was there quite a time. I spoke to others waiting, Jack Ashley waiting for his wife and Charlie Beil who was hoping to get a shot for his new donkey. He didn't have the donkey with him thought.

Then there was a talk with Mom who was feeling a bit sick this morning (the result of the worry etc.) and she came down to supper again. otherwise we don't think she bothers to get much for herself when she isn't feeling too well. She hadn't been gone long when Mildred appeared all worried as to where Cliff was, so to ease her mind I said I would try to find out. She wanted to tell him what Dr Mackenzie had said. Stopped in at Moms to leave a book and there was Cliff. So he went over to see Mildred as we went for a little drive and to get a few wildflowers. So hope that worked out alright. It is such a ticklish situation for Mildred can't be talked into going to this rest home, she must decide herself. Now I am ready for bed. Oh yes we also had a call from Jimmy and Mary Simpson before supper. We are doing pretty well.

Its bedtime so all for now. Maybe I shouldn't have written all this but thought you might wonder what its all about. Don't know that I have explained it very well. One good thing they got word to-day that the money has come to settle up all the Ski Club things so that will help Cliff.

Loads of love,

Calhounie .

Banff, Alberta.
Friday May 30, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

Such a lot of goings on and I never even remembered Memorial Day until they mentioned it on the news this morning. You can see how our minds are working, or not working? Well this noon Mildred left for the coast with Mom to accompany her, and it is rather a relief to all of us here though I guess still a bit of a worry to Mom, until she gets her safely in the doctors hands out there.

Can't remember when I last wrote you but know it was the other night. It was Monday that Cliff collapsed and in a way it turned out for the best as it brought things to a head. Tuesday Mildred was all emotionally upset worrying and not getting things straight in her mind and when she is like that she takes a drink and she is off. However she wandered down here and said she wanted to see Doctor Mackenzie so I guess I told you I took her over there, it took all afternoon but was worth it for he was honest and told her she would have to get away or she never would come through the summer, and that she was doing no one any good by staying here. Next morning she was quite herself again and told the doctor she had decided to take his advise and go to the coast. Wednesday he had a serious operation to perform so wasn't in but left word for us to write the doctor at the coast, which we did. However Thursday Mildred was all upset again and wanted to go right away, for a while we almost thought she was going to hop the train herself. Quite a morning it was for us. Went over for the mail and was just reading it when Mrs Harland of Pincher Creek (Cousin Janes friend the Pickering girl) came to call, asked if it was a good time to come and see us and it seemed as good a time as any, so we had a nice visit. After a while Pete wandered out to see how Mom was (she had developed a sore throat during all the goings on) and left the door unsnibbed. Mrs Harland was just looking at some sketches when in wandered Mildred all in a daze. I never even introduced her but ushered her out and said I would be up later etc. Mrs Harland asked if I didn't want to go saying "Maybe she needs you more than I do" but I told her it was all-right and never let on who it was or anything. It seemed better not. Pete came back quite unconcerned and it all worked out well. Mrs Harland left (she is coming once more anyway) and then poor Mom came rushing in with a rake in her hand much upset over Mildred, she had seen her all right earlier in the day and then to find her a couple of hours later all upset again, upset Mom. I don't think we have had lunch once this week that someone hasn't come in. Mildred came twice I know. Well anyway we were at the doctors before two and caught him, to ask what to do as Mildred couldn't wait to leave for the coast and that Mom would go with her. He said to let her go with Mom (for she had to have someone go wither in case she got into bad company on the train or some thing) and he would try to get in touch with the doctor, which as yet he hasn't been able to do. Such a day or rather afternoon. We were lucky and managed to get a drawing room on the train going to-day, there wouldn't have been another until next week. and Mom got ready and so did Mildred, she wasn't too bad yesterday

after she had a sleep, and we did all we could to keep running in and out so her mind would be occupied and she wouldn't drink too much. The whole trouble is she has a friend who she boarded with when she first came to Banff to teach school and who is poor company for her and gives her most of the stuff she drinks. That is really what makes it hard for Mildred too. Mom was so worried for fear Mildred would be in one of her wandering moods when she wrings her hands and doesn't know what she says. However we all worked over time, even taking a ride and showing her the new building at the camp ground. ^{Last night} This morning she was fine. We never left her a moment between big Cliff and Young Cliff and Pete and I. There was travelers cheques to get for Mom and her space coming back and all sorts of things to see but we got them off on the noon train and now it feels like a let down.

Besides all this we had Dr Mackenzie over yesterday about three and Luigi a little later for beer and there has been a lot of running about. Cliff is exhausted both mentally and physically but we hope it all works out now. One great thing is that when she left she wanted to go so we just hope Mom has no trouble.

It looks like rain for the first time in ages, and perhaps we will get some of our own things done for a change.

Haven't answered any of your recent lovely letters but will soon. So sorry you had such a cloudburst it ruined the tulips. Maybe it is as well we didn't go east to see the garden this May, another year perhaps. So glad Uncle Marshall is home.

Our love to Cousin Jane too. Lots of love.

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
June 2, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

Looks as if we are having our June rains this week, they are about due for it really was a wonderful May this year. Friday was nice when Mom and Mildred left for the coast, We were relieved when they got on the train and we are expecting Mom back this afternoon, and then will know how the trip went. However Mildred was fine when she left and so we hope didn't get upset or emotional before she reached the Doctor. Jackie telephoned the Stockands that same evening and they said they would meet the train, which might help, for when Dr MacKenzie called the doctor at the coast he said he couldn't see Mildred until afternoon and it would have been a long morning. *Could get no room in any hotel though we know managers too.*

Can't quite remember what we did Friday afternoon though I think I did a bit of vacuuming or something. We ~~were~~ also made a couple of trips over to the doctors to find out if he had been able to get his call through and then wired the train so Mom would know he had gotten hold of the doctor. In the evening we drove down to the golf course and picked a few wild flowers which are just coming out, the last of the crocuses were still blooming, a long season of them this year. About 9.30 we were just sitting thinking of going to bed and it had started to rain when we heard a voice calling outside "Pete and Catharine" It was Fern rather upset over her difficulties, mostly family. She had been housecleaning her little house that she is to rent and so was tired and then when she got some upsetting news it seemed worse or more disappointing, so she came to us and we talked until after one o'clock in the morning (She dropped in as we were cooking supper the next evening ~~and~~ to tell us she had just received a telephone call and things weren't as bad as they had seemed at first) but we slept rather late Saturday morning.

Mrs Harland (Esther Pickering, cousin Jane's friend) was to bring her daughter to tea, the Mountain school were to have a picnic but it was too rainy in the end and so had it at the school, but the Pickerings came here first. We had a very nice time, I had gone over to tell them to come early but Ruth was riding so they didn't get here until about four. Mrs Pickering was stretched out on her bed enjoying "Pulham Esq" by Marquand and said she felt just as if she had been visiting friends. We talked of all sorts of things and then she mentioned a couple we should know who took bird pictures, great friends of the Bennets (of Minneapolis and Pincher) and I suggested the Martin Boveys and she said "Yes" We have never met them ourselves but read of them in the journal. So maybe if Cousin Jane spoke to them in Concord they could tell her of the Harlands, I think they stayed with them.

I had raisin bread and toasted several slices and Ruth especially enjoyed it and had a good appetite so I think I made four batches until I reached the end of the loaf, much to Mrs Pickering's amusement. Mrs P said the first Thanksgiving that the children were both away they decided to invite friends of their own age for dinner, she cooked a big meal and then they seemed to eat so little that she decided from then on she would always ask the young people who would really do justice to the food. Another funny thing. they came near buying the ranch that Gray Campbell has bought and know it quite well. Didn't realize it had been sold. Also tell Cousin Jane that we thought she looked awfully well, her color was so good. Of course she is fairly thin as Mrs Abel Brown is and has a wide mouth too, but she has wonderful pink cheeks and seemed well. Spoke of going east maybe this year for it is ten since she was down there, she used to go every five.

Saturday night we had fried chicken in the pressure cooker, it was awfully good. Sunday after a rainy night it was wonderfully fresh in the morning and the ground smelt so steamy and earthy. It was good to be out and we fussed around with the plants and Harold brought his bike over to have Pete put the seat on for him. He got on twice while we watched though it is quite high for him to throw his leg over, but by evening he had ridden so much that though he hoped along for quite a way and made several attempts he couldn't lift his leg quite high enough!

We took the top off the Jeep for the fun and though the sun was out in the morning it clouded up and we had several sharp showers in the afternoon, we went down to see the Moores after lunch and stayed to tea. Then Bubby came over to return a rucksack and stayed to supper. We listened to Alec Templeton on the radio. who is in Charlie Macarthy's place for the summer, he is the blind pianist and we like him, especially his takeoffs. It was "Oklahoma" last night in the manner of Gertrude Stien.

Johnny was over too and a friend of Bubbys and we are talked into a picnic to Field with the kids. It has grown to our having to take two cars and Johnny wants to bring a large jug of pink lemonade. Each kid can bring one friend, and from Field they are to ride to Lake Louise on the open observation car to see the tunnels. Johnny has never been on a train. Barbara is coming too.

Almost time to go to the station so will end this and with bad weather may get around to answering some of your letters
Loads of love to all.

Catharine.

Banff Alberta.
Thurs. June 5, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

We were up early this morning and I got a good start on cleaning the kitchen shelves, then Pete needed help to put the Jeep top up (we took it off Sunday for the first time) and have decided it would not be easy with an oncoming thunder storm. We weren't exactly sure how the struts went back on and I finally ran up and had a look at Cliffs to be sure we were getting it right. The curtains were easy but there were a lot of nuts and bolts in the iron part. Then it seemed a good idea to run over for some cold meat and my morning was gone, after lunch I didn't do very much either, so perhaps to-morrow I can finish the cupboards. It is the mice that may get in for just one night but they sure can cover a lot of things with their doings! Someday we are to have mice proof cupboards but might as well wait until we get a new sink and refrigerator for they are sure to come a different size.

Pete is busy making enlargements we promised to do for various people. we made a number of small prints yesterday afternoon. Then we rather expect to have Mamie's brother and bride for tea as they are in Banff for their honeymoon and asked to see the house. Another interruption was Pete coming back from overtown and he wanted me to see the Eastern Star ladies going to the convention meeting after lunch, all dressed up in long white dresses and even gold shoes. We haven't seen Mom since she got back from the coast and expect she hasn't missed one of the gatherings. The convention started on Tuesday. You should see the hats ! they certainly look extraordinary in Banff, where most people wear sport clothes. *No hats with the long white dresses of course.*

We have had rather showery weather all week, nice cloud effects and quite a bit of rain which is good. Mom came back Monday night, had supper with us and told us all about her trip. She was pretty tired but I think relieved that she got Mildred to the Sanatorium. found that Mrs Atkinz (the older doctor's wife, in Banff) was also at the place where Mildred is staying, so we think it must be a good place. She said the nurses were very kind but they had quite a time as it was on the weekend etc. However she managed to get Mildred in and Lila and Cam were a great help as they met the train with their car. Now we just hope that Mildred will improve under the doctor's care at least she is having a chance. *Mrs Atkin has sort of a nervous breakdown.*

It is hard to realize it is June already, the time goes by so fast, the leaves are pretty well out now and the hotel is really open, only just conventions at present.

I will try to answer some of your recent letters. We are so glad that Uncle Marshall is home, what a time he had and how remarkable that he lived through such a serious thing. Sounded rather awful. Did cousin Emma seal the house I wonder? for I believe Cousin Jane wasn't to visit you until she did and is with you now.

How nice that Memorial Day was fine, I didn't realize that Aunt Mary Hoar was 80. Maybe she will be like Aunt Addie Buttrick. Wasn't that her name? though perhaps she wasn't really very old after all. Don't worry about my birthday, I don't deserve to be remembered after forgetting so many dates I should have remembered.

You spoke of Mrs Lindsay being home, I thought Jean was near San Francisco. Wonder could you find the address for us, no hurry and never mind if you forget. Maybe I should say never mind at all if they are to be up here this summer anyway. Hope we are in town when they come. We are going to try and be out of Banff most of the summer, but then we usually think that and it doesn't always work.

You asked about Sir Norman in one letter. He is an Englishman, was a pilot in the first war, in the airforce but not flying in the 2nd. Also had a Spitfire factory. Was out here 15 years ago and Cliff was fishing with him, later, on a ski expedition to cross the Waddington range at the coast and then he became interested in the ski development. Liked the idea of the Ski Club of the Canadian Rockies and so helped through that, bought as many shares as were left and then lent money until the war came along. Is now turning it into a bigger company so that they can really develop in a big way. That is why there is all the upset. He has lots of money in England which he can't get out and is used to spending a lot so finds it hard to be practical. He really is quite a character and doesn't listen much to advice. He lives in England most of the time and flies over here on business, but isn't here really enough. We still think that several people who wanted to cause trouble have enlarged on any story or incident they could find, we really haven't gotten to the bottom of it yet. Cliff is waiting until the amount owing him is cleared up which will be soon I guess. It all takes time. *Sir Norman is a Bachelor too.*

Never thanked you for the lovely slide from Mrs Sohler guess I should write her a card. Will do that and send her a Summer school booklet.

You spoke of the Trapp Family Singers. They were here last summer I think but we didn't go. They live in Stowe and Erling Strom knows them I believe.

Am sorry you think you have arthritis, I believe there are many kinds and old fashioned rheumatism is really a form of it. Mrs Paris here has it very badly or did, and when we saw her in bed one Christmas when we came back from the coast we were sure it would be the end of her. However with determination she gets about, first got rid of her crutches and used a cane to walk over town. but she does all her own work and gets out nearly everyday. is quite crippled but manages somehow.

That was interesting the ladies and their 87 year old mother from Denver who had a look at the Garden. I can imagine what a lot of people you get, and it is nice to have it enjoyed by so many.

How is Minnie getting on? If you send me her name (last name) and address I could send her a card perhaps. Have ideas like that and then seldom get them carried out. I do hope she will be all right.

Thank you for sending back the " Up the Steam of Time " I had one about a little boy I got for you, read it first and didn't care for it very much. It gives an excellent feeling of the praries but somehow I was disappointed in it. It is a first book by an Alberta man so perhaps buying it helped him anyway. I will send it and you can give it away.

It was nice that Mrs Huppertz could visit you. I hope you didn't mind my smiling when reading your letter, it was the way you put it. I will quote for maybe it will strike you as amusing too. You wrote " when I asked Mrs Huppertz who she would like to see, she said so many of my ^{good} old friends have gone - she is going over to see Mrs Chase and then to Sleepy Hollow " I couldn't help but have visions of her calling on those friends in Sleepy Hollow but of course I know how it was !

Lila's girls are growing up fast. Marion is 20 I think and last winter went to the University of B.C. started with the 2nd year for a Commerce degree. (the 12th grade in high school here counts as first year out there.) She just heard from her exams and passed in the highest group which is very good we thought, most of the students are veterans and work hard setting a high standard but then all the Stockands are bright at school and usually at the top of their class. Avis is the cook and dressmaker in the family and hasn't been able to land a job. Marion has one in an office at Pacific Mills for the summer. Catherine graduates too from school and then wants to be a nuree.

Cliff's boys all have jobs. Young Cliff driving a truck and Tonny working at a filling station. young Peter working for Ike Mills as he loves horses beyond everything else. *The 2 youngest are still in school.*

Must go, the bride and groom didn't show up. Pete finished his enlargements and it is time to go for the mail.

Loads of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Sunday, June 8, 1947

Dearest Mother,

Our first rainy Sunday for quite a while. It almost looked as if it would clear this morning but then clouded over and started raining after lunch. We did a bit of gardening this morning, tying up Larkspur etc. then had some letters we had to get off this afternoon and also took some friends of Mom's for a drive in the rain, but more of that later. First I will have to tell you the story of the Picnic.

About two weeks ago Jonny asked us one day where Field was, we told him and then we got the idea that it might be a good place to go on a picnic sometime, the kids might even ride back through the tunnels on the train. We didn't have to say much more, ever since we have had a little call from all of the boys each day, how, and when, and where were we to go on the Pic-a-nic? Jonny decided he would bring the big thermos of lemonade, and Harold wanted to know if his Mother could come too, and then it was decided that each kid could bring one friend. Jonny wanted Billy MacKenzie who is just his age, Davy had a hard time thinking which boy would be best and Harold invited a little girl, Norma Scott. (in the end she didn't appear and on telephoning Barbara found that she hadn't taken the invitation seriously and had gone to another little girls) Last Sunday when Bubby was over she didn't know what to do for she hoped to go up to Lake Louise for the weekend with Yvonne Legace, but if she didn't she would ask Joyce Bannerman. The whole thing depended on the weather and it rains almost everyday in June. However we had to try and pick the first nice day. Sunday with church and Sunday School wouldn't be very good and also there is more apt to be traffic. Friday was nice so we thought if we had luck Saturday would be the day. Such excitement and planning, every little while one of the boys would appear to ask one more question. We were to take the Jeep as well as the car and Harold and Davy thought it best for the girls to ride in the car, the Jeep being most popular with them. Joyce had to play baseball but Bubby thought Yvonne could come and we were to pick them up at Lake Louise. We ordered dozens of weiners and rolls the day before and bananas to be picked up if Saturday was a nice day. Barbara offered to bring date loaf and cookies as well as the lemonade and we also took along some gingerale.

Saturday turned out to be a beautiful morning, Harold was the first to appear at our house, very anxious to do " a good deed " for he takes either Sunday School or the Cubs very seriously, then Jonny arrived, they were both too excited to eat any breakfast but I believe Jonny finally did when Davy told him that Pete said he couldn't go unless he did. Harold went with Pete to pick up the Weiners, rolls etc. which gave me a chance to think what to get to-gether here. We took boiling water in two thermoses so that it didn't take very long to heat it over the fire when we got to Field. We were to leave at ten o'clock but had it not been

for Norma Scott not showing up and the time taken trying to find some other friend we would have been ready by 9.30 I think, as it was we left on the dot I think. Davy and his friend Jack Carter, and Harold went with Pete in the Jeep and Jonny with Billy Mackenzie in the back of the Ford. Barbara in front with me. We had the top down so it was almost as popular as the Jeep. The boys had decided to take turns sitting in front with Pete every so many miles, which they did.

It was the most beautiful morning and no wind. The clouds gathered behind us but it didn't cloud over until noon and the only rain we had was for a few minutes at Field while Pete was buying the tickets, though it rained in Banff off and on all day. The plan was to pick up Bubby then drive up the Yoho to Takakaw falls, have lunch at the Yoho Camp ground and then they would take the train from Field to Lake Louise and we would pick them up there.

Jonny talked to Billy most all the way to Lake Louise, periodically saying "Catharine Know what? E-" we certainly picked a good day for the pic-a-nic didn't we? They were all awfully good and Jonny was just as full of energy at the end of the day as when we started out. He felt it was really his picnic being his idea in the first place.

We found Bubby and Yvonne sitting on the wall waiting for us at Lake Louise, had to stop long enough to tell Yvonne's mother we were really going and also for Barbara to see the house they lived in, for Bubby spent a lot of time up there last summer. The girls came with us but when we got to the Kicking Horse tea house where we all got out to see if a train was going through the tunnels, the boys decided to come with me and Jonny and the girls went in the Jeep. Billy Mackenzie was a little too timid then but went in the Jeep the next stop. We saw an engine come out of a tunnel and then went on again. The only disappointment was that the road up the Yoho was closed so we decided to go to Emerald Lake instead. I never saw it so lovely, there was no wind and it was so quietly beautiful, Pete said that Jonny remarked about the color, he seems to have a great eye for color in anything. Davy was very anxious for us to wait while she had a row in a boat, but we persuaded him that would have to be another trip. Then we went to the Natural Bridge, but that proved too nerve-racking for Pete and me, for the boys dashed off down a path alongside the rushing river and we were so afraid they would fall in. I held Billy's hand very firmly all the time and we managed to get them all back into the cars safe and sound. They were just too full of life.

We stopped at the Field camp ground for lunch right across the river from the railway yards and switching trains. The first excitement was starting the fire and such a lot of chips and bits as were collected in no time at all we soon had a roaring fire. They all wanted to help with everything, while Jonny spotted all the flowers, came running back saying "Catharine, want some stink weed for your coat?" Also half way through the meal he came running up to Billy with a handful of "honey from the paint brush" which Billy dutifully ate or sucked.

Davy had told me that with Bubby and Yvonne along we will miss a lot of food" but actually they all drank so much of the lemonade mixed with gingerale that they didn't eat as many

weiners as expected. Barbara had made a few sandwiches for late afternoon and some delicious stuffed eggs, so we had plenty. Harold had to stretch out in the back of the car for a time but was soon up and wanting more to eat.

Due to all the change in times we had quite a wait in Field. Pete got them tickets so they could ride in the observation car, the open one on the back of the train, and we left them there to drive back to Lake Louise. Pete going on to Banff, for without Bubby and Yvonne there was room for all with me. They evidently had great fun watching a conveyor remove ashes from an engine and even seeing the turn table in the round house working, for they could wander round and no one seemed to mind, so Barbara said. The train from the east came in and they saw all the passengers come out of the Y.M.C.A. with cones and so all felt hungry again and had pop and ~~the~~ cream, when the bell rang for the westbound train they were still eating and the conductor looked very worried and asked Barbara if she and all the kids were on that train. Luckily they weren't! The tunnels evidently came up to expectations and Davy was over to-night to tell us that he and Harold have decided to save up enough money to go over to Field and back to Banff on the train!

When I met them at Lake Louise for a minute I couldn't figure how they had gotten so black. Jonny was so black he looked as if he had been shoveling coal almost, and all their eyes were ringed with soot and their hands black. They had evidently stayed outside until the last minute and hung on to the railings tight.

We came righthome with just one stop for a drink of water at Castle Mountain Camp ground where the cubs had spent a night, for Davy and Harold had to show Barbara the little dam they had built and all the little things that had taken place. We were home about 6.30 and it really was quite a day.

Now we are wondering where to go on the next pic-a-nic. It was the first trip for Jonny on a train, and the first time Harold and Jack Carter had been in British Columbia, and we all enjoyed it even the two drivers getting a great kick out of the kids.

I seem to have written more than I mean't to but thought while writing you I would put a carbon underneath and send a copy to Mrs Carpenter. The only thing that troubled us a bit was that in the morning Pete had just dropped in to see Cliff and found he had been awfully sick in the night, Pete got hold of Mom and she went right over, was to get the doctor if necessary, that was why Pete was anxious to get back early and he sort of worried all day but we didn't tell the others and didn't want to disappoint the kids by not going. Cliff spent the day at Mom's and felt much better. I think it was just reaction etc. and it made Mom Happy to be able to look after him as she did.

This is an awful long letter but in case I forget will just tell you about the friends of Mom's we took for a drive. Pete met them first up at Mom's and told me to drop in and see them. they are a couple from Burbank California, and the lady was a girl named Nellie Kiefe, she lived in Anthracite when Mom was a little girl. in fact hasn't been back here for 55 years. Her mother came out in 1883 and her sister ^{William} ~~was~~ ^{Lillian} was the first white child born in Banff. in 1884

Her father ^{worked on the construction of the C.P.R. & they lived under the Cascade} ran a boarding house or small hotel where the first station was near the buffalo paddocks and later ^{now a hotel} in Anthracite. The mother just died recently and the father a year or so ago. But you can imagine the fun she and Mom had reminiscing about the early days. They were a nice couple and when I found they had come all the way by bus and had no car, were leaving in the morning I told Pete and so we drove them out by Anthracite and Minnewanka. She and Mom got out of the car and figured out where all the houses used to be and where they played to-gether.

They spoke of the Indians and Mrs ^{Rotherham} said her mother used to put them in the root cellar whenever Indians came around, until they left, for it was soon after the Rail Rebellion and they were frightened of the Indians until ~~they~~ ^{they} got to know them. They also spoke of how they used to peek in at the baker when he was going to bed. The window would be up about an inch and they would peer in for Mr ^{Squibb} the baker slept in the vat in which he mixed the dough, none of the older people believed them but both Mom and Nellie remembered seeing him. They also used to take a spool of thread and tie it to the Chinaman's window, then ^{would} go way off and pull it tight and rub it with rosin and it would make a shrill eery noise, but when the Chinaman came out he couldn't see them, or figure where the sound came from. They also spoke of a "fancy lady" who lived in a house down the track near where Mom lived. They never knew why they weren't allowed to go near her but always walked way round to avoid the house, and never realized why the men were often seen going down the track to her house. Grandpa Curren was furious one day because his wife sold her some eggs ^{he wouldn't touch his money} and Nellie remembered hearing her mother tell the girls in the dining room that she would wait on the "fancy lady" herself for she didn't want the girls to go near her. It wasn't until long afterwards that they knew what she was. Nellie's family left Anthracite after the flood which washed out many of the places, but Mom wasn't there then. I asked Mom just now all the names to get them right. Blanche Maloney was the name of the "fancy lady" as Mom calls her and the house she lived in was moved to Banff and is still here. She also told another story about the Keefes, one that Papa used to tell for I guess he used to eat at the hotel in Anthracite, and when Dave Keefe dished out the soup they would say "what kind?" and he would always answer "Damn good soup, Mary made it." that was his wife.

Will send this along now. Davy came in last night as we were having supper with the littlest bird he had found just out of it's nest, he had it in his hand and it was squeaking away, suddenly it sort of flew out and landed under the table having a nervous re-action on the floor, before Davy could catch it again it was flopping about in the front room. He eventually caught it without any more droppings and took it home. This morning he was over early to tell us that it ate milk and bread every half hour and wanted to know what kind of bird it was. We hunted through the bird book for sometime and finally I suggested the museum. Later I met Davy in the store, a man in the museum told him it was a Slated Junco and their nests are built on the ground and well hidden. The bird was sitting quite calmly perched on Davy's finger, making no attempt to fly off. He had been carrying it for sometime, through the museum and store and came home in the car. It is very tame and cunning. ^{Jimmy was very late with the coal shovel & a tin, going to dig worms & was up to know where.}

Loads of love,
Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.
Friday, June 13, 1947

Dearest Mother,

This is my birthday and it has been very nice all around. Yours and Jeans cards came Wednesday I think it was, and many thanks for the check, Haven't decided just what to use it for but it is always fun to have a sum like that which one can be extravagant with without having it effect ones conscience too much. Will let you know how I decide to spend it. Then the book came, which I undid this morning at breakfast. about Concord, I know we will get a great kick out of that and have already read bits here and there. We were away yesterday so it was lunch time when we got the big parcel and so I had lots of presents with our lunch. The extra pretty tea towels, the dish clothes and the apron (which I am beginning to need badly as my others are all wearing out) and the candy too are all grand presents. Those thin mints are our favorites and the box is just the right size for slides when I divide them. The mints you sent some time ago stuck together from heat and jouncing but the paper thin ones are all in little separate envelopes as I remember. Candy is still a treat though there are a few more boxes in circulation ~~than~~ ~~one can be~~ compared to war time. The gadgets too will be fine and the top opener ~~is~~ looks like a wonderful thing, also the sickle shaped thing for lifting things, and the sticking tape, and of course you know ~~just~~ what a kick I get out of opening things.

The three boys, Davy, Harold and Johnny came over while we were eating to tell us that Myrtle has had three little Guinea pigs, and while here Mom came down with a wonderful birthday cake. It worked just right for of course the kids loved being in on it. Johnny got the first peice and it had the nickle in it, so then he said "know what. I am going to buy you a birthday present with it." Later we had to go over and let him buy something, Pete paying the difference in the end. He picked out the most expensive ~~one~~ ^{one} so Pete said, and the girls in the store did it all up with ribbons, very special.

Sandra
We went over to the exhibition Mr Turner brought up and I decided to use your check for a picture, so we went back and bought a lovely watercolor by a young artist who lives in B.C. I still have nearly 3/4 of the check left. so thank you very much.

Tuesday we got a note from the dentist in Calgary giving us each an appointment Thursday afternoon. such a time deciding how we would go down, for Monday it rained and 50 cars got stuck on a detour where they are building the new road and it rained Teusday too. Finally as I had shopping to do I

went down on the train at 6.45 Wednesday evening, got to Calgary about nine (should have written you then) and Pete came down on the morning train yesterday and then we came back by bus at six last night to-gether. I couldn't be sure of getting down in time for my appointment and so went the night before. It worked well and I shopped hard all morning until two and then some more until five, and we both had our teeth cleaned and don't have to go back until fall. Will tell you more what I got later, but I didn't manage to get a lot of clothes for a change. Pete wanted to see Mr Vallance on business and also we were going to see Mr Turner. the joke was that when we went to the gallery found that Mr Turner was in Banff, and then when Pete went to see Vallance, he too had come to Banff for the day. and its the only time Pete has been down for a year.

Must get this off for the train .

Loads of love and many thanks for the nice birthday thoughts and presents

Love to all

Catherine
P.S. This is very dis ^{appointed} & poorly written because of so many interruptions.

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. June 17, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

I guess you will be glad to see that I have a new typewriter ribbon, got it in Calgary. I have also discovered what one of the keys is for, it releases the margin so instead of not being able to hit the last letter on the right when I get going too fast and too far beyond the bell ringing, I can press that and keep going. Certainly took me a good many years to learn that!

Can't remember when I last wrote you, we haven't done a great deal lately, the weather has been showery and we have been trying to finish things here up, there are always so many odd things to see about. Such as a committee wanting the stage coach to go to Calgary for the Stampede Parade. Pete had to go to a meeting the night of my birthday and then has been over town a couple of times to arrange the trucking it down etc. and so it goes. But we aren't doing too badly, I even got some of my dresses tried on for length this afternoon. a few more things put away. a number of letters written, found out about trips Cousin Harriets friends daughter can take and wrote the Mrs Noble and Cousin H. Miss Noble plans to be here for four nights and we thought she would get far more out of her stay if she got off the train from the west at Field and took the bus to Lake Louise, seeing Emerald & Yoho on the way. could make the day trip to the Columbia Icefields and back to Louise and then see Moiraine Lake on the day she comes to Banff and she would still have two days here. So I wrote to that effect, but in case she doesn't want to do that have reserved a room at Barbaras which I don't mind cancelling. Also wrote Mrs Lindsay to ask when Jean Rand will be here as the Greenhams are to be away all of July and don't want to miss her. and then I have about 50 other letters I never get around to writing!

Did I tell you that Asta Hauge walked down from the Camp ground (she works at Beckers cabins) to bring me a birthday present, how she ever remembered I don't know, but had mentioned it to her sisters in Norway and one sister Pauline sent me a card Air Mail (took six days only) and then they sent me two lovely little pickle forks from Drammen in Norway. beautiful silver ones with an openworked scroll handle. Mrs Hauge sent me the loveliest old spoon for gravy or sauce, one of the old family pieces and they had it marked with a "W" and on the back of the handle is written " greetings from Norway " in Norwegian and the date. It has a gold spoon part and the handle has a fine design etched all over it. Wasn't it nice of them to think of it? Asta spent the evening until long after Pete came back from his meeting. Did I tell you that we bought a picture with your birthday money, using a quarter of it. Found out it was the only painting he sold. Mr Turner came around here Sunday morning I think I told you that. ~~After~~ He is the man who brought the picture up from his gallery in Calgary .

Later Sunday we went up to see Edmee but she was away for the day, saw Charlie instead and then called on Dr Riley and his wife. They come up to a cottage they have for weekends. Their young son had slept on a pillow made of chicken feathers by mistake and was all puffy round his eyes. he is allergic to them. Dr Riley is an amateur artist and very interested and keen. He does autotopsys, told Pete he had done over 150 so far this year in Calgary. Pete asked if he didn't hate doing them or something like that and he said " Oh no " evidently doesn't bother him at all.

After supper and Alec Templeton first Davy arrived, 3 minutes later Harold and then Johnnie, Harold halped with the dishes, drying them all. Jonnie figured he was too little and Davy seemed to be too occupied and avoided the work very nicely. Then Harold thought maybe it would be a nice evening for a ride, so we agreed seeing he had helped, and when they took their bikes home they came running back to say Mrs Smith and Barbara were coming too. Davy asked them ! Mrs Smith is the mother of one of the couples living at Barbaras and as Harold said, she hadn't been to Minnewanka yet. We didn't mind and we all piled in and put the top down. Mrs Smith and Johnnie in front, the rest of us behind. The remarks of the kids are always great fun. Jonnie calls the drive around Tunnel " the Castle Mt drive " we think because the Banff Springs looks like a castle. Then he pointed out the " Insulation Hospital " instead of "Isolation" and when we drove by the big hospital he as usual said " that was where I was born " so Barbara said " right in the room with the frosted window," Whereupon Jonnie said " Yes, in the borning room"

Their guinea pigs had babys, 3 little ones, they seem to have hair and everything right from the beginning. Harold was to have one as the pair were Davy's to begin with. He took his over to the Mathers in his shirt pocket and it fell out somehow and got run over by a truck. Harold was broken hearted so Barbara said, Jonnie was telling Jim Stinson and the others at the store all about it and he is so funny telling things that Jim laughed when he said that the pig had fallen out and been run over, whereupon Jonnie said very seriously " Jim, ~~thats~~ theres nothing funny about that ! "

Got your letter to-day all about the Reynolds, yes I remember them and how nice that Maćcia is to be married and be at the Fenn school. We will be glad to see the Fenns if they come this way .

Bedtime, loads of love,

Catharine .

P.S. We haven't been getting the Concord Journal for some time. maybe the subscription has run out. Tell Jean I will write + thank her for the wonderful box of candy for my birthday. We are all set for summer. we often eat candy for dessert + its nice to be able to offer it to people.

Banff, Alberta.
Friday June 20, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

It has been raining hard all day, this morning about 35° above and a few big snowflakes mixed in with the rain, quite a bit of snow up on Sulphur when we could see it. We have had a lot of rain this June, nearly everyday a few showers.

Haven't done a great deal of interest. Wednesday night the kitchen drain plugged up and we used drano and worked on it most all evening, then found that it must be way below as the water in the basin upstairs backed up into the kitchen sink. Not much we could do but clean up the stuff that backed up with it. Luckily I ran into "Steam" Watt yesterday morning and he said he would come over in the afternoon, which he did. He had a long coil of flat wire about $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch wide with a brush on the end of it, this he poked down the clean out and finally had to up on the roof and poke it down the vent in order to reach the part that was really plugged. Luckily when he went up the roof it wasn't raining at the time but was rather slippery so we got a rope for him. All in all quite a bit of excitement. However he made a good job of it, was here all afternoon or a good part of it. didn't make any mess and it was well worth the \$2.00. His father is the plumber really, and he helps. The drano had loosened a lot of the years accumulation and now it runs better than it has for years I am sure.

Sam was down too yesterday and Cliff to tell us that he and Donny were going to drive over to the Windermere until Sunday. School is over for this year and Donny doesn't start work until next week. We are glad for the boys don't often get little trips like that. Cliff is very restless and there doesn't seem much we can do about it. Dr Mackenzie says it is the unsettled state he is in, but until the Ski business is cleared up he doesn't really know where he is at. Mildred writes cheerful letters and seems to be trying to get a "new outlook" on life so we are hoping it works out allright. Young Cliff has a job driving for the Minute delivery and Dave Prosser said he was the best driver and worker he has had, young Peter is working for Ike Mills as a pony boy,

To-night I am being very gay and going to a shower for one of the school teachers, the one who was interested in Art. and is being married soon. Grace Mather said I could pick her up and take her. I never go to showers but seeing they were nice enough to ask me thought I should. Usually Pete and I go to everything we go to together.

Norman Luxton was down yesterday morning and has talked Pete into helping with Indian Days. especially in collecting money. The Indians have asked Pete to help too and he could hardly refuse.

I should be going over town and doing the errands so will let this do for a letter and perhaps answer others next time. Pete is painting at last though it is very dark to-day. I will start next week. Have given up any more thoughts of spring cleaning, will follow your advise. Have a new fangled Air bomb which one lets off and counts ten and it is supposed to kill all bed bugs and moths etc. Will be far easier than beating carpets

which I never do and airing the furniture, Even if Jean is a bit shocked. After cleaning upstairs I find it is now just about as dirty as it was before except there aren't so many cobwebs. Someone said spiders build them during a certain season. Actually our house doesn't get very dirty in a dusty way, it is only that New England conscience of mine that makes me think I should make a pretense at it. If the vacuum wasn't so noisy and old it might be more fun. Aslo it is the lack of time.

Better go , loads of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Mon. June 23, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

Another rather upsetting weekend and no real good chance to write. Friday Mom ~~got~~ showed us two letters she had from Mildred saying that she was ready to come home, and then I got one saying that the doctor had told her she could leave this coming Saturday. We weren't sure whether this was Mildred's idea or what, but felt pretty sure that the doctor wouldn't let her leave until she was ready and plans had been made. Pete saw Dr. MacKenzie Saturday afternoon and had a nice talk and decided to draft a letter to the Doctor at the coast, which I did yesterday morning. It took me all morning and in the afternoon I showed it to Mom and she added some. Cliff was over in the Windermere with Donny ~~which~~ did him a world of good, for we saw him last night when he came back. It is all the talking over of things and thinking out the various problems that is tiring. Pete didn't feel good over the weekend and is only just getting his strength back. I think the whole mess of problems just upset his tummy, and somehow though you think you won't worry you do the next thing to it. Now we have to try and see Dr M. again and show him the letter before mailing it.

The weather has been lovely the last two days though it almost snowed Thursday and we had lots of rain. We haven't felt much like painting but hope to get out soon for at least a few days, we know it would do us good but there is a lot we want to finish up here first and we never seem to get a really good chance.

It is now after three, I took the letter over to the doctor and he will drop around as soon as he can ~~which~~ may be late~~x~~ this afternoon, so we will more or less need to hang around, but that is preferable to sitting in the office waiting over there.

And now to answer a few of your latest letters. That was nice to hear from Mrs Mayor, are you going down to Annisquam to see her? Interesting that Irene Borland should come to see you, ~~did~~ she never get married I wonder? Mrs Cresson's book about her father sounds awfully good, we would love to have a copy sometime (that's a hint) ~~did~~ I tell you we haven't been getting the Journal for sometime, about a month or more anyway. With all the goings on I didn't miss it until you mention~~ed~~ something to read in it.

Am not going to get far in writing this, we had

a caller and I maybe should mail this before Dr MacKenzie calls.

The latest story about Jonny was on Saturday when the kids were sitting outside with Pete. Jonny jumped up on the stone table, raised his arm and said "I am the torchbearer of Liberty." Harold said he wasn't because he didn't have a book under his arm, he should have that to be the "Torch of Liberty". They are funny.

Looks like a shower. think yesterday was our first day this June without at least a shower.

Loads of love,
Catherine .

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. June 26, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

I waited until we saw Miss Morrison on her way through on the train this afternoon before writing you. Its too bad it has turned out to be a regular downpour though we had a few spots of sun shine early this morning and it didn't actually rain while she was standing talking to us on the platform. She looked well and said it had been such a restful trip coming out. She had a nice compartment and it happened to be right next the door where we were standing. Last night we went up to see Sam and Cis and got them to come with us while we drove around the golf course and picked two or three of every flower we could find. Sam and Pete even helped a bit. We got a big bunch and some little flowers I had rarely seen, then I put them in deep water and in the cooler last night. This morning I got quite a few more along the river and the little green orchid we found last night I found right on the river bank by the house. Cis even found the only tiger lily. Then this noon I put them all in a big flat box and as I did it tried to count the different ones and there were between 40 or 50. We also got two old jam jars, one big and the other a little one so that she could put them in water and leave them on the train. She was very pleased and I am glad we thought of it for with such a heavy rain she will have something to look at on the way to Lake Louise. We also gave her Bobby Hunters address and that of our dentist who is so good. If she should be sick, Bobby is one of the finest doctors at the coast, especially as a diagnostician, and she said she didn't really know of any doctors. She is going to stay at the Old Charming Inn, has a room and bath. Sam and Cis stayed there one winter and the lady who ran it then was awfully nice they said and she wanted Sam to build the addition for them. It is sort of a rambling old fashioned place and so convenient to everything. It is right on a bay with lots of little boats and one can walk along the shore and within a mile it is quite open wild heath country. all the little houses around there have pretty little gardens and roses blooming right in the front yards. Then there are nice small stores and to get to the center of Vister Victoria there is a street car and a very quiet bus that takes about 20 minutes I should think. About as far as from Fresh Pond to the Harvard square only a prettier trip. I think they also have little suites in the Old Charming Inn and I imagine the people would be like those at the Colonial Inn, probably a lot of English.

The last two days have been very hectic for us, Pete evidently had some so called "stomach flu" as quite a few others have had it. But he began to feel much better on Monday. That evening we had a long call from Verne Costello and his step son, to see if we could help out with his house. Seems to get a mortgage from a company you must have a lease, to have a lease the house has to be finished according to the Gov't. and to finish it he has to pay the builder so much. However we decided later to put him off as we are extended in too many directions.

That was Monday. Tuesday Steve came to cut the hay, a lovely morning though by evening it looked like rain. He worked on and off all day. Erling came around after lunch and stayed most of the afternoon telling us all about what he wants to do at Essinaboine for with a few more cabins in strategic places, it will really be a

paying proposition. Yet ~~he~~ he waits until he earns enough it will be just so much longer before he can add on and he will be that much older, we agree but don't see how we can do much for him either right now. He really wanted to tell us his ideas more than anything. He also wrote a letter of thanks for the spoons for me to copy and send the Hauges. Yes they were the ones you sent the parcel to ^{in Norway}

It was nearly 5.30 when he left and I ran over town for the food and into a lot of Indians who had come up from Morely to put on a wiener roast or some sort of show for a convention and were camped at the Indian grounds. Pete looked a bit surprised when I arrived home with the car bulging with three large men and we drove them down. I will write more about all that later. We have just been on the go ever since and I am trying to catch June Smith before she leaves to-day to give her a wedding present.

Loads of love,

Catharine

P.S. Can't remember when we received the last Journal, but it was at least a month ago.

Banff, Alberta.
Mon. June 30, 1947,

Dearest Mother,

Our 17th. Wedding anniversary, for once we remembered this morning. However Norman Luxton arrived at breakfast time to get Pete to go with him collecting money for Indian days and so I knew it would be a good morning to do the kitchen floor and hope that it will last all summer. Have washed it but haven't put the Glo coat on as yet.

Wrote you Thursday I think after seeing Miss Morrison on the train. Should have written yesterday but it was one of those days when we do a lot of talking. Cliff was down for lunch as ~~he~~ he doesn't eat well enough by himself and as the boys get off at different times they eat over town. So he talked until about three about his troubles which sort of gets it out of his system, and then Pete said we were going out. So we did, drove around a little and then dropped in as the Moores were having tea. Got into a long talk there about all their family affairs and their worries, for they told us a lot knowing that we wouldn't pass it along. On the way home we stopped to watch a ball game between two girls teams and nearly saw a bad fire. Some people had a trailer and an old gasoline stove and as we were parked beside it we suddenly noticed fumes coming out and then a man with lots of flames, for the stove was on fire and he managed to pull it out of the trailer all ablaze and there were four other people inside at the time. If the trailer had caught I don't know how they would have all gotten out. Last evening we were thinking of going up about 9.30 when Erling and Sigrid and Siri's their daughter came in, (8.30 their time) with a niece just over from Norway and another man, also Norwegian who was crazy about the house, wants to build a log house himself in Stowe. So it was after ten when we went to bed, nearly 11 really -

Tuesday and Wednesday were very busy ones for us last week. Erling came down for all Tuesday afternoon to discuss what he intended doing to improve things at Assinboine. then about five-thirty I went over town and ended up by bringing three Indians back to be taken to the Indian grounds. We went down again in the evening as they were up for some shindig to do with a convention, but we had nothing to do with that, just talked with the Indians.

Then Wednesday it rained all day. Sam was down soon after breakfast for us to look up some figures for him. then we went over town to shop and it was lunch time when we got back, As we were finishing lunch Mrs Simpson came in so gave her some and talked until Sam appeared again, Then as Mrs Simpson was leaving Mr Pepper the artist drove in and we took him over to the store to see the new apartment, that took most of the rest of the afternoon. We hadn't been back long when George and Mrs Maclean came in, she with a large bag of mushrooms she had brought to Pete. The Indians were all going back on the train but George and his saw were pretty hungry, so while Pete went and found out about the trains I gave them tea, bacon and eggs and toasted nearly a loaf of bread, and they finished up the cake and a tin of fruit. However it is always fun to feed people who like the food and not a crumb was left. We drove them to the station, had to run the son and wife up

town to get a little fruit and then finally about 7 "crazy time" as the Indians call it we had supper. Huck Millar was down too in the afternoon. Then in the evening we took Sam and Cis and drove round the golf course getting flowers for Miss Morrison and spent the rest of the evening up at the Wards as we had missed being there Sam's birthday. It was quite a day.

Thursday it rained too quite a bit and that was the day they came for the May, it got pretty wet but they took most of it, the rest went this morning, after we turned it yesterday morning before the first shower. we have had a lot of rain this month, mostly big showers. Pete has gone collecting for the Indian Days again this afternoon. Norman Luxton was only two hours late coming but they have gone now and I have put the second coat on the floor and think I will take a shower and then mail this and get the mail too.

Saturday we asked Flossie Curry (who used to be the telegraphist at the Banff Springs) down to supper. She went to Lake Louise for the first time in 1916. the year we were out. so she has worked for the C.P.R. over 30 years. Had a roast, fresh peas and new potatoes and ice cream and strawberries, We asked her for 6.30 and I had everything ready on the dot, but when she didn't come we looked at each other and remembered that she worked on Standard time and so Pete hopped in the car and went looking for her, couldn't find her. We had visions of everything being spoiled after an hours wait when in she came about 10 or 15 minutes late, we were so relieved.

Took her for a drive and then back here for the rest of the evening. she is such a nice person and being an old maid people don't bother to do much for her.

All for ~~nix~~ now. Oh, do send your address and when to write to York Harbor.

Loads of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. July 2, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

I am trying to get some of the letters in my desk drawer answered, for there isn't room for any more if I don't. Had a good chance too this week but didn't make the most of it. Norman Luxton asked Pete if he would help him with Indian Days this year as Norman is getting pretty old and shaky and can't even write very well. Pete couldn't think of any one else who would help so said he would and then found he was Secretary -Treas.or something. Monday Norman Luxton was round at ten and they went collecting donations from the various business men in town. Have a list of what they gave last year and a letter was sent first, then they go round to pick up the cash and cheques. They were out all afternoon too and Pete got back at five pretty tired, mostly from standing round and the hot offices and stores, but they had gotten over \$500.00 which was pretty good. Got another hundred to-day, & then a lot send in their cheques.

I took the chance to wash the kitchen floor and Glo-coat it and got quite a bit done. Then yesterday was Dominion Day and a holiday, but the stores were open because of the tourists. We didn't do a great deal, except in the afternoon Pete wrote out about 40 Receipts and I made a list of all the donations etc. Took us most of the afternoon. and last night we spent trying to see various people and sending a wire to the Campbells etc. I forgot Monday was our wedding anniversary, and seems to me I saw less of Pete that day than usual. In the evening we went up to the Wards by way of celebrating. Also got a cot for them at the store for the little house, then we went back and all toasted the day. So you see we didn't do too badly.

This morning the Vallances from Calgary came down to see the house, at least Mr V. came to talk business as he is Pete's lawyer, and his son came to show his girl friend the house. He was a little boy on the trail hikes long ago, now is studying to be a lawyer too.

A nice letter from you to-day, am glad you got to Topsfield to see the Agges, they really are remarkable and those ninety year olds in Florida. Well I'll bet you are smarter than any of them when you get to your ninetys !

Didn't we go to the first opening of Chestnut St. in Salem ? I don't wonder it was crowded with 10,000 people. Do tell us more about the cruise that the family are taking, what the boat is like and where they are headed for. It should be a more relaxing vacation for Russ than last year for they at least can settle in to one place and sleep in the same beds though they cover quite a bit of ground.

We enjoy your letters so much and all the enclosures too, there really isn't time to write about them all, though in a way I would like to. However I will try to answer your real questions.

I think we would like the book about Gen Marshall by his wife called "Together", no hurry, maybe it would be a good Christmas present, though you might forget it by then! Am enjoying the book about Concord so much though at this time of year we don't get much chance to read at night. You spoke of a b

book about Daniel Chester French by his daughter, we would like that too, sometime.

Haven't read the "Ridgepole of the Rockies" in the June Geographic. but will soon and tell you all about it, for you may recognize some of the names.

Mildred has gotten on so well that the doctor let her out of the Sanitarium and she was to visit an old friend last week-end and stay on for a while until things are straightened out. We are afraid that she has made light of the way she has been acting the last five years or more, Dr Atkin told Mom the other day he thought she should not return to Banff as the people she was going with would only get her back into her old state. Cliff is gradually feeling better and more like coping with things, so it looks as if we won't have to enter into it as much as before. The boys are all working this summer. Young Cliff is nearly 19 and has gone off to get a job as a tractor driver with a big construction company, he was working as a truck driver for a delivery service here, but when he heard that his mother was out of Hollywood and might come back, he didn't want to be here if she did return and was away before we realized it. He hopes to go to technical school this fall. Donny is working at a filling station and has a chance to go to Edmonton this winter to school and play hockey on a Junior team, which he is keen on doing. Young Peter is working for Ike Mills looking after horses and some tourists, gets his meals there but sleeps at home. Cliff and Donny eat together either at home or over town and they have 5 girls who are working at the Homestead who have rooms in the house and they take turns looking after it for the summer. Cliff hasn't decided yet what to do and is waiting until the Ski thing is cleared up and also until he feels better.

What is to happen to the old Pickering house in Salem? I noticed it was open but in Miss Agge's letter she wondered who would live there.

Pete got a letter from David Bearspaw sometime ago and will copy it off for you as it was written in rather an amusing way, especially the ending.

"My dear son Pete. I'm going to let you know what I think about. Well I'm getting ~~ex~~ to old than I was before. and I couldn't work for my living and thats why I'M getting starving and so I want to know if you could lend me ten dollars let me know if your going to lend me or not if you do that I'll give you back this coming fall when we ~~shel~~ sell our Beef. And I'm willing to do it And I very pleased with you. so let me know as soon as you can let me know it by mail. I ate all my Beef money thats why I say that. Thats all And I say hello to you and your wife & shake hands with you. Good bye & good luck to you. From your dady Chief David Beraspaw."

Had a nice letter from Mrs Lindsay and it is next summer that Jean is coming to Banff. She spoke of trying to sell or rent the house on Lowell Rd. Its too bad it is right on the road, for it is such a fine house and would be wonderful if a little further back. Wonder would it be good for Frances and Gil. How are they by the way, up at the camp again or still in town?

Interesting about Joan Buttrick going to the Rhode ~~ix~~ Island School of Design. Where will she live I wonder.

Will send that booklet of the Trapp singers back as soon as I can get around to it.

What a nice letter that was from Cousin Harrie Shaw am so glad she had such a happy birthday.

No I don't want " With the West in Her Eyes" back. Mrs Lindsay might like it, or John Edward or Eileen might find it interesting.

Did you listen to the Radio Program " about Boston " of R.H? Stearns. quite an idea.

How is Mildred Owen feeling ? You can answer this from York Harbor for I think you said she is to be with you again there.

I can't seem to find the last Journal I got, suppose I threw it away after reading it, but it must be at least a month since I got one, maybe longer. Didn't see the one with the notice about the picture. Think it must be two months since I had one, they always were slow in coming anyway, but with all we have had to think of I guess I didn't realize they weren't coming regularly.

I guess you wondered why I never took any more pictures of the house for you, the interiors were to be taken after the spring cleaning, but as that was never done this year, you may have to wait until fall! Charlie Reid came down with Edmee at Christmas time and took a great fancy to my new camera, so Edmee thought it would be just the thing to give him for his birthday as he hasn't any real hobbies and needs one. So she ordered one just like mine from George Noble, but it didn't come in time for the birthday so Pete and I decided to let her give Charlie mine and I would get the new one when it came, but we never told Chralie. The joke was that the new one was very slow in being sent and we were so afraid that Chralie would bring his down and compare it with the one I didn't have! However it came at last and I have taken another roll but haven't made any prints from it yet.

Well it is now after lunch and I now have room in my desk drawer to get in more unanswered letters. Pete was over town delivering things in connection with Indian Days. He is so funny, if I try to write letters at night and he is sitting reading in the other room he is soon in here and then talks. In fact sometimes I tease him for always having a lot to say when I am trying to write. Donny came down for lunch as it is his day off. There is a minimum hour and wage act which is a great thing for they can't make people work overtime and they work so many hours a week and have to have a day off, so stagger their shifts. Mildred wrote to Mom this morning and a rather encouraging letter. She is staying at her friends house and looking after the three boys there while the wife is away, but the husband is home I think. Just hope she gets along alright, she has been to see friends in

Vancouver and writes that all the Stockands have jobs which is a great relief, so maybe things will turn out alright. Young Cliff has left only this morning(too early to say goodbye to us) and is to drive a tractor for a construction job north of Edmonton, gets \$200. a month which is good pay and he seemed quite pleased to be off on his own. So maybe things will work out alright in the end.

All for now and may send a lot of miscellaneous clippings too. Loads of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta
Sat. July 5th. 1947

Dearest Mother,

We have had rather a busy end of the week. Can't remember what day I wrote you and finally got the desk drawer cleaned out and organized a bit. It might have been Thursday. Pete has been busy collecting and doing lots of odd things and talking to various people. and I got the front room tidied up a bit taking the magazines and my painting stuff up stairs out of the way for the summer months. We might have been out of town the last few days except for the Indian Days preparations and also we stayed in to see Pete's lawyer, Mr Vallance. He is such a nice person and so helpful and understanding to talk to. He is going to help Pete, draw up the new lease for the store building and ~~also~~ help ~~check~~ ^{exp} up on how the business is being run etc. He is the one who Sam is building a house for and they have the nicest boy and girl, Are great Alpine people and were staying up at the Club house this week. We went up there Thursday night to see when ~~we~~ would be a good time to talk and it worked so that Pete and Mr V spoke that night while I sat down stairs with Mrs Vallance and other club members. They are always rather nice people who love the mountains.

Then yesterday we had had a wire from Gray Campbell asking if we would be home Friday if he drove up, We of course thought that his wife and ~~two~~ little children were coming too but instead it was a Mr Beramont who came up with Gray. They arrived about 5.30 in a Jeep, so Pete took them up to Norman Tabiteaus camps where we had a cabin reserved, while I went over to the butchers and got four steaks. Pete getting some ice cream when he came home. We had fresh peas (several days old most like-ly) new potatoes and raspberries and the ice cream and the steaks were a great success too. They really came up on business. Gray is the ~~friend~~ who used to be a mountie, was then in the R.A.F. and came out with an English wife who he had to leave here with a tiny baby while he went back to England and flew ~~Manchester~~ ^{Manchester} over Germany. Then he tried working in the east and hated it and came west last fall to ranch, working all winter to gain experience ~~on~~ on a large ranch in Southern Alberta. This spring he had a chance to buy just the kind of place they wanted near Pincher Creek, and the whole set up sounded perfect. They wrote us about it in such glowing terms and so enthusiastic that we offered to help back ~~to~~ them to get started. The government ~~has~~ loans a veteran up to \$6000. to help them get started, but first must approve both the man and his wife, and the ranch and be sure that they aren't taking on more than they can handle. They made the deal for the ranch at \$10. an acre with all sorts of things thrown in, like a team of horses, and machinery etc. etc. So up they went and started in, letting the old man aged 75 (not old in years you understand, ~~just~~ just too old to run a ranch all by himself) and his wife stay ~~on~~ on for the summer and to help them in the ways of working it. Since then all sorts of people have offered the man more per acre, some \$16. and one pair \$20. a ranch nearby just sold for \$16. so I guess the old man wishes he hadn't agreed to sell to Gray. The Government have been slow in their end and though Gray has

enough money in the bank to pay according to the first agreement, now the old man is trying to wear him down and discourage him so as to get out of the deal. The old lady who was so very nice at first is making it as hard as possible for Eleanor. It really sounds like a good western novel. Within the last little while many of the neighbors have told Gray that two previous veterans were going to buy the place but gave up in the end with the same sort of treatment and they want Gray to hang on. So he went to this Mr Beaumont, an Irishman who is a Comander in the Canadian Legion, a lawyer and magistrate in Ed Lethbridge. He is out to protect the veterans and so is going to help Gray fight the thing. Part of the deal was to buy the old mans calfs over a period of three years, but they feel if they have enough backing at the bank they can tell him they have the money if he wants it right off and will try to complete the deal as soon as possible and get the old people off the land. Its a long story and took all evening to tell us, until our heads spun round with calfs and acres and mowing machines etc. We said we would let them know in the morning what we could do. Mr Beaumont felt that they could clear up the thing quicker if Gray just owed one person, though he could borrow a little here and there. We of course were very willing to help, because Gray is about the finest lad we know and Eleanor too is a fine girl. So next morning we had to see Mr Goddard at the bank about some War bonds and then before Gray and Mr Beaumont came at 11 o'clock we had a nice couple from Victoria come to call. Norah Cornwall sent them. It turned out that they lived in the orient for years, in both Japan and China and knew lots of people we did, so they are to come back to tea. We did ask them for yesterday but it was just as well they didn't come for we were busy with lots of things all afternoon. Gray and Mr B. wanted to get back to Lethbridge last evening so while Gray typed out the letters which Mr B. dictated I got a cold lunch, Pete cooked bacon and fried tomatoes and we had quite a meal.

We hadn't really thought much about the weekend and ended by buying a cold chicken for supper. then we also went to see the Moores for a minute and to enquire about Ted Brown who we heard was very sick. Pete went up to the hospital later to see him and in the evening we dropped in to see Sam and Cis as they were sitting in the garden and it was a lovely evening. We listened to the 11 o'clock news and when I turned the radio off I said to Pete " Did you leave the hose on, there is quite a ringin in the pipes?" So he listened and looked but we could find nothing. We were pretty sure it was a break somewhere so he took the big flash light and went down to the front of the lot to see if there was a break in the pipe there, as it has happened before. Poor Pete, he was so embarrassed, for he nearly walked into a couple lying in the grass. His light shone right on them. so he said " carry on, don't mind me !! and hustled back. We are used to people parking cars on the front of the ground and always shut the gate every night now that summer is on! Well we found it was still noisy in the pipes this morning so Pete called the Gov't man and he came with his telephone and listened and sure enough there is a break and it seems to be under our house, most likely under the front room. So Pete called the plumber and he will be here in the morning, but the water was getting into the basement so after lunch we asked the Gov't man to please turn our water off at the street. So we are just a bit discouraged. I had hopes we might even manage to go out to-morrow for a few days painting, b

but guess we will have to delay that again. It does seem sometimes as if there was just one thing after another to prevent us going sketching. It was lucky really that Gray asked if we would be in on Friday, or we might have gone last week and this break in the water line could have made an awful mess had it broken while we were away. It is something in our soil that disintegrates the pipe in about ten years. Makes it look as if it were potmarked and wears through eventually in tiny holes. If we could get copper pipe we would be alright.

Now I must write a few others so all for to-day. Tell Jean to send me her address in Orgunquit and if I don't get a chance to write her before she goes, can write her there and thank her for the wonderful box of candy she sent for my birthday,

Loads of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. July 9, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

We came awfully near going out of town to-morrow, would have gone a week ago but for Gray Campbell coming up and then I wrote you about the water line breaking Sunday. We had the water off and Pete was so afraid it was under the house that the pipe had gone. Jim Watt said he would be over Monday morning but it was afternoon before he and Steam came (that is his son Bob's nickname) Steam dug away the dirt under the living room but it wasn't wet and no sign of a break, so they let the water run again all night, and Tuesday morning it showed wet way down in front where our line goes into the main line. It is something in our soil that rots the pipe. So Pete went over and found the Watts, Steam came down and measured the length of pipe they would need to bring the water down from Cliff's house as the river is too high to dig up the line down by the road, and in the afternoon they fixed it up so we have water for the summer and in the fall will have to dig up the old line and if we can will put copper in which won't be effected by the soil. Its such a nuisance.

We also have had a number of callers. Margie Brown Monday afternoon, her father was very ill, and Ralph Jones a cousin of Pete's from California. He came again the next morning bringing his wife. a very nice person, originally from Georgia, but a person you take to right away. They have what Bubby calls a " super " car. for Bubby happened over at the same time with two little friends, we don't know if she wanted something or not. Räte says Ralph takes after his father who used to have all sorts of gadgets on his first car which was an electric and had a tölle instead of a wheel to steer it with. for Ralph has an arrangement that flips open the cap on the gas tank at the back, you just press a button while sitting in the front seat. When if you start off with the break on a light flashes on and off, and when you run the windshield wiper and there are bugs or mud on the windshield, there is water that comes from somewhere so that the wiper cleans off the glass.

Yesterday I spent most of my afternoon waiting to see the doctor to show him the latest letter from Mildred and then after waiting over an hour another one came in the mail last night! We were just going out last evening when the Thoringtons came along, Seeing us getting into the car they didn't want to stay at all, we tried to make them stay for it didn't matter to us whether we went out or not, but they were afraid of keeping us and so will come again, actually it would have been easier if they had stayed last night for now we will have to arrange another time. We went out & took receipts around ending up at Carl Rungius and didn't come home until after ten.

To-day we were to get things together and go out. even thought of going to Sunshine and spoke to Fern. a little later heard that some Indians are coming up Friday to cut teepee poles & Pete really should stay in, also we might get some sketches of them. So have made up our minds to wait until after Indian days.

Enquired at the Post Office about the Journals but of course if they had received them I would have, We think maybe the ^{wrapping} cover has torn off and they said they have had a lot of trouble that way because of poor paper I guess, so maybe if they are done up well I will get them. The five or so came yesterday and many thanks.

Some people are coming to tea so must get this off. Also did I thank you for the Daniel Chester French book, it came the day after I wrote hinting for it.

Next letter will send to York Harbor.

Loads of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberat.

Sun. July 13, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

Did I tell you we very nearly went out to Sunshine Thursday for over this weekend? Even asked Fern if it would be allright and then a little later were told that a family of Indians were coming up on Thursday to cut Teepee poles etc. as they usually do, so we decided it would be a wonderful chance to make a few sketches of Indians and maybe Teepees and so as Pete really should be around until after the Indian Days, we would stay in. Of course the Indians have never showed up yet, though we have been down to the camp ground at least twice a day and now we are kicking ourselves for having stayed in. The weather has been rainy so perhaps we wouldn't have done much anyway and we have had some interesting visits.

Tuesday night we were just going out to deliver a few receipts and for me to try and find out if there had been any word from Cousin Harriets friend at Rocky Mt Tours, but to date we don't know if she is coming or not. (If she does come now the best I can do is to get a bed in a ladys room at Barbaras, for she has a lady coming for a month and couldn't hold the room any longer when none of us had heard. After this when anyone wants me to find a room I am just going to refer them to Rocky Mt. Tours and they can do all the arrangeing themselves. Cousin Harriet wrote last week as if she were still coming but the girl herself has never written a line.) Anyway as we were going out the Thorington's came in the yard. but they didn't want to come in *the house.* Think I may have written you this. they did stay a few minutes and then went. They are very touchy people so we made a point of asking them down specially on Thursday night and they hadn't been here more than 45 minutes when the Paynters and a Mrs Paddy Nolan (who you met years ago at tea at Mrs Paynters and who has never been here before) came down. The Thoringtons only stayed a polite time afterwards and then left. but maybe they were glad to go home early as she has been very ill with shingles of the eye. Nearly lost her sight.

We also invited the Darnells down to tea on Wednesday and had a most interesting talk with them. They or at least he, is older than he looks. He went out to Japan in 1894 and was in the orient until 20 years ago when he had a nervous breakdown trying to carry on business in HongKong with five different currencys in use. He worked for the C..P.R. for years and at one time ran the Trans-Siberian Railway. Was in Port Arthur before the Japanese took it from the Russiens and lived many years in Peking. We talked to Pete most of the time and I to Mrs Darnell who is much younger. He must have been very highly thought of out there. Never learned to speak Chinese but did all his business through a wonderful interpreter who knew also the correct things for them to do. I will try to take time to tell you all the storys she told me, but not to-day.

We also called on the Beilers the other night. got the Wards cottage for them for the summer, He is a well known artist, Swiss by birth and she is french Canadian. they

have four very well behaved and lovely children, so yesterday we had all of them to tea, knowing that we wouldn't have much chance later on. They loved all the things in the house being very appreciative and interested in everything. The older girl, about 13, presses flowers beautifully and puts them on cards behind celephane. they are lovely.

The kids went to the Stampede this week. We knew Harold was going Thursday and were a bit surprised to have him come over as we were eating lunch. he wasn't going, wouldn't eat lunch and was very sorry for himself. We never did find out just what happened but the girl staying in their house was to take him but woke with a cold and so couldn't go, then Barbara decided she might as well take them all down (Davy is still at camp) on the train. Then the train was two hours late, not leaving Banff until after one, and I guess Harold couldn't decide whether to go with them or take a chance on going Saturday if the girl could go. He told us Barbara, Bubby and Jonny were already at the station so we urged him to go, he suddenly decided he would and then of course we had to rush him down to the station in the midst of our lunch. Barbara was just buying the tickets, said to "arold " oh you decided to come after all " and everything was fine. When we got back out to the car Jonnie came running up with tears streaming down his face. a train had just come in from the east, the station was jammed with people and he had lost his mother. It took me another ten minutes to find her myself. but poor Jonnie had thought it was their train and was frantic. We told him to hang on to his mother all the rest of the day and next morning when they came over to tell us about the stampede Jonnie said the only time he got lost was at the Banff station but Harold got lost four times in Calgary ! One time "arold told us he was on his way to the Mounted Police to get help when Bubby and Joyce Bannerman found him. He came over here with his arms full of the " s-prizes " he had won. That was what Jonnie called them. He must have had ten , awful clay things. A colored boat like a bookend, a figure of a sailor, two little Indian heads (he gave one to Pete for a present) a bear, a glass dish and tiny tumbler. a whistle and a ring that blew out of the dish during the 80 mile an hour wind they had with a thunder storm. Harold at the time was in a tent where the center pole broke and Jonnie said he was nearly blown off the merry-go-round. It was a bad storm and blew lots of Indian teepees over and a lot of tents and booths down too. Jonnie went on the Ferris wheel and got stiff when they were at the top for he thought they were going to turn upside down ! Then as Jonnie said " we watched the Chuck Wagon races from the 'crushed' seats " They got home on the train at five in the morning and we had a taxi meet them for we thought they would be tired. The train was so crowded Barbara had to hold Jonnie in her lap coming back 2½ hours ! However it was great fun.

Had better mail this while we go on another look to see if any Indians arrived at the camp. They come in on Wednesday and then the week after we hope to get out of town at last.

Loads of love and have a nice time at York. So glad that the family are having good weather for the cruise. a much more restful vacation than last year for Russ.

Loads of love and to Mildred and Mrs Harris too.

75. Just heard Cousin H's friend is coming -

Catharine

Banff, Alberta
Wed. July 16 1947

Dearest Mother - This is about the only way I will get a letter written you this week for tomorrow is Indian Days. Pete sure got himself into something this time when he let Norman Juxton talk him into helping out with Indian Days. Pete being one of the few who knows some of the Stoney's personally & liking them so much agreed to help out, but instead of just doing odd jobs he was landed with the banking end, and in the one in the family who does all the book keeping as Pete hates it & is very slow at it. There has been quite a lot of criticism in previous years about how the money is handled and also Norman Juxton has gotten too shaky to write much, like signing checks etc. First there were the days spent going round collecting. Then stamped the work last week when Norman was away. Then over the weekend Pete had trouble with his sinus & really slept most all of Sunday & Monday. But yesterday Norman told him it was his job to look after all the collecting at the gate both afternoon & evening. & has to get the volunteers to do it. Never even mentioned this to Pete before. Guess that's why people don't like working with Norman. It's the last minute jobs to be done which tries me. So all yesterday Pete went asking people if they would help & you can imagine most everyone is so busy in summer it is quite a problem to even think of probable people. Then we remembered the men in the Gov't office. But it seems Norman has no use for them, so they are out. We are on the way now to see about it all. It's a tiring job too.

Last evening we got home just in time for supper. nice salmon. It's been fine this year. Boiled new potatoes & fresh strawberries & whipped cream. There was some left over, so mixed it & put it in the freezer. We were just washing the last dishes when Jonnie appeared, so I asked if Miss Noble had arrived. Jonnie didn't know, so I said "a woman". Oh yes she had. So then I asked "is she nice?" & with that there was a knock at the door & there was Ruth Noble herself. Don't know if she heard our conversation or not. For Jonnie had guided her over. Being on Standard time she hadn't had supper so we

made a cold roast beef sandwich & a glass of milk & by the time she reached the dessert stage the whipped cream & strawberries were frozen! It looked awful good too.

We were going down to the Indian grounds after supper just to see who had come in, so took her & Jonnie with us. Jonnie was as gushing as ever & before we went showed her all our paintings. We thought he would make a good guide at the Togg Art Museum! He even pointed out the Hawaiian girl & the fuzzy Ski one & a frame felt made.

Ruth Noble was a pupil of Mildred's & lived in Portland until 6 years ago I think, is very interested in the Indians. Went to Sante Fe & Taos. ^{we went down to the spring as in exploring} You never know just how people will be with the Indians, but she was fine, very quiet & friendly. There was a work party up & we didn't know them very well, just a few teepees. But then in the distance we saw a familiar figure with 2 canes, and sure enough it was Mark Poette. So glad to see us & really looking very well, but he had arrived a day early, no blanket, no teepee nothing but a heavy checked shirt. "That's alright, maybe my son, I sleep at your house." We had to do some quick thinking & I guess Ruth Noble was amused. We remembered an old holy & torn teepee & my brain car rug which will soon need cleaning anyway, so told Mark he could have those for the night & we would go home & get them if he found a squaw to put it up for him, while Pete hunted for the teepee & blanket I rounded up bread, eggs, tea, butter & oranges, 2 old enamel cups & a tin for boiling water & making tea. Back we went, it took quite a while to get a few Indians to help erect the teepee & Mark went right inside & sat looking so pleased. He wasn't going to have a fire until morning, & had they not gotten it up he was going to wrap up in it. He figures now he is 74 years old, being four weeks the treaty was signed 70 years ago. I wish you could have seen his pants, they were lit out at the back with different colored material to patch it. like this.



I must remember to tell Ruth Noble that Mildred danced with him once! She has gone to Lake Louise today, will be home tonight.

Left the other sheet at home. But this is quite an idea writing while Pete makes his calls on the various people. We have been going all day. It really isn't so necessary that I come along, but when I ask Pete does he want me. He always says it would be nice if I came. I can help regarding him of things to be done. But it is things going around asking questions etc. We have to be sure to have the right change to pay the Indians on the Parade. over \$100. Each one gets 50 much. \$100 I think for dressing up & parading. Then there is the Prize money for the various races. & so much for the concert. Also the change for the gate receipts. It's all new to us.

Monday Pete's nose was troubling him. (He was going to see the specialist in Calgary if it keeps on) & in the morning I had just gotten back from my own town when ~~Pete~~ Hope Larver, Lucy's sister called. Remember I visited them years ago in Quilham. Lucy went to Art School with us & this is her sister. She got a letter she was coming. She was in town just for the day so I said I would drive her round at 2.00 o'clock. 3.00 am time. Took her to Cave & Basin, around golf course. to the Bauff Springs (we walked through it) around Tunnel Mt. - back here for tea & to the train

Must stop now no time to read over
Loads of love
Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. July 23, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

It must be a week since I sent you a letter and you will think something must have happened us. But such a busy time as we had during Indian days. There was of course no chance to write and for three days all our meals seemed to consist of roast beef sandwiches, that was all we had time to eat or make. When Pete said he would help we never expected it to be the money end and for nights I dreamt of dollar bills and Indians, for they like to be paid in small change and dollar bills like the Chinese, it seems more that way. Well it went off pretty well and though it took me all day Monday and Tuesday to straighten out the books and I should have done the bills to-day. Maybe by to-morrow I will be through. It is a lot of work and not in our line. Never again do we take on this job, but of course didn't know what we were letting ourselves in for. I will write a long letter and tell you all about it as soon as I get a chance.

Got your first letter from York Harbor this morning, am so glad you and Mildred and Mrs Harris and Virginia are all there to-gether and am sure you will have a lovely time. The family must be enjoying the cruise to Maine, I am sure it will be a better vacation than last year for Russ. There was too much re-packing and moving about when they came west and because of the difference in ages the children didn't always want to do what the parents did, but on a boat the children can do as they like and there is always something going on.

We are having hot weather for here

no other caller, so must rush this down to the mail,

Loads of love to you all

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Friday, July 25, 1947

Dearest Mother,

I certainly have neglected you lately as far as letter writing goes, but there has been so much to be done and with Indian days there just wasn't time to even glance at the newspaper.

Promised to tell you about Indian days so here goes.

Think I told you about the Tuesday evening a week ago ~~mm~~ when we took Ruth Noble and Johnny down to see if there were any Indians up and found Mark Pocette without a place to sleep, He said " That's allright, my son, I come and sleep at your house." Pete did some quick remembering that we had a small teepee at home and we came back, got that, an old blanket we keep in the car, enough food for breakfast and a tin pail a few cups and plenty of tea. Went back down and after a bit of urging got some Indians to set up the teepee. It was blowing hard so left a rope to tie to the poles and to a stake in the ground which helps to keep the teepee from blowing over. Mark looked very regal sitting inside as we left him. Pearl told us Sunday that they had been down and our teepee was rolled up with the blanket inside and hanging from the poles as Mark had gone home a day early. We forgot to go down until late Sunday night and sure enough there was the teepee and the rope lying with one loop around the bottom of a teepee pole, Apparently no one watching it and though it had been there over 24 hours not even the rope had been borrowed. I wonder how long it would have ~~ix~~ stayed unmolested among that many white people. Pearl said that Mark told them he had 16 head of horses and a good many cows, and when they asked if he had any sons to leave them to Mark said " I have ten sons, they all die, long time ago my friend, Dave White he give me one of his sons, Pete White, Pete my son, good." or words to that effect, so~~x~~ the Moores told Pete not to be surprised if he inherited 16 horses !

Well Wednesday there was a lot to see to, there was a work party of Indians to be paid and Pete went down with \$100.00 and Norman Luxton and they paid out \$61.00. The Indians make a list of those who need paying on any old bit of cardboard or paper, then Luxton figures out how much each one should get and it is marked down. this constitutes the records kept. When Pete returned we had to subtract the amount left from the original amount and then hope it would check. This worked allright as long as there was time to count it but as the Indian days progressed I had more and more big envelopes with notes on the outside and odd bits of money inside and was it confusing?

There were lots of odd things to be done Wednesday, ^{had} to be sure we had enough gate men to take in the tickets and sell admittances for both afternoon and evening, and because of the hotel being on Standard time and the town daylight, most people got mixed up and instead of arriving half an hour ahead of time they would be trying to get in one hour and a half early.

Then there was the sound truck to arrange, the first one not being steady enough, and then I discovered that Jackie was on the program but hadn't been told he was to help with the events so we talked him in to that, and so it went all day, In the evening we went down to the grounds to see the old Indians we know and found that George McLean was very sick with dibeaa (xra (can't spell it well enough to find it in the dictionary) so we dashed up town to the doctors and he gave Pete some Koamagma though George had heard that "wild strawberry tonic" was good. (Col. Moore told me later it was but the doctors stuff did the trick and George was up and around the next day) Lots of the Indians got sick this year at the stampede and a good many white people too, sort of a stomach trouble. The next time we came up town we thought of the Darnells and how they might enjoy the camp in the evening light for it was lovely. so stopped at the Mt Royal for them. They were both gone to bed but wanted to come so much they got dressed, so that took a bit longer than we should have spent I guess but they did love it, and we watched the rations being given out.

Thursday was the first official day, we were to meet Luxton at 10 o'clock on the bank corner but the Indians were slow and it was nearer 11 when he came. we had the money for the Parade prizes and then he thought we needed more as there were lots of Indians so Pete ran in and wrote an I.O.U. at the bank and got another hundred. Such a crowd as there was but this year we had the police keep the wide bit of road in front of the barracks clear and it did give more room. there is never as large a crowd the 2nd and 3rd day and they lined up on the bridge for the judging then. Pete had to go round and hand out the money with an Indian to go with him. It took a long time and they were late going up to the hotel. Pete went with the police and I took our car which was parked behind the ~~gate~~ and because the mounties are new they wouldn't let me ~~through~~ to cross the bridge, when I did finally get over I saw a lot of Sarcee Indians who were walking and standing at the end of the bridge, a bus was supposed to take them up to the hotel, I picked up four and drove them up & returned for the rest but found there were now about ten waiting. Took six hefty ones with me and again tore up to the Banff Springs. and back for the last load, only to find there were still ten left. They were hot and I was hot, the weather during all of Indian Days being the warmest of the summer. When I realized I couldn't ~~pass~~ possibly get them all in I saw a man in a beautiful snaky car with the top down headed for the intersection by the bridge so asked him if he were going to the hotel, he wasn't, but I asked if he would like to drive some Indians that got left up and he said he would, they piled in. I took the rest, and up we went. He was still there when I got up, only his car looking so important they let him right up in the courtyard whereas I had to park first. Then I told Norman that they had been left and he saw they got paid etc. We couldn't leave there until they had gotten all the ~~stay~~ Indians in a bus and then tore home for a bite to eat before taking the gate men down to the grounds. Unfortunately we hadn't gotten enough money for all the ~~prize~~ prize money and the cash float of change for the gate men so while I made us each a roast beef sandwich Pete got the money and then we rushed down to the grounds, picking up two men on the way. From then on we rushed until Monday noon, never having time for more than a gold

roast beef sandwich and a glass of milk. We had to be at the gate at 1.30 in the afternoon, the show wasn't over until five and the first day they had to have a re-ride in the bucking which made it later still. The evening thing began at 7 o'clock standard time so lots of people arrived at 6.30 daylight. The first night the two men we had were delayed and so Pete and I rushed up and sold tickets until they came.

The second day was as bad though we knew more what to expect. Pete had to be down at the grounds to pay off the work party, those that hadn't shown up the first day, went down and found it all locked (the gate) came back and in the meantime Norman Luxton had come round here and missed him, so Pete rushed down again, found they needed more money than he had with him, so came dashing back to the bank, this time he just said he needed \$150. and didn't even sign anything to get it, which we thought was pretty good of a bank which is usually very sticky about lending money ! Next I saw of him he was dashing by in the Jeep looking for oats for the Indians. He had the Jeep, I the Ford. Was to get them at the Brewster stable but no one there knew about it and told him to find the ^{MAN} on a white horse, he some how managed that, then found that oats come loose now not in ~~bags~~ bags so he got Sophie at the store to find him some burlap ones. But it was all these unexpected things that were hard. Then Pete again had to hand out the prize money for the parade and go to the hotel. I took that time to shop for the week, At the hotel each day they had a chosen lady to give the prize money to the Indians, Pete handing it to the lady and she in turn to the Indian. The first day the lady was very nice but very embarrassed but not any more so than Pete, the 2nd day the lady only spoke Spanish, a bit difficult for Pete to make her understand !

Things actually went very well as far as the sports and ^{parade} the concert went. the first day there were about twice as many at the concert as the seats would hold. Norman Luxton had gotten some Indian boys to put boards on boxes to make benches and right in the middle of the crowds going in (I was helping hand out programs) a very nice man came over to me and said " Do you suppose you could find me a keg to hold up one end of a board and so seat more people ? " The stands had filled long before and these improvised benches were on the ground below. So easy just finding a keg like that in the evening and only tennis courts and grass around! I thought I did pretty well and found a stump or block of wood under the grandstand and he seemed quite pleased. At least he didn't stump me with that request! The next night a lady fainted in the middle of the top row and the husband wanted a glass of water. There was a nice tap nearby for the water hose but of course no cup or glass. We hunted in various cars nearby but the only thing was for Pete to walk up to the hotel about 1/2 of a mile away, he took Deets who is a ^{Cub} with him to run back if he found a glass. In the meantime the husband was very anxious, but we had sent the nurse up to the fainting lady (Maxine had been playing tennis and just happened to step in to watch the concert, and she is a good nurse) They were having a play given by the Drama Club to depict the signing of the treaty with the Indians 70 years ago and it started by a man riding on with a message, on horseback. He rode off the stage as the man was asking me if I was sure they were getting a glass, so I asked the rider if he had a cup, thinking he might know where to gallop off to fetch one, but he was even more gallant or resourceful and said his cowboy hat held water, so filled that at the spigot and

went up in back of the grandstand with the husband and handed the dripping hat ~~through~~ through a hole in the canvas at the back of where the lady was fainting. About then Deets came running down the hill from the hotel, glass in hand. They had had these difficulties too, a fight of some sort going on in the kitchen and a broken window and finally found an electrician who had a tumbler.

Another day, Saturday I had just taken Jackie and Davy down to give out the sport prizes and they discovered that there were no pies for the men to eat in the Democrat race, so Davy and I made a hurried trip back, got pies and pop and were back at the grounds with the pies still warm for the race was just starting! Goodness knows how many trips up and down we made, The dust and heat made Pete's sinus bad and he couldn't go down at all on Saturday, was actually pretty sick and slept all day. but Luckily Jackie could help and I could do most of the rest of it. Was just eating supper Sat. night when Enos Hunter came in, wanted to be taken down to the grounds with his friend and his family to be in time to get the bus with the other Indians up to the concert. Couldn't get a taxi so took them down myself. and so it went, always little extra things to be done and all the time the weather was so hot.

However we managed to get through, Saturday after the bank was closed Luxton said we would need over a thousand dollars in ~~\$100x~~ \$1.00 bills and 50¢ & 25¢ pieces. They paid off the Indians for work done and horses used and such like Sunday morning and then there was a lot of prize money needed too. They like small change as it seems more. I had some time figuring it all out. In fact what with counting up what had been given out at the parades and how much was taken in at the gates, remembering to subtract the change they had to begin with, and trying to keep it all straight and also have enough of the right money at the right time. I worked all Monday and Tuesday to be sure I had made no mistake and we still have all the bills to pay in town for food etc. about 25 different ones.

There was a lot more that took time. We thought we didn't take tickets Sunday but found we needed men for a silver collection. and then there was cough medicine for Enos Hunter's boy and fruit for someone else and always the little boys wanting a ride down and we took Ruth Noble as much as possible. A lot to think of. Another year we would know what to expect and I would have a lot more money in the house to work with. The first night after the concert the two men on the gate came down to count the money here, we were just going to bed but of course couldn't and had beer and they enjoyed themselves so much they stayed long after the money was counted. Each evening before going to bed we would wash the dirty dishes accumulated during the day, and Saturday night the boys didn't arrive with the money until 1 A.M. I had sat up until 11 but we finally went to bed. They were going fishing at three so couldn't bring it in the morning at a decent hour. All the gate men were volunteers too.

Had we realized what the job entailed we never would have taken it on, Pete thought he was just to help in ways like getting the sound truck or oats at the last minute and running errands etc. but the thing that hurt us most was that everyone else had a chance to sketch and take pictures but us and the weather and skys were the best we have ever had. However we none of us could think of anyone else who would take on the job or who has an interest in the Indians and the Indians told us the last night that they had no complaints and that it was the best Indian days for a long time. so guess it was worth it. Another year I am going to make out a list of the money needed etc, and it would make it easier for the next one doing the job. A good person with money would handle it easily.

This will be the last letter I write to the Marshall house Am sorry I haven't had a chance to write you oftener while you are there.

Must st op now. Loads of love, *best wishes to you all*

Catharine .

Banff, Alberta.
Monday July 28, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

~~Think I will try one more air mail to York Harbor and if you don't get it before you leave they will surely forward it.~~ We are still having lovely weather, quite warm and often showers at night, it is very hot on the prairies and a regular drought which is bad for the crops, but here it is still nice and green. We haven't gotten out of town yet largely because of Pete's sinus which has troubled him a lot lately and Indian days didn't help at all, perhaps the dust down there and heat intensified it. Dr Mackenzie wanted him to have his teeth exrayed in case it is an infection from his wisdom tooth, so he went last week and had a bad time for the exray thing you put in ~~mouth~~ gagged him and the dentist couldn't get far enough back so he has to go again and see if they can do it. We still have the Indian day bills to clear up but that shouldn't take long as they are all in.

I think I told you that when I had time I would tell you about the Darnells, the couple who were sent to us by a friend in Victoria. They lived in the Orient for years, he having gone out there to work for the C.P.R. in 1894 and not retiring until 1927. He is over 80 but the wife is younger, about 60 I guess, they were the most energetic couple you ever saw and went out canoeing or rowing on the river nearly every day, she said she got a bit stiff but he never complained. They evidently went to live in Victoria, building a large house and having a wonderful collection of oriental things. ~~the~~ house was full of it. They liked going away in the winter but never dared rent the house because of so many valuable things, they began to realize they were slaves to their possessions so they had first a private auction of their best things and then a public auction and then sold the house and so now they hope to travel about. However after selling the house and car they found they could get no place in California to live last winter !

They lived in Peking for many years and, it must have been about 30 years ago, and had many wonderful experiences. At one time he was the head of the Trans-Siberian Railway, before Taft was president (Mildred will know when that was) for he told a story of going to a tea party in California where they wanted him to tell of his experiences in the Far East and he was relating a story of how in his first years with the Railway the business was quite large with the English and Europeans but very few Americans would go on the Trans-Siberian. Taft at the time was in Manila, this was before he was nominated for President, and he thought if he could get Taft and his party to go back via the Trans-Siberian R.R. it would make the way a popular one for Americans. He knew Taft and wrote him, or went to see him and sure enough he agreed to go. So everything possible was done to see that the trip went well. I think it was Port Arthur or Vladivostok that Taft arrived and he met them with bands and flowers and the Governor or high official for the Russians was there to greet Taft and his party and they had a reception etc.

Taft wrote him afterwards, he said he still has the letter, and his only complaint was too much attention, for all during the night as well as day he was met at each station by some official offering to do what he could to make the trip comfortable and Taft complained he didn't have a chance to sleep. The funny part was that at this tea party there was an old wrinkled lady who kept clutching at Mr Darnell's sleeve and finally when he had finished the story she was so excited for she said " don't you remember me ? I was with Taft and his party and danced with you at the reception." and then he thought back all those years and did remember that there was a friend along I guess with Mrs Taft.

Mrs Darnell told me all sorts of wonderful tales of Peking. They had a wonderful Interpreter, a Chinese and never went anywhere without him. He would tell them both just what to do etc. Mr Darnell in his position had to do a lot of entertaining and many of the men would be high Chinese and Mongolian princes etc. They had to figure the seating very carefully for on account of so many dialects very few of the men could speak to the others or more than one or two others. but strangely enough they had most all of them been educated in Japan (this was many years ago) and Mr Darnell could speak Japanese fluently (he speaks about 5 different languages including Russian) so at the dinner parties every once in a while they would all speak Japanese, the only language they could all converse in together, though they were all Chinese and he was English or Canadian.

There was one High Chinese official who Mr Darnell had evidently done something for and when Mrs Darnell first went out there as a bride I guess, this Chinese said to them, " is there anything I can do for you, just mention it and it shall be done " or words to that effect. Mrs Darnell said her only wish was to see the inside of the palace, not realizing that she never should have asked such a thing as no foreigner was ever taken inside. Mr Darnell at once apologized for her having asked such a thing, saying that she was new to the country and didn't realize what she was asking, etc. etc. No more was said on the subject, until some weeks later there was a telephone call or a message inviting them to come to the palace (this was the winter palace later looted of everything that hadn't been removed) but asking them to come to the rear entrance as otherwise permission would have to go through all sorts of red tape and official quarters including the embassy. They of course accepted and duly went to the back door, they were entertained with the most wonderful meal in European style, very special dishes and the knives and forks with handles of mother-of-pearl and everything very special, I can't remember it all now. After which they were taken all through the palace. they went into one room where there was a most beautiful statue of the Empress all in white jade, and they were shown paintings of the Emperors so far back that some of the oldest ones were shown covered with hair. They couldn't believe their eyes at the various treasures they saw and hardly could take it all in. Later when they told their friends at the embassy what they had seen, and others who on rare official occasions had been into the palace, their friends would hardly believe them for they said they had never seen some of the things the Darnells saw, no one even knew of the Jade statue.

Another experience they had during the "Revelution" as they called it in China. This must have been many years ago after the Boxer rebellion. Their house was one of the few two story ones in Peking at that time and they lived on the 2nd floor, a big courtyard below and ~~apartments~~ ^{apartments} ~~far~~ above. From what I gathered from reading the encyclopedia later there were many changes in the various princes and emperors and those in power, but when she was telling me about it I didn't realize it was all so long ago and so got confused. But from what she said there was a revolution going on and a General brought up his army from the south, they were very ferocious looking and all wore queues and so terrified the Pekinese from their reputation that they fled before them. There was shooting etc going on all around them and a young Mongol Prince was put on the throne for 3 days (by what side I couldn't quite tell knowing nothing much of Chinese history.) A messenger came to them and asked if they would give sanctuary to the Mongol Prince as they flew the British flag over their house and he and his family would be safe with them, they didn't care to do this but the interpreter said "It is well that you do this." so they decided they better but said they would only do it on one condition that they didn't have to provide food for the Prince and his retinue which they knew they wouldn't have enough food for. Pretty soon the Prince and Princess arrived and their two children and a great many retinue, also lots of Peking carts drove into their courtyard with the Princes' treasure. These are the two wheel carts we saw so much of in Peking when we were there. One would be full of silver, another full of furs and so on. They stayed up in their own apartment, the Prince and all below. That evening they were ready for bed when the boy came in and said that the Prince would like to come and call on them, They got dressed and went into the living room to receive them. The prince was quite young and his wife too and when they entered the room they kow-towed to the Darnells, which was a thing never done to foreigners and Mr Darnell wouldn't let them do it for he understood what it meant. (In those days when they kow-towed it meant touching your forehead to the floor I think) but it showed how grateful the Mongols were for being protected. They had quite a time entertaining them for the young couple were naturally very upset, so they played a gramophone they had and some Scotch records and as Mrs Darnell was very fond of dancing she did a highland fling for them. To their surprise the Mongol prince also danced and his native dance was very much the same as the highland fling. They also sang some Mongolian songs. They were with the Darnells for 4 days and then sent word that it was now safe for them to go, and off they went headed for Mongolia I guess, with all the retinue and treasure. Later they got word that the little princess had died "of the shakes" on the journey, They knew she was very nervous and in fact all the time during that first evening when they were sitting with the Darnells she had sort of stroked Mrs Darnells ~~hand~~ ^{hand}, I should have mentioned too that when they left they told the Darnells that as long as a Mongol Prince lived they would never forget that Mr Darnell had saved the life of one of them, or words to this effect.

A few months after the wife died they were told that the Prince had died too and was lying in state not far from Peking, where his body was brought, and Mr Darnell was invited to go to the Temple where the Prince's body was lying. Mr Darnell wasn't very keen to do this, but again the Interpreter said "It is better that you go" so he got into his formal clothes and off he went. When he entered the Temple he found it full of high Mongol Princes and officials etc. who were all around the large hall or room, and everyone of them kow-towed to him as he entered, in recognition of his having given protection to the dead prince.

After this every year they lived in Peking at Chinese New Years a number of bearers would arrive with presents for them from the Mongol Princes, If I remember correctly there was a frozen ram (which they shared with their white friends in Peking) a great many very special little cakes (which no one could eat) and a cask of Mongol wine (so strong that they used it for anti-freeze in their car) and as they had to tip all the bearers for bringing the gifts it really cost them quite a lot each year !

I didn't get this written or mailed yesterday so will send it to Concord as it will be too late to reach York Harbor. I intended writing Jean at Ogunquit but never got a chance, Pete thinks now that his trouble is an infection in his ear, for yesterday morning it started discharging a little. He finally got to the Doctor and he looked at it, told him there was an infection and he has some drops to put in, but it may be several days before he can tell if they are doing the trick. His face and neck swell up and it may all be connected with his sinus. We think he has gotten so tired and being kept from doing the things he has wanted to be doing has given the infection a chance to get a hold, but perhaps now he can get at it through the ear it may clear up. The weather has turned rainy so it won't hurt to be in town for a while longer. Anyway if you don't feel well there is not much to do about it but try to get better.

You must have had a nice change at the Marshall house and hope you enjoyed it thoroughly, am sure the family must have had a wonderful cruise and will be feeling fine and all set for the winter.

Loads of love

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Fri. Aug. 1, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

You will be home to-day or to-morrow and I am sure the " sea Air " and change will have done you lots of good. The Marshall house sounds like such a fine hotel and so well done and I am sure it must be very restful and good food I know means a lot. It was nice having Mrs Harris and Virginia there too, did Jose ever get down this year and what is he doing? Did Mildred have a hard time resisting food ?

Jean wrote that you expected Russell and the family to stop in on the boat and that would make a wonderful end to the holiday. What a grand vacation it must have been for them this year.

We are getting on, not much to write about for we have been paying bills for Indian Days and I have been trying to get the accounts compiled. All the amounts seem to be so small and I add and add, getting a different figure most every time, as soon as I get the same figure twice I call that column added correctly ! But after all we handled over \$4000.00, that is took in about two thousand in Donations and another ~~\$2000x~~ two in gate receipts, and we spend almost that much or gave it out in prizes. I am now at the point of having ten dollars more in the bank than should be there and think that I deposited some of our own money by mistake ! At least the cents came out right. Another year we could do it far better for we would know what to expect and also I think it would be easier if one person handled the money for the gates and let another handle the money that goes to the Indians.

We have had a number of callers lately, Mr Diverty of New Jersey, across the river from Philadelphia, his wife is paralyzed from the hips down, a sort of creeping paralysis but she came out to Lake Louise last year and is here too this year. Goes down to the dining room to dinner and is full of fun. They want us to come to cocktails and dinner Monday night, in a private dining room, so guess we will be going. We swapped Indian stories for ever an hour. then Pete took him up to Carls Rungius, Poor Carl! He told Mr Diverty he talked too much last winter and invited two women to stay with him while in Banff this summer. They came for two weeks and are here now. The father and husband is the man who wrote the book about Carl so guess he felt sort of obligated. They are sleeping in his one bedroom and to reach the bathroom you have to go through the bedroom, so while Carl sleeps in the studio he takes to the woods when necessary, Mr Diverty said Carl would get this bug going around that causes dysoreah and so Carl spent a couple of nights making a bee line for the bush !

Will try and do better on my letter writing, I am way behind with mail and bills for I feel I should finish the Indian stuff first. Forgot to tell you another job Pete had to deal with during Indian days. there was a frightful smell of something dead near the bleachers one afternoon and Mrs Luston told Pete it was a dead bird run over by a car, so Pete had to get it buried, found a cub to do his good deed for the day !

Loads of love

Catharine -

Banff, Alberta.
Monday, Aug. 4, 1947

Dearest Mother,

At last I have about finished the Indian Day accounts. Norman Luxton was down this morning with another donation that came in late and said he had never had the thing go so smoothly and not one fuss and he liked working with us. He also said it was the first time he had had real accounts kept since Pete's uncle did it way back in the 1920 s. But we figure it will make it easier another year for whoever we can talk into doing it.

Yesterday I typed nearly all day, Pete is still going to the Doctor every few days, and putting drops in his ear. There is an infection and that causes the swelling but up till now it hasn't been like an ear ache though at times there is some pain and all the time it is stuffy and like water in your ear. The doctor wanted him to try the drops for a week or ten days and then if it doesn't clear up will send him to a specialist in Edmonton, so nice and convenient! Pete doesn't feel sick at all now but doesn't feel like doing much and the funny part is that he has to put the drops in three times a day and without fail he sleeps within ten minutes for 1½ to 2 hours! We thought there must be something in the stuff to make him sleep but the doctor said no, it probably comes from getting rid of the infection, we hope so. Yesterday we put the drops in just before lunch having had a late breakfast it was about 12.30 and he went right to sleep and never woke until 2.30, so come supper we ate first, put the things in after, about 7.30 and he didn't wake up until nine! We are going up to the hotel to cocktails & dinner to-night so have decided to wait until bedtime for the 3rd lot of drops. When Dr MacKenzie came two weeks ago during Indian days he figured it was just fatigue that was making Pete feel the way he did and it wasn't until later that the ear discharged and they suspected that, the Doctor had thought of teeth too. Well it is something to know what is wrong and I really think it is worse because of all the worrying things this spring. We are hoping to get them cleared up before too long. Why is it family troubles are so tiring, if it is friends who have difficulties they don't seem to bother one nearly so much.

Mildred is still at the coast, right now working as a nurses aide in some hospital or rest home near Vancouver. She wrote Barbara that the Matron suggested that she take a nurses training course and I think if she were busy and working hard she would be far better off and far happier. It is a long story but think she and Cliff will split, We didn't realize until this spring that they wouldn't ever live to-gether again and because of the way she used to act when she lived here even the boys aren't keen on her coming back and said they didn't ever want to go through what they did before. Young Cliff is working way up north driving a tractor, Donny wants now to finish his school here and we think perhaps we can find a place he could board with some of his friends family for this winter. Young Peter failed passing his grade last year (no doubt because of the trouble at home) and will go with Cliff wherever he decided to settle and maybe if he starts in a new school he might do better. Don't know what Cliff will end up doing, the ski business is slow being settled and right now he is visiting on a farm and helping with the haying. He is no

longer at Temple. In Norman having asked all of them to leave.
another long story.

What fun it must have been having the family come into York Harbor with the boat and to even have a sail on it. I agree with you it would be far nicer sailing among the islands further north.

There isn't much to write about, we have had quite a few visitors lately. Saturday morning before we had finished breakfast Mr Turner of Calgary came in and we got talking and it was nearly 12 when he left. So I just never did do my weekly cleaning. then Mrs Painter came after lunch with some books, and we had Donny down for supper, Went by the camp ground Friday I guess and there were 50 trailers parked, goodness knows how many tents .

Don't expect we will be going out for a while yet, not until Pete's ear is better, so don't mention it in your letters too much about Pete not feeling well, he is rather disgusted about it himself. But it certainly will be worth it if we find the trouble, for he has been bothered with this infection in his sinus etc for nearly two years, It gets better for a time only to have it appear again. Luckily there hasn't been the great pain that some people have.

Loads of love and will answer your letters soon.

Catherine

P.S. By the way, Barbara was over last night and said that Ruth Noble left in rather a rush (Cousin Harriet's friend) She asked Barbara to order a taxi for the six something train and then about quarter to five she said to Barbara " I guess that is the train I am supposed to go on." So Barbara said she would telephone the station and see if there was an earlier one. Called up the C.P.R. and the girl who answered she happened to know and she said " there is one train already in the station " so Barbara asked the number of Ruth's car and sure enough it was on the train already in. So Barbara hung up mighty fast and called the taxi people, they luckily came in no time and she evidently got to the station in time, Of course as Barbara said there was 10 minutes before it would pull out, and she had no baggage to check.

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. Aug. 7, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

We have just come back from taking the accounts of Indian Days over to Norman Luxton, I told ~~them~~ that I had just gotten them to balance and thought we better rush them right over before anything happened. He said ~~it was~~ the best accounts he had had yet and would recommend me any time as a chartered accountant, well I hope he doesn't! He said that he had been thinking that next year he would figure out several committees to do their share of the work, which would be far better, and we would have a better idea what it is all about too. Did I tell you the awful thing I did? The weekend of Indian Days I have over a thousand dollars in the house, in nothing larger than a one dollar bill, I hated leaving it downstairs and so hid a lot of the rolls of quarters and fifty cent pieces in my bureau drawer. It was when Pete was so sick and I had a hectic time Sunday morning trying to divide the money to pay the Indians and have change for the gate and prize money too. This week we were invited up to the Banff Springs to dinner and when I was looking out my underwear I found a hundred dollars stowed away in my panties, and this was after I had all the accounts nicely figured out! Most disconcerting! Decided that I must have taken the float of changed out of one of the gates twice, went over my various notes and picked the most likely day I might have done it and then put it in the bank. Just shows they never should have given us such a job. Anyway we came out over two hundred dollars ahead after all the bills were paid. The gate receipts and the donations from business men were well over two thousand dollars each, making a total of \$4330.00 and the government gave us over a thousand dollars worth of buffalo meat. We paid the Indians \$2366.00 in prizes and for work done and then their food came to over \$900.00 besides the meat. So the other bills amounted to less than \$400.00 and we had \$276. left over. People seem to think that it went well so hope it really did.

We ~~do~~ do the most foolish things in a way. Tuesday we were going up to meet the trail hikers when they came in to Massive, about 9 miles up the west road. Were late getting up in the morning and did a few errands and to the bank in the A.M. then Dr Riley came down after lunch and we had a nice long talk. His wife was on the hike so we thought he would drive up too, but we forgot it would be standard time and so were a bit early. However the first lot came in soon after we got there and we had some tea in thermoses for Sam and the Vallances. The first ones down were a Capt. McCarthy and Sir Oliver and Lady Wheeler, great Alpine climbers. Capt. McCarthy was the leader of the Mt Logan expedition and is over 70 so they say, though he doesn't look it. the Wheelers have lived in India many years, he was Surveyor General of Indian and knighted after the war for his work. His father was A.O. Wheeler who did a lot of the early surveying here in the Rockies and Selkirks and was the one who organized the Alpine Club of Canada and died a few years ago. His first wife was an aunt of Jack McLeods wife, we didn't know her but ~~do~~ know the 2nd Mrs Wheeler. There is a son of the Oliver Wheeler's, John, also a great climber, and he has stayed with the grandfather and we know him. Mrs Wheeler told me that when they sent him back from India

to go to school it had been 9 years since they had seen him. How would you like that? and she said she often worried about what kind of boy he might be, he is in university now. She is a lovely person. We decided not to wait for the others and so drove the Wheelers and McCarthy back to Banff, they were very grateful and it was interesting meeting them.

After supper we went up to see Sam and hear how the Hike had gone, but they were out. We had read in the newspaper that there was to be a pow wow up at the hotel so rushed up there, found there was nothing, so drove back to Sams. (It was the usual mistake in the paper) Still no Wards so when we saw their car at the Mt Royal we went in there, They were waiting for there duffle to arrive, quite a few of them, Sam didn't really care about his but some lady had asked to put her purse in his duffle and when he got to Banff found she was taking the night train west and wanted it. Sam and Cis came down here so a while and then when Sam got very sleepy we went back to the hotel, still so duffle, went up to the Banff springs, got Fern on the job, but no one seemed to know when it would come, as a truck was to have picked it up and brought it back. We did a lot of rushing around and then told Sam he better go to bed and we would leave messages of how they would find the purse. We had just come home ourselves and put the car away when Pete saw a truck go by headed for the Banff Springs, so out we went again, only to find it was a Lake Louise truck and a false alarm. Went to the Mt Royal and found a few Hikers rather irate and we didn't blame them. it makes one so mad when things aren't handled better. However after a bit of talking with My Vallance & MacArthy the truck finally came at 11 P.M. Standard, midnight for us, and next thing we knew we were helping unload it, Mr Vallance had to find the 9 bags belonging to the Alping Club and we found Sam's and the purse, but then discovered the lady had disappeared, Lou Shulman said they had gone up to check her bags at the Banff Springs. When they didn't come back and it was nearly one Pete said he would drive Lou up and I waited at the Mt Royal in case the lady came back. Were they provoked when they finally found the lady and her escort sitting at the Banff Springs listening to the music! It was one thirty when we got to bed and we didn't know exactly why we had gone to all that trouble except that it is one of the things one does.

So yesterday we slept late, Mr Vallance came down on business, he is our lawyer and looks after leases and things for us, then we had a late lunch and as we were finishing Mr Beiler's little boy came with a friend, the son of Mr Glyde, also an artist. I had to rush over to get to the Bank before it closed at three and Pete was still showing them things in the front room, they never missed a trick and were so appreciative, Pete hadn't the heart to send them home. Then he had a sleep after putting drops in and slept nearly 3 hours. while I finished the accounts. Mrs Mac called in between and I had a chat with her too. Just as well for after she left I found a mistake and could at last add up a long column twice the same!

We were to go up to the Alpine Club ^{at their time 8:30 am -} to meet Mr Fred Brigden, a well known Canadian artist from the east, a really remarkable person, 76 and very lame with arthritis and yet he has been sketching at Dhara, Dr Riley's boy carrying his duffle. We saw some of Mr Vallances slides and had a nice talk and it was after 11 when we came home, after ten their time.

Again we slept late which plays havoc with my mornings but I know Pete needs the sleep, he is having a nap now, as we just came back from Norman Luxtons, Dick Durrence and wife are coming to-night, they are friends of George Eisenshimml and we got a cabin for them, so will maybe check on whether or not they arrived. To-morrow the Vallances are bringing Mr Brigden down in the afternoon, and then Saturday Pat Costigan is going to treat Pete(s ear. with hot oil or something. If it is successful then we can start thinking of going out.

Got your letter just now from Concord and you and Jean are safely home, I was sorry not to write Jean when she was in Ogunguit but will when I get the bills paid, we have rather neglected all our own things.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Mon. August 11, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

Don't know when I will get around to really answering your letters, it isn't that we are doing so much but it keeps me pretty busy.

Peter has been putting drops in his ear all week and was to go to the doctor Friday afternoon, but then the Vallances were to bring Mr Fred Brigden down to see the sketches and it seemed too good an opportunity to miss so he put off the ear thing until Saturday, then when the Doctor looked at it he decided he would rather have Pete go to the specialist in Calgary some day this week, they telephoned this morning and the appointment is Wednesday. Pat (the doctor) said there was no great rush but that he would rather have a man who is doing that sort of job all the time do it, as ears are rather ticklish. So now Pete is trying to figure how to go to Calgary for as short a time as possible ! We may drive down. He has been sleeping a lot lately which I guess is part of the trouble, or comes from the trouble. As soon as the drops go in Pete invariably goes to sleep.

It was interesting having Mr Brigden down, he is 76 and from Toronto, a well know watercolorist and actually has more influence than one would realize. He is one of the nicest sorts and reminded me a lot of Pete's father, in fact looked a bit like him. He has been sketching and has arthritis very badly. He was very complimentary about the sketches and wants us to send something to the Canadian academy show and the Ontario Society of Artists show next year. We have a book about him (wonder did I ever send one to you, the picture on the cover is of autumn trees) He wrote in the book for us, and when he left he said he never expected to find a place like this or work like this in a place like Banff. We found he told Mr Phillips the same thing, they are old friends. Actually lots of easterners are surprised to find any one out here can paint or be musical etc. Maybe it was the fact that there was a church tea and I had all sorts of good things to eat that made him enjoy it all.

We saw Mr Phillips last night and he told Pete that he was in Montreal when the exhibition was on that Pete's pictures were in and that they got the best places to be hung, and that Pete was very fortunate.

Remember my mentioning the mounted police friend in Edmonton, Dennis Mighall and Sophie his wife and Ginnie their little girl, I stayed with them when Pete was in the Airforce. They are here for his holidays and they are camped in the camp ground, Dennis came over Saturday afternoon while the others were swimming and again we saw them in the evening, went up to tell them about the filming of a movie to-day, this was last night and they were all sitting in one of the shelters talking to a Vancouver couple, We stayed quite a while and it was good fun and rather interesting. You meet awfully nice people that way, They all had hot water on the stove, one boy was cooking hamburg and Sophie gave him their left over vegetables, one girl was writing a letter and it was all very friendly and cosy. We were amused before we left for one by one each person was bringing large rocks which they put on to p of the stove, Pete said he thought it was to drown cats,

but the idea was to get the rock good and hot and then put it inside their sleeping bags !

Did I tell you that George Eisenshiiml was looking for a cabin for Dick Durrence the skier who is coming about putting a constam lift up on Norquay, not this winter as it is too late but to have it ready by next summer. We managed to find a cabin at Norman Tabuteaus and then Durrence and family never showed up. and were a day late in arriving, we made numerous visits to the camp and guess it was worth while saving it. George brought him down yesterday morning and he is a most attractive person and a good sense of humor, very keen eyes. We saw him ski at the winter Olympics in Germany 13 years ago. "e wants to bring his wife down too. On one of the trips up Pete met a man looking for a taxi which he couldn't get so we gave him a ride down , and he told us it was his dog Flame who was in the movies, and it turned out he knew a lot of the dog trainers who were here years ago with Stong-Heart the German sheperd or Police dog. He thinks hisdog can equal them and is styng up in Norman's camp. Yesterday by chance we saw him downtown and so spoke to him and he put the dog through many of his tricks. He spoke quietly and it was amazing the way the dog understood, I said "why he's wonderful ? and he said to the dog " what do you do when a lady says that to you " and the dog stretched out his paws and made a bow. then he told him to jump over a bicycle stand that was there, and to stick his head through and then to jump back over again, to step back two paces etc. One thing right after another. and the dop understood every command so quickly. I think the picture is to be called Western Stampede and there are trick horses too, but we haven't been out to see them act.

Must get his in the mail, so all for now, Loads of love to all ,

Catherine .

PS. The Durrences had car trouble & couldn't get a call through to Banff or would have let George know they would be late .



HOTEL PALLISER
CALGARY, ALTA.

Canadian Pacific Hotels

August 13, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

We came down here on the train last night and Pete is to see the ear specialist at the Clinic to-day. Then perhaps we will know what the trouble is. In fact I won't mail this until we have been there. If we can we expect to take the bus back to-night.

There isn't a great deal to tell you about. Pete had his hair cut Monday which really is news. It had gotten so long. While he was in there I met George Evershield on the street with the Dick Durrences & they wanted to come down & see us & the pictures so said they would drop around in the evening. They had all been up to Norway tramping around on the slope where the Ski Lift is to go over the two little boys, aged about 3 & 5, with the smallest demogarses on I ever saw. Mrs Durrence is awfully nice too & they have a young girl with them to help look after the kids.

This darn standard time & Daylight always makes it late when people come to the house, so it was after nine or ten when they came. With them was a Bauff boy Ted & Jack MacCauley & his young bride, and they were very much interested in everything in the house. Dick himself is going into the shoe & shoe business so was interested in the pictures, and before they left at midnight they had a look at the sketches. We were rather tired yesterday for when you have people who are so interested and appreciative of everything you put yourself out more for them & it becomes almost like giving a performance with the stories etc.

During the evening George asked if he could bring Mrs Zandmer in. We have been meaning to have her down since last year after an evening at her house so were glad she came. With her was a very pleasant gentleman from New York, but we never did catch his name.

He told us one interesting story about Mark Twain, who he evidently knew well & still sees the daughter who married Gabriel Vitch the conductor. A friend of his was attorney for Mark Twain & after he died they noticed listed in an auction sale in New York, there was a diary of Mark Twain's being sold to pay for debts incurred years before in Vienna for board & lodging. Mark Twain couldn't



HOTEL PALLISER
CALGARY, ALTA.

Canadian Pacific Hotels

pay the bill evidently & had given the proprietor his diary until he could. When the attorney retrieved the diary in payment of the bill, this man happened to be in his office, and the attorney put it in his lap & said "read it" which of course he did. It was full of most amusing bits he said & I guess it was never published either.

We are to have a real ski lift in Banff, but not until next summer, as it becomes too expensive if they do the building under winter conditions. But a lot of clearing & preliminary work is to be done this fall.

I'll finish this later. I forgot, we decided to come down on the train instead of driving the car, and came in style on the open air observation car thinking the air would be better than in the Day coach. There were 2 nice elderly ladies (one from Gloucester, Mass) next to us & they asked Pete who was on the aisle all sorts of questions. He told them all about the Indians etc. and even before that the Gloucester Lady said Pete's eyes "looked like Emerald Lake!" I have since been teasing him about that. I didn't really say

anything as I was next a window. but when we got off they shook hands with Pety & thanked him for making the trip so interesting and "dramatizing it" all for them.

After getting an room we were hungry so went down for a bite. In the elevator was a man who looked as if he belonged to the Movie Company & we were speaking about the time the Coffee Shop closed. He was going in so we all sat together. Turned out he was the double for the leading man and had been a stunt man for 22 years in Hollywood. He was very nice & quiet, his head sewed up in various places, with many old scars. He used to do truck roping, riding & diving. There wasn't room in Bauff for all the 2 units working on the movie so every day they leave here at 6.30 AM on a special train for Bauff, having their breakfast on the way & returning each night eating their supper on the diner. As a stunt man he has to be given 12 hours ^{rest} between stunts so often goes to Bauff on the regular train. It was rather interesting all he told us. He likes Canada; to his first visit. The people are friendly, the bread & butter good & the children are very well mannered compared to American children so he thinks. The personnel flew up from California in special chartered planes. took 5 hours. but think of the expense of a special train to & from work every day for 6 weeks or more.

?S. 9 to 7.30 & we have decided to go back on the bus at 5.30. We had quite a time at the Clinic. It quite a



HOTEL PALLISER
CALGARY, ALTA.

Canadian Pacific Hotels

place. about 20 doctors & you go to an information desk first then we were sent upstairs. Lots of very well worn chairs around the hall. We sat on a settee outside Dr. Wallace's door. The eye, ear & nose specialist & waited. were ten minutes early & then we began to hear sort of crys from inside. Not exactly shrieks but loud crys & Pete's head got covered with perspiration. A little girl was led out by the nurse, and still the crys continued. sounded awful. The little girl was just going to the bathroom I guess. Then after a while a pale faced girl came out with her husband looking very shaken. & Pete was called at 3.30. 30 minutes of anticipation. I had visions of a rough army doctor. but then a little Italian lady came & said next me & she told me Dr. Wallace is a swell doctor & related how he had helped her husband. When Pete came back he said the Dr had just syringed out his ears & didn't think he would have any more trouble. The other day we put drops in his other ear & it made an awful seething noise & Pete is wondering if it didn't do something. Anyway there is nothing serious & we are much relieved. The little lady told me she was there in July to see "Dr. Wallace" & he was away so they told her to see another doctor. & while she was waiting this other doctor came out with a patient saying in a coarse voice, "I will have to operate on your eye." She didn't like the sound of him & I had Dr. Wallace turned out to be very nice, an older man.

Time to go. Lots of love
Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.

Sat. Aug. 16, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

We are having very showery weather, and there is even a bit of fresh snow on the mountains to the east of us. We are hoping to get out maybe Monday, have been very busy since our return from Calgary.

The bus had very few in it coming up and we were home soon after 8.30, had a bite to eat and then went over to see if the doctor was in, just to report but he wasn't, instead met the Beilers coming to return some books so they came in and we put a fire on in the fireplace and had a very nice visit from them. They are most artistic people, she studied interior decoration before she was married and was very interested in Bali, and he is most interesting to talk to. We didn't feel tired until the next morning and then the blowing out of Pête's ears made him a bit dizzy so we slept late. As we were eating breakfast, little Sylvia Beiler came for a book and was very cunning about it, all the children are so well mannered, She had no sooner left than George Eisenshimml appeared to get our shares that we had in the Winter Sports thing up at Norquay, we figured we were lucky to get what we paid for them, for we had figured it was to help the skiing. But he has to get a majority interest before he can go ahead, with the ski lift. He had gone and returned again for another question, when Ted Garret appeared from Yellowknife. North west territories. He went to school with Pete as a boy here in Banff, was an engineer on the Jasper Highway, then up north helping build airports, has been in Yellowknife which is a pretty rough place I guess, minning mostly and the only way to get in is to fly or go by boat once a year or by tractor train at certain times in the winter. Dennis had been telling us what a tough place it was as he knows from the police reports and Ted said that it was pretty bad when they first went there. They used to let people put their beds in the beer hall and then when the first boat or tractor train arrived and the beer came in they dumped the beds outside, sometimes with the occupants in them and turned the hall back into a beer parlor. When he showed us his sketch book with a few pastels in them and wanted to know how about starting to paint in oils. Said that they had an art exhibition up at Yellowknife last year, with handicrafts too and filled a hall with ~~work~~ work, rather interesting that there should be so much interest way up there. He spoke of one "raw boned" lad who painted in oil, worked for Ted, got a scholarship somewhere and is now quite an artist down here.

Ted had gone and I went over town for the mail, got back and found the Walshes here, friends of Kitty's. They lived in Shelbyville when Kitty and Russ were married and I think we had lunch or tea at her house, and Pete remembered that we had met her in Nonquit that day we were there, he had something to do with a news paper and they live in Cincinnati (can't spell it) now. They are awfully attractive couple and we had a nice visit from them. They were leaving that same day so there wasn't much we could do for them, and especially as we were only just back, I never even unpacked our bag until the next day.

It was funny but coming back in the bus we passed a gravel pit with a green jeep in it and I said to Peter " looks like Cliff's jeep " but there are so many of them that I never gave it another thought, but he came home that night. Had been haying with Lloyd, now they have gone to the Windermere valley to look for a small farm, as Cliff doesn't want to live in Banff and has an great feeling of wanting a small place of his own. They will be back the middle of the week, and perhaps will have decided on a place as they looked before in June. If they do find a place, young Cliff will come back and Peter will go too and go to school over there, Donny I think would stay here on account of the hockey,

Thursday night Mom came down to supper, our first real meal for sometime. ~~See next page for details of that night~~ that night we went over to see the Peppers and ended up by spending the rest of the evening with the Philippses and Mr Jackson and some friends from Pittsburgh who told us a lot about finding Indian relics on the Ohio river.

Friday we tidied up in the morning and then it started settling in to rain, looked as if we were in for a three day storm, and all during lunnh we kept thinking of Sophie and Dennis up in the camp ground in their small tent and how tired they must be of camping . Dennis loves it but Sophie only enjoys it really for him I think. So we decided to try and find them a cabin, it began to pour so we started out before even washing the dishes. Went up to Normans first and some man had checked out and if another party hadn't come we could have the cabin for as long as they liked. While he was telephoning the dog trainer came in wanting a taxi to rush up to the Banff Springs for some publicity shots, It was just pouring so Pete said you get Flame, (the dog) and we will give you a ride up. But he was afraid the dog would get his feet muddy so we drove around to the cabin and picked up the dog and drove them up to hotel , Mr Barnes the trainer was very appreciative and he dog bowed when he got out, however he looked a little bored ! Then we tried to find the Mighalls, left a note in their tent that we had a cabin for them, and then looked for them downtown, they have a very old green car, nice and polished and it is easy to spot. So soon found Sophie, they came over here and then we all went up and moved them. Little Ginnie was so excited that her black eyes were just shinning. Sophie told us that this morning Ginnie said to promise not to tell her Daddy but she liked the cabin better than the tent ! They are right next to Flame, and he did all the tricks for them last night. He really is a most remarkable dog, goes back so many paces, then turns his head this way or that, I think he does over 30 different things. They were down this morning to ask us to a corn roast and fried chicken in the camp ground to-night. at nine o'clock, a bit late for us but guess we will just make it an extra meal. The weather doesn't look very promising, rains hard one minute and then the sun shines bright for a while.

Haven't answered your letters for ages, but so glad that cousin Jane has such a nice place to stay for August.

Loads of love

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.

Thurs. Aug. 21, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

It must have been several days since I have written, What an upsetting time you must have had when the cook had the stroke or whatever it was, do you think she was hit by a car? Poor old lady, and so new to Concord she wouldn't know what had happened or where she was. We also hear that you have had lots of heat, while we have had rain and cold weather. Haven't left yet with one thing or another and it is just as well for Fern told us yesterday it has rained everyday in the high country.

Did I tell you about the chicken dinner we had on Saturday night? Dennis and Sophie asked us for fried chicken supper and we accepted, then they said to come at nine o'clock, which seemed a bit late to us but the Airths who have a delicatessen were also coming and they wouldn't be through work until then. So we didn't eat much here, a bowl of soup I guess, then went up to the cabins at nine, Pete drove Dennis down town after that to get Pinkie & Crawford Airth, then we had a spot of rum at the cabin before starting over to the campground shelter, where they had their tent pitched ~~this~~ the first week here. So it must have been after ten when they started heating the deep fat to fry the potatoes and chicken, You wouldn't have thought you could eat much at that hour but we each managed half a chicken and at least one ear of corn and too many french fried potatoes, and even a bit of salad and coffee. I never tasted such good chicken, they had first cooked it in the pressure cooker at the store, then they dipped it into a batter already mixed, a fritter batter and popped it into the deep fat, and it really was something, the moist chicken inside a wonderful casing of fritter. We all ate too much I am sure but it was lots of fun, and because I ate half of Pete's chicken the first time they teased me when I had a second half ~~and said~~ of a half, saying I had eaten one and a half! It was after one when we got home.

Sunday was rainy and we didn't do much. When Monday we were going out and got all packed up but it rained hard. Young Cliff arrived back that day from up north where he had been working on the road from Grimshaw to Hay River near the northern boundary of Alberta. He had an accident, a tree he was knocking over with the tractor falling across and he had to jump and it just scraped the shirt off his back but he didn't have a chance to stop the tractor so it kept on going down a bank, so perhaps that had some thing to do with his coming back soon! we didn't ask, however he has a job now driving a truck up at Lake Louise for the government, I guess he is waiting to find out what his father is going to do. Cliff went over to the Windermere and found an ideal place there where he would like to settle and do a bit of farming. It does sound nice and the house belonged to a friend of his fathers who is going to move to the coast, otherwise wouldn't leave. They are two miles from Invermere and have 5 acres of land, can grow anything and have an irrigation ditch through the property, with first water rights. However Cliff can't take it on until he gets the settlement from the ski business and so that is holding things up. and Mildred is getting anxious at the coast. I think Mom will go out for a while

and see what her doctor says and how she is, etc. for letters are rather unsatisfactory.

Tuesday we had a nice call from the Oliver Kaldahls of Glenwood Minnesota, with their two children (in their teens) Oliver used to be the boys champion ski jumper of America and Pete knew him years ago, in fact he practically lived at their house when in Banff, this was about 25 years ago. They were just leaving when the children came in and were so interested in everything that they had to look at all the knives etc. Dennis had been down too to say they were leaving in the morning so we asked them to supper, and he Sophie and Ginnie and Mom came about 6.30 and we had a very nice evening.

Yesterday besides other things we were invited to Ferns to tea, as the Kaldahls were there, and it was pretty nice for soon, the Brewster's Chinaman, is a great friend of ours, We came in from Assinaboine with him once on horseback years ago, and while we were chatting away after tea, what do you suppose he did? washed our car! Its the first time this year I think and he made a wonderful job of it.

Time to run over for the mail so will send this along,

Loads of love to you all and Mildred who I guess is there with you.

Catharine

P.S. Don't worry about Pete. his ear seems O.K. just the sinus that bothers him.

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. Aug. 26, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

It seems ages since I have written, so much goes on and so many people in and out. This won't be much of a letter as we are expecting Pete's aunt from Calgary to tea. That sounds funny for no one calls her aunt, she is a younger sister of Mom's, a step sister really, and we know she is rather sensitive and might be hurt if we didn't invite her down to the house. We also had the Wardles on our minds, they were so nice to us in Ottawa, so tried to find them first at the Banff Springs, but they had moved down to some new apartments on the river so looked for them there and they are out. So decided to invite and daughter this afternoon, the Wardles the next rainy one. We have had heaps of rain this August, especially the last two weeks and no use going into the high country where it will be worse.

Quite a lot of things happening. Mom left for Vancouver to-day on the noon train, She is going out to see just how Mildred is feeling and to have a talk with the doctor too. She didn't want them to know she was coming but no doubt someone will have seen her go or something and tell Mildred, I don't know why she wanted to be secret about it, but she didn't want Mildred to think she was just going about her. Anyway she doesn't expect to stay long. The old house up here where Lila used to live and where Mildred has lived since they went to the coast, Mom always intended to leave to Cliff and family in her Will, but with things as they are and Cliff not wanting to live in Banff she was afraid that something might happen to her and to Cliff and it would end up belonging to Mildred, so She has sold it to us. We are very glad for it gives us control of who lives in the place and we owned the bottom of the lot anyway, now we have all three lots which makes this a nice piece of property. Of course it does give us a bit extra to look after but we are hoping to get a sort of caretaker there who will keep an eye on things and maybe take care of the grounds and Mom's furnace and shovel her snow etc. The only trouble is now that Cliff can't get the place in the Windermere he would like until the Ski business is settled and if it isn't settled he would have nothing to buy it with and then would have to stay here, but we should know about that soon. Lloyd who worked at Temple and will go over to the Windermere with Cliff, is at present cleaning up the place for us which is a great help, so we are getting on.

Have done a few odd things lately, The Beilers who come from Queen's Univ. He a professor of Art and teaching in the Summer school here, were in the Wards cottage, Were all ready to leave with the four small children and drive east last Friday, when the oldest boy, Andre got glandular fever and so they waited a few days, He was no better Sunday, they could get no train reservations and then the head of the summer school appealed to Mr Neal the president of the C.P.R. who happened to be here and they had a drawing room on the train east that same day, ~~for~~ Mrs Beiler and the youngest child with the sick boy left within an hour and Mr Beiler with the two girls left the next morning. We made a couple of trips up on Sunday to see if we could help, hand then last

night were up at the Wards and gave them a hand in cleaning up the house, It was a bit of a mess with the four children and sometimes French Canadians aren't so clean, I never saw such well mannered children and always neatly dressed but there was a bit of old porrage in the double boiler and cabbage leaves in the sink and a good deal of dust in the corners, a bit discouraging, Sam was cleaning the stove which was all gummed up, Pete tried to clean grease out of the sink and I helped Cis who had been cleaning all day and still had more to do. Anyway we cheered them up

Guests are coming so all for to-day,

Loads of love

Catherine

no time to read over

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. Aug. 28, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

It is 8.30 P.M. so I don't know how much I shall be able to write before getting sleepy, but have so many "thank you" notes to write in the day time when my spelling comes easier that I thought I had better write you who aren't too particular.

We have been receiving all sorts of presents lately from all directions. A pair of Indian gloves from David Bearspaw, we think they are a present. Then a pair of Indian Mukluks from the Mighalls for all we did for them while they were in Banff, it wasn't much but they appreciated it and I have the most beautiful pair of mukluks you ever saw, buckskin with black velvet or felt around the top and instep, a band of soft fur around the leg and then beautiful embroidery around the top in colored wool, the Womens Education and Industrial Union never had anything prettier. I never knew the Indians did that sort of work. Dennis must have gotten them when up North for he said that they were embroidered by an Eskimo women in Chipewan(?) and that she was of "doubtful character." on re-reading the letter I find she is of "very, very doubtful character" a Chipewa women of Fort Chipewan, so don't know if she is Eskimo or Indian. The design is of flowers in a conventional design and such soft colours. The same day we got a wonderful book of photographs from Norway in thanks for the parcels sent there, and a few days before a lovely Photograph from Mr Buckland from London, he is very old and writes such fine letters that we keep sending him parcels when we send them over. He taught George Noble his photography in the old county and this is a print made by an old process not used any more. So you see we aren't doing badly for the middle of summer!

Last night Fern Clarkson came down to ask if we had any boxes at the store for she is busy packing up her things in the little house to move into the one where her father was. So to-day we have been helping off and on all day, Her friend Helen Box is still here and helping and Pearl was there, but it is a sad business breaking up a home. Her husband has been very difficult, (so many people seem to have troubles) and insists on her sending him all the furniture and about everything they bought together or even that her father sent her money to help buy, But it seemed best to just send it on out to him, then the house will be rented, for it was her house before she was married. We helped get all the china and bric-a-brac packed, and here next door Cliff is trying to do the same thing. He is going to Calgary to-morrow I think, Lloyd with him and then they hope to go to the Windermere and buy a little place they have an option on, They will take young Peter with them, Donny has a chance to go to Edmonton to play Hockey, his board, & room and expeince money is given him and he will go to school there. We thought he should stay on here and finish but perhaps it will be as well for him to try this and Dennis can keep an eye on him. Young Cliff is going to work here and is old enough to look after himself. What Donny will lose in one way, he may gain in another and of course we won't have him on our minds as much as we would had he been in Banff. The Doctor has advised Mildred to stay on at the coast and we will hear how she is getting on when Mom comes back.

We spoke to a nice old couple who are looking for a house the year round. The man was a farmer and I think they still have the ranch, but it was a section in size and too big for a man his age, he is nearly 70 and his wife a bit older, so they came up here and he works for Allen Mather, on the boats in summer and at the rink in winter, Allen thinks the world of him and we worked with him that time we helped put the floating bridge across the river in the fall before the water froze over. We think they will be willing to take ^{the} house and with the understanding of looking after Mom's stoker and also shoveling her snow, she insists on sweeping each inch off as it falls for some unknown reason. They can move in in the middle of September and by then Cliff should have left with young Peter. Once we get all the family straightened out a bit we can go back to leading our own lives we hope.

Never finished this last night as about nine Pete felt rather like going out and we drove around to see Dr Riley who had been down the evening before when Fern was here. We had thought of asking him if he knew of a doctor in Calgary who might be able to help Pete. As Riley is a great person and knows about everyone. He wasn't home, just the children. However he came around this morning which worked just right for we had a good talk with him and he could tell Pete pretty much what was causing his trouble. Its a nerve and he had a name for the nerve, probably caused by an old leg injury Pete had when he fell off his bike years ago. I will have to stop now as Pete is going to help me wash my hair, it is a lovely day and warm. Looks like a nice holiday ahead if it only keeps this way, We have had the rainiest August so everyone says. Lets hope for a good September.

We ended up last night at the Moores and of course stayed too long but had a nice talk, We are all keen on getting a museum built in Banff before all the old people with collections of Indian Bead Work etc. die off. The Moores are prime movers in the thing and we are very interested too.

Will try to write again soon, Loads of love, *to all*

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Sat. Aug. 30, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

Still haven't written those thank-you notes but as I am apt to be interrupted thought I might as well start another letter to you.

Yesterday was the most perfect day we have had all August, the first day without a cloud I think and we were sure we were in for a wonderful stretch of weather, it felt like fall and the trees even got yellower during the day, it was hot and grand, This morning it looked overcast much to our surprise and contrary to barometers and forecasts and it has poured hard all day. This is the last big weekend and you can imagine what a bad start it is. If it keeps up and rains to-morrow I will surely get a few letters written. Should have this afternoon but we had a few errands to do and I made blueberry muffins and now have a roast in. Yesterday I did get my hair washed which was lucky and dried in the sun. Then last night we were invited up to the Rileys for the evening. Had a very good time as Dr Riley is not only an excellent doctor but a keen photographer and now paints. Has three lively children and a wife with a wonderful sense of humor. The Camerons were there too. He is head of the summer school in Banff and in charge of the new building program, is connected with the University at Edmonton. There was also a Mr Taylor of Calgary a good photographer and speed skater too.

About ten, after we had swapped storages for a while Dr Riley got up and went into the kitchen and began stirring up the fire in the coal stove, much shaking and activity I thought he was making coffee but from where I sat could see all sorts of things going on, eggs being broken, flour sifted and much mixing in a saucepan. He was very busy for ten minutes or so and only entered our conversation enough for us to know he was listening, then I saw dough being dropped by spoonfuls into pie plates and he soon joined us for 20 minutes or so. Then they put plates and jam and butter and cheese on a large center table in the room and we drew up our chairs and he produced a wonderful platterful of hot muffins! He evidently prides himself on his cooking, and they were good.

One story that was quite amusing was about a Moose that was sent to the Zoo in Calgary from way up North. Dr Riley has a lot to do with the zoo and when this moose was offered them by some American troops up north they sent word up how to have him crated, but they didn't follow directions and the poor animal arrived with a bad foot having caught it between the bars in some way. Dr Riley rounded up three well known surgeons in Calgary and out they went with all their instruments to try and save the Moose's leg, but after examining it they found they couldn't do enough and so had to put an end to the moose, but what amused Dr Riley was that they had \$2100. worth of instruments with them and all for the moose, the best instruments that could be got!

A letter from you to-day and we are so sorry to hear about Kitty having pneumonia, How wonderful that new drug must be to stop the thing so quickly. It seems queer to have that sort of thing during such hot weather. We hear it has been terribly hot all through the east, especially Montreal, Well I am awfully glad that I am not there, though we could do better than rain I guess.

Had a nice card from Cal from Seal Harbor, They were just starting out for a picnic on Bakers Island. Did they all go up there or what? The postcard looked as if there were a few more houses across the harbor but the boats look exactly the same so perhaps it is an old card.

We found out about the letter you wrote in June and which never reached us, I felt sorry for I would have answered it especially. It seems that this is the first summer that the Banff Springs has their own post office and the mail is all sorted on the trains, but of course it was their mistake not to send my letter down to the Banff Post office when it didn't have the hotel written on it. Carl Rungius had the same thing happen to a letter of his, it went back to his neice in New York. Goodness knows how many times they have slipped up on it. I suppose they sorted the mail that reached the hotel into the various boxes and then after it had lain there so long and no reservations of that name they just sent it to the dead letter office with a lot of others. But it was provoking. Of course the clerks up there in the summer don't know us from Adam.

I didn't tell you all that Dr Riley thought was the matter with Pete. He called it a " 3rd nerve " or some such name and said he was afraid that he would always be troubled with it when he got tired or upset, it would cause a headache etc. But it is an annoying sort of thing, The pain runs from over his left eye , around to his nose sometimes and at others back of his ear and his arm becomes quite weak too. He said all you can really do to help is to take aspirin to relieve the pain and make it warm with a hot lamp or with a pillow, but we think it has become agravated with all we went through last spring and this summer and once the family get sort of settled it won't be so bad. It evidently is not an unusual thing for people to have, we were sort of planning to make a short trip out to the coast this fall and see our dentist that we used to go to and also the change of altitude might help.

Sept. 1st. Labor Day. It is another glourious day and yesterday wasn't too bad after the rainy Saturday. So maybe the weekend as a whole is pretty good. After all most people come up from Calgary on Saturday afternoon or evening and it didn't rain until they got to Canmore, but had it rained Sunday rather than Saturday it would have been much worse for they get discouraged and go home.

Saturday night after supper Pete wanted to go and see an old friend Mr McQueen who we heard was here and we spent a very nice evening with them. His daughter and family were up from Calgary in the summer cottage they all have here. Funny but they were asking us about some property a friend aunt had left them on Long Beach up near Tofino and they are wondering whether to sell it or not.

Saturday afternoon we went up to see Sam about Mr Vallance coming up and found he had a very lame back, too much lifting etc on a new house he is building, so later Pete got thinking about it and arranged for the Masseur to give Sam a rub down, Found Sam in the tub soaking so got him all bundled up and took him down and back and then yesterday we went up to see how it had worked, it evidently helped a lot. /We didn't go far yesterday as there are so many crazy drivers on the roads on weekends it is more worry than pleasure. About supper time Young Cliff dropped in and we had a nice talk with him, He wanted our advise which was rather nice though I don't know whether it helped or not. He is crazy about mechanical things and Cats (Caterpillar tractors) Is driving a truck for the Gov't right now but after getting the job heard that

Mannix Construction Co. is building a new stretch of road to the Windermere and he might have gotten on with them. He likes the life living out in camps and being able to bank all his money. They work ten hours a day and get time and a half overtime ~~for~~ so he makes nearly \$11. a day on a cat. He figures he would like to get on the construction work permanently so we had a long talk about it. He had hardly gone when the Wardles came. They live in Ottawa and he is quite an important man in the survey branch I think. used to be an engineer here and also superintendent. They had never been to the house before and were very enthusiastic, stayed until after eleven looking at sketches and he thinks the National Gallery should have an example of one of Pete's. The wife and daughter were here too, but leave to-day.

I still don't get far answering your letters. One thing I have been meaning to tell you is how much I wear the lovely light blue sweater coat that you gave me last fall. It has been most useful all summer when it gets cool in the evenings, and especially as we have needed fires in the fire place all August.

Another thing is in that June letter you mention that Mr Baggeson may not be able to fix your mattresses any longer. Why not buy some new ones, which are so much more comfortable than the old ones. We have an inner spring one now and really it is the best we have slept on, and a really good Simmons will last a lifetime.

~~It's~~

Quite a letter, so will mail it and start another.
Loads of love to you all

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. Sept. 1, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

Here goes on answering some of your summer's letters. It is about five and we are sitting outside under the kitchen window. It is nice and balmy.

What a nice letter that was from Miss Morrison, I am so glad that she is enjoying Victoria, if we do go out there we will have to look her up, or them up, I should say. I would think it would be just the place for them though naturally they will miss their Concord friends.

How fine that Elizabeth McCouche is so well again, for it has been a long time she has been "under the weather."

The new Banff Art school is to be built on Tunnel Mountain. Remember the drive that goes around the mountain and over looks the Banff Springs on the corner and then the town. It is up on the hillside there, a wonderful view west. We aren't crazy about the flat roofed architecture, in fact the Morants were so disappointed that the "chalets" weren't to be Swiss that they said had they given any money to the thing they would have asked for it back. Yes that was Lucy Jarvis who wrote in the Canadian Art. her sister was here for a day but we haven't seen her for ages.

I hope that Cousin Jane is better after the stay at the rest home, it is so sad to think that she is now having trouble with her other eye.

The Old Charming Inn where Miss Morrison is, is where Sam and Gis stayed one winter when it was hard to get guests. They had a small apartment for \$50.00 a month, living room, bedroom kitchenette and bath and now I guess it is nearly that much for a room for a week. Times change.

You asked about the ranch that Gray Campbell has bought. I really should send you some of their letters, for they are so full of it all. The Magistrate in Lethbridge who came to Banff with Gray, has helped a lot and they got all the deeds signed etc, and Gray has the ranch and the Rhodes have to leave this fall. Gray with ~~Harold~~ (the man who came with them from the Gilchrist ranch because he liked them) have put in over 150 tons of hay already and such a lot of work as they have done. So guess now they ~~are~~ will be all right. It is not very far from where Mable Browns friend or cousin is, about 40 miles or so.

The Journals come very regularly now so perhaps it was the wrapping paper that was poor, and tore off.

You surely have had a hard time with cooks and girls and do hope after trying so many that you will end up with a fine one.

Later- Tuesday.

Such a lovely letter from Mildred to-day, telling all about her friend Mr Cohen. I have never heard of anyone by that name having a house in Banff, but there might be and I will try to remember if I read about an Ed Cohen in the Calgary Herald. What a wonderful day of sightseeing you gave him, though I should think it might have been quite a dose for Mildred of landmarks etc. But am sure it would be a treat for anyone interested to see all the Points of interest. Please tell her that I think she was wonderful to take so much time "while on holiday" to write us.

We have one good story for her which I think she will appreciate.
X This is the first day of school in Banff, and the very first day
for Johnny, so He came over before lunch and again in the after-
noon to tell us all about it. I told me his teacher was Mrs Polk(?)
" no. Miss Polk, She's not married yet " says Johnny. " ~~She's real~~
~~cute~~ " She has a cute face, you know, she's real nice. " Then when
we asked about the other members of his class he said that they
were all six years old except two kids " They were in class one
last year but both 'failed with honors' and so had to repeat a year!
X He wasn't sure just what "failed with honors " mean't but he knew
that was what they had done.

Another quite clever idea, In the afternoon they all had
paper sailor caps each with the child's name on it and they wore
these so the teacher would know their names.

We are getting on, washed windows yesterday they were so
covered with fly specks. This waiting to know what the family is
to do gets a bit trying but we feel it is best for the present.
Mr Vallance is to come up Friday, was to have been here Labor
Day so that delayed us a few days. *was an lawyer friend & we are*
to ask his advice on every thing.

Loads of love and thank Mildred for her letter, we heard
on the radio that Boston had a terrific storm last night so guess
you did too.

More love

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Sept. 8, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

Haven't had a chance to write you for some time as we have had a heap of company. Just one of those times when they come in one after another. You know on looking back thru the diary I don't think I have written you for nearly a week.

Last Wednesday was warm and really quite nice. Pete went to get an x-ray in the morning (He has had a hard time getting pictures of all his teeth for either he gags and spoils it or the girl developing the plates has spoiled them, He has succeeded at last and it shows nothing wrong and no wisdom teeth which is something) In the afternoon it was so nice we decided to take a ride up the West road and ended up at Lake Louise, the first time we have been up since we went on the pic-a-nic. We just went up and back and felt we had been on quite a trip. When we got back we found Daphne Lilly and Marmie Hess from Calgary, and they invited us up to their place (Mrs Mac's cottage) Thursday evening.

Thursday it poured all day, such sudden changes in the weather and so much rain. Cliff was down in the morning about his plans in the Windermere. They have a farm in view, he and Lloyd Anderson, but if they wait for the Ski Club settling up to get enough money they will lose the chance to get this ideal farm, They think it ideal, we haven't seen it yet but it does sound nice. They figure on working at the Christmas tree cutting and tie cutting for money, as wages are very good and they like the valley over there. We are going to help them get started and in a way we are anxious that they get over there so as to get the Scottes, who we have more or less promised the house to, into the old house. They are living at the skating rink which is only good in the summer and would like to move the 15th. It all seems to mean a lot of talking and discussing. That evening we went up to Marmie Hess and Daphne's. The latter is a moving picture director and has done a lot of educational films and shorts. Of the summer school here and of the life of Emily Carr etc. Is a very talented girl I guess, is in New York studying more now. I guess they think we are amusing for we certainly aren't the intellectual types they might like. Marmie is a very artistic sort, as Sam Manierre is, has taught handicrafts in Calgary for a number of years at the technical school, is a very serious sort, takes herself very seriously and since asking our advise about marrying a certain boy in the army has considered us friends. (can't remember just what advise we gave her) Anyway she said that she finds that teaching handicrafts you run up against so many on the verge of being mental cases, at least one in ten is very peculiar, and in one year she had two men both of which were tried as murderers ! and both I think accused though she felt that they were both unfortunate in ~~not~~ having the blame put on them. Anyway it was a bit unnerving. Another pupil they found carried a pistol all the time, and when she helped in the hospital the doctors would tell her who to watch etc. So as she is an only child and her father rather wealthy she has decided to get her masters degree in Art. going to various colleges and Museums in the states. She might end up in Boston one day. We were

talking about Eskimos and the custom of sending the old people who were no longer any use to the rest of the family off to die. As she put it " I am not sure but what their custom of sitting the old folks out on an ice cake a good idea ! and then she explained. She has a grandmother who is 104 years old, Marmie herself is 31, so ever since she can remember her grandmother has been 80 or over, Her father is 75 and they are great pals, but she said that it is her mothers mother that is the grandmother and lives with them, and their whole life revolves around her, for she has all her faculties yet but is very demanding. They have a housekeeper who is the only one who can lift her and at night Marmie is awakened on an average of five times a night by the grandmother and has to in turn get the housekeeper (just why I don't know.) but she said it had made an invalid of her mother, who finally died about a year ago. She said that if her father died she would seal their home as it was only associated with unhappiness in her life. It really is a tragic sort of story.

↳ To go on with the evening, Mrs Mac was invited over too and we were there quite late for us, but had an interesting time, they wanted to come down next morning to see the book of Roerich pictures we have. So next morning when two women came along I called to Pete " Here they come " but it was Dorothy Weldon and her daughter from Edmonton. She spent several winters here during the war, an awfully nice person, they looked at the pictures and were just going when in came Marmie and Daphne, and by the time they left it was after our lunch hour.'

We got a bite to eat and went over town to do the odd errand and get the mail and were not home long before the Kingmans arrived. We were surprised to see them for we had heard they were in Switzerland, Henry was for three days, as he went over on some General Mills committee (Don't know if it is a factory by that name or a General) something to do with the Food and Economic condition in Europe. They are the ones who were here the night that Mr Weed dropped in when you and Mildred were here too. They had Josephine's (Musk) youngest sister and husband with them. It seems there are four sisters and one is married to a Mr Keith who is in the diplomatic service and they had just returned to Minneapolis after two years in Europe, and Poland last. There was so much entertaining for them at home that none of the sisters and husbands had time to visit together and so they had a special car and the wight of them came up here over labor day and a few days more. We think that Henry is head of a bank in Minneapolis or something from what the porter said so maybe it is ~~that~~ that, but anyway they were having a lot of fun. Two of the couples stayed at the Banff Springs and the Kingmans and Cooks at the Alpine Club. We gave them tea and they were very interested in the house and pictures, but were we tired from entertaining by evening! Also when Pete drove them up to the club and the ladies changed their dresses, Moe Lingman found her diamond bracelet was missing. So last we knew Henry was re-tracing a walk they had taken and Pete had introduced them to the hotel police at the Banff Springs. In the end she remembered she had put it carefully in her purse so as not to lose it on the walk!

Saturday was about as bad. Mom was due home at supper time and we expected the Valances, as we had to speak to Mr Vallance on business. Advice on Cliff's affairs and also on the store lease. Pete found him in the morning and he said he would be down at 2. I did the cleaning and we got the weekend groceries and Mom's supplies and started her stoker and ran around. Mr Valance was on time and then after a while his daughter Jean and her husband Bill Gil who we had never met before from Vancouver came in, with the som

75. The 104 year old lady had 60 people to her birthday party and later in the summer fell out of bed but it truly made her legs blue. No more signs of her weakness than ever. She was evidently a wonderful woman in her days I could help think that had lived on - Aunt Mela's daughter lived. Had too might have been the same sort of situation.

Peter Vallance. They all talked at once and were so crazy about the things in the house including the pictures. We left them to look around the front room while we talked business in the kitchen. Then I made them tea as they were anxious to get back to Calgary as Mrs Vallance was having trouble with her eye and waiting for them for supper.

At four thirty that same after noon we were invited down to the private car for a drink before they were hooked on to the train back to Minneapolis. Down we went as soon as the Vallances left. But the Kingmans hadn't gotten back. Pete had a long talk with the negro cook, who offered him a drink and a big "seegar" all of which Pete refused. He was busy making canapes in the galley. Was a real character. Then the Kingmans came and the others followed. All with various purchases. from Canadian Red River cereal to back bacon and fossils. They said the bacon here is 70¢ a pound and \$1.15 in Minneapolis for the same thing. But they did seem funny presents.

We met the Keiths and he knew a friend of Pete's ^{Ted Achilles} who I have never met but who Pete crossed the Pacific with and visited on his first visit to Japan. and the funniest thing is that Bob Cooke of Syracuse is a great friend of the Whitneys in Concord, and was at Milton in Sam Manierres class, and was sure he had met me before. I vaguely remember him, he was in Concord for the Tercentenary. Then that brought up the mention of Jack DeLaitre (who also was a great friend of Sams) and it seems he has been Henry Kingmans right hand man in the bank for ages and married a girl we knew on the first trail hike ^{years ago. Will write Sam about it.} Funny wasn't it.

We kept leaving them and meeting trains from the west for Mom, but they were all late, finally we saw the Kingman party hitched up and off and Mom came on the last train about 7.15. and by the time we had dinner it was nearly 8 o'clock. Quite a day. Cliff also came back after another trip to the Windermere, and we had to hear all about Mom's trip and how she had found Mildred. etc. I guess it wasn't very easy for Mom, she should really have gone out sooner, she saw the doctor but he of course only had Mildred's side of the story and all in all it wasn't easy. ^{guess such things never are -}

Come Sunday morning we were very weary in the head. It was raining and so we slept quite late got up about ten and were eating breakfast when Nick and Willi Morant arrived, they were leaving that same day and we haven't seen much of them as he is so busy taking photographs for the C.P.R. They left about 12.30 and we had our lunch, or maybe it was later, for we were in the midst of fried chicken when Beverley Herbert and his sister called. He is a boy or artist who was out here the first year of the War and is now doing quite well painting animal pictures for ads, A very serious and sincere sort. They stayed until nearly four when they were to go to Carls and the Painters called with a book before they had left and stayed until it was time to go to the train to see Sigrid Strom away. We never saw her, not knowing what train it was, but the Morrants thought she was going. However we thought sitting at the station watching the trains and people rather restful after all the other callers. Oh yes, we went up to see Mom after the Painters left. and last night about nine went to see Sam about the house roof. The plasterer for the Vallance house was there, having come up from Calgary. They have waited all summer for a plasterer as the local one had pleurisy and then died last week. Had a ver y

amusing evening on the whole as Mr Davy was quite a character, we thought at first he was a tourist as he looked more like a doctor or lawyer. *He was in his Sunday best.*

To-day it was still cloudy and windy, Pete went to the dentist and his x-ray taken last week showed his teeth to be all-right but Dr Quigly wants to look at his teeth more carefully to-morrow. Then Cliff was down to talk about the place over in Windermere and the boys, and after lunch we went for the mail and met Mrs Simpson and sister Mrs Stewart and Mr S. They said they would like to stop in on their way to Bow so I said I would have the kettle boiling. We also ran into Beverley Herbert & wife who asked if we knew anything about etching and Pete took them up to Charlie Beils and we also talked to Llyod Anderson about the odd jobs around that need doing and got him brown paint to paint the back porch of the old house. Then before the Simpsons came Mr MacQueen dropped in to borrow a fishing outfit for his grandson who is here for just a couple of days, a medical student and very bright so Mr MacQ. says. *He was in the army and when overseas having taken a course in German was used as an interpreter and was interpreter during the Kurt Meyer trial in Germany.* We hadn't the right size shoes but had found raincoats and rucksacks before he came back later. *In the* Had a nice visit from the Bow lakes folks and they enjoyed seeing the house.

We have had supper and a nice quiet evening. I don't know how many times we have shown the pictures this last week, 3 times Friday. once Sat. and twice Sunday. I told Pete even his stories about some of the pictures were beginning to sound a little stale!

We had thought of going out this week if the weather cleared but the barometer is still down. evidently it hasn't been very clear at Bow lakes either, so perhaps it is just as well to be getting things organized here.

Quite a letter, Loads of love,

Catharine
P.S. I think the hard thing about talking to so many people is that you have to concentrate on so many subjects. & we get so interested & if the people are enthusiastic about the house & pictures you do all you can to show them things. If you listed the places the various people who have been here the last few days come from it would be something like this.

- I New York.
- III Calgary.
- 2 Edmonton Alberta.
- III Toronto.
- II Syracuse.
- II Minneapolis.
- III Vancouver.
- II Montreal.
- III Banff.
- Family.

Banff, Alberta.

Sat. Sept. 13, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

I find that if I don't write you every other day, that I lose track of time and several days slip by without my realizing it. We still seem to be having quite a bit of company so better go back or I am apt to get all mixed up.

Tuesday was rainy like Sunday and Monday. We had quite a bit of running around. Pete went up to see Sam about a roofing man for the old house, and found he had fainted while helping the plasterer on the Vallance House and had to be taken home, Pete (who I call Doctor White now) went to see how he was and we were rather worried for Sam is getting on and older than he thinks he is. He didn't look well and thought it was his tummy, so Pete prescribed warm malted milk, then went to find a doctor. Mackenzie is away to a convention and Pat Costigan is so busy with babies etc. that he couldn't come. When we went up after lunch to see how Sam was and get their mail etc. found he was much better after a sleep and with the rest he was well enough to go to work the next day. Mr Vallance was there on his way to the Freshfield Glacier with a friend to measure it, (how much it moves each year) and we brought him down here to borrow a raincoat and also talked business on the way. We hadn't expected to see him and so couldn't think of what it was we wanted to ask.

However he hopes to stop on the way back for a short time.

That afternoon we thought of the Camerons who we had hoped to have to the house and asked them down in the evening. They are the ones we met at the Rileys, and he is the head of the Banff Summer school development and really the one who has run and organized the whole thing. They had a little girl 2½ and as it is hard to get anyone on short notice to sit in the evening we told them to come on down for tea and bring the child too, which they did. We rushed back and started fires and put the kettle on and had a very nice call from them. They had never been down before and after looking at the sketches, Donald Cameron asked if Pete would be willing to have an exhibiton at the University of *Alberta in* Edmonton this year. They like to have work by Alberta Artists to show the students and faculty what is being done in the Province. and the part which makes it easier is that they don't care about selling the things, so we could send the Balinese and Hawaian things which we don't want to sell. So that was rather nice. Then Mom came down for supper. She really came to borrow the clippers but we insisted she come back and eat with us.

Wednesday was still overcast though it cleared nicely later in the afternoon. We went over to the store and who should be there but George Mclean from Morely. He said that they had hitched the horses and wagon in our yard but didn't let them graze on our grass until they asked if it was allright. We got them meat and fruit and then brought them back to lunch with us. We had a most interesting time. Remember the old wagons that they use to drive up from Morely to Indian days ? We call them Democrats and they are like old delivery wagons with a seat in front, and ~~and~~ usually the Indian and his old squaw wrapped up in a blanket sit in front, All their duffle and the children ride behind.

This year when I saw George and Mrs Maclean drive off at the end of Indian days I wondered how in the world their old rickety Democrat would ever reach Morely, and here they were back again having been on a little holiday. George said when he wasn't well Indian Days he thought a trip would do them all good and they set out soon after I guess. Went north from Morely to a place called Rocky Mt. House, 146 miles north of Calgary, from there its nearly 100 miles to the Jasper highway, the last thirty over trails and then another 80 or so to Banff and 40 more back to Morely. I don't know how long they have been gone, the first part they had other Indians with them but the last part down the highway they came alone except for a ten year old granddaughter Kathleen Kootenay. Imagine going all that way in a wagon when you are over 70 years old. They both looked well and George said he had never been sick since Pete gave him the medicine! He told us a lot about the old Indian trails. How they used to go, up what is now Johnson's Canyon, across to Baker Lake and the head of the Little Red Deer, up the Pepestone and to the Sifleur (which they called the "trail of the Deep snow") Their names are so much more appropriate than ours) and then to Kootenay Plains. Johnson's Canyon was called "White Goat Little River" He also told us that the Buffalo used to come up into the mountain valleys every fall in the old days, and then the fall snows would gradually drive them back to the Praries. George said his father could remember when the buffaloe were so thick that they looked like a sea of black as they crossed the hills near Cochrane. We told him about a skull with a spear nearby that one of the game wardens (Ullys LeCasse) had found near Castle Mountain and later Cliff told us that he had found Buffaloe skulls, two of them near Temple when they were digging a ditch for the road.

We had quite a meal, hamburg, fried onions, mixed vegetables tea and nearly a loaf of raison bread, peaches and cream and cake. They ate all we had, I really should have gotten more. We all ate to-gether, the first time, for usually they come at tea time and not when we are having dinner. Then Lloyd helped them hitch the horses up, they also had had a good meal of clover, and off they drove for Morely, the wheels squeaking and Kathleen riding her saddle horse behind. They had an extra team of horses they were taking to Morely for another Indian. Pete was interested in how they took care of the rope in leading them, some would have tied it to the back of the wagon which might have been dangerous had the horses bolted on the highway, or they could have held it in the hand which becomes very tiring. George just sat on the end of the rope and if anything should happen it would pull out and he had his hands free.

They were here several hours which took up most of that day but it was worth it. Then we went to see Sigrid, Siri and the girl from Norway off on the train. As usual whenever you meet a train or see one off, it is late and we had rather a late supper. Then in the evening the MacQueens came to bring back the borrowed raincoats and to tell us of their fishing tip and we had a very pleasant evening, showed them some slides and it was after 11 when they left.

Thursday we spent the morning talking with Cliff and Lloyd over their venture in the Windermere, Lloyd is a very slow thinker but a very loyal person and dependable, can do all sorts of things, and while they are waiting to get their farm he has been doing jobs around here for us, taking down old fences and patching shed roofs, made a cellar door and sythed a lot of weeds. It was a lovely day about the nicest we have had, Jackie had told us that Tom Link was coming down Thursday, spend the night in Banff and go on Friday night. He had seen him in Golden, In a previous letter to us he had said that he would take the Friday morning train to Banff and spend the day with us. We didn't know whether to expect him or not, so as it was so

lovely out we decided to drive to Lake Louise and if he was coming down bring him with us, otherwise we would see how the fall color was coming on and know that he would be down the next day. It was really lovely out, we found that Tom was off for the day and no plans of coming down, (we don't know how Jackie got the thing so mixed up) So we drove leisurely back, but at least we didn't spend a couple of hours meeting trains. Spent the evening talking to Col Moore about New England and he quoted poetry for us. Pearl was very busy as her nephew was operated on suddenly for appendicitis, and his parents were both away and there was a lot for her to see to. She takes on her family's problems but the boy might have had a bad time of it if she hadn't for ^{his appendicitis} was very nearly broken.

Friday clouded over again and by afternoon it rained, a high wind last night and snow on the mountain tops to-day and it is cold and miserable out. The morning train was late so Tom arrived just nicely at noon, we had a big steak and mushroom dinner for him, peaches and ice cream, he ate about three times what we did having a good appetite. He and Pete discussed the portrait of Mrs Link that he asked Pete to do and they looked at the photographs etc. We took him around to see some people in the afternoon and back here for high tea. I made blueberry muffins and he ate the left over steak, we found even more mushrooms and warmed up carrots and some more ice cream, as his car was on the last train. Then we came home about seven and Pete slept most all evening. He got tired with the strain of talking over the portrait and all, but it was a nice visit.

Now it is afternoon and we are waiting around for Mr Vallance. It isn't nice enough out to do anything. Tom Link said that the weather was awful up at O'hara this year, about two nice days ^{in August} and Jim Boyce said it had rained every day in August out on the trail, so if we did have to stay in this summer it was as well to have it this one.

A nice letter from you after your talk with Russ, I will write him to-morrow if it rains and we don't go out, but soon anyway. I don't really see how we can come east this fall but might be able to do a lot by letter and then perhaps next spring we could make it.

The wahher is a fine one and the seat cover is such a fine one that Pete won't let anyone sit on it !

Loads of love to all and do hope Kitty is feeling better.
More love

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Sept. 16, 1947.
Tuesday.

Dearest Mother,

We get letters from you saying how hot it is, 90° and high humidity and we are having it below 40° and our humidity is in the form of snow ! It has been trying to snow all day and the few glimpses we have had of the mountains are pretty snowy looking. However it is supposed to be Indian Summer after a good snow storm so we are hoping this is it. Its about 32° out now, 8.30 P.M. We started the furnace to-day after having just had wood fires in the kitchen Air tight and in the fireplace but it got sort of chilly upstairs.

Sunday was the only nice day for about a week and it was really quite warm, We didn't do much, rather expecting Mr Vallance (He went through so late last night that we didn't see him at all) but did drive up to Norquay, had a look in the field glasses to see if they had begun work for the new Ski Lift, only could make out a line where it may go. The color is turning but not really at its best yet. We had been looking for a roofing man all week and when we got back, Mr Maynard called. We had expected him to be an elderly man but it turned out he was just a young fellow out of the Air force and with him was Norman Tabuteau's sister-in-law who we call "Auntie " because of Norman's baby. and much to our surprise they are engaged. He seemed an awfully nice sort and we rather liked him, He worked for a tiling man and roofer before the Air Force and now is on his own and has done a lot of roofs in town as well as bathrooms. They stayed to tea and Pete went up with him to look over the old roof that needed doing over on the old house. Its funny but over the weekend we heard of four engagements of couples we know, all very nice ones. Sunday night we ran up to the Wards for a few minutes just to tell Sam about Maynard etc.

Monday, yesterday, was rainy and poor weather, When it was nice on Sunday we had gotten to-gether food and all sorts of things thinking it was going to be good weather and we might go out, but now that it is stormy again , we think we will just go by the day this year for it is getting late. Cliff came back after another trip to the Windermere and they are in the process of moving their stuff over so we are rather hoping they will be out of the house next week so the Scotts can get in.

Yesterday we just took a run up to the camp ground to see Norman Tabuteau about something and picked Georgia Englehard and Eaton Cromwell up (think they are now married but are not sure) they were killing time while their car was being fixed, They went with us to Normand and were so taken with the idea of winter cabins that they may come out for a month next winter and ski. So hope we did Norman a good turn. Then we brought them back for tea. I think he is a brother-in-law (or was) of Doris Duke, they are both great Mountain climbers and Georgia used to come out years ago when the Moores were at Yoho. She also is a niece of Georgia O'Keefe who paints skulls and is quite modern and Georgia used to paint herself. they were very nice about the sketches and enjoyed coming to the house, first time he had been here. One nice thing he used to do was to keep a room in the house of old Edward Feuz in Interlachen, and it

(The Swiss guides father & mother)

helped them a great deal with expenses. Johnny came in while they were here and was so good, never said a word but took in most everything. They hadn't been gone very long when Belmore and Mrs Brown called. They had come up to sketch but he had forgotten the white paint and it was such a poor day they couldn't sketch anyway, Its the first time they have been here for ages. We made some fresh tea and toast and showed them the sketches too, and they were very nice about them. Their son is newly engaged and they were full of that. Mrs Brown is very dynamic or full of vitality or something, for after they left I felt as if her voice and enthusiasm were still going on, much like the chain reaction of the atom bomb, but not as violent in its effect. Then later young Cliff came down to borrow the army tent Russ gave us for they went off to-day, four of the boys on a hiking or climbing trip.

To-day started quietly enough, I wrote letters that we had to write this morning and was going to write Russ this afternoon after we finished one to Mr Vallance, when the Peppers came (they had been here Saturday too) bringing with them a friend from London Ontario who is curator of the new gallery there. They had had a late lunch so didn't want tea but we again showed the sketches, and they want Pete to have an exhibition in the east, at London, Toronto and even Ottawa. It rather amuses us to suddenly have so much interest in our things, before they left when I was talking to the Peppers, This man Clair something or other, told Pete he never expected to see anything like our house or the things he had seen in it, was perfectly surprised to find the like out here. Almost the same thing that Mr Brigden had said. Maybe the people in the east are just discovering the west. They hadn't gone before Peter Vallance drove in with his girl friend and a friend of hers, funny we should have been writing his father, We gave them tea and he came to tell me that he would like to buy a picture of mine of larches that he had seen the other day, to give to his father and mother for Christmas and when he is married he will take it away from them for his own house! Rather lucky he should come for we had just told the Peppers we couldn't go swimming with them or have dinner as we expected Mr Vallance, It was a better excuse than saying we didn't want to get too tired. Then Cliff came down with a book and a few things for us.

We had a late supper, one Pete concocted, a base of canned tomatoe soup, a couple of new potatoes sliced with sliced onions and all put to-gether in the pressure cooker and filet of salmon on top. It was delicious, and when cooked that way it is like a stew but everything has its own flavor. We had sliced cold meat cooked with cabbage in consomme this noon. Great experimants but you get all the good out of everything.

Bedtime now so will add to this to-morrow if I can.

Wednesday. A heavy frost last night no water for us this morning. It came on about noon. We still have a temporary connection from Cliff's outside Tap down on top of the ground, because the kevin is too high today I am to replace the pipe that burst last spring. It's been dull & squawky all day. Sam was down all morning. Beverly & Robert all afternoon.

Lots of love

Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.
Sat. Sept. 20, 1947

Dearest Mother,

What awfully hot weather you have had and here we have had rain and cold. To-day seemed very warm being in the 50s but south of here near Pincher Creek they have had over two feet of snow and in many places four to six in drifts. Cars have been stuck, roads impassible. We are feeling badly for we just got a letter from Gray Campbell telling of their activities on the ranch. How they bought a new (new to them) binder at an auction sale. ~~Waiting~~ all day for it to be put on the block and the other people had gotten tired and gone home, they stayed and got it for very little, eight dollars and something. Then they fixed it all up and put it behind their Jeep and started off to try it on their 30 acres of oats. However they found the oats should stand at least a another week before being cut, and here this storm came exactly a week later and no doubt flattened the whole 30 acres and they may not even be able to cut it for Green feed by the looks of things. What a discouraging life a farmer leads. Did you read that bit in the Journal about Tom MacGrath the farmer in Concord ? I wondered if he was one of the family we used to take Christmas boxes to?

Got this far and then we had Fern and Helen Box to tea and Mrs Painter came in for some books and then Beverley Herbert to return some he had borrowed.

Sunday night. This is as far as I got yesterday. Our days have been rather busy. We had someone to tea nearly every day last week. It was overcast and snowed for two days but didn't stay on the ground. It even froze our water line down from Cliffs which is still on top of the ground, Mr Watt the plumber was going to start putting the line below ground on Friday, even had a man to dig the hole for us, then we woke to find the ground covered with snow so it wasn't done last week, Maybe we will have better luck this. It was warm to-day and cleared this afternoon, lovely cloud effects towards evening. The color has stayed about the same and though a lot of trees have changed nicely there are a lot still green.

Can't remember when I last wrote you, Did I tell you about the Peppers bringing a Mr Bice down to see the pictures? am sure I must have. He is curator of the London Ontario Art Gallery and when it came time to go the Peppers were talking to me in the kitchen and Mr Bice turned to Pete and said he wanted one last look at the living room for he had never expected to see anything like it in Banff. They want Pete to have an exhibition in the east in several places. The funny part is that some of the sketches they admire the most are old ones, some even ten or more years old. It really seems as if there was a swing back to more realistic painting. They had hardly gone when Peter Vallance, Jean MacFarland and a friend came in, I made tea twice that day.

Wednesday Sam came down in the morning and we had quite a talk. I think he was discouraged with the weather and the plasterer who came up from Calgary had quit. He comes to us when he is discouraged and if things don't go well for us we always take a run up to Sams. Beverley Herbert came after lunch and borrowed some Art books

He, his wife, mother and sister are all in a little cabin for the month of September and they have had little but rain so far and he gets very restless when he wants to be painting. After he left we decided to get busy on getting things done. Like rounding up the plumber, seeing if Sam would let us have Benny who works for him, dig the hole and then seeing Benny. We also saw Cecil about checking the lighting in the old house, and even the roof man about doing the roof as he had the samples with him to choose from. It will be those asphalt shingles which one puts on right over the old wooden shingles, but they are fire resistant and go on quickly. Also found the stone mason to put the top row of bricks back on the chimney. They have sort of burn't off. No one has done anything to the house since Pete's father and mother lived there, except the odd bit of paint and a house does get run down. Then we took a book to young Jimmy Brewster at the hospital *in the evening*.

Thursday was the snowy day. I wrote a letter, (Maybe to you) and then Mary Simpson came in to tell us about the summer at Bow. Had tea, and Cy Harris came to return a book. He is quite an Artist *(water color)* but such a timid soul, works for the Government, used to take drawing lessons with Belmore Brown when Pete did years ago. and also went to the night classes a couple of years ago. Mary came back to supper and we talked all evening. She goes back to Omaha where she teaches skating.

Friday was still stormy, we took Mary to the station with her bags as none of her family were down and it was a help to her. Wish you could hear her tell of the problems they have at Bow Lakes with the public toilets. They have two outside ones but because of the lack of great water pressure they take a long time to fill up at the back. The busses find it very convenient to stop at the Simpsons and give the passengers a chance to use the toilets. At first it made it nice having the busses come in, convenient for passengers guests coming and going. but the bus companies don't pay for the upkeep of the wash rooms or anything towards it, nor does the government. The tourists evidently are very careless and everything goes in, including combs, compacts and when they supplied paper towels, most of those, ~~whi~~ which clogged up the drain. They have several days had to take the whole plumbing apart at least three times on account of things stuck in it. Mary said she could write a book about it, you would never believe what a mess the women can make, evidently the men are much easier on the plumbing! She had lots of funny stories.

Friday afternoon we asked Goon (the chinaman over at the Brewsters) to tea with Dell Brewster too. He left this noon for China. The first time he has been home for 10 or 12 years and he has a family there. We had gotten a light bag of canvas with a zipper to give him. We think he was quite pleased but didn't feel right being seated and drinking tea with us, instead of waiting on us. However we had a nice time and then when he got restless they went home. That night we took a couple of books to the Moores, found they had a Mr and Mrs Craig (Gov't people) and the Painters there and after we arrived the Jack Bresters came in. also Pat with a lovely cat that someone had left at the hotel. It was quite an evening. That afternoon it had cleared a bit and we thought the weather had changed at last, but the next morning it was stormy again. *Saturday* Fern and Helen Box came to tea and then Mrs Painter dropped in, and while they were all here Beverley Herbert came to exchange books. So we had a busy afternoon.

To-day we wrote a letter to Mr Vallance and then went to the train to see Goon away. It was a bit teary on his part and Fern and Dells for he is the most wonderful Chinese you ever knew. All the

Brewsters were there, Jack and Merle, Bill and George, Pearl and Col Moore, Helen Box and Cyril Childe and his son. Mr Crosby and us. 14 in all. When Goon showed signs of tears we hustled him aboard and then all waited to wave. Dell told me that a few days ago he asked her to go up to the cemetery with him to Jim Brewsters grave, He picked the last flowers in the garden and took them up. Then this morning without realizing it she opened the door to her bedroom and found Goon kneeling by Jim's bed, so she backed out quietly and didn't think he saw her. We hope that everything goes well and that he comes back again safely next summer. They will miss him terribly, are to close the house and move into the hotel for the winter.

This afternoon after a late lunch we went up the west road to see how the color was, it is getting lovely. Then thought we would take a run up to Sundance Canyon, on the way back gave three *sore footed* ladies a lift. They were English, the daughter had married a Canadian in the Air Force and the mother and friend had come over to see if Canada was just as wonderful as the daughter thought it was. She is already a most enthusiastic Canadian. They were so nice that we took them up to see the upper Hot Springs (knowing they had little money for extras) then brought them back to the house for tea, took them up by the hotel, the Bow Falls and the Golf course (just a little ways) and then around Tunnel Mt. It was lovelier as the afternoon wore on and they were so *very* appreciative of everything. We left them at the hotel and we still don't know their names except that the girl is "Joyce" and her husband "Archie!" He didn't come on the trip! We enjoyed it for they were all so nice.

Now it is bedtime and I still haven't written Russ or answered your letters or written that promised letter to Jean. Guess she won't mind when you share these letters with her. But it does seem mean to hear from her so regularly and yet never write myself.

Loads of love.

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. Sept 24, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

For some time we have been trying to "get everything done" so that when Indian Summer came along we could spend all our time painting. I guess we needn't have bothered. We thought we had Mr Watt fixing our broken water line last week (it has been above the ground all summer until the level of the river dropped) but the day they were to dig last week it snowed. Today Benny Woodworth started digging and I expect the plumbers may be around to-morrow and if they are we will have to stay in so they can do the work in the cellar.

Then we have tried to see Mr Vallance, but he has had emergency jobs more important than ours when up here and the last time he went through didn't stop, Now he is waiting for good weather to come up and though it was nice here yesterday it rained all day in Calgary. and so it goes. *He should be up this week.*

Sunday was rather a nice day as I wrote you but the color hadn't changed to its best. We were all set Monday to do something about it. Cliff, Lloyd and the three boys were all going to Windermere with the truck and Jeep and the last big load of stuff, They were to leave Lloyd and Peter there as the man who is selling the farm was to move out Tuesday, and the others were to come back. They were all packed and ready, Cliff had just put water in the Jeep radiator and Lloyd was getting in, when Cliff had another seizure or bad spell as he did last summer, Let's out a yell and Lloyd just caught him before he fell. They ran for Mom and telephoned for a doctor, but as luck would have it only two of the six are in Banff and Dr Mackenzie was in the midst of putting a cast on. However they gave Cliff a drop of brandy which revived him and carried him into Mom's house, but he has been awfully sick. Gave us all a good many frights in the last day or two. Dr Mackenzie got down pretty quick and it evidently was even more serious than last time and so he gave him a *myo* ~~hypo~~. Pete wasn't feeling too good that morning, so didn't go up until after lunch to see Cliff, Arrived just as Cliff had a second attack and Pete luckily was in the nick of time to help and Dr M. happened in just to see how he was getting on. The medicine he had to take to quieten his nerves made him sort of delirious and from noon until about three in the morning he talked most of the time and would suddenly try to get out of bed or reach for things. If it hadn't been so serious and worrying one could have smiled more at the things he said for they were funny. But someone had to watch him every minute and they all took turns. Dr M said if he wasn't better the next morning he would have to take him to the hospital but felt familiar surroundings might help more in bringing him around.

It was a tiring day for us all, Mom wouldn't rest but insisted on staying with Cliff the whole time so Pete and Jackie and later Donny spelled her off a bit. We came to bed about 11 O'clock and then at one Pete woke up and had a feeling he should go up, so we dressed and went up. I came back but he stayed until after three and of course was pretty tired Tuesday and slept most of that morning.

However Cliff was better yesterday morning and much better to-day, so now if he rests should be feeling much better soon. It was

a complete nervous collapse from the worry of packing up and moving and all the other things on his mind. Just too much for him to cope with. All day Monday he talked of packing, and then would talk perfectly seriously of how to pack Mom's pictures, He knew what they were too, and told me how his father had made the frames (he hadn't made those particular ones but Cliff was very convincing about it) Then he said something about " Had Mom made her plans to leave"and what she wanted packed, and Mom said in an undertone to me " He thinks he is in the other house, doesn't know where he is " Whereupon Cliff said, " oh yes, I know where I am ! So Mom said, " Where are you ? " and Cliff with a smile replied " In the Palace Hotel in St Moritz." You never knew what he would say next and he just wouldn't go to sleep. It really was hard on everyone.

The boys went over ~~to the mountains~~ ^{finally} and luckily the man can't leave the farm until Friday, so they all came back, Donny and Cliffe Monday, and Lloyd and Peter yesterday afternoon as they had picked up a load of potatoes for the store. The funny part was that they had taken the pet cat and two kittens over and had to bring them back, but they evidently didn't mind the trip!

We also got the stage coach back yesterday and the boys helped us put it away in the dog building we had fixed for it last year. It came after lunch so we didn't get out to see the color until late in the afternoon. It had been still and lovely in the morning, perfect autumn weather, but a cold wind came up in the afternoon and clouds blew in across the mountains from the east. finally hiding all the mountains.

Thursday, Better get this off for it is a perfect afternoon and we want to be out.

Loads of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Mon. Sept. 29, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

Didn't write you yesterday (Sunday) as it was a rather nice day and we were outside, even trimmed or pruned the little spruce trees and cut the larkspurs down. Then in the afternoon Mrs Mac came down and we had tea, Mary ^{in Banff} has just had a little boy, born a month early so it rather upset their plans for the little girl had to be sent to friends until Mrs Mac gets down there. When she left her car wouldn't go and Pete pushed her to the garage with ours and then took her home. While he was gone Vic Ball came to call. He is the one who's house burnt down several years ago and now is running a newspaper in Fernie, was at a newspaper convention and going back via Banff. He stayed until about 7.30 (as our time changed Sunday morning it was really 6.30 old time). So the evening wasn't very long to do things in.

This morning we are waiting for Jim Watt the plumber to start fixing the new water line in, hope it doesn't take too long to do and that they come. Once that is in we will be freer to go away for a little vacation. Cliff is to see the doctor this morning and he will tell him how soon he can go over to the Windermere, Jackie is going to drive him over. Once he has gone we can let the Scottes go into the house and have that more or less settled. We haven't dared hurry Cliff since that attack a week ago, but have to be patient. Donny is to go Wednesday to Edmonton where he is to try out for a hockey team, if good enough he will go to School in Edmonton and play hockey on a Junior team this winter. He was to pack up over the weekend but got a chance to drive to Calgary and see an Air show with Jet propelled planes and all and so went off, won't be back until to-day, so his packing had to wait. Young Cliff was to come in from Sunshine to pick out his things, but he didn't show up either. It seems to be very hard to get them to clear out their last things. Mr Vallance won't be up as soon as he had expected, being so busy in Calgary so we may just put off getting the store lease figured out. We have sort of planned to go to the coast and see the good dentist out there and also Pete's doctor friend to find out where his chief trouble is. It is too hard trying to go to Calgary to the specialists there and the change might help as much as anything. Then when we came back we could settle in to do the ^{work} we want to get done.

We have had lovely weather this last week. Went to Bow Lakes for the day Friday to see the Simpsons and how their work is coming on. They are closed for tourists ~~and~~ but busy trying to get the foundations in for the new building. Big Jim took Pete around and showed him what was what while Mrs Simpson took me, She explained how the dining room would be here, the hall there, the stairs went up here and then she stood and considered a bit, and said. "Well to tell the truth we don't really know how it is to be for Big Jim won't tell us, and it makes it very difficult not knowing." Jim in the mean time was telling Pete that the " Mrs " thinks they should have an architect but he pointed out a wall of the foundation and said " Look at that , not a ripple " and Pete said it must be his shooting eye. The first building is out of line at one time end all because Jim's stone work wasn't in line. He said that there was no use telling the others what his plans were for they wouldn't understand anyway. I guess he will just sort of mold the building as he goes along. The day was nice when we started but clouded over and was dull until we got back.

Saturday was lovely and warm and we had thought they would do the plumbing but they decided to wait until this week instead. Jim Watt told Pete Saturday morning that he was pretty tired having been working until four in the morning and then having to get up early to turn off the water for two people, and he is not a young man. So we spent the day taking pictures. It is next best to ~~photographing~~ ^{photo} ~~graphing~~, somehow it is too hard to settle down to sketching when there is so much on our minds. Sort of a joke on us for we have spent all September trying to get the three things done so as to be free when the good weather came along. The plumbing, the old house emptied and the new people in, and to see Mr Vallance, and all we have done is to wait for the others. But as Pete says there are other years coming. Of course Cliff being so very ill this last week made it hard.

Better send this along and I will see if I can get back into the habit of writing a little every other day instead of so much two or three times a week.

Loads of love and we do hope that Kitty is feeling better, that penicillin is wonderful stuff. Mrs Mac was telling us about a man on the prairie she ~~had~~ met who had hurt his hand while harvesting. cut it or something. When she saw it there were red lines running up his arm and it had formed a hard lump under his arm from poison. She was very upset about it, but the man wouldn't see a doctor. She told the wife to soak it in hot water and in the meantime would try and get some penicillin aalve from the doctor in Banff (One has to have a prescription for it) sent it down and last time she saw the man he was allright ! Of course he didn't think it was so serious as she realized it was.

More love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. Oct. 1, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

We have had the most beautiful stretch of weather but this afternoon clouds came in from the west and it is overcast and raining a bit. I should have been over at the United Church giving my pint of blood to the Red Cross Mobile Clinic but we have been doing so much lately Pete thought it better to keep my blood this time in case I get too tired! Its been ten days of mostly fine weather and not much frost but the leaves are nearly all off the trees.

At last we got the water line in from the river road into our basement. We have been trying since the first of Sept when the river started going down but either the plumber wasn't here or the weather too bad. Nearly got it done last week but I guess ~~th~~ told you that it seemed wiser to wait until Monday morning. Benny had dug the ditch, about 8 feet long by 2 wide and six deep. There was water in the bottom making mud that they had to keep bailing out. Monday was a glorious day and Mr Watt, Steam his son and Benny were all on hand, They disconnected the copper pipe which had been run down from Cliff's outside tap to ours, and with copper you can roll it up like a hose. They then connected one end to the galvanized pipe in our basement, feeding it through the coal shoot. Then with a block and tackle attached to the galvanized pipe near the street, and Pete pulling with the Jeep, they were able to pull the new pipe through attached to the old. The moisture in the ground made it move easier but there was a union that made it hard to slide. There were also a number of difficult moments, one length broke while they were pulling, but luckily there was a foot left for them to tie onto, which saved digging any more. Then our winter's supply of coal arrived to be put down the coal shoot, but Pete managed to put that off, We also had the Jack Brewsters to ask us to their 25th wedding anniversary party the next afternoon and the most difficult of all was the arrival of a Mr Robertson from the National Gallery in Ottawa who is making his first trip west, something to do with "museums and culture." He was sent to us by Pete's C.O. at Western Air Command (Baker) in the Air force, who is accountant at the Art Gallery and had written about Robertson coming, but never realized that Pete had known him in Ottawa, He was a Squadron Leader and had his office next to where Pete and Pat Cowley-Brown Painted. Seemed funny to Pete, for he was quite important there, now is a meek little fellow but turned out to be very nice. He made quite a call in the morning, I getting Pete out of the basement, and then I spent the afternoon taking him for a drive around town, up Tunnel and Norquay. It was the most beautiful afternoon, the clouds lovely. Then back for tea and to the train. Also gave all the men tea which they do appreciate. They couldn't connect the line that night but did get the copper pipe through. Oh. Yes when Jim Watt went home at noon the Crosby's got hold of him as they were rather desperate, the Water supply had been cut off at Lake Louise and they had 75 guests for the night and no water. They live next door to us and which made it a bit touchy for they are very demanding and naturally insistant that Jim go right up and leave us, which he wouldn't do. However he did go after he finished here not getting through until Midnight. and he is not a young man either.

That evening we went to wish "Happy Birthday" to Ted Brown who is 70, and then to Sam's for a few minutes, and a Mrs Porrit was there, the nicest elderly lady who used to live here years ago. and back to see Cliff who evidently was asleep for no one came to the door and Mom was out.

Next morning we were up early to finish the plumbing, they all pitched in and made good headway, got it connected about eleven. Then Steve Hope came to turn it on at the street and Pete and I rushed about the house turning taps off and on. We were so pleased to have it done. Went down to see how it looked and were surprised to see the water in the ditch coming from the other direction and oozing through the ground. The 6 feet of Gov't line had a leak. So Jim Watt went and got Steve Hope and he turned the water off again. It was up to the Gov't to fix the line between the turnoff and the 6 feet to out property line. However Benny offered to dig the extra bit if we ~~could~~ could get permission to touch the Gov't's part, so Mr Watt went off to do that and came back to say we could go ahead and they would put the copper pipe right through to the main. So the Watts went home and Benny dug and we went off to see to several things. Allen Mather had been over to see if Cliff had moved etc. and we had to see Jackie about the Olivers who want one of the suites at the store. So were busy until they were ready to put in the extra length of pipe. It took them most of the afternoon before they had it all connected, for the ooze kept coming in and it was a messy job. We also had Beverley Herbert his sister and his wife to call and then after the whole thing was connected and Steve had come again and turned on the water and they had all had tea, it was time for us to hurry and get dressed to go to the party. It was a very nice party, mostly Brewster family. They have a new house, built last year and they have waited all summer for the men to stucco the outside and they arrived yesterday morning! So we had quite a time getting in their one door (the front one hasn't steps) and I got a bit of stucco down my neck.

Cliff having gotten 66¢ about one for the Windermere, Jackie driving him over with a last truck load of stuff, Mom was feeling very badly so we asked her down to supper about 7.30 and were pretty tired by bedtime. *He said Cliff was ok. but would have to be careful.*

This morning Benny was here filling in the hole and we had all yesterday's dishes to wash and also had to bring Mr and Mrs Scott over to see the house, that took most of the morning, Now Pete has started the furnace and when I take this to the train we will see Mrs Mac off. If she goes on the first train.

The house needs dusting and tidying up, ~~but~~ and there is always a lot to be done anyway, but now that the Water is in below ground we won't have to worry about that, and with Cliff gone that is another less worry, Donny is still here but expects to go any day though we heard it might not be until the middle of the month! He still has a few things left in the house, mostly clothes but it is hard to catch him between school and meals. Once the Scotts get moved that will be another job done. They are a nice quiet couple and we hope will work out well and will keep an eye on things for us if we are away.

Better not write more now.

Loads of love to all.

Catherine
P.S. Am so glad Mary is to come back when she returns from Nova Scotia. I liked her so much. Maybe she could bring you a cook!

7.5. Mr Watt told Pete I wasn't every body they would have done the pipe part on the government land for, but were glad to do it for us & we did appreciate it. Had we waited in the Gov't I would have taken ages maybe.

Banff, Alberta.
Sunday, Oct. 5, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

I am certainly slipping when it comes to letter writing. Maybe it is having a man in the house all the time that makes it hard to get around to things! However we are getting the Scotts moving into the old house. It seems to involve a lot of running round but when you compare it to Cousin Emma and her radiators perhaps we aren't doing so badly!

Mr Watt when we saw him Friday afternoon said he would come round next morning, that was yesterday, and first thing he and two other men were ripping out old obsolete pipes and making the hot water heating system more modern. When we saw the tub and toilet it seemed a good chance to get the floor covered with fresh linoleum so went to the store, not enough, to the two other stores with no better luck, then we thought of the roofing man who puts in asphalt tile, so drove around until we found his truck and then found him at the dentist. He was good enough to come right around and has enough of a mottled dark gray and rose or teeracotta to do the bathroom and said he would come last night and this morning. I think he forgot it was Saturday but anyway the stuff is on the front porch and he should be around soon. Then we hunted for Cecil Philpotts truck and he said he would try to get over to-day. It is a little harder having the house so run down. Neither Lila nor Mildred had much repaired. and as you know an old house needs a lot of little things done. Mr Scott is a good fixer and we hope he will take a real interest in fixing things up, We told him we would pay for paint and materials if he will do the work, and little by little he can get things done.

Thank goodness we didn't have to have the house cleaned, for Mrs Scott's daughter and daughter-in-law and grand daughter have been coming between their jobs and scrubbing the house from top to bottom. Once we get this all done we will feel better.

Lloyd, Cliff and Peter and a friend were over from the Windermere yesterday. They had a meeting of Ski club business and then took a few things back with them. Lloyd told us that Cliff was a different person over there, I guess it is getting away from all the associations here. and also he eats well which he didn't do here. and Peter has another boy next door his own age which is nice. They seem to like it and we hope all goes well.

Last night it rained hard, snow this morning and the mountain tops very white in the west. Mom came to supper and then later Sam and Cis came down with a young Calgary girl who was on the Trail Hike this year and so knew Sam. Had gone to show the Wards her photographs of the hike and they were just coming out so brought her with them. She was an unusually nice little girl, we thought she was about 19 but instead she is 29. We had a nice evening and even got Sam to recite "the Barge."

To-day we invited Mrs Paris and Ada Wilson to tea, Also Mom. Ada was the girl, (she is 61) who was so nice to me in Port Alberni when I used to stay over waiting for Pete on the way in and out to Tofino. She still lives there in the winter, 1 1/2 at Lake Louise in the summer.

It is a funny day, one minute snowing hard, the next lovely and sunny but a bit chilly.

Must tell you about the bears. The first day Mr Scott came down for the vacuum to start cleaning, just as he and Pete were going up to the other house a mother bear and two big cubs came round the corner, one cub emptied our garbage while the other had a look at the cans up at the other house, the mother ambling off to sit under a tree. They are quite funny.

Last night Mom told us that she had gone down to see an old couple (the Coopers) and they asked her to mail a letter, so she came home via the mail box. As she got under two big Balm-of-Gilead trees she noticed the branches waving about and thought there must be some little boys up in the tree. So she stopped underneath and called up " Come down out of there, can't you see you're breaking the branches ? " and with that much to her surprise down slid a great big black bear and started "whoofing " at her. The branches were still moving and she saw the two cubs still up the tree, so didn't wait any longer to hear more " whoofs " from the mother bear! The thing that amused her so , was that the bear came down so quickly after her scolding.

Will take this down now to the station.

Loads of love to you all.

Catherine

P.S. Am still not answering your letters, W. feel sorry that you can't find a cook but are glad to think Mary is to come back. Hope Kitty is feeling better, it is too bad she has had such a miserable time after the pneumonia, maybe the cure is worse than the disease!

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. Oct. 7, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

We are getting on and hope you too are having luck and that your new cook from Concord is the best ever. I told Pete to-night he would have made a good one with his inventions. We had lamb chops first fried and then put in on top of carrots in the pressure cooker, which sort of flavored the carrots too. Then we mashed them, the carrots not the chops. It was very good. After we finished supper we put the chop bones back in with the left over carrots, the carrot juice, some green onions and a little more water and are trying to make a bit of stock, It smells so good that we are wondering whether to start all over and have another supper!

We slipped up a bit on Saturday night and didn't leave the front door of the house up the hill open, only the back door, so when Mr Maynard came to put the floor in the bathroom he couldn't get in, all was dark and he never thought of coming here or looking for the back door. So he didn't get the floor in then and that delayed Mr Watt the plumber. However we found out this noon that some part for the heating system hadn't come yet so maybe it didn't really matter. Yesterday Cecil Philpott came and checked over all the wiring to see it was safe and then when spring comes he will do it all over when one can get the connections. He also checked the vacuum and washing machine so that was one job done. Then last night Mr Maynard started laying the tile on the bathroom floor. When he said he would work until 7.30 when he had to go up for Mickie (who he is to marry Nov. 1st.) and take them a loaf of bread at the same time. So we offered to go up for her instead, which we did and he worked right through until nearly ten. We got the bread took it to Norman Tabiteau's camp where she lives with her mother & father, We found her painting their cellar floor and the father insulating the house. Then while she changed her clothes we went to see Asta and brought Mackie back to Maynard. We were supposed to go to the Painters last night for the evening but by the time we had done all this, and Pete hadn't felt too well that morning, we decided not to go. We might just as well have for Ted Macaulay called to see Pete (We thought maybe to borrow money) but it was to ask about drawing paper, and he stayed until after 11. So we were pretty late going to bed. Whereas we could have left the Painters early perhaps!

We got the fire in the furnace started yesterday and as it has been 24 the last three mornings with a good hard white frost we really need it. Over the weekend the down draft made it gas back.

Our tea party went very well on Sunday afternoon, and Johnny came in to add greatly to the conversation. We have been rather busy with all sorts of things and at this time of year when it turns cold you rather expect you may get snowed in any time. We still have the windows to wash once more the first nice day and the leaves to rake out of the gutter as well as off the lawn. and east wind blew them the wrong direction this year. Forgot the outside taps and they froze this morning. Mr Maynard came with his blow torch to thaw them, I was washing out stockings and noticed smoke coming out of the seat near the table and was scared of fire. The force of the blow torch forced it in between cracks from bits of leaves burnt out side, but we took all the magazines out of the seat as we were afraid the dust might catch. Hard to explain but the tap is under

the window and the blow torch scorched the wall a bit. When Pete saw I had all the old magazines out he thought it a good time to sort them, so he helped and we did them all, so it turned out all right.

I forgot I stopped a fire yesterday. Was driving by a house in the car and noticed smoke coming between the warehouse and the little log house, It seemed a funny place for it to be so went around to the back and discovered a bucket of hot ashes had been left on a heavy plank walk to the coal bin at the back of the house. Smoke and tiny flames were coming out around the bottom of the bucket. I lifted it off and a great big hole was already burnt. No one was home, the door locked, so I ran to Ike Mills and got his cowboy to put out the fire with a bucket or two of water. But had I not noticed it, it might have gotten quite a start and the Warehouse belongs to the store! It is fire prevention week too!

Wednesday, It is raining hard this morning, just miserable out. Snowed a bit in the night but 40' now so it has all melted.

Have done the shopping the stores close at noon to-day and perhaps(?) I might get some letters written after lunch. That is if no one comes in. Fern was down last evening but went before 11. however it made another rather late evening for us. We are still talking of going to the coast, as soon as the Scotts get moved in, which might be by the end of the week if the plumbing part comes, or rather heating part. They have it all nicely cleaned and the furniture polished. Then we had rather hoped to get the store lease settled, It ran out last June and is just on a verbal monthly basis. We find it very hard to work with Jackie, sometimes he is so nice and then for no apparent reason finds fault with all we do, and it usually upsets Pete to have to talk to him, so we got a bright idea of having Allen Mather who is a very good business head, act as Pete's agent. Pay him a percentage of the rent collected and he would run the whole building for us. Mr Vallance is to draw up the agreements and he thought he would be living up in Banff (in the new house that Sam is building for him) by this time, but Sam is having his difficulties for the plasterers quite again saying they wanted to do the outside work while the weather stayed good and the upstairs is the only part finished so far. We are hoping that Mr Valance comes up soon so we can get the various agreements figured out. If all that is taken off our minds we will feel freer to paint.

Cliff was over again yesterday and seemed fine, quite surprised that Jackie had gone on his vacation. We were a bit provoked too, for they had a vacation last fall and spring and several days during the summer. But I told Pete it would give us all the more reason to change the lease at the store, as he isn't satisfied with the way things are run.

Then Fern came down from Sunshine where young Cliff is working to tell us how much they liked him and how well he worked but that he had had another attack of appendicitus and they were wondering if he had one in the middle of winter when they were very busy it might be very difficult, and she wondered if we would speak to him and see if perhaps he could have it out now in the slack season and be all fixed up when they need him. So it looks like another job for us!

Time for lunch now, Loads of love,

Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. Oct. 9, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

Well, we seem to be making some headway with the house. At times it goes quite fast and then a whole day or more with nothing done. Yesterday we got nowhere and it was rather discouraging. To-day the part came for the heating system so Jim Watt has been there all day working on that and started the fire just before six, he is back now putting the toilet back in. What we would do if he wasn't good enough to work evenings as well I don't know. This morning when we went over town we spotted Maynard's truck so Pete found him and he said the tile had only arrived yesterday and he would be over in the afternoon to do enough so that Jim could get the radiator in and the toilet, will come later to do the bathtub wall. We had our lunch and then went up to see how he was getting on, He had finished the floor and said he was going to do as much as he could before leaving for Calgary at three, so Pete asked if he had had lunch and he hadn't though it was two, so we made him a thermos of coffee and two sandwiches and Pete took them up, We do all we can to keep them going and after all it is good of the various men to come when they are all so busy. Pete went up to check the fire after supper and I just started to follow but heard a rustling in the trees so thought of the bears and came back home quick. Last night they were all three up the trees near the Owl Cafe and people were so interested they kept them up there, also a horrid dog barked so they didn't come down and the old Mother bear got pretty sore about it. Mom was at the Eastern Star and when she started home the Mother Bear was on Fern's lawn and ~~was~~ snorting away. Mom stopped and just then a car came along and the people told her to get in and took her home, which was nice. I don't wonder that Harold is scared to deliver the papers after dark!

Went to the Red Cross to-day for the first time, they have had an urgent call for clothing so we were all on hand, the same old crowd. Mrs Hayes went home as she can't run a machine ^{now} and there was no hand sewing. It was starting to clear after lunch and I almost stayed home to wash windows but then it clouded up and was even raining hard when I left. However I may not go regularly this winter if we get started painting. but the people are all so nice that I rather enjoy it, also it is a great place to hear the news!

Your letter just came about Gale's little dog being run over, what a shame and then losing the kittens the same day. That was hard luck. You sound awfully busy in your letters and of course from as far away as here I am apt to say " Why trouble your self with trying to see to so many things." but then you must want to say just that to us, Why should we want to be bothered to have the house up the hill put in good condition? I guess we are all just made the way we are and have to keep busy doing things that to other people might not seem important! Actually we didn't realize in what poor condition things were and nearly everything is wearing out. Of course this summer with six girls boarding upstairs and then the boys sleeping downstairs and in the tenthouse, they naturally wouldn't see to things or notice the dust gathering. Our idea is to get it in good condition now and then the Scotts can keep it in repair, little by little painting and touching up and mending. But leaks and fire hazards should be fixed first.

As Pete is still up there and not much I can do might as well go on and answer a few of your letters.

Isn't it exasperating when you get all ready for a person like Kennedy to do the painting and then he doesn't come, That's what we have happen here. but guess we are lucky to have them come at all.

Am glad to hear that the Morrisons are staying on at the Old Charming Inn and we will look them up if we ever do get out there ! Most of the places have winter rates so perhaps it was better for them to stay on.

I notice that you feel the care of the place at home and that is just what Pete's mother felt, the old house was only a worry to her and that is why she asked us if we would like to take it over, We were glad to as it is so near us and gives us control of who is in there. I think if one could get what they needed right away it wouldn't be so tiring, but it is the delay and uncertainty that is the trying part. Things should get better soon and one only has to think that they aren't living in the Old Country and be thankful we have all that we do.

The Journals come regularly now, I think it might have been the wrappers with the address that tore off.

Did I ever mention about the Boardman boy and how sorry we were not to see him, You told about their not letting him into the dining room. George Eisenshiml had the same experiance, wore dungarees and they wouldn't let him in either ! They have no sense in judging people but I guess they find it easier to draw some line and clothing is the easiest, but if they were brighter people doing it they would have looked the other way when Johnny came along!

You speak of getting tired driving, Don't you think that it is the speed that things flick by you at ? and also we all look too hard, I know I do and after all you have to keep focusing your eyes from one thing to another, If you drive very slowly it might not be as tiring, Why not try it ? I know that the drive out from Boston with all the lights give me a headache now that I am no longer used to it.

Did I tell you we have a new way of cooking fried chicken ? I get it cut up at the meat market into small pieces, then wash it well at home and put it on the rack in the pressure cooker with water in the bottom. Cook it at the pressure mark for 15 or 20 minutes (depending on age of the bird) then Pete fry's it in the frying pan in butter that has been browned a little. He put the cover on and it came out just right and so nice and juicy. You can save the chicken and fry it the next day if you like. Your peaches sounded wonderful, maybe it was all the heat this year.

I was sorry about Mildred having to give up the teaching, it must have been hard after being there so many years, I should write her. maybe to-morrow, am not bright enough to-night!

You spoke of the pain in the back of your neck, you were troubled with it when I was east last fall. Then you said that CoEb told you to take aspirin. Do you find that Doctors prescribe it more than they used to ? Mom told us that Bobby Hunter told her to take all she liked to relieve the pain in her hip which keeps her from sleeping. and Dr Riley of Calgary told Pete that to relieve the pain to take all he wanted to, it wouldn't do him any harm. We are wondering if it is because of something Tom Link's brother Karl Link discovered or invented. He was the one to discover something that would make blood clot and prevent people like the Royal family in Spain from bleeding to death. For some people's blood won't clot and they just go on bleeding. A few years ago Tom told us that Karl had found something that would make aspirin harmless (I have forgotten what it was it affected, wasn't it the heart ?) and that they would be

making it under a new name like "Aspirene" or some such thing. But perhaps the big Aspirin firms have changed their way of making it instead. It would be interesting to find out.

Another interesting thing I heard this summer from Mrs. Oliver Kaldahl from Minnesota. She told of a doctor in North or South Dakota who claims he can treat any sickness simply by massaging the spine in a certain way. Her sister went to him and he gives no more than three treatments, you sit on a stool and he even feels your back through your clothing I think, At least you don't have to undress. He cured her sinus trouble and someone went to him to fix their tonsils I think it was. He figures that all the troubles come from the nerves which are centered in the spinal column. People come from all over to him and even the wife of one of the Mayo's was cured by him. They wanted him to go to Rochester but he wouldn't leave the little place where he practices and figures if he charges more than the \$3.00 a treatment he will lose his touch. Mrs. Kaldahl said she was a bit skeptical but knows a lot of people who swear by him.

Yes, I read "Two Solitudes" by Hugh MacLennan. I thought it very good of the life in Quebec. He was out in Banff this summer giving some lectures on the writing course of something at the summer school but didn't see him myself.

We were much amused at your description of Gardner Cox's picture, Am sorry he has changed so, but perhaps he will go back to his portraits. His wife is very modern and sort of Arty so perhaps that is why he has changed a bit.

The name of the Indian Tribe that Peter Painted is "Stoney"

We have a name to our street, it is Bow Avenue. but no number. It doesn't do any good to put it on the address though, but might help if you were sending someone to see us.

Temple isn't given up. It's a long story and actually we don't know the whole truth of it. You see Sir Norman became interested in the Skiv development out there about 15 years ago and he wanted to have a lot to do with the development. He bought all the unsold shares in the company and gave Cliff a trip to Switzerland to see how things were done over there, and he was going to do wonderful things here. However this being park one has to get permission for everything through the gov't and by the time they gave him the rights to do certain things the War came along. Then when he was ready to go ahead he couldn't get his money out of England. He naturally wants the controlling interest himself. All this time Cliff has been living on the promises of what Watson was going to do. He did put in a lot of money but spent more than he put in and lots of times on things the rest of us didn't approve of, but as it was to be his development we none of us objected. Then he got a friend named Capt. Head to help him organize the thing. He came out a year ago last spring and saw all the wonderful possibilities, but by this time Cliff was nearly done in with the waiting and the delays and promises and all and though they got along well at first something must have happened and Cliff is sure Head wanted him out. We don't know just what happened, but as soon as Watson had control of the company he decided that things had to be run differently and really asked Cliff and Mamie and Lloyd and all of them but Elizabeth Rummel to leave (she was running Skoki) Cliff actually resigned before he was fired, but it is about the same thing. Then they had a long talk, he and Sir Norman, and Sir Norman asked him to go back but Cliff wouldn't if Head had anything to do with it or Elizabeth. We never have gotten to the bottom of the thing, we never saw Sir N. Watson or Head again, and didn't feel like talking to Elizabeth, a person we had always liked and trusted. It naturally was an awful blow to Cliff and I think Elizabeth now realizes some of the troubles

that Cliff was working under for she has had lots of grief this summer trying to make the place run. However as far as we know she is to operate it this winter.

Guess I had better brave the bears and see how they are getting on up at the house. You will be tired out reading all this, but it just shows how much I can write in a short time when there are no interruptions.

Loads of love

Catherine

7.5. There were no bears & found Pete just coming back. Mr Wall got the toilet in, so the Scotts can move any time. I think they are being held up by the daughter & her four boys who have been living at the skating rink all summer with them & haven't been able to find a house yet.

It's raining hard again this morning.

Banff, Alberta.
Mon. Oct, 13, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

This is Thanksgiving day in Canada but except for a few more in town for the holiday you would hardly know it. We cooked our turkey (8 pounds stuffed) Saturday afternoon, we had thought of having Mom and Cliff and Donny down but when there were several other things to see to and we met the Philipses on the street and they asked if they could come down in the evening we decided to just have it ourselves. With so much on our minds we only tore ourselves out if we do too much, &/ We might have thought of asking the Philipses but I wasn't sure when the bird would be done and you have to go to a lot more bother with people. As it was they came down about 7.30 so we were just finishing the dishes. They had only one evening in Banff and were to go to the Moores too so after seeing us we drove them down there and went in a few minutes ourselves as Pearl insisted. They had come here so early that I hadn't changed my clothes as intended.

Jim Stinson at the store in charge of the Groceries has been sick, sort of a paralizes, so Jackie being away Pete felt he should go up and see how he was. That took longer than we expected as Pete couldn't get away ! They don't know just what it is but don't think it was a stroke. We saw the doctor this morning. Then we sent Barbara and the kids a turkey as they were to have a chicken and they were so pleased that Barbara and Johnny came over to thank us especially Saturday afternoon. Then this weekend the Vallances were up and we didn't know when to expect them here. Stayed around all day yesterday which was mild but too windy to do much outside, instead I wrote letters. After lunch we had a call from Joe Kingman of Minneapolis with his fiancee from Calgary. They are to be married in December. We are very glad for Joe is terribly nice and loves the outdoors and his first wife didn't wrok out too well and is married again, their two children are quite grown up I think. about college age. So we had a nice call from Joe and the girl who he met at Skoki.

After they left Sunday afternoon we just took a run around by the Vallances house and they happened to be there and on their way down here, so brought them back to tea and he said he would be around early this morning. Which he was, by ten and we had more of a chance to talk things over. He thinks it a good idea to have Allen act as Pete's agent in looking after the store building and is going to write to Jackie and suggest he go and see Mr Vallance for he feels he can discuss things with Jackie, where we can't on account of being family. We also went over to see Allen so had a full morning of it.

Such a wind as we had last night and to-day and now it has settled in to rain. Major Jennings was just in for a call and Pete has gone to try and get a few more things done up at the house. One seems to have to keep after the plumbers and tilers. Found Mr Maynard doing a roofing job this morning while the weather was good, but said he would come down here to finish the bathroom if it rained. However he didn't show up with the raindrops. The Scotts didn't know whether or not to move to-day but with the rain and an open truck they may not.

Pete also did a lot of talking about Donny, ^{yesterday & Saturday} he was to have gone to Edmonton to play hockey for a Junior team and continue

his schooling there. We didn't think it such a good idea but Cliff and Mom thought it fine and a good opportunity and after all it wasn't really up to us to figure it out. Pete spoke to Pat Costigan the doctor here who is also a swell hockey player and has done a great deal to show the kids in Banff that you can be a good doctor and a good hockey player at the same time! He likes Donny and naturally Donny will listen to him more than to us, so evidently he told Donny his education is worth more than to play hockey right now and to make a long story short, Donny is to have a room with the Scotts ~~and~~ this winter and go to school here and play his hockey here too. They will give him his meals as well. We had suggested this at least 6 weeks ago but I tell Pete it is just about the same as bringing a sail boat into a harbor against the wind and have to tack back and forth, instead of coming right in with the breeze directly behind. as it is to talk the family around to doing things. Takes just as much longer for some reason or other. Cliff can't always concentrate and forgets and Mom gets things mixed and listens to Jackie and Cliff believing them before she would Pete. Just why I don't know but it has always been that way. So it takes infinite patience and time to bring her around.

It is raining and for a wonder Maynard has come back to finish the tiling as he couldn't finish the roof he was working on so it will be good to get that done.

Now I must look up some information to send Mr Vallance so all for now.

Loads of love

Catharine

P.S. Looks as if we might be able to plan that coast trip if nothing else happens, after all Mom can always fall and break a leg! We will have to write ahead for appointments at the dentist and for rooms but might get away before the end of October.

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. Oct. 16, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

We really seem to have gotten quite a bit done the last few days. Right now Neilsons men are cleaning our furnace with their big vacum cleaner. They were to have come last week and then appeared at Mom's yesterday and did here and the store one first, arrived here soon after eight this morning. When they have finished we will be nearly set for winter.

Tuesday was a nice mild day but a high wind. We have had a wonderful October this year and no snow as we do some years. Just those few frosty mornings but lately it has been in the 40's and 50's. I was so afraid it would turn cold before we got the storm windows off and cleaned between. We left them on all summer for they are an added protection against people breaking in if we are out of town and haven't closed the shutters. There was sort of a blue film in them so we got the downstairs ones cleaned all but the back kitchen one. Were in the midst of doing them when Bob Watt arrived to take out the pump in the basement floor. He had time to clean the drains up at the other house and turn off Mom's outside taps. As he was in the basement with Pete our Winter's coal supply arrived and I had to help Jimmie Harbidge back up to our ~~shop~~. We put big planks down and he managed to back with one of the dual wheels on each plank, otherwise it is hard on the lawn, but he was successful in the end. Pete came up and helped with the ~~shop~~, having to hold it a piece of tin in a certain way so the coal wouldn't spill while I made frequent trips to the basement to see that the coal wasn't breaking through the boards, and in the midst of it Casey Oliver who is to move into one of the apartments appeared and never having been to our house before was much interested, we told him to come down for a cup of tea someday and bring his wife, we were too busy at the moment to show him around. Well we got the coal in safely and Jimmie is one of the finest lads, a real worker though he is only about 18 and so willing and obliging and careful about the lawn and picks up all the spilled coal. The Scotts were trying to move in and we gave Mrs Scott a lift home and then during supper Lloyd Anderson came down. He had run into friends on an empty stomach and must have had a few too many beers and Cliff (who he had brought over in the afternoon) wouldn't let him drive back to Invermere that night. We gave him some supper and he was fine when he left. He was very honest about how he felt saying " to tell the truth I'm a bit woozy " and we talked about all sorts of things. He told us of the difficulties he had getting Peter to go to school and how he worried about Cliff and said he was " a Mother to both of them." Cliff had to go to Calgary again on the Ski business and once that is settled I think he will feel better.

Later - Have been over for the mail and shopping and now in a few minutes will take Cliff to the train to Golden where Lloyd will meet him. It looks like rain to-day, don't know if I will go to the Red Cross or not. Yesterday we got bedding figured out for Donny before the store closed at noon, though actually it may be another day or two before he moves in to the Scotts. He has been using sleeping bags up until now. Then in the afternoon it started to rain a bit and I was so afraid it would turn to snow and I wouldn't get the back window done. so we did it quickly in the rain, the eaves kept it from hitting the glass. Then of course it let up

and really didn't rain much the rest of the afternoon. I raked leaves and Pete hauled them away. For they get wet and then freeze to the lawn making it bad in the spring. Bob Watt came back with the cleaned pump but we think we will have to get a new one as the water has so much lime it corrods things. It is the pump that siphons the water out of the basement from the water that comes from the excess in the heating system and any that leaks in to the basement.

We asked Donny down for the last of the turkey which we made into turkey stew and then he was to go to Canmore to a wrestling match. We went up to the Wards to return some magazines but came home early as Cy Harris was there to work on plans for the next house Sam is to build.

Now I am to take Cliff to the train and the furnace ~~cleaning~~ men have gone. Took them three hours so they must have gotten quite a bit of dirt out. They did Mom's furnace and Barbaras and the store one yesterday.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
October 20, 1947.
Monday.

Dearest Mother,

I should have written you yesterday, though I wouldn't have gotten it mailed until to-day. We had a quiet Sunday and never went out. There was about an inch of snow on the ground from the night before and it didn't all melt, to-day there is more, about 3 inches, and has snowed gently all day. We are wondering if we will see the ground again until spring !

In order to try and get Pete's business things settled up we have asked Mr Vallance to help us with 'ackie, as Pete finds it impossible to discuss things with him in a reasonable way, and as Mr Vallance doesn't know very much about the family affairs we thought it a good idea to sort of compile the records and facts for him to refer to. I worked on it a little Friday and then all day yesterday, until Mrs Simpson came to call in the afternoon. We had a nice visit from her for she always has interesting stories to tell, at least she makes all she tells seem interesting. and then after supper Pete told me not to work any more on facts and figures for I guess I was getting cross ! So to-day I have finished the job pretty well.

Can't remember when I last wrote, Did I tell you I went to the Red Cross Thursday and we had a heavy rain. Felt so sorry to think that Donny hadn't moved in with the Scotts that we got his bedding up there and found him and he took his bed in in the worst shower of all ! Pete had had a very pathetic letter from his Uncle Clifford Jones in Calgary who has always looked after the family affairs and been a great help to us. He has some sort of blood clotting condition and his legs and arms are getting paralyzed and he has lost his speech, Mom was going to an oldtimers meeting Friday and to see him too, so we wrote a letter for her to take down.

Friday it looked like snow all day, we tried to find someone to help move things in the old garage and Maynard started on the roof, (maybe that is why we are having poor weather) and I worked on the notes for Vallance.

Saturday was the usual cleaning and errands. Pete has had to see about Jim Stinson who works in the store Grocery and has some sort of paralysis. Dr MacKenzie is trying to get him into the Belcher hospital in Calgary, which is the veterans hospital and as the doctors are taking over Canmore and Exshaw too they are short handed here.

We also were anxious to get fill from the excavations on the main street. the Hudson's Bay is to build a new store and a new hotel is going up on the otherside of the street. We know they like a short haul for the trucks with dirt but so many were paying the drivers to haul fill to them that we couldn't get any. Then suddenly Saturday morning they started coming, and brought a good many loads then and more to-day. Pete has had to help pull them out a couple of times with the Jeep as the earth is soft and they sink way in. We are glad of all they can bring to fill in the low spot back of our house and make a gradual slope up to the street.

Saturday night we had a small roast and Donny and Mom came down to supper, Mom going after the meal but Donny stayed and talked until after ten. He seems to like the Scotts and we hope it will be a nice home for him. We are doing all we can to encourage him to get his education and Pat Costigan is a great help for he is a wonderful hockey player, was a paratrooper doctor in the War and is a fine doctor here. Showe the boys they can play hockey as well as be andoctor.

Pete has gone to see about getting someone to go with Jim Stinson to Calgary, here he is back now, so all for this trip.

Lods of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. Oct. 22, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

Wonder did I tell you about Jim Stinson (who was the head man in the grocery department at the Store) being sick? He had sort of a paralises the day after Jackie and Florence left on their vacation, He worked two days afterwards but his hand wouldn't work and he kept dropping things. He went to the doctor but they weren't sure it was a stroke as it was mild, ^{gradual} then the doctor kept him in bed for ten days or so and took fluid off his spine to send to Edmonton for analysis but they found nothing. As he was no better the Dr arranged for him to go to the Belcher Hospital in Calgary and Pete got Jimmy Masterson who is a masseur and first aid man to go down on the train with him, and we even managed to get a compartment on the train between Banff and Calgary and all was set Monday afternoon for him to leave on the afternoon train yesterday. It mean't quite a bit of running round but we were pleased to have it all nicely arranged, even his neice worked in the Belcher and was to look out for him.

Yesterday was a most beautiful morning, clear and sparkling and lovely with about 4 inches of fresh snow, We were anxious to get the tractor to level out the fill so they could maybe bring us more and so went across where they were working. Saw Allen Mather about a letter we had written to Mr Scott, and then I stopped at the bank to get money to buy Jim' ticket and was to meet Pete at the store, he went to find out if they had gotten a compartment on the train. When I bought the groceries Allen ^{told} me that they had taken Jim to the Banff Hospital first thing that morning, he had had a cerebral hemorage and was unconscious. As soon as Pete came we went right up to the hospital to see how he was, Pete went in and just as he got there the nurse came out and when he asked for Jim, she told him he had just died that minute. It was rather a shock to all of us, for some of the staff had been up to see him the night before and he had been in such good spirits and felt so much better and was even looking forward to going to Calgary. The nurse asked if we would tell Mrs Stinson who was up at the house. She is a person who never goes out and I had never even met her. Pete had only met her when he went up to see Jim so we got Tommy Kelly who knows them better than we do to go up. But it was quite a trying day. Dr Mackenzie came in as we were eating lunch and asked if we would help her with the funeral arrangements, so Pete and Tommy Kelly and Mario went up after lunch but she said she didn't want to decide until her sister came on the bus that night. So we met the bus, with Mom and Mario there to spot the lady, as they had each seen her once. Poor lady, for some reason she didn't know Jim had died, so we never were sure whether she was coming up any way or what. But it was an awful shock to her when Mom told her Jim was gone. The neice came too from the Belcher " expecting to nurse Jim " but had he not had the hemorage he would have left for Calgary before the bus arrived. So we never did quite figure out how they got so mixed up. It is lucky though the young girl came as I imagine she would be a great help. but as Mrs Stinson has no close friends in Banff we sort of feel that we must do what we can. Tommy Kelly really can do the most as he is older and also worked for an undertaker once. Jackie really could have done it all but being away it sort of falls on Pete.

You know it is really funny how things keep happening to prevent us getting on with our own things. We don't know what to do about our trip to the coast, right now they are having a strike of bus and street car workers in Vancouver and Victoria and things are all gummed up and hotel accomodation taken by people having to move closer to their work. Then on Nov. 3rd there is a Railway strike threatened if they can't settle the thing be~~see~~ and that would really be serious, we don't want to get stranded at the coast. There was also an engineer strike on the boats threatened, and if that took place you might get stuck in Victoria. So at present we are waiting to see if the railway strike is settled. Now that it is getting late we don't feel the urge to go so much, in fact if it weren't for seeing the dentist I think we might give up the idea. The dentists here we don't like too well, the one in Calgary is old, well we will just have to wait and see.

It is Wednesday so we'll have to go overtown — never finished this yesterday. Did a bit of running around in connection with the Simpsons arrangements. Had the nurse Mrs White here here for a chat. She's very nice & a great help. Will mail this & write more tomorrow. We see they get the train to Calgary tonight. The funeral is over. It is Thursday & we have been going steady. no dishes washed since yesterday noon.

Lots of love
Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. Oct. 26, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

I really should have written the last two evenings. but I guess I just got lazy. We had a busy day Thursday with the funeral and all. Mrs Stinson telephoned Mom early in the morning and asked if we could come up, which we did, after Mom had had a bit of a talk first here while we finished breakfast, and Mrs Stinson gave us some boxes of "trinkets" for safe keeping. Then I met the neice at the funeral home (after the family went down for a few minutes as they do sometimes) and took her to the station to meet her father who was to come on the neen train from Calgary. Of course it was late and when it did arrive her little girl had come too and had no stockings and it was quite cold here, so took them to the store to get some. It was just closing for the rest of the day on account of the funeral. Then we rushed through lunch and went to the funeral home. Bill Bidgeway hadn't shown up as a pall bearer and so we went round to his house, found him still dressing and by the time he was ready and we got back, found the herse and all had gone. There was some question of whether the funeral would be at 2 or 2.30 and Bill had gotten mixed. We drove up to the church in one direction and the funeral cars were coming in the other. the other pall bearers were all there and we had just time to get into the church before the family came.

In the afternoon we wanted to be sure a car was to be at the house to take them all to the station and spent some time checking up on that. There are always odd things like that to be seen to, and then we went to the station when they all left for Calgary, as Jim is to be buried there, or was buried there, yesterday.

Friday all sorts of things seemed to happen at once. Bob Maynard came to work on the roof, the masons to see about putting a new top onto the chimney, "pointing it" they call it. I was washing a few things out and so we were late for lunch and at one sharp, the Mason came back with Bill bringing mortar and he used Bob Maynard's ladders to get up on the roof. It is an awfully steep roof and if he couldn't have used the ladders someone would have had to build a scaffold. The job wasn't a very long one, about an hour and a half. We were really awfully lucky to have Oscar, who did the stone work on the back of the house, willing to do it. At the same time trucks were still bringing fill for the low spots on the ground and one got stuck, Pete having to get the Jeep to pull him out and then Bob Watt arrived with the new pump for the basement. So everything seemed to happen at once.

Later when Oscar finished, I made some coffee and Pete asked him down. He did look funny when he took his hat off for most of him was black as a chimney sweep. each time he dropped any mortar down, the soot would rise and there was a fire in the stove anyway. His head where his hat had been was pure white. Pete gave him a bottle of beer until the coffee was finished and then he drank two cups of coffee. He is from Sweden, came to Canada in 1895 and worked on the C.P.R. at first. Before that he had been on boats and even windjammers. He got talking and though he was supposed to go to do another job he stayed for an hour and told us all sorts of interesting things about the early days, he warmed up more and more and we had a great time.

It was a nice mild day and I had intended doing the upstairs windows but of course with all that went on never did.

Yesterday was nice too, but we didn't really make the most of it. Saturday there is usually more cleaning and shopping to be done and we tried also to get a bulldozer to level the earth but the Gov't won't lend theirs anymore as the last person abused the use of it, and Brewster's is laid up being overhauled for the winter. Now Pete has an idea of using a slip and the Jeep. *fill*

Last night it rained hard but much to our surprise it has cleared off into a lovely day to-day. warm and sunny. We were outside all morning and are now going to have lunch and then maybe prune trees. Mr Scott was out picking up the shingles etc from the roofing job. Bob Maynard finished yesterday afternoon. and Mr Stiles who is now in Fern's house was picking up wood, so it looks as if we might get neighbors who keep their yards nice and neat.

What awful fires they have had in Maine and especially in Bar Harbor. If you see any pictures do send them for I am wondering just which parts burned! On our radio they told quite a bit and mentioned the Attwater Kent house and the Thorndike house having been burnt, but I can't remember which ones they were. What happened to Kennebunk? we heard Lowell Thomas one night and it sounded bad there.

All for to-day,

*Loads of Love,
Catherine*

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. Oct. 28, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

We too are having lovely weather for October, though not as hot as you are getting and the sun is pretty low at this time of year. The ark it makes in the sky is low. That is why we get so much in our kitchen in the winter but none in the summer. It gets up into the fifties each day and sometimes doesn't freeze at night, however if the wind blows it seems cool for it comes off the snow covered mountains.

Sunday was lovely, we went up the west road a little way but ~~that~~ otherwise did quite a bit of yard cleaning and pruning the spruce trees. I never cut enough off and they have grown too big, maybe next spring we can get some smaller ones to put in. I guess you know how much there is to be done around a place and we have no Pietro. We are still trying to figure how to get all the earth fill leveled off. a bull dozer would be just the thing but seeing none are available right now Pete is trying to figure how to do it with the Jeep and "a Slip" and a pulley. We got the pulley rig from Sam and a boy Ken Bunn to work the scoop thing while Pete pulls with the Jeep. If it works it will be better than horses. To-day we got the old garage cleaned out. The one that went with the other house. Mr Pellueay has been keeping his car in there and Cliff told an ex-mountie he could put his in which left little room for our Jeep when the stage coach came. By cleaning out the old furniture and odd things on one side we figure Mr. Pellueay's car can be stored at one end, giving room for the other two cars. Mac, the ex-mountie offered to help but we didn't know when would be a good time for us to do it. he works nights so sleeps all day and is rather hard to find. Anyway we got that done. Last year the snow came before we had finished doing all the outside things.

Monday we got the kitchen floor waxed and the rest of the upstairs windows done besides the odd things. and to-day I started spring cleaning the studio ready for work. It isn't too bad but just dusty in spots and cobwebs on the ceiling.

I haven't answered your letters for ages. and they have been such nice ones too. What a shame that Cousin Harriet arrived the day of the bridge club when you would have enjoyed her so any other afternoon.

Do send us any pictures of the Maine fire and then perhaps I can recognize where they were. That Bar Harbor one must have been terrible.

Yes we know who Marguerite Pearson is, she was in the advanced painting classes when we were at school and I can remember an elderly man wheeling her in, think it was her father but I don't know. It was in the old school. It is wonderful to think that she paints so well.

That was a nice letter from Miss Evelyn Morrison from Victoria. ~~So~~ The other day Mr Lonsdale, the United Church minister, spoke to us and said that he met some friends of ours in Victoria and without his saying more I said "the Miss Morrisons" and he said "yes," he too was staying at the Old Charming Inn and was sorry that he hadn't met them until near the end of his visit. but they seemed to be enjoying their stay there. If we do go out we will certainly look them up.

It is now Wednesday and I had better end this letter and get it in the mail. We had rather a busy morning. Arranged for the car to be serviced (there is a sound in the motor that needs fixing) and took it down later. Went to Allen's and borrowed a scraper and have spoken to a boy to help Pete level the dirt. Also got hold of Bill Ridgway and went up to the Gov't office and got the money from the Veterans Land Act to pay off the loan we made to Bill. So did quite a bit.

Loads of love,

Catherine -

Banff, Alberta.
Thursday, Oct 30, 1947

Dearest Mother,

This was Red Cross day to-day and as I missed last week thought I'd better make it this. Am afraid that I go mostly to see the others and hear the news of town, for one always picks up a little. However most of them seemed to be casualties. Edmee was home having just had an impacted wisdom tooth out, Pearl had gone to Calgary to have a tiny cyst removed from her eye and Ella was late having been to the doctor to have a couple of stitches taken out of a bump on her neck. Mrs Macauley and Cis Ward were on hand and we made children's pajamas. All the things now are children's clothes for Europe or England.

The weather is still quite nice, much like November in the east, but one feels warm outside working, though a wind is chilly. Yesterday we spent quite a bit of time figuring the leveling of the piles of earth. Got a scraper from Allen and then Pete took a look at the scraper and the earth and tried to figure if he could find out where Bud Jewel who lived on the prairie and see if by any chance he might come up if we could find enough other work for him to do. He was excavating here this summer and was the one who leveled our first bit of earth. He tried to telephone him and then by chance found that he was to be working in Seebe for Claude Brewster, so saw Claude and now we are waiting for Claude to find out if he will come up. Pete has several jobs lined up already if he can come. Then he came back and I went with him up to Deer St. to where the Veterans are building their new houses to see if they needed any work done. Saw Bill Jamieson and was shown his house and his piles of earth and he said he was to get the Gov't tractor as the vets could get it. So Pete began to think that after all he was a vet too and we might get that bulldozer to do our work. However it is not very certain how soon it will be available and a good many are ahead of us on the list, so if we still can get Bud Jewel to come up we might, he is such a good cat driver.

We are much interested in what Russ and Kitty are doing back of their house, couldn't you draw us a bit of a plan to give us an idea. It must be that swampy ground or is it over the other way towards Georgees?

F.M. AM. Cliff was over again from Invermere, still trying to settle up the Ski business, I can't see why they are so slow but then we don't know all the details of the affairs, preferring to stay out of any mixup but my curiosity is sometimes great. He telephoned Calgary but didn't go down and went home again yesterday. We can't see why he doesn't telephone from Invermere but perhaps he wanted to see Jackie too. We didn't have a chance to talk much so don't know how things are going.

I was going to finish cleaning the studio this morning but we slept in late for some reason. perhaps because we went up to bed at 9.30 last night and read! but now it seems better to go over to the bank and whatnot now and clean after lunch. That is one trouble I find, to go over town one can't have too many runs in ones stockings or a dusty face, and to clean one can't wear ones best stockings or I am sure to get runs, and so often there is some matter that just has to be attended to.

I intended writing you a real letter last night but then Pete thought he might write to Dave Baker in Ottawa, a letter he has owed for a month at least, so the chance of getting it done wastoo good to miss . Pete is awfully good at dictating to me and then I type it for him.

Here he is back to take me over town, not that I couldn't walk, but he is going too.

Loads of love

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Nov. 3, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

We had a nice day yesterday for Sunday and to-day started out fine, though the sun hasn't much heat in it at this time of year. Seems funny to think what warm weather you are having. To-night it is snowing a bit and we are always wondering if winter is setting in or not. Usually we can tell when a big storm is coming as the deer come in near town and lie down the previous day as if they were resting up.

I got three letters from you to-day, pretty good! I guess it was maybe because of the weekend. Anyway they were nice to have. Our Geographic came, did you notice that the first article "Exploring Ottawa" is by Bruce Hutchinson who wrote "the Unknown Country"? we met him once in Victoria. It is the November issue. Pete is reading it now, he was the one who noticed it for I seldom read the articles but like the pictures.

Spent a good deal of yesterday writing Pete's Uncle Clifford in Calgary. He has something he calls "blood clotting" which has paralyzed his legs and arms and he has lost his voice as well. For such an active man as he has always been it is hard. He has been so wonderful in giving us advice about things and has looked after all the family things for us, to do with the changes in the property etc. He was one of the first school teachers in Banff and has practised longer than any other lawyer in Alberta. He still goes to his office for two hours a week. But it is sad to have him end his days like this.

Those were nice letters you enclosed. Was interested to hear all about Mrs Mayor's family, too bad you couldn't have gotten down to Annisquam to see her last summer. She must be getting older too, I'll bet she is even smarter for her age than Mrs Hyatt was, after all Mrs Hyatt sat in a chair and was waited on by all members, as we remember her.

Nice to hear from Sam again. I got a nice letter the other day and must answer it and tell him about the summer school. Also I should write to Uncle Marshall. I just thought, Florence is very much like Ella Renwick who goes to the Red Cross ^{in Banff} they might be sisters and both are nurses.

The clippings of the fires haven't arrived yet but most likely will be along soon. Am glad you have rain at last.

Am so glad that Mary is back with you, I liked her so much and do give her my best wishes and to Minnie too, How is she feeling? It is nice that you have a cook at last and one that likes to cook. Our sugar and molasses went off rationing to-day and the meat packers strike is over too. Only the street cars and buses at the coast are still tied up.

Did I ever comment on your trip with Cousin Jane and Mrs Loring when the color was so nice and you went by the brook where we stopped that time and as you said Pete behaved so badly wanting to find out what the people were cooking, I had forgotten but Pete hadn't, they were potatoes he said. We were amused by your remarking on the stove in the place where you had supper. I don't blame you at all for not knowing what the thing was. They call them "Jute Boxes" It was

a long time before I knew what a Jute box was. You put money in and punch a certain button for the tune you want I think.

I hope that Rusty is all right again, must have been a bad cut.

Wasn't it wonderful the Friends Society getting the Nobel Peace prize ?

Quite a time Cousin Harriet had getting caught in the elevator. She certainly is spry for one her age. It is nice that she can have Tom staying with her.

Am sending you a couple of clippings, one about the wedding presents of Princess Elizabeth I thought Jean might be interested. Did I tell you that we had a letter from Lady Jean Rankin who came out on her honeymoon to Skoki and were the first real guests when we took it over and we visited them later in Stranraar at Lochinch Castle. Jean will remember. for we went from Edinburgh. Lady Jean said she has a new job, being one of the Ladies in Waiting to the Queen. They do a lot of letter writing etc and she said she liked it as she met so many interesting people, but they work very hard. ~~are~~ She also said " they are ~~so~~ wonderful to work for " She goes I think for two weeks every two months or something like that but it must be fun at this time, with all the wedding excitement.

Bed time and I don't seem to write very much.

Loads of love, *Catherine*.

P.S. Do you think you could get us some of those lovely Alpine calenders at the Concord Bookshop. Would four be too many ? One for us, one for the Swiss Guides and two to give to others. We can't seem to get them here.

Banff, Alberta.
Fri. Nov. 7, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

It is beginning to seem like winter, snowed a few days ago and hasn't melted a flake since though to-day it may, as it is milder. We have had it zero already and 6 above yesterday morning. The other evening, Wednesday we were over mailing a letter and taking books to Mr Walker who is sick and stopped to watch a wonderful steam shovel at work digging Cyril Paris excavation for his new house. It took less than a day and it was fascinating to watch the thing work. The man is an expert operator and can make the shovel thing do about anything. However it was cold standing on the snow and as we drove in the ~~yard~~ yard about sunset time The house looked so cozy and warm and I said to Pete it was a nice feeling to come back to a nice warm house that felt good to get in side of. We no longer have any urge to go away and it will take some effort to even get to Calgary to the dentist !

About Christmas, am awfully sorry to disappoint you but we really can't make it this year. We appreciate the invitation and we know how much it would mean to you and Jean to have us there, and in fact we would enjoy being there ourselves an ~~awful~~ awful lot, but I know it is wiser if we stay home for a few months until Pete really feels better and until we get all our affairs figured out and settled up. It has been such an upsetting year for the whole family and couldn't help but affect us too. Pete is really beginning to feel better than he has since last spring and it would be too bad to have him set back again.

There has been so much that we have wanted to do and somehow we didn't seem to make any headway, but lately the more we have gotten done the more we have felt like doing, which I think it is often the case, and also we haven't had nearly as many people dropping in, though yesterday while I was at Red Cross and Pete trying to clean the workshop Marguerite Orr came round to find out about an apartment for a friend next summer and that rather interrupted his job. The other day we started cleaning the dark room which is always quite a job as there is old chemical etc. as well as all the things we have just put out of the way in there. Pete wants to build around the sink and put up a few more shelves.

The fire clippings came yesterday and now I have a better idea which part of the island burned, it must have been over the other side where we didn't go very often on the road from Bar Harbor to Ellsworth and in there. It does seem awful to think of so many house being destroyed.

What an awkward time you had with Tom Bosworth about Cousin Harriet, We think you were very smart the way you handled it asking Ebbs a bit first and then having George there. I never knew Tom but had sort of an idea that he had improved since he was in the army and that it was nice for Cousin Harriet to have one of her own family with her, but what a shame if he is going to act like that. Poor Cousin Harriet!

That was interesting about the Hay Fever pills, wonder would they help Florence Phinney at all ? I get small sneezing spells that invariably start with my eye being itchy, which I rub without thinkig and then start sneezing and all stuff up, but it only lasts a short time and isn't ~~hex~~ very often anyway.

Not much of a letter but it is getting near lunnh time and then we are going to start moving clothing about. Shift a section of these drawers now in the big bedroom, under the eve by the fire place in the little room for Pete's cloths and then empty the little temporary unpainted bureau we has used for the last ten years(!) and give it to Donny to use up at the other house. Then I must stow away the extra things. Pete has just gotten a new catch to be put on the bedroom storm window. and also has the shelves to put up.

We think maybe that we can get the bulldozer to level the earth fill for us next week. Found out that the Gov't Wontt lend their bulldozer after all, We were told that before but then a Vet said he was getting it to do work for him and oher vets. But it won't matter now we can get Bud 'ewels.

All for now. Loads of love to all

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. Nov. 9, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

Just thought I would start a new letter and tell you the amusing time we had last night. Mom asked us to dinner so we didn't have any meal to cook and spent the day doing other things. Pete putting up a shelf in the dark room and we also saw Allen about a few things etc. Had a nice supper at Mom's, a most delicious pot roast and after talking a bit came home to read the paper and have a quiet evening. Pete had closed the gate and fixed the furnace and put on slippers and we were on the verge of going to bed after nine, for I had a bit of a headache, when there was a knock on the door. "Pete went and I could hear him say something about "not knowing you, and "couldn't you come to-morrow?" and then, "yes I remember you," but still he didn't sound very cordial, and then he said that we were just going to bed as I didn't feel very well, and I figured from all the men's voices that it was a crowd from Calgary feeling pretty gay and coming to see us before the Saturday dance, or just up for the weekend. However they all came in, five of them, The only one I knew being Harold Waterhouse who used to be a mountie and now lives in Banff and is a partner in the Rocky Mt. Tours. The other men were all large in city clothes, except for a thin lad in army clothes, who looked familiar but who I couldn't place (turned out he was the driver) The most important looking man was introduced as Honorable Paul Martin, (I thought he must be a member of parliament from some Calgary riding) and then Percy Moore, who was very fat and jolly and used to drive for Brewsters when Pete and Bobby Hunter drove for them, and the other stranger I never did get the name of.

They all came in, and the house and I never looked much worse, Having had a bit of a headache all day I hadn't even picked up things, far less dusted, and there were the usual books and newspapers and magazines strewn about, the desk covered with mail etc. for I had helped Pete put up the shelf and dusted the things as he put them in place (knowing he wouldn't bother if I didn't) instead of tidying the desk top. Then there was underwear being mended and goodness knows what else about. I was still wearing an old white blouse with the lowest button off, and the skirt that is getting very thin and which no blouse will stay tucked into, and the sweater you gave me, as I had been chilly and didn't dare take it off later in case I came apart in the middle while they were here, my stockings had a few runs and more before they left, and my hair was, I am sure, straggly in the back.

Anyway in they all came and I thought of course that it was Percy Moore who had come to see Pete and just brought them along, but no it was the member of parliament evidently wanting to see Pete's pictures. and it turned out that he is the Minister of Health and Welfare in Mackenzie's King's Cabinet! When Pete went to the door and this perfect stranger said to him "I am Paul Martin, the minister of Health and Welfare and want to see some of your pictures." Pete thought he was kidding. and still didn't know what to make of it all until he heard the others all speaking to him as the "Honorable Minister!"

It seems that they have been on an inspection trip for the Gov't, to all the Indian hospitals and to do with T.B. and Percy Moore is his assistant and in charge of the welfare for the Indians. Pete and I have both heard the name a lot of Paul Martin, but hardly expected him to turn up here at nine at night! They all liked the house

and the first remark Paul Martin made was " what a beautiful room." he looked very carefully at all the pictures and then wanted to see some of the sketches of places he knew, so I was running up and downstairs my hair flying and my stockings running when I leaned over to put the sketches in the frames. At first the "honorable minister" was a bit stiff but he soon loosened up and after a while was down on the floor on his hands and knees getting a better look at the sketches, called Pete by his first name and really seemed to enjoy himself. ended by buying a sketch of the Glacier at the Columbia Icefields which reminded him of the time he and his wife were there. and when he left he asked if he could bring her here when he comes again next spring. They stayed until after ten and he told us stories about a portrait that Windham Lewis painted of his wife. "Have you ever heard of him", he must be an awful sort, came over from England during the war and this man was a lawyer and helped him in some case but Mr Lewis didn't have enough money and Martin said perhaps he would paint a portrait of his wife, though the law fees were less, he would pay the difference. So the portrait was started and then Martin had to go to England on business and when he came back it was finished, but his wife was almost having a nervous breakdown. It seems that she is very happy-go-lucky and Windham Lewis had told her his philosophy of life which is pretty terrible and it had so upset her that it showed in the portrait. Martin said it was a beautiful painting in color and all but the expression on her face was one of hate, Mr Lewis wouldn't sign the picture without getting more money than first agreed on, and his wife refuses to sit any more ^{and he doesn't want her to} under the circumstances, so he now has an unsigned portrait he can't bare to look at because of the expression on his wife's face, and he doesn't know what to do about it.

We both had a good laugh when the evening was over but it was rather nice that he bought a sketch, now Pete has a frame to make as he liked the plain wooden one so much. and it wasn't until Martin wrote down his address that I realized who he was! After all it isn't every day we get Cabinet ministers dropping in!

Donny and a friend just walked by, hockey stick and skates over their shoulders, the first skating of the season for them. We went out for a ride this afternoon in the Jeep. up the west road where we saw two muskrats sitting on the edge of the ice looking like balls of fur, and then up to Norquay to see the brush they have been clearing and when we came back to the house there was a coyote on our front lawn.

Nearly time for supper and as Davy is here I am not writing very easily, too much commotion I guess.

Loads of love to all

Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.

Wed. Nov. 12, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

We are having rather typical November weather, rather dull and a bit of snow in the air but not enough to pile up. We still have a couple of inches.

At last we have the piles of dirt at the back of the house leveled out. It seems to be the same with most everything, you spend a little time every day seeing this person and that person and nothing happens and then all at once the job is done, with the greatest of ease! Monday morning bright and early a big yellow tractor drove in the yard, it was Brewsters, they had said they would try and do our job three weeks ago before the tractor was overhauled, but we knew many were trying to get them and didn't dare depend on them, so while the driver leveled out two or three loads of earth over between us and Barbara, Pete telephoned Claude Brewster to see if Bud Jewel was really coming up and Calude said he had coming that morning from Seebe, so having made arrangements to get him we didn't like to go back on it, but hated to see the tractor leave. Then we waited all afternoon and no sign of Jewel and when Pete spoke to Claude again he said there was so much work for Bud Jewel that we could have let the others do it. However we are glad now we waited for yesterday morning Bud Jewel came around to look the job over, but it's being Armistice Day he decided not to work until afternoon with the ceremony at the cenetaph etc. At one we could hear the motor and he worked until about 4.30 on the fill back of the house, It was wonderful to watch him for he is an expert, When he had leveled it pretty well he got his truck driver who happened to show up just then to stand on a heavy plank he dragged behind and it smoothed the whole thing off nicely. It snowed off and on and was miserable out so about 8.30 I made some coffee and put it in a thermos and I guess he liked it for he seemed pleased and his man had some too, then he went to work about five at Luxton's and was there until seven. It is a great improvement for the depression at the back is all a gentle slope up to the lawn beside the old house and we think maybe Mr Scott will want to make a garden, there is still one corner to fill in and Bud Jewel said he would get some more fill for that.

I have been trying to make some pajamas for Pete, as it is so hard to get any that are the right stuff and they had some nice flannel in the store which Ella Renwick made some out of and thought fine, she lent me a pattern which said was a bit large. Well I started to cut two pairs out yesterday, never having made anything from a pattern like that before and being so afraid I would make a mistake. I doubled the material first and it came out exactly right, the only fault being in one part of the material that I didn't notice as it was underneath, But it had a notice to allow an extra $\frac{1}{4}$ yd for the flaw, and I have the flaw right in the seat of one leg, well its too late now to do anything about it ! I have stitched up pajamas at the Red Cross but always someone says how this and that should go so this afternoon I had quite a time figuring the flys to getthem right. I managed and brought them in to show Pete how smart I was. He looked as I help them up and I had to laugh when he reamarked that it looked as if we could both get in to them. They do reach from under my chin to my ankles.

together

I still have the seams to turn up and they might shrink a bit, we hope so!

It is now Thursday and Red Cross, Sam and Cis dropped in last night, they had been to see someone else who was out and so came around here, I am glad they did for the sewing machine hadn't been working just right and Cis fixed it, I had tried everything I could think of and it was the needle in wrong way round and also the needle is too small for the thread, I didn't realize a little thing like that would ball things up.

We have been having a few more truck loads of earth this morning there wasn't enough to fill one corner way over by the next lot and so Bud Jekel said he would send some over from a loading job, which he did and then will come later to level it for us. Eight loads are in already.

This isn't much of a letter and I don't answer yours very well either. I don't remember your sending us a photograph of the children at York Beach, you sent one of Mrs Harris, Virginia and Mildred and you but unless a snap got caught in an envelope we haven't seen one, However I will have a look through some of the unanswered letters to make sure.

This is Russell's birthday to-day, I wrote him a letter which I hope reaches him in time and the very next mail one came from him, a business one which I will answer this weekend. We are slowly getting caught up, though I don't expect we will ever finish all we want to do. Pete made the frame for the sketch for Paul Martin. Luckily we picked a sketch that Pete didn't mind letting him have as we can go back to the spot another summer. It was an old one of the Icefields we did on the one trip we made up there. Pete is feeling increasingly better and more settled and like doing things. Jackie was rather upset by the change we wanted to make in running the store building, and then I guess Florence showed him that he shouldn't mind giving up the letting of the suites when they couldn't make it pay. Anyway he has been more reasonable lately. He is so like Davy that it's funny, or visa versa, and we understand him better now that we can see how Davy reacts. They are both apt to get huffy and like to be important. If Jackie is in one of his poor moods you are best to just wait until the next day when he is sweet as can be and I think sorry that he acted the way he did the day previously and tries to make up for it, but you never quite know how you stand.

Better get going, so all for now and lots of love to you all, Am quite sure we won't be able to get east this Christmas but are hoping to maybe see the tulips!

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
November 14, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

It is rather wintry out to-night, was snowing lightly off and on all day and yesterday but so fine that there is still only two or three inches on the ground. Had plans to do all sorts of things to-day, clean out cupboards and sort clothes etc. but didn't do any of them except to write to Russ, to answer his first letter, still have his second one that came today to reply to. We decided to go over town first, to the bank for money, to see about stair carpets for the Scotts etc. Cliff was over again and down to see us yesterday, left this noon, We saw Mario and he came over to speak to Pete about continueing as Janitor at the store. and before we knew it the morning was gone, Oh yes we wrote a letter to Mr Vallance, business, and Pete made an appointment at Jimmy Masterson to have him loosen a tendon in his back that has been bothering him. This was all before lunch. During lunch we listened to the news and heard of the sudden death of Maj. Jennings who was superintendent here for 15 years and just retired last year. He called on us about a month ago, was a fine man but his wife and daughter just wore him out, both sort of neurotic. So then we had a note to write and decided to send some flowers, Before we went Mrs Jewel called, the wife of Bud Jewel who does the tractor work and she liked the pictures and the house and stayed about 20 minutes. She had come with the bill. This is the way our afternoon went. We went over to order the flowers, mail a letter, get the mail and meat for supper and then it was after three by that time, too late to start cleaning cupboards, so I wrote Russ and Pete finished a picture frame, Not a very exciting day. Some ~~times~~ one can't plan ahead.

Yesterday was Red Cross and Cliff was down for a while in the morning, He seems much better but is awfully vague and forgetful, but perhaps he will get over that in time.

Now to answer a few of your recent letters !

I don't think your handwriting is ever very bad, but am sorry if you find it hard to hold a pen. Your writing is really wonderful we think.

That was a nice letter of Mildreds, She does manage to do so much and keep such an interest in everything. The box you sent her sounded fun, wonder what was in it ? By the way I have saved all the Princess Elizabeth wedding clippings to send Jean and forgot to mail them this afternoon. I think they are rather interesting, all the details. Will you listen to the broadcast? it is 4 A.M.our time 6 A.M.yours I guess. but expect we will set the alarm as we do at Christmas.

It is too bad about Mrs Motte, and what a worry to her sisters too, though they haven't the care the way Edna and Maurice have. How hard it is for a person so bright and active as she always was to become the way she is now.

Cliff has moved across the Rocky Mountains into the Windermere Valley on the other side which is in British Columbia. It is about 105 miles by car when the road is open, but to get there by train one has to go to Golden, spend the night and take the stage (a car or bus) about three or four hours to Invermere. He is two miles from Invermere. where the school is. Peter goes with the

neighbors children, there are ten in the family and one boy his age which is nice. Donny seems happy here with the Scotts. He is 16 now and might be away at school and young Cliff quit school two years ago so is working anyway. However he is talking of going back to school next year.

I think I told you the Bar Harbor fire clippings came, thanks so much. Did the fire ever reach Northeast Harbor I wonder. or Seal? I guess not for after all they would have to cross the mountains.

Did you tell Florence about the new thing to help Hay Fever, Guess maybe I asked you that before.

See in the Journal that Mrs Tracy is back in Concord, how awfully nice for you all. Don't you think that you make your friends where you live most of your life and when she went back to Montana with no job to keep her busy she must have found it sort of dull and strange. After all she knew lots of people in Concord and was in the thick of things so to speak, people coming and going all day and even if she didn't talk much she could listen a lot. Give her my best and tell her I hope to see her when next in Concord.

You know we mentioned, or you did, about giving and lending money. The other night over the radio Edward R. Murrow the commentator who used to speak from London during the war "This is London" ended his nightly program as he always does by quoting something someone else has said, and this time it was Sir Philip Gibbs who said "It is better to give than to lend and it costs just about the same." This was appropo of the Marshall plan but thought it very good. I think Jean would like the program for he is so good, it is 15 minutes of news and then his opinion too. We get it at 10.45 that would be 8.45 for you in the evening, I think C.B.S.

Thank you for the stamps of Mr Hepburns. We think they are really lovely ones, a nice color too. Am tempted to send one to the person who wrote the article in Canadian Art, though I haven't read it all yet.

Thanks too for drawing the plan of the pond, how is it coming on? Our landscaping sounds small in comparison. There are lots of trees we would like taken out but don't know when we will get round to it and after all standing they aren't in the way, as they would be lying on the ground.

I think that was awfully nice what Rustie said about you to Mr Twitcell and its quite true.

That was an interesting letter that Jack Macleod sent you. I must send some of the ones we get in thanks for parcels we send. Not this letter but soon.

That was sad about Miss Publicovers brother, how nice she had that visit with him a few summers ago.

Am glad you liked Bunny Brooks pictures.

You asked if I remembered Grandpa's friend Howard Mansfield, yes I do. Nice that his step daughter came to see you.

How is your needlepoint coming along? and what have you underway? am afraid my pajamas are not in the class of needlework, but they are rather fun.

It is bedtime so guess we will go up and read a bit.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
November 18, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

A nice letter from you this morning all about Russell's birthday. Are steaks ^{so} hard to get ~~still~~ in the east? I can imagine the fun he had carving it and the pretended fuss. Wonder did my Air Mail reach Concord in time, for I wrote him a birthday letter?

We are so glad to hear that he has a Jeep, and how did you enjoy your ride? Lots of people wonder if we don't find it cold and bumpy in ours in the winter but I always think it is more fun than a car and invariably gives one the feeling of having been on a lark. There is so much one can use one for, especially if you have a power take off in connection. It is a motor thing that goes on the back I think, some arrangement that one can attach all sorts of machinery to and the engine of the Jeep will then give the power for cutting wood, spraying trees, painting houses etc. We haven't that on ours as we wouldn't use it enough but for the farm it would be fine, you also can have a blade put on and use the thing for clearing snow. I will tell Russ in my letter to him (have one more to write yet, though I have sent two already) such things as getting chains for all four wheels and it will pull better in deep snow.

This week I thought would be a good one for doing things but am not so sure now. Yesterday was Major Jennings funeral at two o'clock and we felt we should go. He was superintendent here for 15 years and died suddenly on Saturday. That meant we did things in the morning over town and then luckily it cleared a bit and was quite sunny and nice in the afternoon, clouding in after the ceremony/ The church was full, a lot standing outside and the service quite long, then we all went to the cemetery as well. Pete had an appointment at Jimmy Masterson for the tendon in his back that was bothering him, it is ever so much better already, but he may go once more. I wrote to Russ answering two of his questions about the Concord Property and then it was soon supper time. We had an early supper and then went over to the Mount Royal to see the Moores having promised to sometime soon, Went soon after 7 o'clock thinking to come home earlier but ran into Fern so went up to her room first, then listened with Dell in the room next to Mackenzie /King from London about the new trade pacts, and then Fern went with us to the Moores, we were almost ready to leave when Edmee came in and so it was after 11 when we got home.

The Colonel is writing a book on the early fur traders. and read us bits about how to pick the right kind of dogs and horses to eat. Wild horses are stringy and not very tasty but domestic horses are very tender and nice so they wrote. He also read how they died porcupine quills in the early days etc. They told a story on the Col. The night of Armistice day they were invited to Mrs Wellman's for supper, Col Moore had had on a dark blue serge suit for the ceremony and when they started for supper he went to the cupboard and put on the wrong coat which Pearl noticed at once for it was singled breasted not double. So he changed to a double breasted one and they went on up to Mrs Wellmans, after they had been there awhile Pearl suddenly noticed that his coat had a silk collar and he had grabbed his dress suit coat which he hasn't worn for years but had brought up town to have fixed. Mrs Wellman said she had thought it funny he had dressed up so ^{much}.

his trousers were dark blue. They have been kidding him ever since.

Maybe when we do go to visit you next you will have to pay our way for again we are being restricted on the use of dollars for travelling, and now can get only \$150. for a whole year. It had been \$500. until to-day. No more American cars can be imported for a while etc. etc.

Sunday we had the most beautiful winter day, went for a drive out by Minnewanka in the morning and it was lovely, the light so very clear and bright. It was so nice that we went up the west road in the afternoon and kept going until we got to Castle Mt. Then went a little way up the new road that goes to the Windermere. The original road was built in 1914 and is all twists and turns, they have started the new one this fall and it cuts right through will be fine when finished. Fern said last night that the old road cost \$5000. a mile this one \$45,000. a mile. so every mile they can cut out the better from both the driving and the financial angle.

To-morrow is to be open house at the new Superintendents house, everyone is invited and Mom is to pour tea, I am to take Mrs Scott. I don't expect everyone will go but it is allright to. Actually Dorothy Hutchison asked me on the street to come. but she didn't send invitations in case she left someone out. Now I have to wash my hair because it doesn't look very well, so every day is getting interrupted. Then Thursday Red Cross and if I am lucky and get an appointment will go to Calgary on Friday to the dentist.

Better get started I guess, Pete has been working on a Christmas card, if he finishes it it should be good.

Loads of love,

Catharine

That Casa Loma is in Toronto not Ottawa which
Bruce Hutchinson wrote about.

Banff, Alberta.
November 20, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

Princess ~~Queen~~ Elizabeth's wedding day ! Did you and Jean listen to the broadcast ? We set the alarm for 4 A.M. and woke up just right. Our broadcast was the B.B.C. one from London and really quite wonderful, later we heard the C.B.S. broadcast but didn't care for the commentators as much as the British one's, I think partly because you couldn't help but feel the suppressed excitement of the Englishmen, Edward R. Murrow was good and really managed to say more than the B.B.C. man during the ceremony, but it wasn't as clear over the American one. We could hear every word even the words to the hymns. and then they were awfully good at Buckingham Palace when the various coaches left and returned, and also at other points on the route.

Did you happen to hear the bit about the royalty leaving ~~the~~ Westminster Abbey, They were standing at the edge of the canopy waiting for their cars I guess to go to the Palace and the man telling us about the various celebrities mentioned the boy king of Iraq who had just come out and was dressed in a dark blue suit and suddenly he said " there is a London Bobby beckoning to him, trying to get out of the way of the guests, He evidently thinks he is just a boy from the crowd who has gotten out of line and in the way, he doesn't realize who it is, that he is the young King of Iraq, the Bobby has made him move over, and the boy obeyed very nicely, Wonder what the Bobby will feel like when he finds out who he is." Then at Buckingham Palace while they were all waiting for the bride etc to return the crowds were much amused by a young man who in order to see things better started to climb one of the Standards, by the time he got to the top and had a nice vantage point two policeman spotted him, shinnied up the pole after him, but couldn't make him come down, he kept running around the lights (We couldn't quite figure what the thing was like, maybe an arch way or the gate) anyway before they caught him he crossed over to another standard and a bobby shinnied up that. The young man was too quick for them and somehow slid down quicker than the police and was lost in the crowd, they never did find him.

Expect there will be rebroadcasts this evening so won't write much more, but I have an appointment at 2 in Calgary to-morrow and so will be gone all day. For a while to-day when it was very dull cold and snowing and later blowing from the east I wondered should I go to-night but it seemed to lift as I came home from the Red Cross and the newspaper was on time so guess the roads aren't too bad. *and so will try the 8 AM bus in the morning, returning on the 4:45 one at night.*

Yesterday went to the At Home at the Superintendents house, It was one of the nicest parties I have been to, Pearl stood at the front door as the people came in and introduced them to Dorothy Hutchison, she is a real old timer herself but has been away from here so long she naturally doesn't know many, and I guess at times ~~was~~ Pearl was stuck, Then after leaving our coats upstairs we went through the living room into the dining room by the tea tables, two were pouring, Mom being one when we got there. Several girls like Fern and Better Walker were passing the sandwiches and getting people tea and it was all very informal and somehow the place and

the way it was all done made everyone feel at home. I took Mrs Scott with me and think she enjoyed it, she knew quite a few and I had a chance to introduce her to Miss Gratz the principal of the high school, on account of Donny.

Will write perhaps on Sunday. "ext week I guess will be Thanksgiving, Give my love to them all and Pete's too. Wish we could drop in and just make it an even thirty for you. Won't that be one of your largest Thanksgivings? I know it will be lovely and nice to have all the family. The dinner at the Country Club is the evening before I think the clipping said, so expect all the MacCouches will be with you too. Hope they don't all sleep in Thanksgiving morning but then I am sure they will still do justice to the food. Give my love to Minnie too, she was so good to me last fall trying to do all the things until Jean came back.
Loads of love to you all

^{Catherine}
P.S. As entertainment Russ should take the various guests for rides in the Jeep. I bet the older Mases would enjoy it as much as the youngest Palmers. The same with the Newlunys.

another P.S. Heard on our radio that Gov. Bradford "the descendent of the 1st Governor Bradford of Mass (who was the first to start Thanksgiving in the states)" has suggested that this year each family give a certain amount of overseas food parcels as if they had another guest at the table Thanksgiving. How about you sending him what Pete & I would have eaten & maybe John Edward and his family? He might be interested to hear it was broadcast on C.F.C.W. news, the radio station in Calgary.

am off for Calgary. clear & cold today.

Banff, Alberta.
Mon. Nov. 24, 1947;

Dearest MÖhher,

A nice letter from you this morning and with the picture of the children at York Beach, I will look in the desk drawer for the others, if I haven't already sent them back. Rustie has grown much plumper I think. My desk drawer is a nice long ~~one~~ that just holds letters on end as in a file, the only trouble is that at present the drawer is crammed and it will take me some time to sort them all out, perhaps this evening I can get at it!

Had rather a good day in Calgary, It was a perfect day as to weather, 3 below when we left at 8 o'clock, Webby who is the telegraphist in Banff, has been for years, sat with me going down, I saved a seat coming back but she didn't make the first bus and because of the number of people they ran two buses to Cochrane and then she joined me there. You always feel as if you knew a person quite well after so many hours together. We got down a little after 11 which gave me until quarter of five to shop, There was lots of snow from Exshaw down, more than here and you couldn't see any bare ground all the way. There was even six inches of snow on the trees as we came out of the mountains, but it was awfully pretty. There are lots of new houses since we were last down. One or two at Canmore, a few near the lime Kill and at Exshaw a lot of building as they are enlarging the plant, square cement houses with flat roofs, probably for two or four families, But to me they looked too much like city houses. Then out side Calgary a lot of new little places building up, even out on the prairie where I guess the land is cheaper.

I usually have lunch right after getting in at 11.30 in the Tea Kettle Inn where I can brush my teeth afterwards, and as I was looking for a seat, Mrs Mac waved to me. I didn't know that she was back from Toronto where she had been with Mary when her 2nd child was born, actually the child came a month early for Mrs Mac had to go unexpectedly. There was a lot to chat about, she wants to sell her house here and build on a quarter section she has bought near the Ghost river dam.

Then I did all sorts of errands, Was going to send another lot of parcels over seas and just happened to go into the meat part first and there were rolled ^{hams} for shipment overseas so I decided to send those instead for a change. You could bake ~~7~~ them or fry them in slices or whatever you like. To-day I went into Mrs Rounds for a minute and they had just had a letter from their family overseas who they had sent a ham to and the lady writing said that ~~they~~ they could imagine the shock it was to see the ham when they hadn't seen such a thing since 1940. So hope mine get there allright.

Went to the dentist at 2 which was about the time I was glad to sit down and then after that did a few more errands. Had a high tea before coming back and was home before 8. Have to go down again this Thursday and Pete has an appointment too the same day.

Saturday ~~Friday~~ I felt the effects of the trip for it is quite a long day, Did the usual cleaning and errands and we saw

Sam as I had a message from Mr Vallance for him , and Allen Mather who has just got the skating rink open for the winter. We left a note for Mom to come to supper but she had gone to Cochrane and so didn't come down until after 8 when we made her a cup of tea.

Sunday, yesterday was very windy and felt cold so we didn't go out, I worked on the pajamas for it didn't seem to effect the radio and then all of a sudden it made an awful noise so I couldn't finish them as it is mean to have the machine make a noise and spoil other's listening in. We also looked out some pictures to frame for the Scotts, and then tried to find frames to fit the pictures, they never do quite fit as you know. and inch too big or too small. Then in the evening late Jimmy Simpson came to see us before leaving for the winter. He is going to play Hockey for the Trail Smoke Eaters and work in the smelter at Trail which is over in B.C. so we may not see him again until spring.

He brought the dog and this morning Pete was all stuffed up and we think perhaps it was the dog, for he scratched quite a bit and might ~~be~~ have dandruff or something. He is better now but it was rather miserable while it lasted. Once we find the things that cause the trouble it will be something.

Will send this along.

Hope you have a lovely Thanksgiving and about four or five o'clock you can think of us at the Dentists. Seems sort of sacreligious to be spending the day in Calgary !

Loads of love to you all

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. November 26, 1947

Dearest Mother,

What sad news in your letter that came yesterday, it was such a shock to us as I imagine it was to everyone and how very hard for Madge. We always were so fond of Uncle Billy and as Pete said the last time he was in Concord he was over there. I know he hasn't been well for sometime and that is harder on a man than on a lady. Don't they say, as they did when Miss Roberts died, that no one does a thing like that when in their right mind and it is sort of momentary insanity. We felt badly too when we heard of ex-ambassador Winant lately. Could it have been accidental? for I always thought one had to be in a garage for monoxide poisoning? As there is no odor it can happen very easily.

This is just a hurried note as we have other letters that have to go and a good chance to mail this too. I am going to Calgary to-morrow for a filling, they say mild on the radio so I hope it is. It was lovely to-day, in fact so like spring that we went out the west road a bit, then stopped to speak to Norman Tabiteau and he asked if we would like some deer meat, and now we have a nice 5 lb. roast in ice box.

Loads of love,

Catherine

P.S. Pete says he feels awfully sorry for he always
loved Uncle Billy so much.

Banff, Alberta.
Friday, Nov. 28, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

Yesterday I was in Calgary all day and never thought until I got home in the evening that it was Thanksgiving Day with you, Feel sort of guilty not to have even had chicken for lunch but I was so busy thinking of what to send for Christmas presents to you all that I forgot the Thanksgiving day. Hope it went well as I am sure it did and that all the children were well and no measles or chicken pox or accidents at the last minute, for it was last year Gale was in the hospital until the day. Edith in her letter said she was going to tell you what Judy said about you, did she I wonder ?

Once again we are having sickness in the family and this time it is Jackie. He hasn't been well from time to time for the last two years. At first we laid it to the trouble with Barbara and then this last year has been hard on him as well as us with all the worry over the Ski business and Cliff etc. We don't approve of all he does and weren't very keen on his trip to California etc. but because Mom thinks everything Jackie does is just right we don't say more than we can help. He had pleurisy last summer and has been to the doctors here quite often but then when he feels better thinks he is going to be allright. He has spoken of going to Calgary for exrays and into the hospital here for a check up etc. but there have been so many scares the last few years it is a bit like Wolf Wolf. They never tell us very much until afterwards. but Monday we saw him and he was having trouble with his legs, he had dropped a box on his tow and that bothered him, but he came over here in the truck late that afternoon and except for a funny way of walking we didn't think much about it.

Saturday, I never got this finished yesterday and so much has been going on. As I was going to tell you I went to Calgary by bus Thursday at eight A.M. Mrs Simpson and Mrs Wellman went down too and Ethel Knight sat with me, It is always a good chance to talk and we had a nice trip down together, We sat near the back and when we got to Cochrane much to my surprise I saw Mom and Aunt Maggie Grayson come on, however they didn't happen to see me and sat in the front seat so never had a chance to speak to them until I got to Calgary where Florence met them. Then they told me that Jackie had been to Dr Gilfen, was in a serious condition and going to the Holy Cross Hospital for a thorough check up. Mom was in Cochrane having her teeth fixed by Dr Lyman (the son-in-law of Aunt Maggie) her regular dentist, and she had gone down on the train with Jackie and Florence Tuesday night, They had telephoned her Wednesday night to see if she could come down before going back to Banff. I didn't think a great deal about it and expecting that Jackie was going to the hospital never thought of going to the hotel to see him. It wasn't until I got on the bus that I met them again, and when I asked how Jackie was both Mom and Florence had tears in their eyes. It seems that during the afternoon just after Mom had gone downstairs Jackie had had some sort of attack, like a convulsion and really very much like Cliff, only Cliff's seizures or whatever one could call them have always come when he was up and about. Anyway it scared Florence almost to pieces and she tried to get a doctor by telephoning and finally when they said he was

was out asked for the Manager to get someone quick. So when Mom came back there was a doctor from the lobby, Ronny Dyell the manager, the housekeeper and all. They telephoned Gilfen and he got hold of the hospital and an ambulance and they whisked Jackie up there, but you can imagine how upsetting it all was. Until they got to the hospital Jackie wasn't talking sense and never remembered any of it. Then Mom had to take a taxi down to the bus.

Aunt Maggie sat with her to Cochrane and then I moved to her seat and she told me all about it. Dr Gilfen ~~was~~ thought it might be liver with Jackie and Mom was sure that was the end of Jackie. She always looks on the darkest side of any illness so it is not easy cheering her up. Actually I have a feeling, though it may not be fair, that this Dr Gilfen makes ones illness seem very serious and then you are all the more pleased when you are cured of it. At one time he was the doctor in Canmore and lots of people used to go down to him from here, the hospital was so full of his Banff patients that the Canmore people got a little fed up. But I remember various cases where had the people waited even a day longer he might not have pulled them through etc. From what Mom said that night there seemed to be no hope for Jackie, but the next noon Florence telephoned and said he seemed better and was showing improvement. He is to be there a couple of weeks, they are to take fluid off his spine and he is also having that bismuth thing for exrays etc. Anyway it is a good idea to try and get to the bottom of it, he never gave the Doctors here a chance. What the spell he had in the hotel was I don't know unless it was nerves and emotion and perhaps the effect of some injection the doctor had given him the day previously.

I had quite a day, not too successful in the way of shopping. for somehow the other day everything I looked for I could get and Friday I couldn't find much I wanted. though I did do a lot of running round. Tell Jean I sent off another Christmas present to her. Saw that from Eatons you could order Christmas cakes, called Dundee cakes, sent from Lyons in London and no postage to pay as they are made in England and then paid for in Canadian money. I sent six from her to the Scotch ones.

Mr Vallance was here at noon, up for the weekend, we had quite a talk, at least he and Pete did and he thinks he would like to drop in on Jackie later on and talk with him before going ahead with leases and things. It might be a good chance, as Mr V Lewis ~~was~~ *at the hospital.*

Mom was just in and we made her some tea, she is going to Calgary to-night to see Jackie to-morrow so hope she finds him better. Now must end this so as to catch to-nights mail.

Will tell you the rest of the news in my next.

Loads of love

Catherine -

Banff, Alberta.
Mon. Dec. 1, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

X Just realized that it is December first, how the time does go? We got out printed Christmas cards Saturday afternoon and have a lot of coloring to do on them this year, I shall have to help Pete out. It is the first time for several years we have drawn a special card, the others have been photographs of paintings. but at least our names and the message are on these so there will only be the addressing to do.

We had intended to start in yesterday afternoon but had a busy day. We saw Mr Vallance on Saturday noon and then yesterday we were a bit slow getting up, decided to have a talk with Allen in case there was a question to ask Mr Vallance, sat in our car and must have talked things over for an hour. Allen is very good and understands, for he has had family problems too. He manages the boat house and skating rink and then his two sisters and one brother get dividends from the business, Allen getting a salary & his dividend. But he realizes what we are up against with Jackie Etc. Then after the talk there we went up to the new house and saw Mr Vallance a minute, he told us to come to Sam's as Percy Williams was to be there to paint a sample of woodwork for the Vallances to approve, However when we got there found Mrs V. had tired of waiting for the men and gone back to the hotel, We had a few minutes more talk with Mr V. then went and picked up Mrs V. at the King Edward and took her back up, We all had a look at the finished samples of woodwork and then they wanted us to have lunch with them as they were anxious to get back to Calgary, However we had already talked so much and weren't really dressed very suitably for dining at a hotel so begged off. Anyway it only would have delayed them. Came back here and were just making a soup with deer meat when Barbara came to ask for Jackie, so she stayed and ate with us, That mean't more talk and her voice is very penetrating and rather tiring, Not that the conversation wasn't very nice but she stayed until 3.30, I guess one of the few times she has been here that one or all of the children haven't appeared too. So by then it was too dark to try coloring cards. At five we went up to the Wards just for a few minutes, the house was all dark and I was sure they weren't home, but they were, had just been sitting and I guess hoping no more callers would come. Sam is to build a house for a Dr Skinner and nearly every weekend they drive up, see Sam and talk over plans etc. Never realizeing that Sunday is the only day Sam has off and that he might like to do something else but work on plans. Then we came home for a quiet evening.

Have just gotten your letter of Tuesday and Wednesday before Thanksgiving, and don't wonder you were tired of all the things to think of and then to have those other problems "thrust upon you" like Mrs Motte and Madge and her car and Aunt Julie's neice. Seems as if not only the world is upset but also so many people's lives. Couldn't Madge turn in her car or exchange it with someone else? Will Mary Cool live with her do you suppose or are the boys a bit too confusing when Madge feels ill so much of the

some

time. Its too bad there isn't a sort of apartment or group of tiny houses, where people who are alone could live and be looked after if sick. Where a person could have a nice sized living room that wouldn't make them feel cramped, a bedroom and bath and tiny kitchenette for breakfast, tea or light cooking. Then have maid service, and a public dining room, and ways of ^{your} meals sent up, and maybe a few public rooms as a lounge and library. But for people who don't want to live in a hotel but don't want the care of a house, People like Miss Hard and Mr Weed or even couples like the Lorings.

The calenders came to-day and thank you so much, there was no duty to pay. I notice they are a little different from the other years and wonder. The other ones were called " the Alpine Calendar " and this " Swiss Alps calendar " both of course are made in Switzerland and the subjects are much the same, They always are such lovely scenes.

x We had quite a bit of excitement around last week for there was a murder case in Calgary, a wife of a few weeks found murdered last Sunday in Calgary and the man was picked up here in Banff the next day. The funny part was that he was caught by the police for driving Wally Kelly's car without lights, and Mom saw him steal the car. She was coming back from the store, through by Ike Mills at dusk, and as she got beyond Wally's car it started to back out. She jumped aside and watched it out into the road, the driver had a hard time getting it to go, grated the gears and then careened down the road to the station, Mom was at her driveway by then and thought "what is the matter with Wally, is he drunk ? " and as he was headed towards his mother's house she never gave it another thought, She had noticed Wally's wife in her kitchen so it never occurred to her the car was being stolen. The police were on the way to the station to mail a letter and noticed the car, so stopped it to tell Wally to put his lights on, saw the stranger and asked what he was doing, He gave them his right name and said he thought he was the man they were looking for. *He is the husband of the murdered wife -*

The sequel to the story was that Mom was away most all week but when she came home Thursday she noticed the kitchen was cold but thought it was herself, then found it chilly in the morning, even remarked on it to Pete, Friday evening she went down in the basement to put something in the little bedroom there and felt a blast of cold air as she opened the door to the room under the kitchen, then noticed the curtains flapping and when she investigated found two panes of glass in one window broken. Cliff was in town that night and he went and got the police, and when the Mountie came over he said " Don't worry Mrs White for we know who did it. The murderer " (or maybe I should say the suspected murderer) "told us when we picked him up that we would be getting a call for a broken basement window in a house near where he stole the car, and we thought it a funny confession for him to make. " Mom being away of course hadn't noticed it and as it was on the other side of the house no one else had. But his tracks were quite plain in the snow and he had even tried to kick in another basement window and from inside you could see the print of the sole of his shoe or overshoe. Poor Mom who is always afraid there might be a man under her bed or something, to have had such a person actually try to get in. We figure he was going to reach in and open the window but he happened to break the glass in the only window that was stationary and doesn't open. The other one would have, He must have done it while she was

at church Sunday night. Pete is up fixing the window now. Cliff was to do it but we were pretty sure he wouldn't get around to it right away so Pete got Sam.

Mom came back on the late train last night from Calgary, it got in at 4 A.M. Why she took it I don't know for seems to me it only makes the trip all the harder. Jackie can't be very well and they think it is his liver which I guess would be very serious. But he will be in the hospital for some weeks. We will just have to wait and see how things go. They didn't take the fluid off his spine or give him the exrays yet. Well I can see we are in for an unsettled period, but in the end perhaps things will straighten themselves out.

You mentioned in one letter, "Poor Miss Wagner " and now to-day that she is ~~going to~~ " allright " but not what happened to her, whether sick or an accident. I don't think I really know her, may have met her a few times. Well I am stupid, find you enclosed a letter from her which somehow I didn't read, (though I read the one of Miss Briggs in the same letter, Remember it was after the fair last year that we went to call on her) and of course in the letter she explains it is an operation. I hope she is getting on well.

What a shame John Benson died, or maybe I shouldn't say that if he had been ill a long time. I didn't realize he was just your age and it is encouraging to find that it wasn't until 1923 when he was 58 that he really started to paint. For in 24 years he did a lot of beautiful things.

Guess this is quite a letter already and will wear you out ! Came across the snap shots you want to send Uncle Marshall. of you and Mrs Harris and Mildred, would like them back again some time for they are nice to have of you.

Loads of love,

Catherine .

Banff, Alberta.

Thurs. Dec. 4, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

We just got the wonderful long letter from Mildred telling us all about Thanksgiving, I imagine you read it too. It was good of her to take so much time out of the holiday just to write us but it was fun hearing all the details. and then the bit about Little Sammy who Cousin Jane looked after at the table. I was interested to hear that Bob Palmer wants to go on the stage, I had expected it was the clergy he would join but perhaps he inherits Ediths love of acting. He has the manner and assurance. We didn't know that Rustie did Indian dances and they sounded very well done.

This week we had planned to really getting down to doing Christmas cards, and here it is Thursday and we haven't done more than a few samples. Such a lot of interruptions! Also I manged to get a cold in my head, Monday it started and has gone pretty well now. I expect I picked it up in Calgary. But that sort of slowed me down. We have had Casper MacCullough down to ask Pete's help on designing a letter head for the paper the committee will use in connection with the Canadian Ski Championships next February. Casper is a wonderful organizer, runs the golf course for the C.P.R. and they have loaned his services. We wouldn't help if he weren't so good but of course have gotten interested now, though we vowed we would have no more to do with Skiing and Carnivals. Well this isn't the carnival and is a bigger more serious thing. He asked for any ideas and after talking an hour or more the other afternoon he came back to-day, another hour gone. I have a whole list of ideas we thought of and he thinks many of them will be a great help. We don't have to do any work at the time, just ideas, but just the same I bet we help out in the end.

Jackie is evidently getting on well though they haven't had all the reports on his condition. The four bits of fluid they took off his spine has to go to Edmonton for examination and so haven't come back yet. He can raise up in bed to eat but must lie as flat as possible to rest the liver. Mom always takes the gloomiest view of illness it seems, but one never knows if she is right or not. The doctor told her his condition was "serious" but then they have worst degrees such as "critical" and "dangerous" We think he is in a condition that shouldn't be let go any longer and after a months rest he should be able to come home. His mind and body both needed the rest.

Haven't time to write more now, so will send this along, we will be looking for your version of the Thanksgiving dinner, I am sure it must have been as nice or nicer than ever.

Did I thank you for the Christmas paper. It came and also to-day the Christmas parcel.

Loads of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Sunday, Dec. 7, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

This won't be much of a letter I am afraid for we are working against time. This week we were going to get the Christmas cards done and every day something happened to prevent us getting at them, Christmas comes so suddenly. Of course I did have a head cold but stayed in all Monday and it has gone now, they usually take three or four days whatever you do. That slowed me down a little at the start of the week. Then one morning Cliff came down, and another Sam dropped in for a plane and we usually start talking about all sorts of things. Whenever he is troubled about something we think he comes and speaks to us and if we are provoked or upset we usually go up there, not that we talk about the trouble but we forget the thing troubling by speaking of other things.

Then one afternoon, about Wednesday when Pete was all set to start the cards, Casper MacCullough came in to ask our advise about the Canadian Ski Championships to be held here the end of February. He is the one who looks after the C.P.R. golf course and is being loaned by the Canadian Pacific as he ran the carnival one year the best of all. He is liked by all and a good organizer.

He wanted an emblem and letter paper that would make people read the letter they write to different clubs. So as we like Casper so much we just couldn't say no and Pete has been working on ideas and drawings ever since, not having done much of that sort of thing it took a little longer.

Then I remembered that any parcels to be sent east should go right away, I thought I would send books to everyone I could as you don't have to declare them and I hope they won't charge duty. I will write you later about the ones sent you, one you may have read and if so you can send it back for I haven't! I try to get Canadian books you aren't apt to have seen. Then I got a fine one for Gale, read it myself and enjoyed it. It is a true story about a little girl and two boys who held a fort near Montreal against the Mohawk Indians years ago. Think you and Mildred might like it, Mildred would because it is history. Then I had a book that looked good to send Rustie about a little boy and animals. but it was so stupid when I started to read it and the words so big I wouldn't send it. Got one at Mrs Rounds and discovered the principal character was a little girl who knit, that would never do, so sent it to Nancy and hope it isn't too old for her. Finally got a more grown up one about the west that Russ might even enjoy reading aloud if he ever gets time! I also wanted to send some little thing to Hanne and Mary and Minnie, but couldn't think of Mary and Minnie's last names. so sent them just "Miss Mary" and "Miss Minnie" care of you. If you get them first just take off the outside wrapper, it is a tiny box inside. I was afraid if I waited to find out the last names they would be too late. As it was I got them mailed Saturday, 7 packages went Friday and 5 Sat. It was quite a job and I wished for Dean to help.

They say that all mail has to go by the tenth of December to the states, Christmas cards included so we will have to

work hard the next few days to get them off. I imagine if I put 4 cents on they will go right through, the one cent for anywhere in the world are the ones that take a little longer. and they mustn't be sealed.

Young Cliff dropped in about 5.30 and we listened to Charlie and Fred Allen and then as he had to go to the Highlanders parade at 7.30 and we were to have sausages and pancakes we made him eat the first batch and while I cooked the 2nd Pete took him down to the Armories.

Now I must look over addresses etc. I expect when it gets nearer Christmas the mail may be delayed but you will know it is that and not me altogether. Hope you had a nice birthday, it is Mom's to-morrow, the 8th. I would never remember it if it didn't come just now.

Loads of love and don't work too hard over Christmas.

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. Dec. 10, 1947.

Dearest Mother,
I thought a lot of your yesterday because it was your birthday. Hope you had a nice time and that our present and letter reached you in time.

X We are in the midst of doing the Christmas cards and I think we bit off more than we can chew this time. I liked the idea and when Pete drew it we never thought of the time it would take to color it. "Just a few simple washes" is what we put on but we figure now that with both of us working we each put in about 2½ minutes on each card, making five to a card. We only have 300 to do! When we get discouraged we think of the letters we get telling us how the different people either save the card or frame it or something and on we go. X Right now the light is not too good for very long so two hours in the morning and the same in the afternoon is all we can work. We have mailed a hundred already. Will send you a really good one.

I can't type very well either, guess it is the concentrated coloring. Pete does the big washes and I do the bright colors.

We have to take the roaster to Bill Camison now so will mail this on the way. Hardly much to send but thought you would know why you aren't getting good letters. Have some notes to put intwith the cards in answer to letters I owe and some parcels to send to the post to do atnight, a bvery busy ti time.

Heaps of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.

Sunday, Dec. 14, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

Am not doing very well on letter writing but there is always so much to do. We are still working on Christmas cards during the daylight hours when we can, which isn't more than an hour or so a day. Then I try to get the ones we do written on and sent in the evening.

Allen Mather came around Thursday or Friday in the morning, he is going to act as Peter's agent in looking after the apartments etc. collect all the rents and pay the bills and then give us a statement each month. So that afternoon Pete went with him to each of the tenants with a letter and we are hoping that it will all work out more satisfactorily than having Jackie run the place. Jackie rented the whole building from Pete and then sublet the apartments but this way we just pay Allen a percentage of the rent collected. Having Jackie sick has delayed it a bit and we are told he is not to discuss any business for a month at least after he comes back so we will just have to wait. He is getting on well evidently and will be back the Tuesday before Christmas. Mom was down to see him yesterday.

Just to add to things we had two letters from the Indians, one wanting us to buy two vests, sending the money now so they will have it for Christmas and the other wanting "fats" and sending their "daughter - in law" (that's me) a lovely pair of gloves.

It snowed all day yesterday and we have five or six inches which will be nice for Christmas, they expect quite a lot of skiers for the holidays, the Vancouver ones who came during the war have been going to ski resorts in the states which are more fashionable, but now that there are restrictions about taking money to the states they are flocking back here, so we will be in for a busy winter. I think I told you the Canadian Championships are to be held here the end of February.

We had Donny down for supper last night, roast beef, roast potatoes and frozen string beans, ice cream and frozen strawberries, we have a little meat left as he has a good appetite and three helpings of everything, He looks very well and we think having a regular life at the Scotts has been good for him. He is going over to Invermere for Christmas which is good.

Barbara had her tonsils out day before yesterday and we have been up to the hospital to see her a couple of times, she was to come home to-day.

Pete is reading the cook book for ideas for supper, and he is reading it out loud, a bit distracting. Whenever I sit down to write he very soon comes in and sits beside me and keeps talking about all sorts of things. He says he is lonely sitting in the other room, I think he does it mostly to tease me.

Not much of a letter but it will soon be train time and I thought I would like to send this to-day and then work on the cards a bit more, writing notes on some I still owe letters to.

Loads of love to all

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.

December 17, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

I just realized that if I didn't get a letter off to-day you might not get another before Christmas. We are doing pretty well and only have 30 more cards to do which will take care of the local people and about ten to write letters on. We have worked almost everyday for a couple of hours to get them done.

Last night spent doing up two boxes of things for Gray Cambell's family, toys and decorations for the tree and nuts and candy etc. Made a lot of packages to fill out the box and just as I was almost finished the lights all over town went out, plunging us in such darkness we could barely find the flashlight having forgotten where it was last. It hit people at the movies and in the midst of curling for it was during the 10 o'clock news. Was out over an hour, a tree had blown down across the line some where.

Monday night we went to see the Technicolor pictures of the Royal Wedding and they were wonderful we thought. I seemed to have blurred eyes most of the time for somehow the sight of the coaches and all those people cheering effected me that way. It was something you couldn't explain and somehow made one feel good to think that that sort of thing could take place in London in this day and age. All sorts of people turned out that never go to the movies and they all ate it up. The two little page boys however stole the show for none of us could help but laugh when they had such a time standing still during the formal shots of the group near the end. The yawn, the scratching of the leg and the tummy at the very end and one especially on the right hand side was hardly still a minute.

To-night there is supposed to be a ski movie and then "Life with Father" comes the end of the week.

Am not sure just what we will be doing on Christmas day this year, we haven't planned anything, but might have some one to Christmas dinner on Christmas eve as then we are free and don't have to cook on Christmas day and can call on people.

I hope you all have a lovely day as I am sure you will, By the way a book(?) mailed the 12th of Dec came to-day, very quick it seemed. or was it on the 2nd. that makes three in all have come. Hope my packages get through O.k. and no duty. We must go to the express so will mail this and it takes with it all our very best wishes and lots of love from us both to you all, including Mildred of course, I will write her soon

Loads of love,

Catharine

P.S. We haven't sent Jean her card yet so tell her we didn't forget her if it didn't reach her on time.

Banff, Alberta.
Friday, Dec. 19, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

At last we finished the 300 Christmas cards that we colored this year, it sounds an awful lot to send but is a nice way to keep in touch with people. Some people we wouldn't send to but then they always send to us and it doesn't seem nice not to reciprocate. We have sent all but 25 and each day one or two cards seem to come we hadn't sent to. One letter from the Baker-Carrs in Nanking China. Very happy, d'Arcy has a good job that keeps him busy is taking photographs, some to be used in a new book coming out. They have a nice garden, the children go to school and there are lots of interesting people about. They were in Peking for just 6 months. *It cost \$30 thousand Chinese stamps to mail it air mail 25¢ Canadian for auro.*

By the way I answered Mildred's wonderful thanksgiving letter, I don't know if my appreciation of her descriptions of Thanksgiving will be a hint of a Christmas letter, but I wouldn't mind at all if she took the hint! But that doesn't mean that we let you out of writing, for each person usually tells a little different angle and it is all fun to read seeing that we can't be there with you all.

Last night we went to see "Life With Father" and it was good, we did enjoy it and the audience seemed to too, even if it is an entirely different day and age. It was well done and the settings especially typical.

Went to Red Cross yesterday, my turn at the Sandwiches; but we are lucky this year for both Christmas and New Years fall on a Thursday and we don't have to go. They figured it was 6 years ago in 1940 that the same thing happened. quite a while to be sewing, the same group. We make mostly children's things.

I am giving up the idea of having the house really clean, that week I had a cold and we did the work for Casper on the ski thing, put off doing the cards and so I lost this week for my housecleaning. I guess no one will really notice much. We can put a lot of green around and at least pick up a bit and maybe next week I can shine the silver that we might use, if there is time.

Haven't done much lately to write about. Have just been listening to Gen. Marshall. I am reading the book now and like it very much and it makes it so much more interesting listening to him when you know more about him.

Thanks so much for sending us the New Yorker for a Christmas present. we do like it and so does Barbara afterwards. Did you get the notice of the Arizona Highways we are sending you? It has such lovely colored pictures and I am sure Cousin Bert would love it later, or the library. It is sort of publicity of the state George Eisenhimmel sent it to us.

Forgot to say how glad we were you had such a nice birthday. Maybe the reason you couldn't hear Marion Anderson sing was the tone of her voice, as I remember it is very sort of husky and they may be sounds that don't register in your ear. You know they have a dog whistle that only dogs can hear. It is just a little sound to humans who blow it, but dogs can hear it a quarter mile away. Pete since he had trouble with his ear, has an awgull

time when certain engine whistles on the C.P.R. Blow, some don't hurt his ear at all and others do, I can't tell the difference. So maybe you just couldn't hear Marion Anderson.

I think we would like Ernie Pyle's " Home Country " Dick Roberts we know quite well, I often meet him shopping. He was married at rather an advanced age and his wife surprised everyone by having a baby last year. The news stopped all traffic on the main street, he was so anxious to tell everyone.

Too bad you have trouble holding your pen for by looking at your writing I can't tell but your hand works perfectly. Would something larger wrapped around the handle help. Like a piece of cloth so you didn't have to hold something too small. Someone should invent a pen with a handle like a glove you slipped right on.

Forgot you would be real busy when you get this and not much time to read it in. Hope all the things got there in time for Christmas. Mrs MacAulley has some sisters in the states and she heard on the radio that the U.S. customs was going to do as Canada does at Christmas and let any parcel valued less than \$5.00 in free. But I think mine went before they announced that. Then the other day it said something about things up to \$20.00 worth coming into Canada free of duty, but too late to let you know.

I will mail this AirMail and at the same time the one to Mildred regular mail, and see which gets there first. Would be interesting.

Tell Jean there is a notice in the paper to-night that we can send oranges, lemons and grapefruit to the Old country through a Canadian firm in Montreal, so think I will try it.

Well if this gets to you in time for Christmas, have a very happy one and we will be thinking of you you may be sure.

Loads of love to you all,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. Dec. 23, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

Thank goodness that there are three days before Christmas this week so we aren't in too mad a rush, though of course it never seems like Christmas without a mad rush at the end.

Sunday we spent part of the day meeting the train as a friend of Oliver Waldahls of Minnesota was to go through. He wrote Allen and as the train was late Allen couldn't go. We went over and saw Allen in the morning, he was painting their new kitchen and Susan was washing dishes, so I helped her while Pete talked to Allen, and found out what all they wanted for Christmas. Then between trains we went up and saw Jackie for a minute. He seems pretty well but a bit irritable that day, and wants to talk all about his illness. It is Mylittis or some sort of paralysis he says. We didn't stay very long. But he won't be able to do much for some weeks. Then after meeting the first train and approaching several likely looking men we found the man on the third train right off quick.

Johnny came over in the afternoon to make a present for his mother, remember the package of blotters you sent me one Christmas with a calender on each one for each month and a picture, think you got them at the Fenn school, Johnny thought it would be fun to make them so sure enough after being here Saturday and finding appropriate pictures for the various months in a magazine, he appeared Sunday ready for work. Pete ~~helped~~ helped him cut the large blotter into 12 bits with the big trimming board and then by that time I had finished making the nut bread so helped him do the pasting and he did it all very neatly and nicely, quite pleased with himself and we did it all up afterward.

That evening I did up the parcels for Donny to take over to Invermere, (he went to-day on the noon train to Golden, we took him down and saw him off) then about eight or later we went up to the Wards as they had asked us to drop up, the Ashleys were there too and we stayed until after eleven though we didn't mean to. Took the Ashleys home and they wanted us to go down last night as it was Mack's birthday, so last night after a very busy day of washing glasses, cleaning the kitchen a bit, and even cleaning all the silver, much shooing, a call on Jackie and all sorts of things. Then last evening after doing up young Cliff's parcel to go to Sunshine we went over to the Moore's to ask about George Brewster who had a bit of a stroke a week or so ago and who went to Calgary on the train yesterday, forgot that we had seen him off on the train. He is going to the hospital as the family with four kids is too confusing at Christmas time.

Stayed with the Moores until about ten, they were decorating their tiny Christmas tree and fussing with lights that had one blown out etc. Then we went down to the Ashleys for a few minutes and stayed until after one. Sam was in top form and Jack gave us descriptions of a wrestling match in Calgary, and we had a big feed at midnight. Came back and slept so sound we knew nothing until nine o'clock.

Did the kitchen floor to-day and saw Donnie off. Harold had lunch with us and then we saw Dan MacCowan and stopped in there, did shopping and then Mrs MacAuley and Mr "

Have just made us a call. Harold was in to borrow a saw to cut the bottom off their tree and so it goes. We have a goose to cook to-morrow night I think , and a turkey for New Years. Don't know who we will ask to eat with us.

Another big box arrived from you to-day and a flat one from the Robbs and one from the Country store, none of them opened. and such a lot of cards. and so many from people I dropped off the list.

Better get started again. This letter was to sit down a few minutes. It will be after Christmas when you get it but I wish you all a Happy New Year.

Loads of love,

Catherine

PS.

Banff, Alberta.

Friday, Dec 26, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

This is Boxing Day and a holiday with us, we are having a nice quiet morning and after all the things that had to be done before Christmas it is rather a relief not to have too much to do. A few people to see and that is about all. We thought it was going to snow Christmas eve for it started to a little and snowed hard up high but after supper the moon came out and it was lovely and mild, a beautiful night, then yesterday it must have been nearly fifty out and the snow and ice have gone a lot, quite a few bare patches on the ground now and under the trees is all bare, really unseasonable weather. It was a real chinook and a very high wind last night, so as fast as the snow melts it is dried up. Rather disappointing for the ones who come for skiing and coasting and even skating, for it is 40 this morning. However we will most likely get severe weather soon, though some think it will be a very mild winter as the squirrels laid in no pine cones as they did last year and Dan McCowan saw a robin out the west road and Mr Barnes & one in town.

Well we had a very nice Christmas as usual. Tried to get things done ahead but didn't do everything we meant to, the McAuleys came to call the afternoon (Tuesday) when we meant to bring in the tree, so we put that off and then didn't get it in and set up until late Tuesday night so we only put the lights on, then I finished trimming it the next morning, probably just as well we did it that way for Harold came over to help and you know how hard it is making it look right with someone hanging things every which way, though I guess it would have been fun for him to do it. I did manage to get the floor waxed Tuesday which helped make the kitchen look clean.

Wednesday we had all sorts of things to think of, it was too mild to keep an unfrozen turkey we thought so took one down to Mr and Mrs Brown and they were very pleased to be thought of and I don't think had one. We also had the parcels to deliver to the Mathers and they wanted us to come back in the evening which we did. Jonny went with us and there were as usual a few last minute things, like something for the milk man, which when we got it home haven't been able to find since. Honny said he had ten cents and wanted to go and find some music for Bubby as he hadn't anything for her, However we thought it easier to get a head shawl at the store instead and then he wanted something for Harold and Davy so down in the toy Dept. we ran, nearly everything gone by that time and got a book, which really pleased them, When we took Jonny home Barbara said " why he has something already for them all " I guess he just got excited at the last moment. They decorated their tree Tuesday and it fell over so by Wednesday it had shrunk considerably but they didn't seem to mind! I guess there was only enough unbroken decoration left for a tiny tree by the time they picked up the pieces. ~~We~~

During all the trips back and forth we had a goorse cooking, I was provoked for I made stuffing which takes lots of time and mine is never top notch (may be now with the wonderful

seasoning things that came from the Country store in the lovely box of "goodies" from Kitty. ^{just as usual} After working away I read in a cook book for a fat goose to use Apple stuffing, just chopped up apples and currents to-gether, and had I just used the apples it would have saved making apple sauce.

We were going to ask the Wards down but with the late/ nights this week we thought it would be just that much extra work so we just asked Mom down. Had mashed potatoes, good gravy, and frozen peas and some of the mince pie she gave us. and the goose was really good. One thing with just us three we all got good bits.

After supper we took the presents over to Barbara's and found the Mounteen Clubb coming in the back door while we came in the front. A lot of Eubby's friends and they made quick work of some of Barbara's Christmas cake. Then we saw Jackie for a few minutes and took Florence's mother home and ended up at Allen Mathers, He was still at the rink so we waited and Mrs Simpson came in, the Dr MacKenzie's and the Hansons and also Betty Walker, and we told Mrs Simpson we would bring her home before twelve and she got talking so it was after that that we got her back and she wanted us to go in and see Jim, so in we went and of course it was after one when we left there, Too many late nights for us so we felt tired yesterday. Jim was delighted with a nice picture of Rustie, it was sitting in a place of honor.

Not time to go on from here so I will tell you all about Christmas in my next letter, but before ending must say thank you so much for all the beautifully done up parcels and the nice cheque for each of us, which later just arrived on the date. The mails must have been terrific in the east, for I just got this morning a letter from Jean mailed the 14th. and yet the day before Xmas I got one from Yorkshire, airmail mailed the 18th. Three letters from you came the day before Christmas and we hadn't had one all week. Guess it was just as well we mailed the cards early.

But again thanks so much for everything. the books and all the nice candy and the kitchen things like the duster, apron. can opener and measuring cups, first I have seen that shape. and the handkies espeically for I was badly in need of those and so was Pete and the candied fruit from Jean and the strawberry pin cushion which will be the new one to hang either where I sew or in the kitchen. Oh yes and the plastic box for the refrigerator. I am so glad to have Chamberlain's book of New England pictures. Cis has already taken it home to look at too. The only regret I have is that more people couldn't have seen how pretty the parcels looked under the tree, the paper you do them up in is always so pretty, though now we can get fancy paper too, the first time was this year, but not quite as pretty as yours. Ixx Oh yes and thanks for the lovely Swiss Calender.

We have been invited up to the Wards for Turkey to-night so had better get this in the mail. Cis said she had a nice note from you and Mom showed us the Calender you send her, very pleased with it.

So a very Happy New year to you all and lots of love from us both and many thanks again. Will let you know what we use the money for. Pete gave me a mixer, electric so perhaps I will be able to whip up cakes in no time now,

Loads of love,

Catherine

P.S. It 45° and so hot & unseasonable.

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. Dec. 28, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

Wonder are you and Mildred snowed in? What a storm they had in New York, we could just imagine how it must have tied everything up and no one really prepared for a storm like that. Our news didn't say how much snow Boston and vicinity had but imagine it was over a foot, nice for the kids who got skis for Christmas.

We on the other hand are having unusually mild ~~wax~~ weather and it makes one feel sort of loggy, the house keeps getting too hot and we have to leave the door open. It was fifty Christmas day I guess and has hardly gotten below 30 any of the time. We had a terrific wind Christmas night and it blew down trees up near the big hotel and slates off the roof. Was a real chinook and ate the snow right up, the lawns being quite bare. Last night we had about an inch of fresh snow but would like a lot more. Anyway it made it look cleaner for the wind blew so many branches off the trees and dead spruce needles it was quite dirty.

To go back to Christmas. We really shouldn't have gone out Christmas eve, for though we thought it was late when we went to the Mathers about nine thirty we were the first there, and then foolishly waited to bring Mrs Simpson home, and that meant we went into her house for a minute and stayed until after one, three late nights and the warm weather made us pretty sleepy Christmas morning, we did set the alarm and listened to the Empire Broadcast not as good as usual somehow, and then I fell ~~like~~ asleep listening to the King. Most disrespectful! It was nearly ten when we finished breakfast and Davy and Harold were over wanting us to go there, so we took the skis, which were presents for Harold and Johnny, and a microscope set for Davy over there, and saw all their presents and admired everything. Then up to Mom's for a few minutes before she went to church. Then back here to open our presents. We knew the Simpson's would be over and Dr MacKenzie said they would try to come around about 1.30 or 2 so we had an early lunch and quiet for a while which helped. The Simpsons came first and while they were here we opened the box from Harrods in London sent by the Gardiners as they are friends of theirs too. It was two bookends made ~~from~~ ~~stone~~ from the stone in the Houses of Parliament. One ~~is~~ a round sort of medalion with the lion and the other the rose in lead or some metal and the inscription. "This stone came from the Houses of Parliament" They are most attractive and nice to have. I needed strong bookends too. Harold gave me two candles, a long red one and a short green one, a little awkward to know what to do with until yesterday we got another parcel from the Old country and it was a lovely old candlestick with a snuffer from the Cruikshanks. So now I am all set with a candle for it *of each color.*

While the Simpsons were still here the Dr MacKenzies came in, and it worked just right. Jim was in one of his story telling moods and Dr MacKenzie is crazy about stories of the old days and never really knew Jim before, so the three men swapped yarns while we three talked, Mrs Simpson entertaining us!

After they left we went to call on Mrs Paris who is so lame with Arthritis, we always go there and try not to land in while they are having dinner, for people have it at four or five

on Christmas Day. From there we went to see Mrs Hayes who was all alone. I had gotten a second hand copy of Malvina Hoffman's book " Heads and Tails " which I knew she would like. From there we went to the Wards but they were out, (We found later they were calling on us.) and then to Mrs Edwards who is another sort of shut-in. and then back here rather tired, a very quiet evening and to bed early.

Boxing day, the day after Christmas we went over and made Jackie a call, not having seen him the day before, he seemed fine. and to Moms to see her presents. back here for lunch and then Sam and Cis came down in time to have a bit of Mince pie and a nice visit and they asked us to go up and help eat a turkey they were having that night, which we did. It was their 36th Wedding anniversary as well. They said they were going to have the same thing whether we came or not and we served everything in the kitchen on our plate and that saved so many dishes. We stayed until nine-thirty, Cis and I doing the dishes while Sam and Pete talked London and they seemed as glad to be getting to bed early as we were.

Yesterday we didn't do very much, over to the store for lots of mail, we never got so many Christmas cards. Remember Anne Hunt the very tall girl at Art School, well Helen Weld on her card said that Anne had married Dick Coe a little short fellow also at Art School with us, and we also heard from Gordon Hansen, the first time in years, funnily enough I had sent a card to his old address and it was returned " address unknown " yesterday and in the same mail one from Gordon from Marblehead. Rather a coincidence.

This is the great time for visiting in Canada, and yesterday we were invited up to the Ashtons at the HotSpring hotel but didn't go, and to-day we are supposed to go to the Painters and just now Lloyd Harmon came in to ask us up to Eileen's this afternoon. We did drop in on Edmée yesterday after first seeing Mrs Ernie Rogers at the Mount Royal.

Now it is lunch time and again I must say thank you so much for all the beautifully done up presents. That book about Grandma Moses sounds and looks interesting. and the Artist in Alaska I know Pete will like. By the way when we were over at the Moores the other night Col Moore told me he thought the biography of Daniel Chester French by Mrs Cresson was one of the best he had read and thought it was too bad when she wrote so beautifully that she hadn't been a writer rather than a sculpture.

He also told me that he remembered going as a boy of ten to a Chitauqua and hearing GrandPa lecture. He heard him several times and can still remember GrandPas discription of cutting a jelly fish in two and each part would wiggle away. He also said he remembered him as being very " dapper " for those days as most of the lecturers were old men with long beards, I was wondering if you could send me one of those old photographs of Grandpa lecturing ? I would like to have it anyway and it would be interesting to see if that is the way Col Moore remembers him.

Hope you and Mildred are having a real nice time to-gether. after a very happy Christmas. and once more thank you all for the grand presents.

Loads of love to you all

Catharine

T.S. A Happy New Year to all!

Banff, Alberta.

Wed. Dec. 31, 1947.

Dearest Mother,

It is hard to realize that this is the last day of 1947 and to-morrow is another year. I hoped I would have all the letters written and lots done in the last three days but as usual have done little I mean't to. We haven't been so awfully busy but there has been a bug around, a 24 hour variety and I managed to get a touch of it. First I heard of it was from Mrs MacAuley who came down before Christmas and said when we offered tea that she couldn't eat anything as it made her sick right away. We naturally didn't urge her. Never thought any more about it until Saturday when we went up to see Edmee in the afternoon. After we got home I was sitting reading the paper and felt awfully sleepy, then a little sick to my stomach and for no reason at all was suddenly sick. Did n't feel badly but just lost everything, a couple of times. Sunday morning I felt fine and never thought another thing about it, though it is the first time I have been sick like that for years,

Sunday afternoon we went to the Painters to a party, thought it was for "tea" but instead it was for "cocktails" so we were just an hour and a half ahead of time. Betty was making things and not dressed up so we said we would come back later which we did when the party was in full swing. It was very nice and informal both the Painters age and Betty's. Jim Simpson was ensconced in one corner and Mr Greenham in another chair. Jim doesn't ever like to go to such things but quite enjoys himself once he gets there and poor Mr Greenham can no longer remember who people are, far less their names!

Barbara came with Allen and Grace and asked if we had seen Harold since he came back from skiing. He had come over for his skis which we were waxing about noon and gone to Norquay in the bus, and hadn't come home yet. Barbara naturally was rather worried as it was dark about 5.30 and was 6.30 then. Bubby was to telephone her the minute he came in but he hadn't come when we left so we said we would have a look on the way home. Went first to Bubby and she telephoned all the little boys she knew and Jackie, no one had seen Harold. She herself had been up at Norquay but hadn't noticed when Harold left. Then we decided to find the bus driver who might have driven him down, and sure enough Allen Macleod had brought him down on the four o'clock bus and his wife had remembered speaking to him as he got off, so back we went to tell Bubby and she phoned Barbara for we knew then that at least he was downtown safe and probably at some friends house and never thought of telephoning home to say where he was. This all took a bit of time but we went to bed with an easy mind for at least he hadn't come down the Gully trail (the one we drove Jean down in the car) and fallen and perhaps hurt himself. Next day we went over to see where he had been, and Barbara said he had come down on the 4 o'clock bus alright but then gone up again and skied down the Gully when it was almost dark! The worst thing he could have done you might say, but he thought he was alright and couldn't see why anyone would worry!

Monday there was quite a bit to do around the house and we had errands etc. That evening I began to feel sleepy in exactly the same way as before only this time instead of being sick to my stomach it was the other way and ~~until~~ it lasted about 24 hours, though I never felt a bit sick the whole time. Funniest thing I ever had. Maybe it was because I had joked with Ruth MacCullough about Casper who was confined to the house with the same bug and she said he complained so all the time! However it kept me busy part of the night and most all day and I didn't do much else.

Yesterday afternoon the Scotts came to call and also Mrs Earnie Rogers of Vancouver, a great friend of Frances Websters. She is one of those people you always have a lot to say to for she is interested in so many things.

We should have gone to a funeral to-day but it is blowing hard and the wind bothers Pete's ear or face. The sinus thing has started up again and as soon as New Years he is going to see the Doctor about it.

Pete went up to see Mom this morning as we haven't really seen her since Christmas, Allen Mather came while he was out and then Mr Walker to return books. Allen from now on is going to look after the running of the apartments and store buildings for ~~us~~ Pete whether we are here or away, and we hope it will work out better, he runs the skating rink and boats in the summer so well. we feel sure he can run the building efficiently too.

Jackie is much better, the doctor was up and very pleased he had showed such improvement, but it is going to be sometime before he can talk much business, and it is hard to get things settled if we can't discuss things with him

I wanted to thank you again for all the nice presents. I am very pleased to have that plastic square dish with a cover for things in the refrigerator, as we always have lots of things to put away, and the measuring cups are always nice. You must have read our ~~minds~~ about the handkerchiefs for we needed just that kind very badly. I don't think I mentioned the pretty pin cushion. Think I will use it on the bureau for the square one Madge made is almost worn out. Did you make this one?

The book from Jean arrived and it is even better than I had hoped. Did you have time to look at it or read it? for it is well written and the pictures are lovely.

Did I say thank you for the lovely white woolen scarf? and for all the candy. Any time you want to send us those square paper thin mints they will be much appreciated. Not only are the mints our favorites but the boxes they come in are just the right size for slides!

We will soon have to be going over town, to-night we are invited up to the Fords and Atkins, and tomorrow they are to come here in the afternoon, Sometime over New Years we are to go to see the Dr MacKenzies and Cyril Paris so if we do all that and see Ted Evans too we will be busy.

Had such a nice letter from Gale this morning.

Loads of love

Catharine.