

Banff, Alberta.
Sat. Jan. 3, 1947. 8

Dearest Mother,

Well New Years is over and now just a weekend. For some strange reason all the ~~xxx~~ stores stayed closed yesterday, the day after New Years, so it seemed like another holiday, and to-morrow will be the same. You can't seem to get much done. This morning we got lots of mail from all of you, because of the two holidays, and the letters about Christmas and all your wintry weather.

Didn't realize that you had had so much snow and it really must be beautiful. Mildred spoke of how lovely it looked at night when you two walked out to look at the house, too bad you couldn't have had a picture of it. and the snow makes everything so still. and what fun for the kids to have so much snow during their Christmas vacation. We rarely get large falls like that for our snow is so dry it takes an awful lot of coming down to pile up. Usually it is the fall snow that is wetter that makes a lot on the trees, except of course up high in the mountains where it snows oftener. We have only about 6 inches at present on the ground, and we have had such lovely mild weather, everyone marvels at it.

Am glad that you hadn't read "Saddle Bags and --" as it came out a year or so ago I think, we never read it ourselves. but hear it is good. There seem to be several Canadian books coming out but too late for Christmas.

I know I am awfully poor at answering questions but will try to do it soon. One I can remember is about the London Illustrated News. Yes we have the Royal Wedding number and Russell sends them all to us each year for Christmas. It is fun to see the wedding pictures. Just discovered that the head milk man was over in London and saw the thing, not the wedding but the procession, and is just back, will have to find out all about it. We didn't even know he had gone.

Had rather a quiet New Year, found a note on our door New Years Eve asking us to go up to the Graham's for supper. They are a big family, very wealthy so they say, who have built a "cottage" in Banff, and come for their holidays, she had five children by a previous marriage and she about six and now they have two more, and so you can imagine they are a large family and the "cottage" quite a house on the Cave and Basin rd. We have met them a couple of times but don't really know them, yet. We had also been asked to the Atkins and Dr Mackenzies and as Pete was having trouble with his sinus we decided to just stay home, which we did and Mom came down about ten thirty and we saw the New Year in to-gether.

Next morning I had a turkey to cook, had stuffed it the evening before, so we were up early to put it in the oven and had it at noon. Made one call on the Dr Mackenzies, they had so many people up there the night before that they hadn't gotten to bed until five, the Dr not until 8 O'clock next morning, Am afraid we could never stand that pace. We had quite a lot drop in here New Years afternoon. Gladys Atkin Gardiner & husband Noel, Evelyn and Ken Ford, Eileen Harmon and a French skier, Jerry Monot from Chamonieux (can't spell it) He wants to start a ski school here in Banff, the French method.

We all had quite a talk, Oh yes and a Miss Irving from Kamloops who has been up at Temple.

Just now the furnace kept going, a klinker fused onto the rebort, and Pete has been trying to get it loosened and I helping so there won't be time now for much more letter. Its fixed though now)

That same ^{New Years} afternoon about 5.30 after the others left we thought we would just run up to Cyril Parises for a minute before putting the car away, It sure got us involved, for we had been there only a short time when Syd Wurtz came in and said we all had to go to Frank Christons for "just a minute" all of us," so after much saying "no" we all went to Franks and then Syven and Mrs Wurtz were there, Rita Hansen had been at Cyrils, so we all had a bit of Christmas cheer at Franks and back we went to Cyrils, Sven and Rita Hansen, Syd and Mrs Wurtz, Cyril and Mary. They wanted us to stay for a bite to eat but we knew it was wiser to come back. Pete seems to get tired so easily if we do too much in one day and as it was he slept most all evening.

It is now Sunday noon, I never had a chance to finish this letter yesterday as we had callers as I was typing this and Pete was still getting hot in the basement. (we decided it was different kind of coal that caused the furnace trouble) Mr Beaumonts of Lethbridge told his daughter to be sure and look us up when in Banff on their honeymoon so she and David Cherry the new husband came to call, it was four when they came and quarter to six when they left. So by the time we went over town the stores were all closed and we didn't even have time to get the mail. Had the furnace not acted up we would have been out when they came doing the week-end shopping.

They were a very attractive young couple, He in his last year at the University of Alberta and she very young and with great personalitly. Had gone to visit her fathers people in the south of Ireland in 1939 and didn't get home until 1944 when she came in a convoy. She was only 12 when she went over I think it was. Now she has a dress shop in Lethbridge and designs the clothes, made all her own clothes when married a week ago. She told us quite a bit about the time she had in Ireland and we think they would have stayed on for supper and the evening had we said the word. It was a bit tiring on top of the furnace trouble but after supper, which Harold had with us, he had already had one at home of ham and scalloped potatoes but managed to eat turkey in gravy on toast with us ! There was a hockey game on but we thought we wouldn't go, it might be too much, but of course when we heard the cheering and shouting we decided to just go over for one period and get the air and help with the gate, They need all the supporters they can get. So we bundled up and as it was warm out and little wind where we stood and a very good game we stayed until the end.

Now this morning we slept late and I have cleaned up the " wind storm " as Pete calls the mess I made in the studio doing up Christmas presents. I had paper and string and bits of boxes etc. all over the floor. Still have the Christmas tree to take down but can do that anytime when we are waiting for someone.

It is time for a late lunch so will finish this now. Tell Russ if you think of it that as soon as I can will answer his last two letters. The Cherry's may drop back this afternoon to hear some Balinese records and the Moores may be leaving to-day for Jamaica and we are invited for Turkey at Barbaras at 5.30. and it is

snowing hard.

Loads of love

Catharine -

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. Jan. 6, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

I guess I shouldn't write you very much to-night for I haven't written any "thank you" notes for Christmas as yet and I really should. Somehow I haven't been able to get around to it. There always seem to be business letters or something to see to.

We are still having mild weather but it is due to change to colder to-morrow. It has been fine for those here on vacation. Mr Vallance came up to-day from Calgary, just right for us as Jackie wanted to have a talk with Pete and as they get no where trying to discuss things, we were glad to have Mr Vallance do it for Pete. He came right after lunch and we talked a bit, He has just been made a K.C. which means a "Kings Council" and is an honour for a lawyer. It is like having a degree after ones name. We had a chat about that and the house and then a bit about the store building and he decided to have a short talk with Jackie, which he did and then came back here to tell us a little about it. He was with Jackie an hour and said he could see that if he hadn't changed the subject a couple of times Jackie would get pretty excited but we hope we are getting somewhere, he is to see him again when ~~he~~ ^{we} goes back to Calgary. We didn't go out until Mr Vallance had left. I made him some tea in a thermos and a couple of turkey sandwiches to eat after he got out of the mountains, for Mrs V. worries about his driving ~~back~~ after dark.

Sunday we had quite an afternoon for the young honeymoon couple came back after all. The day before Pete had told them we would play some Balinese records if they would like to hear them, this by way of getting them to go Saturday afternoon, so we began figuring how to hint for them to make a short call on Sunday if they came. Suddenly remembered that the Moores were to leave for Jamaica the 4th or 5th so decided to mention that we had to see some friends who were leaving. So when the couple came to the door I tried to say very politely that we would have to go out in a little while etc. etc. Somehow I am no good getting us out of things, never sound convincing enough I guess. Anyway in they came, and Davy arrived soon after, and they stayed. I came out here and finished a letter, and made a calender for Pearl and finally after staying over an hour we finally said we would have to go. We decided it was just the state of love they were in that made them so vague. She is older than I thought at first. was born in '24 and 14 when she went to Ireland. She has a dressmaking shop in Lethbridge and two ladies sewing for her, designs all her own things and makes mostly clothes for people off size.

We took them to the Mt Royal for they were taking the bus to the station and then went up to the Moores, found that they have cancelled all their plans and are not going after all. It is largely because one of Pearl's younger brothers is very ill, a clot of blood above his eye and we heard to-day that he is much worse and they have sent for the family. We stayed there just a few minutes, then we were due for supper at Barbara's to eat turkey at 5.30/ Thought it was just to be the children but it was

a real party. Allen and Grace, Dr and Mrs MacKenzie, Cyril and Mary Paris, Betty Painter Walker, A war widow boarding at Barbaras Mrs Cooke of Montreal, Elwin and Bobby Smith also " roomers"with baby Robert and a girl who lives downstairs,(her husband couldn't come,) and Art Dubby who also lives there. It was a grand party, the kids with a friend of Harold's ate in the kitchen, and we had hot rums and then cold turkey and ham and scalloped potatoes, and hot rolls and coffee and pie in the living room. After supper while Dr Mackenzie slept on the couch and Pete said Mary Paris dozed in a chair we played a hockey game, Also had a tour of the various suites and did all the dishes. It was a very congenial crowd and a nice informal party.

Yesterday Pete had a touch of the stomach flu and didn't go far from home. Donny came home to-day from Invermere, had a nice time but Cliff had another attack and so Donny waited an extra day or so. It is worrying for him to keep having spells like that.

There is a hockey game to-night , but don't believe we will be going.

All for to-night and lots of love. We think you are awfully smart all you do.

Loads of love,

Catharine .

Banff, Alberta.
Fri. Jan. 9, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

I am certainly not doing very well with my letter writing, have one started for Kitty and that is as far as I have been able to get.

Wednesday Pete didn't feel very good, I did get an Airmail written to Colin Wyatt in England, before he goes to the Olympics and I guess one to you, then a young man named Gaetz came over to see if he could fly Pete out to some distant spot in the mountains, someone having told him Pete liked to go to such places! That was before lunch, then later Pete was feeling sprier so we went over to ask Col. Moore how George Brewster was as we had heard all the family had been called to Calgary as he was worse, he has had at least one stroke. Found Col Moore working on his book about the early fur traders and he read us extracts and told us very interesting things as he was in the right mood to talk. So stayed longer than we meant to. By the time we got home there wasn't much time for writing before we went to the train to see the Konantzses of Winnepeg away. They had sent a message they would like to see us and when they were leaving (they had been skiing at Sunshine and we used to know them at Temple) Of course they didn't go on the first train so we went to the 2nd one too and they were very pleased to see us and we had a nice visit in the station. That night we were going to sit quietly, and then heard a hockey game going on and Pete decided he could do with some fresh air so over we went for the two last periods of a very good game. Banff beat Canmore 4-3 or 3-2, it was very close. Its funny but Pete feels very tired in the mornings and then after lunch starts perking up and feels much better in the evening. There has been lots of this mild flu but it is hard to shake.

Yesterday & Thursday, I was really all set to get down to the notes when Mr and Mrs Phillips called (he is the artist and they are the ones who are going to build here) Pete was still up stairs so didn't come down but I had a nice visit with them. Lent him the book about Russell Flint that Jean sent and he said he used to know him well years ago. He also said that they hope to have two more chalets built for the Art school by next summer and if they do will keep one open for Art and one for Music the following winter. They left about noon. We had a late lunch and as I had sniffles which went completely later on I decided not to go to the Red Cross. We got a letter from Mr Vallance about his talk with Jackie and took that over to show Allen.

About four o'clock a young couple came to call, rather English in accent. He was from New Zealand and she from England and they had met a friend of ours in Montreal, (Adelaide Smith who we haven't seen for at least ten years) who told them to be sure to look us up when in Banff. They were quite young, he 28 and a most attractive and interesting couple. He had worked in the radio in Australia, had left New Zealand because there was no opening for anyone with private initiative because of the socialist gov't. Was in Singapore broadcasting when the Japs struck and moved to Batavia and week before the Japs captured Singapore so they could keep broadcasting, she left ahead of him and they

got to Australia, from there to South Africa where he put on a sort of Quiz program. It was heard by the British Broadcasting Co. and he went to England. Couldn't get into the army or anything because of his physical part and so got on to Ensor(?) which was the British end of entertaining the troops. Since the War they got him to put on his program in the British isles. They get people out of the audience, ask a question and if they can't answer it correctly they have to do some special thing. Like Truth or Consequences. Some of the examples were having a person act like a parson opening a country fair, etc. It was evidently a very popular program and they put it on in vaudeville houses too. Travelled all over England and Scotland and once a week had the radio show. His name is Michael Miles and hers Joan. It is all impromptu and they said all sorts of funny things would happen. Once they asked a man "who wrote Mendolson's (can't spell it) Spring Song?" and the man answered "I don't know, I never read the book."

Anyway they were asked to come to the states and have been in New York several months giving two shows a day on the stage and one every Sunday on the radio and were worn out from the strain and are on a trip. They were so nice and interesting that we asked them to stay to supper and eat up the rest of the New Years turkey, which they did and luckily I had made some chocolate custard and with two vegetables bread and butter and coffee we had a good supper, they enjoyed it any way, and she helped me with the dishes which was very nice.

There had been another friend who had written to Dan MacCowan to look them up but they hadn't seen him, and after supper who should come to the door but Mr Phillips to return the book, he is staying with Dan, and they were out for a walk, so in they both came and we had a nice time, Mr Phillips had been in South Africa 40 odd years ago and we got talking about that. They all went home about nine.

This morning being a lovely day we went over about ten to take them up to the Hot Springs and out the west road. They hadn't had breakfast, so we brought them back picking up some fresh bacon on the way. Joan cooked the bacon and eggs and fried slices of bread in the bacon grease before doing the eggs. I guess they never will get enough fats and sweets to make up for the War years. He told Pete that it was so cold on the stage in London last winter that they would wear long underwear and a sweater, the yellow one he had on, under his tuxedo.

After breakfast we took them up to the Hot Springs and then out the west road where the sheep were very tame and he took a lot of pictures. It was one thirty when we got home and we were a bit weary. Haven't seen more of them but will try to see them on the train when they leave to-morrow. They are unusually nice, but it is funny how well you get to know strangers who drop in to call.

Mom asked us up to supper to-night and now it is nine o'clock and I think we will most likely go to bed soon.

Loads of love and tell Jean I will write her soon.
more love.

Catharine

P.S. Glad you saw the Ice capades. That is the show Mary Simpson had so much to do with. You are always easy to write to compared to other people - that's why I am apt to start with you first & never get to the other letters.

One story Michael Miles told showing how little some New York people know about the world. He happened to say to one person that he came from New Zealand - she said "but you speak English!" He said "I just left that one unmeasured."

Banff, Alberta.
January 14, 1948
Wednesday.

Dearest Mother,

This probably won't be any better in the way of a letter answering yours than the last few have been, but as usual we have been very busy, Mrs Simpson was down Monday afternoon, ~~and~~ no it was Sunday afternoon, and we got talking as one always does with Mrs Simpson for she has so much to tell one & her stories are interesting too. I still haven't told you the one about her sister as a nurse, ~~xxxxxx~~ Will have to get the details again and tell you. It mean't Sunday that we didn't get the letters mailed and some not written.

Monday I did get one off to Lady Gardiner. Did I tell you they sent us two bookends made from stone of the bombed Houses of Parliament and one has the Tudor Rose the other the Scottish Lion? They came from Harrods. I have been so slow in getting off the Xmas notes. Then Monday Allen Mather came over about the inventory and a few other things in connection with the store property and since then I have been getting prices on furniture etc. You see under the old arrangement Jackie rented the building the store is in, from Pete unfurnished. Then he furnished it and sublet the apartments. In some ways it worked allright, but we felt that Jackie wasn't running it in an economical way and so wasn't always able to pay us our rent. Also we find it increasingly hard to do business with him, he so often insists that we said things that we didn't, yet things you haven't really anything to prove. He isn't dishonest, but he just remembers things differently than we two do. So we have made a change? (I say "we" when really it is Pete's business, only I look after the books for him and don't mind business details as much as he does) Pete now has Allen Mather to be his agent, to collect all the rents and look after all the bills in connection with the property and to see that the repairs are made etc. Allen understands the whole situation for he had much the same problem with his brother and knows that it is easier when you aren't closely related, to do business. Mr Vallance is doing the negotiating for the furniture and Jackie has offered to sell us all the furnishings for half the present day price, but he values it originally much too high we think and so I got all the prices I could on things and we will then compare them. But it is quite a job.

Then yesterday I had two overseas parcels I have been trying two weeks to get done up, it took me all afternoon to get them packed and figured out. Mailed them to-day. Sam dropped in this morning to borrow Pete's plane and as we hadn't see them since New years there was a lot to get caught up on.

and so it goes. Pete has been trying to see the doctor about his sinus thing but they have been so busy and then one doctor got water on the knee playing hockey and that made it harder. Dr. MacKenzie said he would try to drop around yesterday, but I met him overtime about five and a child had just broken an arm or something so he said he would try to make it to-day but don't know if we will see him this afternoon or not. Anyway it is Wednesday and we are at home.

We are having such a mild winter and though it is 20° below east of us and 40° below in Winnipeg it is 30 above here from a strong west wind and last night was 40 above in Calgary.

Mustn't write more now, but my hand got stiff writing thank you notes in longhand and so did this for a rest.

We had a moose calf around the house yesterday, seemed quite tame and had a nice coat.

I have used the mixer Pete gave me just twice, am always slow to try a new gadget, but this is wonderful, the only trouble was that the plating on one of the beaters started to peel off, a defect of somekind so we don't dare use it until we get a new part. But I made soft custard by beating the yolk one minute and then adding the milk and bringing it to a boil on the stove and it was the smoothest I have ever made and no worry about waiting for it to coat a spoon etc. Then I tried muffins, you put everything in at once and they came out allright too. So now I am anxious to try dakes. for you can get the ingredients now.

Loads of love,

Talharvie

P.S. I didn't mean to make it sound as iff Pete was sick, but his trouble keeps bothering him and we want to try and find out the cause. If you go to the doctor there are so many waiting that you sit for hours and then feel hurried.

Banff, Alberta.
Sunday Jan. 18, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

I nearly wrote lots of letters to-day but now it is four o'clock and except for the long business letter to Mr Vallance this morning haven't gotten any others done. We have been working on the inventories of the four apartments and with the help of Eaton's catalogue and the store prices have figured out how much it will cost us to furnish the apartments if Jackie wants too much for what he has in there now. Sort of extra work but think in the end it is worth the effort. When we showed the letter to Allen ^{rather} at noon before mailing it and Susan was to come over to borrow the Twin books, she and Mary Lee have both been having chicken pox. She arrived soon after lunch and spoke or asked if she could borrow one for her friend Lael, so Pete suggested that she bring Lael over to pick out her own book. So back they came in a short time and have only just left. They had a great time picking out the books and then they noticed the Indian camp and then the portrait of Fete's grandfather and pretty soon they began to be interested in everything. It reminded me of how grandpa used to show us things in Salem. They were very much taken with a piece of crystal, so we got out a bowl of little crystals and let them each choose one, in the end they each took three because it was so hard to decide. Do you remember long ago when you took me as a little girl to some friend's house in Cambridge? She lived off Brattle st. somewhere near Sparks st. I think, and she had a collection of stones and gave me a few bits, one was an amethyst and an unpolish-moonstone and several others. I think they are in a box in Concord yet. Lael lives on a ranch in the summer and she told Pete while I was hunting up something that she found an arrow head last summer (they are about 10 years old both of them) and she didn't want anyone to get it, (she has two older brothers) so buried it in a hole she dug and it is marked with a stick and when we come down to see her sometime she is going to dig it up and let Pete see it. You never know but what taking a little time to explain things will give them a life interest in things. I heard Susan say that when she went to visit they could go further up the river and look for stones.

It is very interesting to find how much the kids here know about the world. They went off with a chinese coin and a bit of Lava rock to show the class in some period where they all bring something foreign. one girl brought a chinese nut and Lael is to take a chinese newspaper. Did I tell you about Harold appearing the other night about 9.30 P.M. which seemed rather late for a boy of 9, so I said "What in the world are you doing at this time of night?" and Harold said "Oh. I have just been over at Miss Cousins talking about Norway and Lapland." Miss Cousins is one of the school teachers and he told her he would ask us if she could borrow some of our books on Norway or Lapland as her grade is studying it in school. It isn't even the class Harold is in. Davy's grade studied Switzerland last year and Harold knows all about it too. Maybe the news reels have a lot to do with their interest and now at the school they have their own projector with sound and get all sorts of educational films.

I always seem to be hurrying my letters to you. We finally got Dr Mackenzie down to see Pete Tuesday afternoon and he said it is just a sinus infection I think he called it but not the serious kind, just bothersome and he prescribed some drops and how to use them, for I think when Pete used them before most of them went down his throat and naturally didn't help his nose which they were for. It is to relieve the irritation which in turn helps the back part. Then he said he would like him to try some new pills that he had just gotten as samples. they were used in the war for the flyers who had to go up to high altitudes on bombing missions etc. and he said they were sort of " pep pills " he was to take one before breakfast and one before lunch. The first one made Pete sleep the rest of the morning and we forgot the one before lunch, but to-day remembered both and so far he hasn't slept ! Anyway it takes sometime to feel the effects of things like that.

To-morrow is George Brewster's funeral in the afternoon, he died Friday or Saturday. It turned out to be tumors in his brain, he had been in Calgary since before Christmas under the Dr Gilfen that Mackie was under, and he was treating him for a stroke, then they sent him to Edmonton in the end where a brain specialist operated and found the tumors, took out five and there were still several more, so they knew there was no hope. What interested us was that one of the local doctors here. Pat Costigan advised George to go to Edmonton when he was having headaches last summer and thought it might be a tumor, but George I guess wouldn't go. Rather nice to know that the local doctor diagnosed it right, for so many people are always going to Calgary thinking the doctors here don't know much. I can't help but feel that Gilfen is a great one for making your trouble sound so serious that when he cures you you think he has done wonders. Dr Mackenzie is very honest that way.

We are still having mild weather, a wonderful winter. Had a letter from Mr Vallance's daughter who is married and lives near Lila in Vancouver. She said it seemed so funny to have it green all winter and that so far everyday they have had a rose blooming, though they never open right up but just in buds. and also primulas whatever they are ?

We had young Cliff in for supper the other night, luckily had some ground round steak we hadn't used for us for lunch and he ate it all. We never saw a great deal of Cliff's boys and gradually they are coming down on their own. Young Cliff is developing fast and seems a fine lad. We could do so much for them if we knew them better. Went last night to watch Donny play hockey, it was a lovely night but frosty, about 10 above.

Better get this in the mail, also pick up Time.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. Jan. 20, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

Before I forget to mention it, the box for Pete's birthday came to-day and many thanks for I think I know what it is. I also got the letter written to Russell. I thought I had written him since getting the letters but maybe I didn't. To tell the truth there has been so much on our minds and such a pile of unanswered letters, some quite important, that I couldn't seem to get them sorted out or answered without being interrupted or having to do something else. With the holidays I didn't get them until barely two weeks ago and I think I thought I would wait until I had heard if the money arrived in Calgary. The money came but the securities only just got there and they only let me know from the bank last week, when I was in the midst of doing the inventory for Pete of the apartment furnishings, I was so often interrupted doing it that I finally decided to do nothing else until that was finished. I don't count my letters to you for no matter how often I have to jump up and down I can always keep on writing away to you. and them of course I haven't answered any of your letter since before Xmas.

To-day I got three letters written, one a Christmas thank you to England for an antique candle stick Elaine Cruickshank sent me, the other a letter to the Peppers who are trying to arrange a series of exhibitions in Eastern Canada for us for this spring, but that took a long time to word as some letters do. They found most Galleries are all booked up but we are just as pleased to wait until another year when we might have more work to show. They have us down for a show of sketches in London Ontario in May, these would be old sketches we already have made.

We ran out of Christmas cards and decided to make some more even if they were late. Pete only just got started on those to-day. He is feeling better and the nose drops have helped. We now think we were stupid last summer or whenever it was he used them before, for then they just seemed to go down his throat, but now he gets his head way back and down and they manage to get to the back of his nose where they do some good. Anyway we will hope for the best.

I wrote you Sunday afternoon when the little girls came for books, After leaving here they found a peculiar rock and had to come right back and ask Pete what he thought it was, they did n't think I would know. It was a piece of clinker from some furnace. but it shows that they were looking after seeing the rocks we have. We took Susan home then after mailing your letter, and she insisted we go in and see her mother, which we did. Susan is a very hospitable little girl! That evening the Ken Fords came down to bring back the projector and screen we had lent them and stayed for a bit of a visit.

Yesterday was a lovely day, the funeral of George Brester in the afternoon. a very large funeral for he was both well known and well liked. We couldn't get into the church it was so full and the wind too cold to stand long outside, but we did go to the cemetery and then last evening went over to see the Moores for a short time.

Your letter with those of the three Palmers came to-day. We thought they were wonderful in showing the character of each one.

Judy's with the elaborate "Happy New Year" on the outside and Bob's so very correct and old sounding. Charles perfectly natural. They certainly love Thanksgiving at your house. You should ask them out for Sunday dinner some time, they would love it.

While I think of it - Here Edmee Moore came in and spent the evening so we will never know what I was thinking of! She brought back the Dan French book, I lent it to them before reading it myself so Col. Moore would have a chance to read it before going away. He thought it was one of the best biography's he had ever read, and I guess he has read a good many. He thought it was so well written that he said one almost wished that Mrs Cresson had been a writer instead of a Sculptoré for she had such wonderful talent as a writer he thought.

I just finished the Marshall book and it is so interesting right now to know more about the General. Poor man he never did get his rest and vacation, far less being allowed to retire. I am just finishing Grandma Moses. When we first glanced at it on Christmas day I wondered at your sending a book about an artist who painted like that, not knowing anything about her. But of course on reading it you get awful interested and to think she only started painting at the age she did. Edmee had read quite a lot about her before but somehow we hadn't heard of her. She must be a remarkable old lady.

We have read the Artist in Alaska too and that was most interesting I liked the part about the Eskimos best. they would be fun to paint.

Wed - Today Must finish now as we have the cards to finish. Mrs Simpson was in right after breakfast saying that the Grahams would like to come down to tea to-morrow afternoon, and before she left Cliff arrived. Just over from the Windermere. He would have been here yesterday but the stage reached Golden just 15 minutes too late for the train. They are very obliging on the stage, pick up errands all along the way and waited 15 minutes for one old lady to pack her suitcase, which was just enough to miss the train so he had to stay overnight in Golden. They seem to be getting on well. Cliff is a natural born salesman, he doesn't say very much or exaggerate things but he has a way of making things sound as if next week things would be even better than this. They just can't fail and somehow he is so convincing. I guess a real optimist. but when he is down he is just as far the other direction.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Sat. Jan. 24, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

Have a ham simmering and so will write this where I can listen to be sure it won't boil! It is trying to snow and turning colder, but the weather has been so mild and lovely it hardly seems like winter, no doubt it will snow all May. What a lot you have, its hard to believe there is so much and so early in the year, maybe you will have a thaw and an early spring, but I bet the skiers are pleased. Thanks for all the clippings.

We have been fairly busy lately. Cliff came over on Wednesday and was down for a while before noon to tell us how everything was going. He seems much better in spirits, (though he did have another "black out" at New Years) and loves it over in the "Valley" as they call it. You were never there but it is very beautiful country. a long dry valley with two big lakes and then the Rockies on one side and the Selkirks on the other. The train connects between Cranbrook in the south and Golden on the C.P.R. main line, goes ~~have~~ way up one day and continues on the next and then returns the end of the week. and the whole life of the place is more or less that speed. Lloyd has found a girl and I believe they are engaged already, and as Cliff says it works fine for him. Lloyd gave her a ring and she comes each day and cooks two meals for them and keeps the house tidy. They think now they will go in for raising potatoes, turnips and carrots as the chinamen here who have truck farms will take all they can raise and bring it over here, storing it in root cellars, as they can't raise good potatoes here. A good many of the people over there have small places and a pension or income and with what they raise for themselves and plenty of fire wood they can live very nicely, so most of them aren't anxious to go in for farming. Cliff is what Pete calls an idealist and gets so enthusiastic about the future of anything and makes it all sound so convincing too. He is sure that the valley is just on the verge of great developments of all kinds and maybe it is, but it is good to hear him interested and enthusiastic. He is very musical and used to play in the orchestras and Pete said could play a piano by ear as a boy, now he has joined the local dance orchestra and has taken his father's violin back with him so we think that is a good sign. It made us feel better too.

Mrs Simpson was over to ask if the Grahams could come to tea Thursday, so I spent most of Thursday tidying up, saved my usual cleaning to-day. The Grahams are the ones who asked us to their house New Years Eve. They are newcomers in a way. Built a new house on the Cave and Basin rd. as "a cottage" to come to winter and summer. He had several children by his first marriage and so did she and then they have two little kids, I think there are 12 or 14 in all and some married with children so it is a large family and they love to entertain. Mrs Simpson teaches them ~~skating~~ skating. They have a big house in Montreal and also in Vancouver and He is a very keen business man, they also have race horses. They are very nice with it all and when they first came quite a few people made a great fuss over them but we never really met them. They came ^{down} anyway and she was very interested

in the pictures, though I think they rather bored him and Pete was sure he had a few minutes sleep. (Mr Goddard said that was quite likely as at their house the other evening he leaned back in his chair and went sound asleep for a few minutes, waking up quite alert and refreshed.) Jim Simpson came in towards the end, told some good stories. One of the best was about a trip he and Mrs Simpson made to New York years ago and he was invited to all sorts of explorers houses and artists etc. One man painted Indians, (named Dinning I think it was) and Jim went down to his studio in MacDougal Alley one time to see him. He had several children and they were all living there in the Studio made out of a stable. the walls still brick and the living quarters in what Mrs Simpson't called " the manger " But what amused Jim the most was while the father was working away at the easel with tubes of paint scattered around him on the floor, the twins were having a great time stepping on each tube they could get hold of and there would be a sudden squirt, sending the paint half way across the room. I wish you could hear Jim describe it with very expressive stampings of his foot and pointing at the same time way across the room where the paint would have hit. Can't you imagine what fun that must have been?

Yesterday we had Cliff down again for a few minutes and then Mr Goddard the bank manager came about five as Pete wanted to ask him a bit of advice. He is awfully nice and we like him very much. He was telling us about his family which was quite interesting. They originally came to Boston in 1660 something and had a farm in Brookline, the old house is still there as some cousin took him to see it once, it was rebuilt in 1763 about. His Grandfather went back to England to study and I guess stayed over there, his father first studied to be a doctor and then changed to being an architect and came back to America and to see the relations in Boston. About this time in the 1860s there was a boom on in Detroit and he moved out there, met his wife in Windsor Ontario and lived there, working in Detroit. Then a boom came along in Winnepeg and lots of building so he came west and that was where Mr Goddard was born, and they moved to Victoria when he was 4 and lived there the rest of the time. He is related to the Goddards and Welds in Boston.

Last night we went up to see the Wards not having been up since New Years as they too have had colds. a mild winter is bad for bugs. However we didn't stay long as Sam was at the movies. Saw him to-day and were up to the Valance house which is being painted. It is almost finished.

Here I thought I would answer some of your letters and as usual got rambling along. Well better luck next time.

Loads of love,

Catherine

✓ P.S. You asked about the Concord Journal. I got three all in a row after Christmas. and at Christmas got one wrapping but no journal. the paper they use to wrap the ~~paper~~ in is not strong enough and gets torn. The one that came to-day was off the paper, I enclose it. Unless they can wrap the journal better or put the address just on the newspaper itself, there isn't much use their sending it. I guess.

Banff, Alberta.
January 28, 1948

Dearest Mother,

What a terrific winter you are having, we were much amused by your portrait and feelings sent on Jan. 22nd! We managed to get it down to -20 below and then it went up again and has been mild since. They say on the radio it is 46 below in Brandon Manitoba this morning, and yet Fairbanks Alaska has had the mildest winter since 1898. At the coast the crocuses are in bloom and people playing tennis in shorts and they have had no snow at all this winter. They are playing golf in Lethbridge.

Pete at last got his letter written to you. He reminds me of how Rusty ~~was~~ used to get out of doing things by saying "but it will make me sick if I do it." Pete thought up more excuses, his pen was dry, he couldn't find the ink, then he said his arm had a cramp in it, and I am sure you would have been amused would you have seen him and then he always says that I write so much there is never anything left for him to say! He does appreciate all the things you send him and the birthday presents too but he just can't be effusive in a letter.

We are awfully glad to have the Ernie Pyle book I have only glanced at it so far and read the bit about Dick Roberts the Brewster Cowboy, I see him quite often doing the marketing and about two summers ago he (who is about 65 or 70) and his wife who must be much younger, and a daughter, he was so thrilled that it stopped the traffic on the main street while he told people all about it. I also liked the description of the trip into Lake O'Hara. *The book on Boston is the best yet of that type & we are very glad to have that.*

After writing you Sunday wasn't it, or Saturday, we had Johnny and a friend over after supper wanting to go to the Hockey game with us. They were awfully cunning and the friend Larry Foster in grade three at school was very much interested in the Norwegian and Lap things and the pictures. We went to the game but it was very one sided, Banff winning 11 - 3 and we came home early. Sunday was quiet, we wrote Mr Vallance and mailed yours and his letters and then in the afternoon Lael and Susan and Mary Lee arrived with the books, wanting to borrow more. We gave them some of Pete's birthday cake and gingerale and in the midst of that Cy Harris came down with a book, and we gave him tea. Mary Lee stayed for a while after the other two left and looked at the Rackham books and also Grandma Moses, reading all the handwriting part, but never saying a word. In the evening it was frosty and the snow all sparkles in the moonlight and we went up to the Wards for a while.

Monday we worked on a letter to Sir Norman Watson, one that had to be carefully worded and it took us nearly three days because of interruptions. Then just as I was getting stew ready for supper I walked Tom Kaquits, an Indian from Morely, I gave him some goose grease for his wife and bacon fat, but no tea or anything, he wanted to ask about the carnival. At the end he said he wanted to

bum \$2.00 to have supper with Jacob who had brought him up, so we gave him that. But at least he was honest about it!

Yesterday we were going to do all sorts of things and then Jackie suddenly appeared at noon, having gotten a letter from Mr Vallance on our behalf about ~~what~~ what we were willing to pay him for the furniture etc. He was all upset and so unreasonable as he seems to get at times, just like a child in a tantrum, Mom appeared being worried because he has been sick, and we kept as calm as possible, but it always upsets Pete to have them go after him as they do. We can't figure what they are driving at or why they feel as they do and that is why we have Allan acting as Pete's agent in running the ~~business~~ store building and Mr Vallance doing the talking. Jackie was supposed to see him in Calgary but came back earlier than he said he would and never found Mr. V. in. Naturally Pete is of a sensitive nature or he wouldn't be an artist and maybe Jackie knows he can upset him, but it isn't easy to keep ones temper when he says the things he does, and then won't listen to us. We are getting very philisophical about these sort of things but it only makes us less ready to help Jackie in any way. Cliff is so different and always appreciates what we do. Well we can only be patient, we telephoned Mr V. and he hopes to be up soon and maybe he can reason with Jackie better than we can. He also sent us a copy of the letter sent to Jackie, this morning, but we can't see what there was in it to cause Jackie to get upset. We showed it to Allan and he is very wise about human nature, he agreed with us and thought maybe if Jackie read it a 2nd time he might look at it differently. He also said that Jackie is so used to brow beat Pete and doesn't consider that Pete has any opinion in business matters. The funny part is that whatever Pete has gone into he has made pay, like the Skoki thing years ago. He has good judgement and they haven't I guess. Well I guess Jackie being sick has made him feel worse about things, but thought I would just mention it so you will know a little what we are spending time at. We have to get it straightened out before we can put our minds to other things.

We saw "Great Expectations" at last and nearly died of the heat in the movie place. They must have gotten it ready for another 20° below night and instead it was 20° above outside, and a matinee in the afternoon hadn't helped matters, but we did like the movie and thought it so well done. The Dickens people seemed real. The funny part was that the evening before Sam had told us about going with his father as a little boy to a Miss Bennett's house, ~~as~~ She had lived alone after her sister left her for 20 years and the house must have looked very much like the one of Miss Harersham's. She had never been in the living room for the whole 20 years and felt something was wrong inside but wouldn't open the door, and got Sam's father to go in. The roof had leaked and the water come in, rotting the carpet and wood floor as well. But everything was as it had been when the door was last closed, She herself lived mostly in a tremendous kitchen and Sam told us all about it and the dark passages etc. Funny it should be just ~~before~~ we saw the picture.

Right at the start of the movie when the man in the cemetery grabed the little boy, some girls on the other side of the theater I let out such a scream, it was the way we all felt but the audience had to laugh, and later on they screamed again, added quite a bit.

Had such a nice letter from Madge, didn't mean her to write for she must have had so many difficult notes to write others.

Loads of love to all,
Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
January 31, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

Wonder are you still buried in snow and cold weather? It is still mild here. This weekend is the University Ski meet and we could have done with more snow. The Slalom was on to-day but we didn't go up, might possibly go to-morrow but it depends on the weather. (No we didn't go, road too treacherous & weather cold)

Can't remember when I last wrote, must have been about Thursday. Jackie was not very well that day and scared to be alone in case he had a turn like the one in Calgary, so I sat with him for an hour, he was up at Mom's where it was quieter. We may be wrong but we think he wants lots of sympathy and isn't really as sick as he makes out. He was very nice with me and we had a nice talk about all sort/s of things. I had gone up to take a letter to Mom and found him there, you never would have thought he had said the things he did down here. We can't make it out unless it is the medicine he takes, but he surely takes a funny slant on things. We haven't seen him since but understand he is not very well. Pete has decided that he is like to Jackie what a red flag is to a bull! We wrote to Mr Vallance and got such a reassuring letter back and he thought a short cooling off period might change Jackie's mind and if he doesn't hear from him soon will be up anyway to see him. We do want to get things settled and everytime we seem to get under way Jackie is taken sick or something happens. Anyway both Allan and Mr Vallance are a great help and understand. So we just are hoping for the best.

Allan's brother Leslie Mather who works in Calgary had quite an accident, as the doctor told him for a simple accident he was really seriously hurt. He used to be a great athlete and jumped barrels on skates and could skate as fast backwards as forwards, as Allan said if he wanted to get across the room and a table stood in his way, likely as not he would vault over it instead of going around. The other day he with some others were going out to have coffee. it was warm and instead of going out the door, he must have jumped through the open window, and from what Allan could tell over the telephone there was a piece of glass, or perhaps the double window leaning against the wall outside and his arm was cut by the glass so badly that it severed the tendons and both arteries, and he also broke his hip. Luckily he was right near the clinic or he might have bled to death before they got a doctor and he is apt to be laid up for 6 months, it took 3 1/2 hours to tie all the tendons & arteries to-gether and he had to have blood transfusions etc.

I was all ready to go to Calgary Friday morning, one has to be up before 7 and the bus leaves at 8. It was so dark and then I could just see it was snowing on all the mountains and a few flakes as I opened the door, so we had a great figuring out and finally I decided not to go, it looked like a real snow storm and I knew it would only worry Pete to have me on the roads even

if the drivers are good. So at the last minute decided not to go. Then of course it cleared up and was even mild later on, but they did have a bad snow flurry in Calgary about nine and it said on the radio that the streets were a glare of ice. Anyway it was the day that Gandhi was shot, the Bermuda plane lost, the train wrecked and goodness knows what else ! Now I shall have to try again next week

Mom and Donny are coming to supper, at least Donny is for sure but we haven't heard from Mom, just left a note on her door. Jonni was over last evening with four pictures he had made and they really were awfully good we thought. We might be prejudiced but one especially of a sailboat with mountains behind and another of a grave stone with white clouds on the sky, two clouds like this the other, maybe to-morrow I can sketch it for you. He wants Pete to make a frame to fit them all !

He smelt kippers cooking and wanted to stay to supper, so ran home to ask if he could & was back here in no time, quite enjoyed the kippers too. Helped with the dishes, looked at Sinbad the dog book and then went home.

Here is an idea of how his pictures look.



Sea blue. Mts gray
but brown sails green.



Helicopter on left
Mts right



Boat being
washed.



The flowers are
smaller in this
weaker clouds they near sun
Gravelstone is higher.

Sunday- Donny came to supper and Mom came later having been at the Ladies Ponspiel. Then Johnny appeared and went to the hockey game with us, a better one than last week, though Canmore won 3-2. There was a good crowd and a lovely evening.

Much excitement among the various mothers and fathers of the boys who went to Calgary for the Junior Ponspiel of High school age. for the team won five games in a row and are the Southern champions of Alberta, go to Edmonton to play the Northern champions and if they win go to Winnipeg. It is just the 2nd year they have been doing it.

It is cold and frosty this morning, we went up on Tunnel Mt to see if we could see the Ski races in the glasses but they were half an hour late starting and didn't look as if they were going to hold the race for a while so we came home.

Lunch time now. I didn't do justice to Johnnies pictures they are in colored crayon and the proportions are better.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. Feb. 4, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

Well at last I got to Calgary and back again O.K. You know I was all ready to go last Friday and then it looked like the storm we were due for so didn't go, and it turned out nice and warm and sunny. Monday was very cold though clear and so I decided to try Tuesday which was yesterday.

It didn't look too promising when I walked over to the bus, for the clouds were low on the mountain tops, but having missed out once because of that decided to try it anyway. It was 10 above so not too cold and few going, in fact I sat alone both ways. As we went along the mountain tops got mistier for it was snowing high up and the ceiling got lower and lower all the way. I was sure it must be snowing all day in Banff. It was quite nice in Calgary and the sun came out at noon, but at 3.30 it started to snow and there was a good inch by 4.30. I had quite a time trying to decide whether to risk coming back on the bus, and thinking it must have snowed in the mountains, wondered what the roads would be like, found that the bus had come in on time from Banff at 4 so decided to risk it and if it was too bad stop off in Cochrane with Pete's relations. It snowed hard all the way but luckily not much wind and actually as we got into the mountains there was less on the ground than out in the open. But after a wild night most roads were badly drifted and it has been cold here all to-day.

Managed to do quite a lot in Calgary. We arrived on the dot of 11, just 3 hours and I made an appointment at the dentist for a filling to be polished at 2.20, then to the Bank to arrange for a Safe Deposit box and got that all fixed up. Then to see Mr Vallance a little before 12. He came out of his office at noon saying he was already half an hour late for lunch with a friend and insisted I come with them. So we talked business ~~xxx~~ in all sorts of places. The friend had to answer the telephone so we spoke in the hallway, then he met a man on the street and Mr. V and I stood right in the middle of the main sidewalk and discussed some more. It really was funny, catching little snatches here and there. We ate in the Hudson's Bay, a most delicious lunch, omelete, french fried potatoes and coconut cream pie. and off they hurried when it was over. Then I sent the parcels overseas which takes quite a while as they weigh things out. and then I looked at a Bendix Washing machine, an accordion for Cliff, the rugs and draperies and furniture, taking these departments as one does a museum in a hurry, just walked through. They now have escalators to all four floors in the Bay and it does make it nice.

At 2.30 I bought the first tulips and daffodills and took a taxi out to the Holy Cross Hospital to see Leslie Mather for about 20 minutes. He is getting on fine and very cheerful. He had a five inch cut in his arm and it severed all but one thing, either one artery or one tendon or a nerve, he did N't know quite which. But he can wiggle his fingers though they are in a cast. From there I dashed back and saw Pete's cousin Allan Mackie and found out about Uncle Clifford and had flowers sent to the new address where they are now living.

Then I even had time to stop in & see Mr Turner at the Art Gallery and almost bought a picture of Leonard Richmonds of Lake Louise.

Did a few other errands and went to the dentist so all in all I did quite a bit ! The trip back was easy and pleasanter than going down for in the morning a man had an old stub of a cigar that he made last for the first two hours, lighting it periodically, the smell was pretty awful.

Somehow the bus made good time and we were 20 minutes early reaching Banff, but it is a good 12 hour day. Pete took me over to tell Allan about seeing Leslie and then we had a late supper and to bed. But it always takes some time to tell Pete all I did and for him to tell me his day.

To-day we did the errands and also saw Sam to tell him how Mr Vallance wanted some drawers for slides made, bringing him back here to see what the slides are like. At the same time three of the Carnival Committee came to the door to ask to borrow the stage coach But we have decided not to lend it any more and then they asked Pete to make a map of the town. As usual not realizing just what he was getting himself in for he said yes. and now we have been over to see Mr Spiller the printer, find there is little time and it will have to be done by to-morrow, so Pete and Mr S. decided that Pete could just ink in the map they made for an idea and another year Pete could make a really elaborate one.

We also took in another funeral this afternoon. the manager of the Mt. Royal. I didn't think we needed to go but Pete thought it might be a good idea so we did and it took longer than we expected. Just a good chunk out of the afternoon. I guess that is why I seem to get so little done.

Better get this off on the train if I am not too late.

Loads of love

Catharine

P.S. Tell Jean that her letter will be written soon I hope and the great big box of candy arrived for Pete's birthday. Thanks so much.

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. Feb. 5, 1948

Dearest Mother,

A new typewriter ribbon as you see, I got it in Calgary. We are having wonderful clear weather but cold. It was about 25 below this morning but the sun seemed warm later, and to-night it was ten below. But not much snow.

To-day I went to the Red Cross for the first time since before Christmas I guess, and don't think I will go much more as they have enough people for the machines they have and if we really start painting steadily it breaks into the week. Next week is the Carnival starting Wednesday so don't suppose we can do a great deal. This morning Mario was here at ten, he brings our mail now when he does Mom's furnace. We now have a post office box of our own, number 30, you don't have to use it but can if you want to. Just remember it was the year we were married, thirty, or the first two numbers of your Concord box. Then we had Sam Peyto down to see if he could borrow some money to buy a house that they want to move off some property where the new Greyhound bus station is to go back of the Mt. Royal. Then Elisabeth Rummel came to see if she could borrow our Jeep as the tractor at Temple had broken down and they had to wait longer for the spare part and the guests wouldn't come without transportation. We told her that we never lent our cars for anyone else to drive and she understood that, so we tried to think of other jeeps or tractors she might get. We no longer are going to go way out of our way to help them up at Temple! Decided we have done enough in the past. Then we had to look for Bud Gourlay to tell him that there wasn't time to do the map well enough that he wanted for the carnival programs, and it took about 20 minutes to talk him out of the idea with the help of a stranger who happened into the store, overheard the conversation and being a printer put his word in. Then we were real mean and suggested they put up signs so people could find their way around Banff, and so some other poor soul will have to make signs for them!

And now I should answer some of your recent letters. The photo of Grandpa came and thanks so much, haven't gotten it to Col. Moore yet. I am enjoying the book about Daniel Chester French so much.

We were awfully sorry to hear about Mr Weed for we didn't realize he was so ill, but how wonderful for him to just die in his sleep. We will miss him on the next trip to Concord for he was a good friend of ours. I can just barely remember Mrs Weed, she made the bedclothes for a cradle I had and a baby doll that went in it I think. She made it for a fair if I remember correctly.

What weather you do have and such cold, I think you do well to go out in it but know how you hate to stay indoors all day. so do I.

You liked the little calendar of the Habitant work for Eastern Canada. It was sort of a joke, I was going to send one to Francis and Ebbs just plain and then thought there might be duty and if I made it into a calendar it would go as such and not be opened. theirs came out so well I thought you would like one too.

It is hard when you don't know who cards are from and we couldn't help you out with those you didn't know. We got more than ever this year over 200, and alot from people who we thought would not send to us, I think they like 'ete's cards and we had lots of nice letters about ~~them~~ one this year. I guess it was worth the effort.

What a job you must be having doing the attic, am sorry not to be more help. If you could describe some of the things maybe I could make suggestions, people or places where they would be enjoyed.

Have you seen Olive yet. had a nice note from her Christmas and she spoke of going to Concord.

I will try to find out more about the " Saddlebags for Suitcases " yes it is true for I remember when she went through though I don't know that we saw her. We haven't read it but will get it.

Nice to have Mrs Sanborn with you, I should have sent her my best wishes but expect she is gone now. Stupid of me. Someone was speaking of a friend who had part of their stomach removed and felt so well afterwards. Wonderful what they can do these days. She , Mrs Sanborn was the one who sent the clipping of the Moose breathing over the ladies shoulder, Uncle Marshall sent the same one in a nice letter we got this week.

Loads of love
Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Sunday night.
Feb. 7, 1948

Dearest Mother,

We are having a real blizzard to-night, and in fact it has blown and snowed a fine snow all day. was around zero and is ten below now. We haven't gone out all day and were glad to stay home. The little girls came to see us this afternoon, to return and borrow books, we made them cocoa and finally they enjoyed themselves so much we had to suggest they go home. Lael came first and got interested in Indian things and the Cree prayer book and she and Susan spent most of the time figuring words in Cree, while Mary Lee who is two years younger played with some little Japanese dishes. wooden ones. Otherwise it has been a quiet day, got the desk drawer cleaned out and a lot of letters put in a pile to answer, so thought I would start by answering some of yours to-night while listening to a quiz program on the radio, so goodness knows what I will say.

In one of your letters you spoke of Fairchild's new book "The World Grows Round my Door" which you found most interesting and asked if we would like it, Might be good for my birthday, and by then I will forget about telling you!

Has Mr Sanborn found any hotel to run? it does seem such a shame when they built the hotel up so well to have the man sell it without considering them.

In an old letter you asked about our "gate" and where the fence was, We have no fence just a gate and it looks pretty funny. It is an old wire one hung on a post down at the end of our driveway near the river road. We shut it at night in summer as so many people spoon along that road during the dances over town and in the summer season people seeing a little road drive in and then sleep in their cars. The gate when shut keeps all cars from coming in.

Its funny but twice now we have gotten W.B.Z just as clear as could be, recognized it first when they called for snow shovelers for the North Station, now we have it to-night and the weather report, Hear you are to have another cold wave around zero. well it is like us.

Did I tell you we saw "Great Expectations"? yes I am sure I did, and how Sam had told us the evening before about a lady he knew who lived in a big house alone for over 20 years, must have looked like the house in the movie.

I notice in an old letter that you spoke of Mr Weed having fainting spells so guess that was what happened in the end.

Remember the murderer that they picked up in Banff? The trial was the end of last month and he is to hang for it. He sounded crazy and yet they had him up at Ponoka which is the mental hospital for a month or more and decided he was sane, He confessed to the whole thing. a curious case and not very pleasant to think he might have gotten into Mom's basement had he tried either of the other two windows

He was a Doukaboer and they do strange things. They are a Russian sect and the ones who are very religious, fanatics, and protest by undressing and going around nude in public. Also love to set school houses on fire.

Are Mary Cool and Gibbie still with Madge? We had such a nice letter from her, I don't know how people write that kind of letter I can't word things so that they sound allright. Will send it to you to read, don't want it back. I too am trying to get rid of things, You spoke of Mildred asking what you did with photographs of people sent as Christmas cards and you said you sent them to me. I think I will send some of the things on to Dorothy Brown, the ones that would interest her! Trouble is that lots of the letters or cards I hate to destroy. Like that cunning one of Louise Blynnmeyers children, the girl looked just as I remember Louise!

I see in one letter you asked what the man wanted who was trying to get into Mom's house. We thought if it was at night it might have been for a place to sleep or else he was looking for food or money.

I am enjoying the book about Dan French so much. Do you remember his step-mother Pamela at all? It was remarkable to think he did the Minute Man with so little experience.

Have I ever met Emily Hale you speak of so often and Miss Wagner? I can't seem to place them.

Yes. Russ was right I do know a Powning who must be the father of Gale's friend. Can't think of his first name this minute, knew his sister Dot Powning too.

We paid the National Geographic dues this year but you must have done the New Yorker and I wonder did we ever say "thank you" I bet I forgot. It came in the form of a Christmas card before Christmas. We enjoy a lot of the things in it, even the adds. and the prices of things like the Jewelry!

Do you ever hang out a chicken or turkey carcass for the birds! We put our New Years turkey out and the birds still find something to eat off it. chica-dees and woodpeckers and Whiskey Jacks.

Asked Mrs Round about the person who wrote "SaddleBags for Suitcases" and she said she met her but Mr Round interviewed her so if I see him will ask him more about the girl, It is all true though. I haven't read it but Mrs Round is getting me a copy, it sounds a good book to own.

You know quite often you speak of your mind slowly going, we think you are the only one of that opinion. I can't really see that your letters or writing have changed in the last ten years, and how you do all the things you do I don't know for I am sure I would be tired out. We think you are quite wonderful and know others who think the same! I think you keep so young by being interested in so many things.

That snow formation you drew must have been very interesting, the one at the back. With a storm like this one to-night the wind blows a cornice of fine snow out over the garage and why it stays I never know. Sometimes it hangs over nearly a foot.

The Journal is coming in a new and stronger wrapper, I think that was the trouble, the other mail rubbing broke the previous wrappers off. Will let you know about it.

Do you know the Sergeant Newbury's address ? our card came back, though it was the same address we used last year.

Will enclose a few letters that I got which were nice, you can read them and throw them away. Tell Jean I will write her next. Have such nice letters from Scotland to send her but haven't gotten them sorted out yet.

Monday, Still cold and snowing, but we have such a fine snow when it is cold that it doesn't pile up at all. It was ten below this A.M. Wonderful weather to clean things out, like old clothes etc.

Have thought of Pownings name. Kim Powning I think it was.

Haven't read Canadian Spring yet, That sounds like one of Jimmy Simpson's stories, about jumping on the rams back.

This morning Mario brought us a most unexpected Valentine present. Aren't you clever to think of that. I would have forgotten all about it. Also did I tell you that the wonderful box of candy came from Jean for Fete's birthday. Thank her so much for it.

We had hoped that Mr Vallance would be up last week but with the weather in Calgary worse than here he of course didn't come, I am glad to have gotten my trip over. Jackie must have just gotten mad about something for ever since the day he came over here and blew up he has acted as if nothing had happened and sweet as pie. However one never quite knows how he will be, it may be part of his illness. ~~but~~ lately he has taken more interest in the store which is encouraging. We steer clear of him as much as possible.

All for this letter, and lots of love,

Calhounie .

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. Feb. 11, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

We have been having a spell of real winter. -30 below yesterday morning and the milk froze, cracking the bottle. I guess we were too late bringing it in for it comes at seven. It is Bonspiel week. 58 rinks of 4 men each and they come from all over the Province to play. There were so many games to play off (as each rink plays in several events for different cups) they have been playing round the clock for the first few days. The women curlers serve hot meals at the rink making a small charge, for it is hard for the men to get up town for a meal between games sometimes. It takes about two hours to play a game. We haven't been over yet, but lots of curlers in town and some have their wives with them. The Carnival starts to-morrow with a parade in the afternoon. We don't intend to take in all the things but will see quite a bit most likely. One usually does.

Last night was a hockey game but we only stayed two periods, it is too cold to stand outside in below zero weather unless the game is exciting enough to keep one warm. We were quite amused for when Johnny goes with us he hardly watches the game at all but runs around playing with other little boys. Being a school night he didn't go last night, but a little boy about five was there who has been playing with him a couple of times and he came up to us and asked me "is White down to-night?" You would have thought he was pretty old the way he called Johnny "White"

We were over at the Moores the other evening and showed the Colonel the picture of Grandpa, he says he remembers him so well and can describe exactly how Grandpa drew the various things with both hands. It was at the Chautauqua lectures and the Col was just a little boy.

I think I told you the big Valentine came, Susan wanted me to open it right away but Lael said I must wait, so I am waiting patiently! I think too I thanked you for the chocolate peppermints which came some time before Pete's birthday but which we thought were for that occasion. Just this week we saw the first box of peppermints in the store, Candy is coming in now and enough to be on display and not hidden until you ask for it for a special reason. So from now on we should be able to get all we want. Jean's box for Pete came a little after his birthday, might have been delayed because of the cold weather, that was why we didn't mention it sooner. Pete says he is going to write her himself! He has good intentions anyway.

Olive must have had an awful trip on the Queen Mary, I would hate to be in such a storm.

In regards to the Japanese dishes and tea jars. Are there any sort of young friends of Grandpas who would like one.

What about John Edward or Edith Morses family? There are 6 children to divide things among there. You might land some boxes in the Morses attic ! There isn't much use my taking a lot of things out here and we have too much ourselves. Wonder would there be a small museum statting up anywhere that would like a sample of various kinds of pottery. Mr Tominta might know of some.

Wasn't that nice about Sted receiving the Gold medal for the most beautiful garden ?

Am so glad the Mission meeting or whatever it is called that Jean and Hanne gave was such a success, but seems to me all your parties are!

You have spoken often of the leaks in people' s roofs, we all had that trouble last year here . It is because the heat from the house melts the snow in the high part of the roof above the ~~xxx~~ eaves, then the water from the melting runs down under the snow on the roof and freezes as soon as it reaches the eave which is much colder. This forms ice on the eave ~~and~~ first on the very edge and t then it gradually forms ice all the way up the eave and above onto the main roof. Sometimes the water as it comes down and hits the ice will back up under the shingle and then it when it causes leaks. We have it happen any winter there is much snow in Banff, and you often see great icicles down the sides of people's houses. Pete finds the best way to stop it is to pull off the snow on the ~~eave~~ only. He has a long pole with a piece of wood across the end and can pull the snow off quite easily. Then when the snow above melts it just runs down and drips off the roof but never backs up. The eaves in Concord wouldn't be so easy to reach.

All for now. Tell Jean to have patience, her letter will be written soon, maybe to-night.

Loads of love to you all

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. Feb. 15, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

Just mailed your letter and then remembered that I hadn't said anything about the nice Valentine you sent me. I didn't open the box until yesterday and it seemed just like my birthday or Christmas. Thank you so much for everything. The little Japanese bureau which is nice to have, almost too nice for a workbox and filled with so many useful things. the spools of thread, needles and sissors and then of course the lovely little silver fruit knife that belonged to Father's mother. Well maybe I could use it for a workbox but it still seems a bit too precious.

The little carved tray I can remember but never realized it was really such a pretty thing. will certainly find a place for that and the lovely box of writing paper. Too pretty to use but p rhaps on very special occasions. and then all of it in the nice old Japanese box. All I can say is "thanks very much" for all the thought you put into it.

It is the 16th & will send this day so you can have what they call a "cover" among stamp collectors. It is the day the Princess Elizabeth stamp goes on sale & so its evidently worth more if its mailed to-day. am sending Jeanis & one to Cousin Jane too.

Loads of love
Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. Feb. 15, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

It started out to be quite nice about ten oclock this morning, though at eight there was a sort of blizzard from the west. but about two you could see the snowclouds settling lower and lower on the mountains, all the patches of blue sky disappeared and now at two it is snowing hard. about 26° above and maybe we will get quite a storm. We need the snow for the Ski Championships in two weeks time. This + hope is a sunny day at home for you, as I know it is a hard one, but think Cousin Jane will be with you which makes it nice.

This is carnival week in Banff. We have kept clear of it so far and only taken in the hockey games and yesterday Mrs Simpson's skating frolic which is always good. It began on Thursday with a parade of mostly floats at two, the best parade they have had with the Calgary Highlanders pipe band to lead off, the scouts and brownies and several amusing floats. We had a funeral to go to, another oldtimer and we just went to the cemetery. Pete got out of judging the boys ski jumping by getting Mr Chadwich to let Herb Paris off for the afternoon, which of course pleased Herb who was glad to do the judging rather than government work. Pete's skis won first place, as the boy who borrowed them won the tournament! It was a lovely day though quite a wind. Then that night there was a hockey game which wasn't as good as usual, a boys chuck wagon race and a bicycle race on ice in between periods which were amusing. but as it was just ten above it was pretty cold. Wonderful weather for the Bonspiel this week as the ice never melted once, they like it cold.

Friday was a fine snow and cold. We watched the events on the river from the house, ski joring etc. and then at night there was a Junior Hockey match which we went to as Donny was playing. The crowd was poor for there was to be a masquerade later and people stayed home to dress for that, also a concert that the Rotary club sponsored for four singers from the coast. However they should have had it at some other time than during carnival week, but they hoped to get a good crowd. Then the curling matches were on and so none of the things got as good gates as they should have.

Yesterday it snowed all day, but a light snow so they didn't put the skating off as we thought they might. It was warm. just 30 above and we all sat for the two hours in the snow and no one seemed to mind at all, many took blankets. The only ones who minded were the young boys cleaning the rink, they had to scrap it once during the frolic, as well as before and then after as there were speed skating races which followed. Then at eight was the hockey game between High River and Banff and it snowed so hard then that after playing ten minutes they had to scrape the ice again. We went to that too and it was a good game in spite of the snow. More speed races too. After eleven when we got home pretty tired.

To-day were the ski events and the jumping but with the wind it is not very good for Pete standing out and when you go up you really have to stay all afternoon because of the traffic which is no fun on that road. He doesn't approve of the way the jump is built etc. and really wasn't anxious to go so we didn't. Instead we went up to the Wards. They are thinking of going to Bermuda if they can get tickets, as her sister is going over from England and of course she hasn't seen her since before the war. It is hard to get summery clothes and a good excuse for me to get rid of some of my old ones, so we took them up and with just a little alteration on the shoulders they all fit well, just the right length. So I was very pleased and so was Cis.

Now we are going to take this to the mail and get our copy of time, come home and put the car away as it is a nice afternoon not to be out.

You say after you seal my letter you think of something else to say. Last letter I had all the questions answered and forgot to put them in. so hope I can remember this time.

Loads of love to you all

Catherine

7.5. The skating frolic was really good. 4 years old up. The little ones are so cunning & of course can't skate very well but not a bit self conscious & try so hard to do their best. From that age up they did pairs & groups & the older ones over ten are really good. How Mrs Simpson handles over a hundred children & about 75 mothers is remarkable. For each mother of course knows her child is the best for her age.

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Banff, Alberta.
Tues. Feb. 17, 1948

Dearest Mother,

A nice letter from you to-day, don't you worry, I enjoy writing to you and it isn't hard at all. I find it I don't write often that there is too much to tell you so it works better to write about every other day and then if I miss one extra one it doesn't matter so much. Yesterday I sent 14 letters off with that new stamp, will enclose a few more in case any of the family or friends would like an uncancelled one. They are rather pretty.

Got such a good idea from your telling Mildred that when you didn't know what to do with a photograph of some friends children you got rid of it nicely by ~~not~~ sending it to me! Of course I never know what to do then and hate to just throw it away, but you gave me an idea, and like those chain letters, I send it on. I had a couple of lovely poems that Aunt Julie wrote to you, you sent to me and I hung on to. then I thought Edith may not have seen them and the children would like them maybe to keep, so sent them to her with a scribble and the new stamp for the boys! We are the worst savers of things I ever saw, I am sure about as bad as Aunt Frankie, yet it takes so long to read over old letters that we just go on keeping them. I think Pete gets that way from having lost so many things when he was away at school and either they just got thrown out or the brothers thought they were ~~the~~as, so the result is he likes to keep everything, just in case it comes in useful or will be interesting later on. I guess I just inherit my collecting from Grandpa, only most likely it is the wrong stuff. However I am doing better, Got rid of four too short summer dresses to Cis, then Mrs Macauley will use any old silk things for rugs, she dyes them, old stockings and underwear so I should do well there. and have an Indian box with cotton things. The trouble has been that we couldn't replace a lot of stuff in the way of warm clothing so just kept the old things. Maybe it is your attic cleaning that has inspired me.

We are always amused by the clippings you send though I don't often say "thank you" and the letters we enjoy, especially as they don't need answering! Those of the Agges are really wonderful. Am glad you enjoy the Arizona Highways, They reproduce the pictures so wonderfully and the color is so natural. Some of the country is weird. Shall have to see the Alice and Wonderland when we are east, it must have been nearly four years ago when we saw her working on it.

I enclose (If I remember) a sketch of an end of a Kakimona that is missing on one of ours. It is almost exactly the size of the drawing and black wood. If you have one like it save it for me. The others all seems to have both ends. We took just a few so you may find the bundle yet. I'll bet you say " I hope not "

We are having our winter this month, they were lucky to have it at least warm for the Carnival. Allen Mather was over this morning and said 750 people were at the Ice Frolic, pretty good

to sit two hours or more in a snowstorm. It has snowed off and on ever since, either from the east or west. Will send you the bit out of the Calgary paper about the two temperatures in Calgary at the same time only 2 or 3 miles apart. To-day it has been zero and snowed from the east all day. We have about 8 inches of fresh snow and it should be good skiing.

I am so glad that you can use your eyes as much as you like, How wonderful when most everything you enjoy doing is with your eyes.

Do hope the girl who cut her arm gets along well. Allen said that he hears his brother ~~Leslie~~ is getting around the room with the help of a crutch, how he does it with his hip broken and the arm on the same side so injured and it is only two weeks since the accident. They put pins in his hip, ^{so} maybe that helps.

It was nice to think that they are to show the Japanese things in the Museum again. Another thing I forgot to thank you for the lovely card at Christmas that was like the painting of Mr Hibbards.

Cousin Jane I think is with you so do give her my love as well as Jean and all the others.

Lots of love,
Catharine

P.S. another thing about writing you, I can do just a few words, get up and stir something on the stove, come back and go on, but with letters that have to be spelt and worded well it is not as easy.

Have been having fun with the Electric mixer Pete gave me for Christmas, the first day I used it the stuff came off one of the blades and it took weeks to have it sent in and returned. so have just started again. Made apricot whip and more bran muffins to-night. Haven't tried a cake yet.

Wednesday. Woke this A.M. to find it still snowing & how. up, 12° below. It must have snowed a good foot in the night & we have never had such drifts & cornices. Tried to get the jeep out but the drifts are 3 or 4 feet deep to back into & too much to shovel, we will get it out by degrees. Decided not to work too hard shoveling - will walk over town -

Loads of love
Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Feb. 22, 1948.
Washington's
Birthday ?

Dearest Mother,

Guess it has been several days since I wrote you for we too have been snowed in and lots of other things happening too. Must have been about Tuesday I wrote last, for Wednesday A.M we woke to find that the storm had been really bad, wind and lots of snow. About 18 inches on top of what we had already and of course we could hardly get out. Some couldn't even open their doors as the snow had drifted against them. We waded through it over town, Mr Paris who is over 70 came to do his shopping on snowshoes which was the best way as none of the streets were plowed out until quite late in the day. It really took people by surprise for we don't very often get so much snow at this time of year. It was also -27 below and must have been pretty bad on the praries. The roads were clogged and the busses didn't get through.

We spent most of Wednesday trying to get the Jeep out. First had to shovel the snow from in front of the shed door and not having had it out lately the door was frozen. It was ten below all day and still a cold wind so rather chilly shoveling snow but good exercise. I have these big flying boots and so has Pete and the Air Rorce jacket I got in Boston and so was nice and warm. We had to shovel enough room for the Jeep to back out and turn around and Pete tried to back further and further each time but the snow was too deep. Then at lunch time we got a wire from Marion at the coast saying that it was important that she come to Banff and we knew something had happened to the family out there, but what we didn't know as they haven't written any of us since before Christmas. Mom tried to telephone out that afternoon but because of a slide in B.C. all the wires had been taken out and the telegraph and telephone lines were out a whole day. Anyway we gave up until later on Mom did get the call and Marion said she was coming on the train that night as she couldn't tell us what it was over the phone. Of course that had us all worried, However Pete and I started in again to dig and about four o'clock got the Jeep turned and when Pete got it headed the right way he just kept going, through the trees and out the driveway looking like a snow plow the snow flying out in all directions, you could hardly see the Jeep. The main road hadn't been plowed so away he went up the road. It was nearly an hour it seemed before he came into view again and of course I hadn't the keys to the back door and couldn't get in, so I just kept on shoveling (we neither of us were too stiff the next day) Pete had run into a couple of other cars and coming towards him and a snow plow and a car that wouldn't back up and one got stuck and altogether he couldn't get back. When he did come the snow grader had been along the river road and left the snow piled in the entrance to out driveway at least 4 feet high. So I worked on that for Pete couldn't get through it to get back in. It really was funny. We didn't get the Ford out until the following morning.

Cliff had appeared the morning of the storm from Invermere. Did I tell you he had been sick with a high fever and then had a sort of hemorage in his ears, was in the hospital over there for a week and it left him very deaf so the Doctor thought he better go to Calgary to a specialist. Poor Mom she has had so many worries, Jackie was sick in bed again last week (we figure he did too much during the bonspiel and carnival week) when Cliff to arrive and not be able to hear anything (he can hear better now and more than Mom thinks and is in good spirits) and on top of it the worry over what had happened at the coast. They did say that things were better when she phoned. We had gotten some lamb to stew and it was on when she came down to tell us about the phone call, so we insisted that she and Bliff come to supper and Donny too. Added a tin of consomme and of string beans and there was plenty for us all. and I had some muffins I had made with the mixer too. So we had a nice time and quite cheered Mom up.

Am not doing too well as first Harold came to see if we would just run him up to Norquay ! and then we had two sets of deer sparing and everytime I would sit down to type, Pete would call to come quick. It is quite a sight as we have two great big buck deer with beautiful heads and two smaller ones, and with the snow falling gently this morning it is a very pretty sight.

Well Thursday we shoveled so the Ford could back out and turn round. It was a beautiful clear and sparkling morning and still ten below. We got that out and also took a roll of kodachromes around the yard and fed the deer etc. Marion came in on the evening train but we didn't dare risk taking the car out in case we got stuck coming back in the driveway at night, We went up after supper and heard the tale of woe. It really seems as if the trouble would never stop and of course it means a lot of talking and trying not to hurt their feelings. Marion is very emotional anyway and apt to break into tears, and of course they have been through a lot. Unfortunately as a family they are all extravagant and impractical and were spoilt as children. It is too long a story right here, but Cam is sick, has lost his job because he was too worried to do it properly and a friend of the head man has been put into his place. so Cam is very despondent. The children all together can't earn enough to support them and of course there are debts to be paid off. I will tell you more when I have time.

There is another funeral to go to this afternoon, Ted Brown a tent mate of Pete's when he was in the Reserve army and a most wonderful character and friend, died in the midst of all this other to think about. the funeral is this afternoon and then the children are to bring the books back. So will mail this while we are out.

X You asked about the man who broke into Mom's basement window and was later convicted of murdering his wife. He confessed during the trial and it was in the newspaper (we didn't see it) that he tried to break into a house by kicking in the glass and tried to reach for the catch (it was the only window that didn't have a catch and wouldn't open) He hoped to find a gun inside

7
and would have then shot himself. Nice for Mom to come home to!
Mom was quite insensed to find to think that anyone would expect
X to find a gun in her house !

Must go Loads of love to all

Catherine .

No time to read over .

Banff, Alberta/

Wed. Feb. 25, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

I am certainly neglecting you for the last while but to-day things are looking up and a letter from Marion after she got back to the coast was very cheerful, her father she found much better so that is more encouraging. Wonder if I can remember all that has happened the last little while for I might as well tell you all we have been doing, if I can remember. To-day we are expecting Mr Vallance, if he doesn't come by car he should get here this afternoon but someone said the road is badly drifted near Morely. It is mild again and our snow melting.

Thursday was the last day I told you about. Friday was pretty hectic for us. We thought we would just go over town first, found a big parcel at the Post office from Mark Pocette, it was a wonderful eagle hat with feathers right down the back and a shell on either side of the front. The first one we have had like that, also his chicken dance costume. He needed money as he had been sick all winter, so we had to write him, and the postmaster and send the money order so he would get it Saturday. In the midst of this and composing a letter to Mr Vallance as Cliff thought he and Jackie were going to Calgary, Mom and Marion came down to talk over what could be done for them at the coast. They both are quite emotional when upset and Marion has been through a lot and so is apt to get weepy. We were trying to suggest things as diplomatically as possible when there was a knock at the door and the two Brown boys, to tell Pete their father had died and ask Pete if he would be a pallbearer. Pete was quite upset for he thought an awful lot of "Pappy" Brown. He was a really wonderful person and the most delightful old country accent. Always said "oop" instead of "up". a real old soldier. He went all through the first war and then when this last war came along lied about his age and managed to get into the reserve army. Went to Sarcee with Pete and they were all in the same tent together and Pappy was Col. Moore's batman. So after Marion and Mom left and we told Marion we would see her later to let her know what we could do to help. We went down to see Mrs Brown for a few minutes. She is a dear little old lady. Pappy was over 70 too. On the way back we saw Mrs C.M. Walker shoveling snow and so had to stop and help her finish digging out their gate, Mr Walker has been very sick and that meant a short call on them and taking her ash cans up the hill etc.

In the evening Mom had an initiation at the Eastern Star to go to so Marion came down here, but didn't stay more than about an hour. She was upset because we suggested that they sell their car and so pay up any bills owing and have enough to go on until her father got a job. but she said "I couldn't go back and tell daddy that." Most difficult! They have to learn sometime and they are doing better. But first Cam as a boy was spoiled, given a lot as a child, then Lila was given most everything she wanted, They were married at 18 I guess and Marion was the first grand child and made much to much of, so it is no wonder that it is hard
with five children

for them to figure what is an essential and what is a luxury. That was quite a day for us and so much to think of.

Saturday we went up to Mom's and told Marion what we could do, Cliff was there, not quite as deaf, but that took time. Then Marion went on the noon train which of course was late. We sat in the station and Cliff and Casper MacCullough swapped stories of the old days. Cliff is full of old tales and we thought much better in spirit, He was telling about an old Carnival and a snow shoe race on the river, Norman Sansen, Jack Ashley and a few good snowshoers and then they asked him to go in as a boy just to make more in the race. It was snow many laps around a course on the river. However the others were so much better than he was that on their third lap they ~~passed him~~ caught up to Cliff going round on his 2nd. There were news real camera men and when the movie came out, here was Cliff leading all the others in the race ! It never mentioned that he was doing his second lap while the rest did their 3rd.

That afternoon we felt the let down of the previous days and all the talking. Went up to see Sam and took him to the postoffice, ran into Fern and she came down for a while and told us all about her recent trip to Sun Valley, Aspen and Alta to see the ski places. and then in the evening we went to the Skating party of the Brownies. Johnny came over for us. It was really lots of fun, a marquerade and most of the children in costumes, they had a grand march, races and quite a lot of the skating they did during the frolic. Hot dogs and cocoa etc. It was a lovely mild evening so nice for the little tots and those watching. Johnny got hiccups over there and Pete got them when we got home, so we wondered if the hot dogs or rolls were bad. Pete had them off and on the next day and it was just lucky he wasn't a pallbearer. We did go to the funeral and it was snowing hard all afternoon, another 7 inches fell, but it was wet snow and awfully pretty. Then when we got back about 3.30 the little girls came to return the books and we had an entertaining time, quite lively with them. Listened to Charlie MacArthur and Fred Allen until 7 o'clock and were just starting to cook supper when Oliver and Mrs Kaldahl called. They were the couple up here from Glenwood Minnesota last summer and he is going to jump in the Championships. He used to be Junior Champion in the states way back when Pete was 15 and he has jumped ever since. We talked and they stayed until after eleven. It was quite a day.

Next morning Pete was quite sick, whether from the results of the hot dogs, a chill at the funeral standing bare headed, or just too much to think about or a combination of all these. Anyway it wasn't until afternoon that he began to feel better. Oh yes, I forgot about ten Sunday night Mom came down to tell us that Cliff had had another one of his spells, but he was better when I went up the next morning. He was having a bite of supper with Mom at the Owl coffee shop, sitting on a stool at the counter and the place crowded. She noticed he didn't seem very hungry and then suddenly he let out this awful yell and fell back or slumped to the floor, which was all water because of the people going in and out all day with snow on their boots, They got the doctor and he brought Cliff over to Mom's but it was all very upsetting and hard for her, Cliff never remembers a thing, luckily. We think it was talking over Ski affairs as Ken Tearé is up, He is the accountant. It still hasn't been all cleared up.

Tuesday Pete felt much better. Sam was down in the morning to say Mr Vallance was coming to day, (he has arrived already in town)

and we did a number of things in the afternoon. Mrs Mac and Marcia Prior dropped in for a short call and then Mom came just before supper to tell us she had just heard that Uncle Clifford had died. He has been ill for over a year, a clot of blood so it was expected but always comes as a bit of a shock, we don't know if we will have to go to the funeral in Calgary or not, but rather think not as it is hard to leave at this time of year.

To-day it is really melting and we are just waiting to see if Mr Vallance comes down. It is Wednesday so we would be home anyway. I think I will wash out a few things. The washer has come in very handy lately, It is called "handy hot." We had Mrs Manning do most of our wash before except for cleaning cloths and Pete's woolen underwear, but she has been ill and is too old so we have had to do our own laundry except what we send to Calgary. Sometimes it comes back very poorly ironed so we just send the flat things. Have the washer set on a stool in the dark room, a hose connection for filling it easily and dump it on the toilet, all very handy. It really works well and by doing a little at a time is not very difficult. We do a bit every day or two and I should do some pajamas right now as with the ski races this week we aren't apt to have much time for laundry. Later on we are thinking of getting a Bendix to do all the wash at once but I believe need a softener as our water is so hard. Shall have to find out about it.

All for now. and loads of love to you all

Catharine .

P.S. Cliff as gone back to Invermere on the noon train. Was down this morning to say good bye.

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. Feb. 29, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

It hardly seems possible that to-morrow is the first of March and your wedding anniversary. This year has been a queer one and such a funny winter as to weather. It was so mild in the beginning that we all said it would be a short winter and then we had it all in February, there is still about 2 feet on the level and it was -15 below zero this morning though a lovely day. Maybe now that the Ski championships are over we will be able to get back to normal again !

It was a busy week for us. With Pete not feeling well Monday, he is much better now, and then Mr Vallance came up Tuesday and we saw him for a short talk early in the afternoon and again after he had seen Mackie, and took him up to Sam's where he was to have dinner. Somehow all the thought even if there is not much talk seems to make ones head tired. Seems foolish but it does. No it was Wed. he was here

Thursday was the start of the championships and the 11 mile longlauf, but we didn't see it as we were rather expecting Mr Vallance in the morning, but he didn't come until after lunnh and then just a minute, however we seem to be getting somewhere for we saw him again later on the street and he had seen Jackie and was to go down on the train with Mr Teare who is the auditor at the store and Mr V. knows him well and was going to talk things over with him as to how the business is run etc. That meant we hadn't more to do so came back home rather tired to find the furnace was gassy and decided then and there to clean out the air chambers as the only coal we can get has a lot of fly ash and it eventually fills up the smoke pipe etc. I always tease Pete for he invariably has on a new shirt when he cleans the furnace but this time I realized before he had started and so got him to change to a very old one. We took out 8 scuttles of ash or soot. The men who clean it with a vacuum aren't here any more and so it is best to do it oneself. Took us about an hour. We didn't do a complete job but it is better than it was. Had a quiet evening that night. It had been a very mild day and a lot of wet snow fell.

Friday it turned cold and they had a terrific blizzard in Calgary and the rest of the province, we were lucky to escape. The bus never got through and the morning train from the east got snowed in east of Calgary for 14 hours. We were glad we hadn't attempted to go to the funeral as Jackie went down and he and Mom came back on the train that was 14 hours late reaching Calgary and it was 3 A.M. when they got back to Banff.

We had it clear in the morning and went up to see the Downhill race at Norquay. They felt they must pack the fresh snow that had fallen in the night and so it was late when the mens race started. 95 ran I think, and after the first half came down it was snowing so hard you could see little. The clouds had gradually come in and then before we knew it it was snowing hard and a wind from the north, the tail end of the blizzard, but we didn't wait to see the rest of the race and brought the Kaldahls down with us in the Jeep.

We haven't seen any real racing lately and it really is terrific. The girls were very good taking it straight except for the older more cautious ones. A little 13 year old Junior came in 2nd. Lucille Wheeler from Gray Rocks Inn. Then the men started and took it straight fight from the top. They have a theory now that you can only go so fast and once you reach a speed of about 60 miles an hour you don't go any faster, so it is just a matter of not minding 60 miles an hour. Seeing that 40 in a car seems fast to us ~~in a car~~, 60 seems a bit foolhardy. Cyril Paris was on the cliff and when they went by there he said you could hear the skis sort of sing and there pants make a terrific flapping noise. He said a good many were out of control as they made a slight turn and if they could handle it they were ready for the next shuss. We were where we could see $\frac{3}{4}$ of the race but too far away to get the feeling of terrific speed. They sometimes hold out their arms as one does to have the wind blow you along the ice with skates and that was supposed to hold them back a bit. There were about 90 came down and not one person hurt so evidently it is quite safe ! if you can stand it!

We met the Kaldahls up there and not having seen much of them all week we arranged to go to the Ski movies in the evening together. It was quite a long show. 2 hours and mostly ski movies. The three last being the ones Luigi Foeger took and really beautys we hadn't seen them before. Brought the Kaldahls back to the house and it was late when we got to bed.

Yesterday was Saturday and the Slalom which is pretty monotonous to watch unless you know a lot of the racers and are very interested. We weren't going up but after doing all the errands etc, did take a run up in the afternoon. Cyril wanted us to go round to their house in the evening and we did after much debating, for it would have been far easier to stay home. Took the Kaldahls with us and had a nice evening. Tuddy (Oliver) wanted Pete to show what the Jeep would do and so when we found Cyril's drive was only half plowed out Pete made a way through the rest of the driveway, it was about 3 feet deep and took much backing and forwarding, but showed Tuddy what the thing would do. Then on the way home a girl asked the way up to the camp ground being cold and a lot of them were walking up. Pete said after we took the Kaldahls back to the hotel we would give them a lift as it is a long way up at night and it was snowing and cold. In the end there were three soldiers and three girls and us two. 8 in the Jeep but it made it nicely. So that was another late night.

To-day was the last day and the Jumping. A beautiful day, clear and 15 below this morning but the sun is warm and we found it quite comfortable sitting on a bit of canvas on the snow. It must have been even colder in Calgary for there weren't as many cars up as usual but still a good crowd. We went up about 10.30 to get ahead of the busses that meet the Calgary train. But I guess we needn't have hurried. The jumping started ahead of time and there were 40 good jumpers and again no one hurt. In fact I don't think there has been an accident of any of the competitors though of course there were some bad spills. Tuddy jumped and did 150 and 163 feet which was very good for a man 47 He said he hadn't fallen since 1938 and when he fell he would stop jumping. He was the Junior champion in America in 1921 I think it was, no it must have been earlier, but he jumped here when Pete used to jump years ago. Not many keep on so long. The longest jump was 192 to-day. After the jumping they had a giant slalom and that was very good to watch. The Moores were there and we had a good time together and then Edmee and the Kaldahls came down with us in the Jeep and we ended up in the Moores room at the Mt. Royal.

Memb. end no began

I seem to be writing a lot and I am sleepy too. Pete is fast asleep already in his chair. Guess the fresh air did it. The Kaldahls start back to-morrow via Seattle. They are going to a big Ski meet at Snoqualmie first. They drove from Billings here in a day, over 700 miles, don't know how they did it, got here at 1.30 in the morning and he does all the driving. Guess we have just slowed down.

Now I am way behind again in my writing! Am too sleepy to write anyone else to-night. What an awfull murder that was in Concord. The husband must have been insane to do such a thing. and I don't wonder you were all stirred up over it.

No ~~the~~ Winthrop Rockefeller isn't the one who came to the house. That was Nelson, the one who did a lot for Roosevelt in South America. Don't know what he is doing now.

Loads of love, to you all & many thanks for paying the \$2.00 for the Maine Society. Money orders are such a nuisance to get to cash & we can't write out checks to the states yet.

More love

Catharine.

P.S. The lovely letter from Cousin Jane just arrived with the new stamps. Please thank her for me. I should think the five Dutch families would keep her very busy.

Will you go to the John Benson exhibit at the Field. It should be a fine one to see.

Banff, Alberta.
March 3, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

They had another blizzard in the Calgary district but we only got the cold wind and driving snow, not enough to mind, and to-day though 18 below this morning is lovely and sunny.

The Kaldahls came down ~~yes~~ Monday morning before leaving and as they came in the yard on foot to photograph the deer, a strange lady followed close behind. All done up in a winter sports costume, Quebec sash and all and she too was taking photographs, coming right in with them and taking pictures of the one deer we managed to have around the house at the time. The Kaldahls came in just a minute to say good bye and then after they left the strange lady still stuck around. It was cold out so I came in and shut the door but she had a long conversation with Pete. She was quite surprised to find that ~~we~~ weren't caretakers in the park, thought this was sort of park land and we took care of the animals, was very apologetic when she found we just lived here!

We all felt rather let down after the championships were over and are just beginning to get back to normal, there is always a lot to catch up on. Ran into Mrs Mac and had a long talk on the street about her new house she is to build on the prairie and looked out some magazines with plans for her and took them over to her at the hotel.

To-day Mom's stoker went on the blink and when we went to start the Jeep it was too cold for the battery to turn it (the engine) over or something, so spent most the morning getting a new battery and then doing the shopping as it was Wednesday, ~~also~~ finding someone to fix the stoker. Now I am doing a little wash and * * * * It is now nine and almost bedtime . Pete got the Jeep started so we took it out to warm it up. Went first up to the Hot Springs to see if any one had tried the trail, but there were no tracks. All we saw was one man swimming in the outside pool and a moose on the way down. Then we picked up Mickie Maynard and gave her a lift down from the postoffice, found she didn't ski as she didn't feel she should buy boots this year, so lent her some of ours and took another ride out the west road. Saw two ducks and about 4 Elk. It was lovely and sunny. 21 below this morning. ~~And~~ that the stoker was fixed and then when we got back I tried another cake with the electric beater. It didn't act the same, the mixture sort of climbed up the beater, but it came out just about the same. Was going to frost it but spent so much time looking up a quick frosting to make , decided to wait until morning. Lucky I did, for just now writing you reminded me that I had left the little jar with the 2 egg whites in them out of the frig. Went to put them away and thought they looked rather runny, so smelt them. found that what I thought were the egg whites ~~was~~ really juice from the turnips. Wonder what kind of frosting that would have made!

Am glad that Alec Carruthers enjoyed the Ham so much and the oranges. Will try and send some more food soon. Maybe he is like some ~~other~~ others we sent one to who hadn't seen one like it for "many years." Nice that Helen VanDyke could come on too. What a shame about Sam needing another operation.

About the Japanese things, maybe you have them all put away by now, But how about giving some to David Little if he is interested, they might mean more to him than most people.

The drawings I described were done by Johnny, he is six and Barbara's youngest.

Jackie's wife's name is Florence. She has been in the office at the store ever since Cameron joined the Air Force during the war. Before that she sold on the ladies side, she also does a lot of buying and runs the business when Jackie is ill or away. She really does well for a girl and is a very particular house keeper I think. They live in the back apartment above the store. Somehow we don't seem to have a awful lot in common with them so thats why I don't mention her much and they rarely come over here or we go there.

It is too bad the Agges don't live in the country for I think people are more neighborly in a small community and they would know more people. Of course they aren't in a position to make new friends and are gradually losing their old ones.

Did you buy the Hibbard that you were considering ? Wouldn't it look allright even if it is as large as the Benson. I am afriad it will be sometime before we get one to go there, thought perhaps we will do better in 48 than in 47.

By the way I never thanked you for the five dollars, and I am not sure just what it is for. The National Geographic perhaps. I shall use it for that. so thank you.

Loads of love
Catherine .

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. March 7, 1948.

Dearest Moller,

This week has rushed by, wonder will the time ever drag for us, it never has yet. Can't remember when I last wrote you but that is nothing new.

We were busy trying to get the sketches picked out and framed for the exhibition of Rocky Mt. Sketches we are to have in Bondon, Ontario in April. Decided to see if Mr Turner in Calgary could frame and pack them for us as it will help him. He is trying to make a go of a Gallery in Calgary of contemporary Canadian paintings. So we telephoned him and sent off two sample sketches for him to frame and send back for our approval. We rather hoped they would be here this week but they haven't come yet. We seemed to have a hard time choosing the ones to send and finally Thursday afternoon we locked the door (Pete had seen some Indians in the distance) and set to work upstairs. Had just got nicely under way when there was much knocking at the back door and we could hear voices. Thought of course they must be Indians so laid low and waited and soon they went away. It would have been the kids for whoever it was tried the door. When we looked there was a stick wedged in across the screen door (which we have left on) and we could hardly open it out, for naturally the people who knocked thought we were on the outside. When we knew who it must be, the Morants for they always play jokes. So after supper went to the MF. Royal where they always stay but they hadn't been there. So we couldn't think who it was. It turned out that it was Murray Adaskin up from Calgary for the day only and we did feel sorry that we had missed him. *They wrote a message on the stick - we didn't notice it as it was on the wrap-side of the stick for us to see -*

The Adaskins are a very musical family from Toronto, Murray used to have the trio that played in the summer at the Banff Springs and married Francis James who sang here in the summer and I am sure I have spoken of them often. She is a very well known singer in Canada now and has sung with Sir Ernest MacMillans symphony orchestra and on the radio a lot. Murray's older brother is one of the best violinists in Canada and he married a well known concert pianist. The younger brother is also musical and married to a singer too I think. Francis and Murray are on a tour and so is Harry and his wife. So while Francis was singing in two small towns in southern Alberta Murray took a day off to come up here. They went through to the west coast ~~on Friday~~ on the train yesterday.

Friday night the Harry Adaskins gave a concert at the Auditorium. Pete said he didn't think he wanted to go and then we started talking it over and I began to wonder what we would say when we next saw Fran and Murray if we hadn't been! We had given our tickets away but about 8 o'clock Pete said maybe we better make the effort so we rushed a bit and changed our clothes and

got there at 8.30 just when he started to play, for he had talked a bit first. It was a lovely concert and we really enjoyed it. He plays beautifully and nice things. One was a Concerto by Frederick Delius, a Frenchman, very lovely. He did a little what Walter Camroch did and played each theme or whatever it is called first and explained how it would come in etc. He said he considered Delius' work some of the loveliest for violin and wondered why it wasn't played more now. It was played in England but seldom in the states. He said about ten or fifteen years ago Sibelius was not played very often though ~~he~~ he always liked his work and now you hear his things all the time, especially that one, Finlandia? and He is wondering if Delius will have the same thing happen to him. When he was in New York ~~he~~ ^{he} played the Delius concerto and the accompanist of some coming violinist was at the concert and afterwards spoke to Harry about it and said he was going to tell the Violinist about this particular piece, So Harry said if the piece does become popular ~~he~~ isn't going to let anyone forget who first started the fashion! He is quite amusing, used to give the talk during the intermission of the Sunday New York Philharmonic on Canadian stations.

There were very few at the concert, ^{about 1/2 full, 200 maybe} we think it is because there are too many things going on in Banff for all of them to be well supported. The Masons were having a social and the Drama Club was in Medicine Hat putting on a play, but all that did go were most appreciative and I have never heard a more attentive audience, you could hear the faintest whisper of the violin and we were at the very back. He played three encores.

Yesterday we went to the train to see Murray and Francis on their way through and Harry and his wife were there so met them. The Moores were there too and we had great fun before the train came in. Jackie Anderson was taking them around in his car in the afternoon so we asked the Adaskins if they would like to come down last evening to our house. She said they wanted to go to bed early so we said that was alright and they could leave as early as they liked, so arranged to pick them up in the Jeep at eight at the hotel.

When they first came down they were quite surprised to find a house like ours (I should say that for the last two years he has been teaching music at the University of B.C. and living in Vancouver) they seemed rather tired and then about half through the visit they sort of loosened up and seemed to feel right at home and we played the Balinese music on the phonograph and some Hawaiian records too and they really enjoyed them all. listening so attentively. They also read the Indian letters, it was nearly eleven when they decided they must go. This morning we saw them off on the train (really after lunch) and they spoke several times of how much they enjoyed the evening, they didn't know when they had had such a pleasant time and like Mr Brigden last summer they were so surprised to find a place like ours out west. It was fun for us and I guess the fact we didn't treat them any differently from the Indians, or anyone else made them feel at home. ~~They probably are used to~~ they have been on a 5 week concert tour, giving about 3 concerts a week. But the last week they gave 6 and 5 the week before. The day they played here they had come from Lethbridge to Calgary and up here on the bus, 12 hours, got here at five and played at 8.

Sunday and we were going to sleep in for once when we heard banging on the door, Jackie to tell us that Mom had fallen last night and broken a bone in her ankle and was being taken to the hospital in Banff. So as soon as we finished breakfast we went up and after a short time they had the results of the exray. just a little off the small bone in the ankle but the ligament was pulled. She went to Calgary Saturday for a funeral of an old friend, we didn't really think she should go down again for it is too much of a trip. Evidently she tripped on the front steps of the Palliser Hotel and fell down the steps, bruising her shoulder too. She missed the bus at 4.45 and so came home on the late train. Never let any of us know. A Red Cap and Mrs Unwin helped her and the mounted police drove her home from the station at 4 A.M. then she called Jackie at 8 O'clock. this morning. It is lucky for us she isn't in Calgary and Dr. Robinson will keep her up here in the hospital for several days, Actually it will give her a good rest for we think she has been doing too much lately, sort of nervous energy perhaps.

Just one more thing. We had a letter from Lila and things seem to be better at the coast. Cam is in better spirits, under a doctor's care and Physically he is O.K. It was a case of mental exhaustion. Has a chance of two jobs so that is encouraging but it was mean after he started the trade paper and it was all his ideas to lose the job to a younger man who isn't married, Of course there may be more to it than that.

We had a thaw yesterday but a cold wind again last night and it is cold to-day. Snowed another inch, so our winter isn't over yet either.

Loads of love

Catharine

P.S. The three little girls were over for books and we told them we had to go out. Then Jackie came to tell us Mom had moved into another room by herself, and got stuck in the yard, having no chains. so Pete has been manoeuvring him around and they have just gone.

Banff, Alberta.
March 9, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

It is Tuesday and nearly supper time so while the stew is cooking in the pressure cooker will start a letter to you.

We had a very busy day yesterday, it was cold too with a north or east wind and this morning was 25 below which is cold for this time of year. We had sent a sample of each of our sketches to Mr Turner in Calgary last Teusday and he was to frame them in two different frames and send them back for us to see, We looked for them all last week but a letter from him Monday morning said they hadn't reached him for several days, he had been rather provoked about the C.P.R. Express but not much one could do about it. Anyway the framed pictures came Monday morning and we had a good look at our sketches in them, liked both types of frames one cedar and darker than the other which is pine. but both plain wood. So then right after lunch we got the sketches numbered and listed and wrote him a letter trying to explain what we wanted and typed it while Pete did up the pictures. We had some flowers ordered to take up to Mom but thought it best to get the sketches off, took them to the post office this time but found the value was too high to send them any way but by express, so back down to the station. When we finally got to the hospital it was really after visiting hours, so we had to wait until Mom had finished her supper. Stayed a short time, then picked up some meat as we had had no time to shop all day. Ran into young Cliff and asked him to supper, which meant getting another bit of meat. Then as I had ordered some extra flowers sent up at the same time as Mom's for Mrs Scott who has had flu, we got those, divided them and took half to old Mrs Cooper, She and her husband who has had a stroke are both over 80 and Mom goes to see them very often, she knew them when she was a little girl, Like the Agges are to you. So we went down for just a minute to tell her about Mom for we knew she would want to know. Then to see Mrs Scott and with the help of the pressure cooker had supper ready when Cliff arrived about 6.30.

After supper Pete drove Cliff and a young friend Bill Holmes up to the hospital so they could see Mom before the hockey game. As we were sure it would be the last game of the season we thought we might as well go and it was a very good one, especially the first period. Banff won 4-1 and also the round in the intermediate series so now they will play Olds. They beat Drumheller last night. Had lost when they went to Drumheller last week but the ones making the long trip are at a disadvantage for a bus trip on bad roads isn't too good. It was a fast game and a fight as well so I guess the fans all got their money's worth. To us it is best when they play hockey but don't spend their time tripping each other and knocking them about. but I guess one has to expect a bit of rough stuff when most of the teams are coal miners but it is hard on some of the Banff boys who aren't.

To-day we did better, got a couple of letters written too, Made a short call on Mom this afternoon, she had ten visitors all told, and ran up for a minute this evening. The rest in bed should do her good and the break is not a bad one. I don't know if I told you that she fell down the stair way inside the hotel, from the first floor and missed a step onto the landing. No one heard her fall and she managed to get up and down the rest of the stairway to the lobby where she sat in a chair until train time. She was afraid if she got a doctor he would put her into a Calgary hospital, but it would have been better if she had gotten someone to help her. The doctor said he would keep her up there until the end of the week anyway.

It was nice we got a letter from Cliff to-day and so did Mom saying it was like spring in Invermere, that he hadn't felt so well for a long time, his ears were better and he walked into the town most every day, and does the housework too, so that cheered her up a lot.

Now it is most bedtime, so will call this a letter.

Loads of love to all.

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. March 14, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

I don't seem to be doing any better this week in writing, the time just slips by so fast. Also we went to two hockey games, the last this year, and both were good ones.

Did I tell you that old Mark Poucette died? We had a letter from his Grandson (really the nephew) who was taking care of him to say that Mark had died and that he hadn't gotten the last money we sent (we sent the amount we paid him for the clothes in four instalments) but that Adam had paid part of his bill at the store and if we wanted to pay the rest of Mark's bill, it was up to us, for we still owed one more lot of money. So yesterday we wrote the store keeper, sent the rest after paying the bill to Adam, with a letter, and then we had two letters from David and George McLean saying they were pretty hungry and lots of snow and couldn't work etc. so we sent two boxes of food to them and as Mrs Bears paw was very sick some money to her and as Mrs McLean had made a new Indian Jacket for Pete we sent her what we owed for that, so we had a busy time.

Mom is still in the hospital and we try to see her at least once a day, from 2-4 or 7-9. Both afternoons when I ran in she had other visitors so I didn't stay more than a minute or two, Lots of friends have been up. She was out of bed Thursday but yesterday they made her stay in bed so we don't know whether she got too tired or what. Dr Robinson said he would keep her up there for a while and it is better for us. She can hobble around a bit with the cast but it will be tiring doing things around a house and she doesn't want anyone to stay with her even if we can get someone. So we hope she will stay where she is well looked after for a little longer. Also I think she was more tired than she realized and kept going on her nerve and once she relaxed there was sort of a let down.

Sam and Cis are getting ready to go to Bermuda, Her sister who lives in England, she hasn't seen for several years since before the war anyway and she and her husband are flying to Bermuda from England. Sam and Cis tried to get a reservation on a boat all winter but finally were just giving up the idea of going at all when they got space on a plane from New York. They leave the end of this week I think and will be gone about a month. Sam isn't so anxious to go but Cis is. When they get back Sam has a house to build for a Doctor Skinner.

This isn't much of a letter but wanted to have something to mail when we went out. It has been mild the end of this week and the snow is settling and melting just the right amount. If we had had a chinook it would have gone too quickly, this way it disappears without too many puddles and running water.

Loads of love to all. Catharine .

Banff, Alberta.

March 17, 1948

Dearest Mother,

For some reason I don't seem to be writing very much or interesting letters to you lately, of course we aren't doing a lot of exciting things and there isn't a great deal to tell you about.

It was zero again this morning but nice and sunny so will be warmer later on. Our snow has melted a little each day but no real thaw as yet which is just as well for if it did go all at once it would be terribly sloppy.

Mom is still up at the hospital but getting anxious to come home as any one would. She has a cast on her leg up to the knee and a regular rubber heel set into the bottom of the cast so that she can walk on it, She gets around the room very nicely but we have an idea that when she gets home she will find it rather tiring doing much around the house, However she says she can rest better at home and that may be true. Mrs Powell who used to come in to clean a long time ago may be able to come by the day to help out as she knows the house, but Mom insists she doesn't want anyone staying with her. It will be the end of April before she gets the cast off. The doctor is going to see how she gets on up and down the hall first. We will just have to check up several times a day between us on how she is getting on when she does get home and of course she may do better than we think.

We were up at the Moores the other evening, having to mail a letter west we just dropped in on the way home, maybe a mistake as we ran into the Konantzes from Winnepeg who otherwise we wouldn't have known were here. Thats what happens when we go into the Mt Royal! Pearl was saying that they have begun to realize that they are the age now when their contemporaries are dropping off and they might do the same. She has lost two brothers in the last two years, the first real break in their family. Pete's family are having their sicknesses. I told you about his Uncle Pete up in northern B.C. at Smithers. He is in a hospital and his trouble the degenerating due to old age I guess. We wrote to his sister (at least Jackie did) but never heard until a letter to us the other day and her husband has been very ill with high blood pressure, collapsed at Rotary luncheon, they are the ones we see in Victoria. One good thing, Cliff was feeling better the last letter from him and Jackie is in the store everyday and taking more interest. Mildred Cliff's wife is still taking a course in practical nursing which helps.

Yesterday was one of those afternoons,

no time to read over or write more

Love

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Good Friday
March 26, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

Seems to me the more I plan to do the less I get done, most discouraging! To-day for instance is a holiday and I had visions of giving the house a good clean and maybe get a lot picked up etc. First there was Donny going to Invermere for his 10 day vacation, We were sending some ham over and maple syrup for Peter and a present for Sid Feuz's baby in Golden and we lent the packsack to Donny. He came down about ten and then I also made him some turkey sandwiches to take with him, and took some more turkey up to Mom for her lunch and we had foolishly left last night's dishes unwashed, so had those to do. Then the train of course was 15 minutes late, and when we took Donny down at 11.45 it was still later. It was after 12 when it came in, we went up town and picked up some things at the drug store for Mom in between and mailed a few letters and had a long talk with Casper MacCullough about indoor rinks. Saw Donny off on the train and gave Mr Paris and his dog a ride home, that mean't we had to see Cyril's new house being built next door, and then see Mrs Paris who has hardly been out since Christmas. So by the time we got home it was one o'clock and the morning gone.

After a late lunch we heard quite a noise and decided to go to the postoffice and see what it was at the same time. It proved to be a wonderful new snow machine that the Government is having demonstrated and also there were men taking movies of it for the company. We had the camera with us as it has been a lovely day and we wanted to finish the roll so took a few pictures and then the sun went behind a cloud and as they were doing the snow removal for the cameraman we had to wait to see anything happen. Went to the postoffice and back before anything had started again. There was still quite a wait before the sun came out, but in the end we got a few pictures. The machine is a Sicard Deisal, a tremendous thing. In the front is a sort of bulldozer with great turning things like a meat grinder, then the snow is sucked in and blown out a spout or on its own, can be put nearly anywhere. It was most interesting to watch, and then we found we used to know the photographer and after he had changed his film we took him & his assistant up to the Cave & Basin where they put on an even more exciting demonstration. Of course I had used up all the film by then which was too bad, for they threw the snow right up in the air and across the road like a rotary plow. Then on the way back Harold who was with us remembered that there had been boards to make a skating rink under the bit of road they intended using to-morrow, so we waited to ask the Gov't men if they remembered for it would make an awful mess of the machine, so this ended in our seeing more and not getting home until nearly five. The afternoon gone.

We still haven't had a real thaw so little snow has gone. The streets in the sun melt a bit each day and then freeze at night, to remelt the next day. But it hasn't been above 40 for ages and was 7 below ~~day before~~ yesterday morning.

Yesterday we got a turkey for Easter and to give Mom some thing a little different to eat. Donny came down to supper to help us eat it. In the afternoon I had been invited to the Grade 3 program on Lapland, and when I got there found I was the only invited guest for I had lent them the books they used for reference. Grade 5 & 6 were invited too. It was most amusing and I enjoyed it.

It was funny yesterday but in the morning Mom had read me a letter from Lila, and both Cam and Marion had been sick with flu, so sick they were delirious, and she was pretty worried about Cam. When we came home from the shopping there was a note on the door that there was a telegram for us. Pete was afraid to go and see what it was, for so often it means one of the family in trouble, We thought of Cam, and Mildred with heart trouble, and Cliff with his attacks, but when Pete went it turned out to be from Mr Turner in Calgary to say the pictures had been sent that day. Pete had asked him to wire too!

Now it is supper time. I forgot on Wednesday we did a bit of looking at the apartments etc. and then I thought it being Wednesday and stores closed, a good afternoon to get things done at home. Was just asking Pete what he thought would be best to do and we saw a lady coming in the yard. She was so dressed up we thought she had come to the wrong house. However it turned out to be Mrs Birley from Victoria who does most successful pastels of dogs and children and is awfully nice and we met once several years ago. She stayed until after five and we had a nice time with her, but that is what happens to my time.

Jonnie has just been in for about 15 minutes and gone home to supper now.

Loads of love,

Catherine

P.S. Sat. Your letter just came. Too bad Russ & children find no snow. Dad is beginning to go to-day. The streets rivers.

Banff, Alberta.
Mon. March 29, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

There is some very rapid music going on the radio and Pete doesn't think I can type that fast but I can almost! Its over , so now I can settle down to a nice chat with you as reward for having finished typing the information for Pete's Income Tax forms, We have Mr Teare do them for Pete but I think I could almost fill out the things myself by now, except that I couldn't do the worst part, of figuring what the Tax will be.

Did you have a nice Easter ? We had a really lovely day as to weather, nice for the hats, but bad for the shoes. Saturday it melted quite a lot, the bottom going out of the ice and snow and the streets were awful. In some places a foot of ice and slush. We tried to break up the ice that had gotten worn from snow to ice on our stones. Mrs Mac came to borrow some dried mint and tell us about her house etc. and when she was still here, Dr and Mrs Riley dropped in and Maynard came while they were here, but only spoke to Pete at the door. The Rileys stayed until nearly six, but we still had some turkey so didn't have to think of supper.

That snow grinder worked all day Saturday on the main street, we noticed that they avoided the section where Harold remembered the skating rink in front of the ice palace was, but no one thought of the bicycle stands on the strip down the center of the street and several of those got ground up! The big piles of frozen snow were blown into trucks after going through the grinder and out the spout into the truck. We didn't try to go to Lake Louise to see it work, for one reason, after a beautiful day Easter we had a nice snow storm yesterday morning, and also Pete didn't feel very good. The thing in his nose went down his throat in the night and it often makes him sick to his stomach when it does, not very pleasant. It is lovely again to-day, (it is now Tuesday) but 20 above. The snow is still with us, though it has settled a lot and there are a few bare patches.

Easter was lovely and quite mild, the roads were terrible except for the west road which is mostly bare in the center but still snow in the shady bits. We took Johnny for a ride in the Jeep, after he had helped us remove the rest of the ice from the walk. It came off easily. Coming back the sound of the chains and the hot sun made him sleepy and he slept for about 3 miles of the way, pretended he had been awake all the time and then admitted he had slept part of the way.

Mom went to church for a rehearsal in the afternoon, and then to sing the Easter music at night and up to the hospital to sing to the patients with the choir afterwards. She admitted she hadn't slept because she was so tired but by yesterday after- felt herself again. We thought it was too much for her to do under the circumstances but she was bound she would go, you admire her spirit but with the slush to walk through to get into a car and

having to be helped everywhere, we thought she might have given it up this year. But I suppose it is better for her to keep going only it makes her so tired she worries more and is that much harder for us to try and cheer her up. Mrs Paris said she hadn't been out but twice since Christmas just because she is afraid of falling, she is very lame, and it seems rather sensible for now this month she is going to the coast for a trip, all by herself too. We have decided that if Mom wants to overdo and take chances she will just have to take the consequences, and most likely nothing at all will happen.

Time to go over town, to the bank, to see how the apartments are coming along and to do the errands.

I found in cleaning out a drawer that I never paid the Guild dues or the Concord Art Association. Did you I wonder? you mentioned wanting to at one time. I will enclose them and you can do as you like.

In your letter yesterday you asked about our exhibition and that you wish we would have one in Concord. The one now in London Ont. (We hope it got there in time) is to go to Windsor afterwards and in the meantime we can find out if it is possible to have it shipped as is to you in Concord and then it could be shown in Concord this summer. There are 35 sketches 11 x 14 inches in size, 19 of Pete's and 16 of mine. they are "Rocky Mountains" sketches and none are for sale as they are the only material we have to use for larger pictures which we still hope to do some day. Don't say anything until we find out from the Customs whether or not they can be sent across, as Mr Phillips couldn't send his this year for some reason or other, but the restriction may have been taken off.

Must go now.

Loads of love

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.

~~March~~

April 2, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

Everything seems to happen at once. Yesterday there was no mail in the morning and didn't seem to be any in the afternoon and when we came home found that Mario had stuck it under the door and there were all sorts of things needing to be answered. Some very interesting to us.

Mr Bice wrote and the pictures got to London Ontario in time, 2 days before the opening of the April shows. They are having 70 pictures from the Spring show of the Ontario Society of Artists, and for the opening (which is to-night) the vice-president is to speak. So we were lucky to have ours at the same time, there is also an exhibition of photographs. Best of all Mr Phillips is to be there for the opening as he is visiting nearby and he will surely tell us all about it. The exhibition in Windsor is to be in June, not in May as we had thought.

Then we had a letter from Niall Rankin who came skiing with Lady Jean years ago, and he is to come out here to Manitoba or North Dakota to write a book about birds. Is thinking of going to Delta where that Canadian Spring book was laid in the first few chapters. We thought of sending him a copy and spent a good part of the afternoon trying to find out how to air express it but it was too expensive in the end. Lady Jean & the two boys are to come in the summer if he can save enough out of what he is allowed. So we must answer that.

and so it goes. The people are moving into the apartment to-day and we had a bit of running around yesterday about a few things in connection, and a talk with Allan etc. Oh yes had a letter from Sam and Cis from Bermuda, so they got there safely, lots of lovely flowers etc.

To-day we went over town, banking and a telephone to Mr Vallance and ran into Mrs Birley who we haven't done a thing for, she said she was just coming around to have one more look at a picture if she could, so we said we would be home soon. She came about 11.30 and we got talking and she is so keen on animals and painting etc, and then wanted to know all about how to work oils and in the end it was 2 o'clock when she left after the look at the picture Pete sent to Montreal last year. We were all het up by then talking so intensely, Davy had come and a boy we are lending a bit of money to until fall. and all in all it was quite a session.

Now it is nearly four, we have gotten one letter off and must go. Am so awfully sorry to hear that you have been

losing your voice, (Can't spell the thing it is) Cis did the same thing when she reached Bermuda, just when she wants to talk with her sister.

Do go slow and get rested up and be ready for the spring flowers. We have given up expecting any for it is snowing and blowing out now. 11 inches of snow in Edmonton last night.

Loads of love

Catherine .

P.S. The books came. I had forgotten Anna Hyatt did so many wonderful things. If you should see another copy could you send us one for Agnes Hammond.

Forgot to enclose these things last letter. Hate to have you pay all my dues but know you have offered to do often & it is nice for as many thanks.

Banff, Alberta.

Sun. April 4, 1948

Dearest Mother,

We haven't spring yet, only a lot of cedar Waxwings which are lovely birds, with a little crest on top of their heads. This morning I was in Mom's house and when I came out one was in the bushes and I stood within touching distance of it before it noticed me, it kept hopping towards me too.

It has snowed and a cold wind for the last two days and we are really lucky for in Edmonton they have had 13 inches of snow in the last 48 hours and nearby 16, so our three or four that we had yesterday doesn't seem much, even if we can't see any bare ground yet or even bare roads. To-day it never has gotten up to 30 yet and it is late afterp~~o~~noon now. They say in the paper that March was ~~on~~ an average 20 to 25 degrees below normal for the month. It didn't even go out like a lamb and never got up to 50 once. it was 9 below the other morning.

Guess you have heard enough about winter wea~~th~~er. Yesterday we went up to the Wards just to check on their house, found the flowers in the basement alright, the Wash boiler was still half full of water but one of the small containers was dry so we refilled that. But in the sunroom one poor plant had collapsed, the leaves were limp over the sides of the pot and there was ice in the two containers of water. Their water system is drained so that is alright. Then we also walked around the Vallance house, found someones footsteps but no windows broken.

Had a busy day Saturday, what with the usual cleaning and shopping. and then we had some painting oil to take to Mrs Birley at the train. I being of a curious nature wanted to see what her husband was like. He is an architect in Victoria and we have never met him or the boy and girl. However though he came up^{and} and spoke to her with the children she didn't introduce them to us or to Charlie Biel who was also at the station. Maybe she was afraid they wouldn't take to her queer friends! She is so friendly and nice but he looked like a person who wouldn't want to be bothered meeting us. She never asked if she could bring them down.

Things seem to be a bit better, Mildred is getting on well with her nursing, goes into the hospital for training this month, the 25th. Cliff wrote that he is feeling better than he has for ages and can now do a days work and enjoy it. Lloyd the boy with them ,has a steady job and young Peter will as soon as the roads are better. Donnie should be back to-day and we will hear more then. A nice letter from Marion, (Pete was ^{stopped in Vancouver.} scared to open it for they almost never write unless they are stuck and need help,) saying that her father was much better and working in the garden etc. All of which makes us feel better too. We still can't seem to get Jackie to settle any thing definitely but he is feeling better and working in the store every day and taking more interest in running it than he has for ages. So that helps too. Mom is rested after the strenuous Easter and so more cheerful when we go up. So all and all spring must be coming!

I did intend writing more than this but it is nearing train time so will mail it when we go down to see if Donny comes.

Loads of love

Callie

Banff, Alberta.
March
April 5, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

It was an awful shock to us when we got your second letter yesterday with the news about Elizabeth Parsons. Of course we had no idea that she had a high blood pressure but even had we known we might not have taken it very seriously as so many seem to have it now-a-days. But as you say for any one so young to go so suddenly is very sad and so hard on the family. Poor Aunt Mary Hoar losing first Uncle Billy and then Elizabeth within just a few months. I couldn't help but think of Ellen Emerson, (wasn't that her name) who died from a clot of blood just a few months after she was married. But as that was long ago I imagine she wasn't very old really, probably my age.

What a shame you are having such a time with your back and losing your voice too. Don't you think losing ~~your~~ ones voice often happens in the spring. I think I told you that Sam wrote Cis lost hers just as they landed in Bermuda, and just when she would need it most to talk to her sister! However the back pain must come from more than just being overtired. Pete's mother has had a bad time with her shoulder, ever since she fell on it and she can't sleep with it either. She figures she must have injured a nerve when she fell or else it started up her arthritis.

Jean wrote that you had heard from the Marshall House that ~~XX~~ one had to stay a month in order to get a reservation and they couldn't make one for you for just two weeks. That does seem too bad, couldn't you go for a little longer this year or else ~~XXXXXX~~ send someone else for a week to use your rooms. For it does seem the nicest place you have ever found and with good food etc, or are you thinking of some place else? You should go to the Ark in Jaffrey this fall to see the color. What a nice place for the Sanborns to be, Wasn't that where Willa Cather was that time we stopped for a couple of nights? I should think that the kind of people who go there would be the kind that would appreciate the Sanborns.

We are still having cold weather and they say it will be cold to-morrow too. zero each night and yesterday and Sunday it never got above the twenties, but this afternoon the sun is bright and it is up to 40 and melting at ~~rise~~ ^{last} Just think, in Edmonton they had 17 inches of snow in the last three days and ten below this morning. They say it is the most snow at this time of year ever recorded there and on the praries the roads ~~at~~ are all blocked again and it is serious finding feed for the cattle.

Mrs Fainter came down to borrow some books yesterday and this morning we had Donny MacDonald a young lad Jimmy Simpson's age who was a prisoner of War for two years, He is anxious to start up in business in Calgary, a new business to me, supplying resteraunts with peeled potatoes, doughnuts and french fried potatoes. They get the machines and can buy the potatoes in such large quantities that they make money on them as well as on the peeling. So we sent him over to Mr Goddard at the bank to see about a Veterans loan. We also saw Allan for a few minutes which took the morning.

I told Pete yesterday, what we need is a secretary that also does laundry. I would be stuck if it weren't for the little machine I brought home from Boston. It works just right if you don't do too much at once.

All for now. and our love to all

Callie

*Post
2/27*

Banff, Alberta.
Fri. April 9, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

Well we are still having winter, and it is becoming a joke when you meet anyone. Allan Mather is sure he has never seen so much snow stay as long in Banff itself, and he should know as he keeps track of when the skating rink closes each year and when they put the boats in the river etc. Yesterday it did melt a little but to-day we have an east wind and snow flakes and no sun but it says milder for the weekend.

As usual there have been all sorts of things to see to, such miscellaneous things too. Donny Macdonald came down one morning to see if we could help him get a loan to start a business in Calgary. I think I told you that, of supplying restaurants with peeled potatoes etc. they do it by machinery and it saves the cafes from preparing food to cook. He didn't think of going to a bank manager being a little afraid to ask, but we knew Veterans could get loans if they had so much to put into the thing themselves. So we advised him to see Mr Goddard and say we had sent him, just by luck we saw Mr Goddard first on the street and could explain a bit to him, so in the end Donny had a nice talk with him for 20 minutes and got a letter to a bank man in Calgary and the papers to fill out and we don't have to do a thing except write a letter of recommendation or something.

Bob Maynard was down to-day and we were able to suggest a room for the summer and also told him he could have the use of the Indian Cabin to store his extra materials in for the summer. Of course that meant a trip to the Superintendent to ask permission and then we had to write a letter, but that too is done. Then we ran into Luigi Foeger on the street and had quite a chat with him, he is to take movies for a feature film during the next three months.

This morning we had the bright idea of going over town at 9.30 and getting our mail, for sometimes when we expect a letter we find we wait around for it and that morning Mario is bound to be late. He brings our mail when he does Mom's furnace. But we got into all sorts of things, Miss Gammel who has had a dressmaking place on the main street for 38 years has to move and can't find a place to go, then Lloyd Harmon wants space and wondered when Pete was going to add on to the store, which we have been thinking of if prices weren't so high. Then Jackie had been to Calgary yesterday and saw Mr Vallance, so we are hoping that will get the leases and agreements all straightened out and so it went, saw Jor Woodworth about a house for Lillian Gest for the summer months, but he said there had been hundreds of applications and he didn't know of one.

and so it goes. We heard two robins the other day which is something. Did I tell you that Pete saw the deer dance the other evening right out on the lawn, I was doing the laundry out in the back and didn't hear him call and it only lasted a few minutes, but three of them stood on their hind legs and sort of hit each other with their front hoofs, Pete had never seen anything like it before, though of course the Indians do a deer dance which they must have gotten from the deer.

We have written about the pictures going through the customs but haven't heard yet. They will be in London, Ontario until the end of this month and in Windsor until the end of June so there is lots of time yet. Don't count on our coming too soon for we can't possibly get away right now. Wonder did you finally get the rooms at the Marshall house for this summer, I hope so for I know you love it there. Wasn't it nice that Mildred had such a lovely time in Florida, it sounded a really happy time for her.

I mustn't write more now but will try to explain later how things are going here. Pete is feeling better than he has for nearly a year but still has the odd time when his sinus thing troubles him. We think now that the stuff must have backed up into his ear last summer, for there was some sort of infection there, but that has gradually disappeared and he hasn't been troubled with that lately which is something, but some mornings the stuff goes down his throat in his sleep and makes him real sick, most unpleasant, but he doesn't sleep in the day time as he did last year and he has a much better appetite, so I am just hoping he feels himself this summer so that we can get out doors as we used to.

All for now and heaps of love to you all

Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.

Mon. April 12, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

We are still having our winter weather, and I really got discouraged yesterday afternoon when it started blowing and snowing again from the North, it didn't pile up much snow but we have more than there was a few days ago. It isn't too bad to-day. 35 above but they say another storm is due to-night and no sign of a let up in the weather. The people with cattle on the Prairies are the ones who are having a hard time. As you know the cattle just roam the range land all winter and rustle for themselves. Most farmers put up enough feed in stacks in case of bad weather and so much snow that the cattle can't get to the grass underneath, but here it is April and the crust on the snow which still covers the prairies is too thick for the cattle to break through and the roads are so drifted that the ranchers can't get the feed to them from the stacks. Wonder what has happened to the weather anyway?

We had a quiet day yesterday which was Sunday, We went over and asked Allan if he could come down for a while and bring Grace too, this was before lunch and they arrived right after we had had ours, (Lots of people have a late breakfast and an early big supper on Sundays and I guess they do) He had a nice call but of course didn't go into business matters as much as we should have. When it snowed the rest of the afternoon and I tried to write a few letters, Jonnie came over in the evening and was awfully cunning reading "Make Way for the Ducklings" He can read quite well except for certain words but I noticed if you told him what they were the first time he would remember the next. We asked him who was best in this and that in school and he always said he was. Best in reading, and arithmetic etc. then I said maybe it was because he had two older brothers and had learnt from them, he was quite ready to admit that, said Bubby and Harold used to play school with him and that's how he knew the things, and he was going to play school with Robert (the baby who lives at their house until the father and mother move into a new house) and then Robert will be best in his class when he goes to school.

To-day we asked Allan if he could come down again which he did right after Rotary, we talked over all the figures etc. in connection with the store property as Mr Vallance wants to draw up a new lease for us and Jackie is pretty well agreed now though not entirely, but we have to get it settled one way or the other soon and it is not too easy to figure out. Allan is a great help though in advise, but we so often get off the subject. He had gone about three and we were just starting to write what he said to Mr Vallance when Donny MacDonald came to tell us the progress he had made with his potato peeling project. He wanted to thank us for suggesting he see Mr Goddard and he

has been to the Bank of Commerce in Calgary and they will loan him and his partner the money they need if the V.L.A. approve. All we have to do is to give him a letter of recommendation if the bank asks for it. So that was nice and now he knows too that Bank Managers can be helpful. He was in four prisons in Germany during the War and is just a young lad, Jimmy Simpsongs age. a fine boy.

He had gone and we were in the midst of the letter, Pete sort of dictates it and then we work on them together and later I type whatever we concoct, when Jim and Mrs Simpson came to return some books and just make a call. It isn't often they come together so we had a nice visit and it was train time when they left and no time to finish this or any other notes. We have been out for a few odd things and now it is nearly supper time.

Did I tell you that Donny came back from Invermere on Saturday and so pleased to have Pete meet the train, he hadn't expected us to and Pete brought him back here and we made him a good breakfast of bacon and eggs. He said that Cliff was the best he has seen him in years and feeling fine, so that was good to hear. Lloyd Anderson has a steady job and Peter works most of the time too, and Cliff looks after the farm and house, Donny thinks he will go over there for the summer which will be nice for all concerned.

I had mean't to answer your letters but as usual haven't gotten round to it. Am so glad that you are feeling better and spring sounds pretty nice. We are getting awfully tired of this cold and unseasonable weather. I should be house cleaning right now but when you can't sort of air things and open windows it doesn't seem the same. However I must get busy soon.

Mrs Simpson told me again about her sister Jo, who was a nurse. Before she was married she was visiting another sister up in Northern Ontario somewhere and a call came for a nurse to go to a woman having a baby back in the woods. Her sister didn't want Jo to go, but Jo said yes she would if any one was ill. It meant a trip of 40 miles on a logging or mining train and then another 8 miles on horseback. When she got into the back woods I guess you would call it, she found the young woman in convulsion, and the men had to carry water for a long distance from the camp, to the tent the young couple were living in. Then the doctor arrived and the first baby was born dead and the 2nd baby too, but the 3rd. baby was alive. The mother died and the husband was so upset he ran off into the woods and no one saw him again, at least not for a long time. The doctor told Jo not to bother with the little baby as it only weighed a few ounces, as Mrs Simpson said it lay on her sisters hand like a pound of butter. But Jo felt that as it had life she must do what she could, even if the doctor was sure it would die as the others had. The doctor left and Jo spent the night alone in the tent with the dead mother, the two dead babies and the tiny little one that was still alive. No one wanted it and the father couldn't be found, She put it in cotton wool I guess and in a shoe box and then she took a tiny bottle and filled it with half water and half condensed milk and some sugar and fed the baby with an eye dropper. She brought the

baby to her sisters, via horseback and train and the child grew into a lovely girl. She is married now and has children of her own. Mrs Simpson says she is like a wood nymph and has beautiful hair. Jo. has a daughter of her own, she is the Mrs Stewart who is at Bow Lakes every summer. her husband Bill/Rusty used to help him around the place.

Thought I better tell you the sotry before I forgot the details.

A nice letter from you to-day and glad to know that the pictures can be sent across the line. They are just sketches, 35 in all and ones you have seen. ~~When~~ would they like them in Concord do you think? We haven't heard from Mr Turner yet in Calgary, or what information he got there about sending them across the line.

It is good of you to offer to pay all our expenses for the trip east, I wish it was all as simple as that, We just can't plan anything until we get things settled here and it has all been so complicated but it looks now as if we might get somewhere soon with the store affairs. As you have probably gathered it has not been easy and so many delays are very trying.

Loads of love,

~~Catherine~~
Catherine

P.S. Went up to Mom's for a few minutes after listening to Mrs Roosevelt (sounds on the radio exactly like Mabel Brown) Atlas & Churchill. Mom had a nice letter from Lila. They had just come back when Allan came about the suites. new tenants are going in. there is much to see to & decide. He has just gone. it is 9.30 & all the dishes I guess will have to wait until morning.

Banff, Alberta.

Thurs. April 15, 1948

Dearest Mother,

We are at last having our thaw or spring weather and the snow is really going, great puddles in some people's yards, especially those at the foot of Tunnel Mt. for most years the sun melts the snow on that slope gradually but this year it is happening all at once, and the water pores down the roads and you never know just where it will end up. The river hasn't opened up yet but will soon we expect. some of our grass is showing and we hope to get out doors and tidying up the yard, before long. I think one reason this spring seems so late in coming is because last year it was unusually early.

We have been rather busy lately as two of the suites above the store became vacant, had to be all done over, repapered etc. and though Allan looked after it all and got some of one to help clean, still there were lots of things to see about or rather decide about. Ted Paris (Cyril's brother) and his wife and mother-in-law have just moved into one. They said they had most of their own furniture but in the end have used all that was in there before. They are quite a problem, the mother and daughter, Mrs Jennings was the wife of the former superintendent and he just died last winter. We all think that the mother and daughter really wore him out, poor man. The ladies are always ill and it is a very sad case. The daughter so nervous and can only talk about herself. They have taken her to all the doctors they can think of but they agree there is nothing radically wrong, just sort of narcotics I guess. So poor Ted has two to look after, though Mrs Jennings may not stay long. But anyway they all keep asking Allan for this and that and if he gets out of it they are apt to come to us, so we avoid them as much as possible until they are all settled. The other tenants came to-day or will to-morrow. One reason it is a little more difficult is that we haven't reached a figure yet with Jackie on what to pay him for the furniture which he put into the suites originally. one of the things Mr Vallanne is helping us with.

I had hoped to get started with my spring cleaning this week but every morning we either had to get a business letter off or see to something over town but I am hoping for better luck this coming week, its the dust and moths that I am afraid of. I have one of the new Moth bombs and they say they are really fine. but thought I had better clean before firing the thing off!

Am so glad to know that you got the rooms at the Marshall House with Mrs Harris right next door so you can all be together. I think I got it mixed. Wasn't it nice Mildred had such a lovely time in Florida.

I am so sorry you have had such a time with your back for it must be painful and hard getting up and down. Remember how stiff Aunt Mary used to be when she first got up from her chair and then once she got underway she was allright.

Poor Minnie Gilpen, but how fortunate that the end came fairly quickly. An old man here, Soapy Smith, who used to be a guide for many years in the park, found he had cancer last fall and was in the hospital for a while but of course hated it and so they let him go back home to his ranch. He was only supposed to have about 6 weeks to live but died just this last week, we went to his funeral Saturday. ~~But~~ Somepeople suffer so for so long. I always liked Minnie.

Friday- We woke to hear our first rain since last October, it was warm during the night and the snow is going very fast. The sun is out now after a hard shower so guess it is to be April Weather.

We had such a nice letter from Miss Garland at the Art Centre, telling what they had decided to do this summer etc. and also mentioning the exhibit of our paintings this summer. We will have to figure out the best time.

Must get busy so all for now.

Loads of love,

Catharine

P.S. just heard from Mr Turner about sending the paintings - except for filling out 3 sets of forms it is not difficult. So now we must write to the man in the east -

Banff, Alberta.

Sun. April 18, 194 8

Dearest Mother,

The Italian Elections will soon be over and then maybe we will have an idea of what may happen in Europe. Here the weather is still spring like and the snow almost gone, except in the larger drifts, but everything very wet and still huge puddles everywhere. I was amused the other day when a letter came from you saying how cold it was 38 above and about the same time I was writing that at last it was getting warm, almost 38 above! However it has been up to 50 the last few days and the air rather balmy.

The family are having quite a problem to know what to do about Pete's Uncle Pete who lives in Northern B.C. not the one you wrote to but the other brother of his father. Jackie was up there two years ago and found he was getting so absentminded and hardly knew him, and he left word with ~~the~~ a neighbor or friend to let us know if anything happened. This winter they had to take Uncle Pete to a hospital as he wasn't capable of looking after himself and his mind had gone I guess. Jackie thinks he has quite a bit of property but of course he can't do much about it and evidently Uncle Pete can't do anything for himself, so the question is who is to pay the bills and where should he be looked after. One sister has just lost her husband and the others husband has been very ill so can do nothing either, Mom would like to go up herself and see what is happening etc. but can't with her leg in a cast, and Jackie is wondering if he should go.

Yesterday we had a bit of a scare for Jackie came over to show us a letter he had written to one of the Aunts and casually mentioned that he thought he might go out to a place called Harrison Hot Springs as the "doctors had ordered him to get away" for a change and rest, We think he himself wants the change and are a bit tired of these trips for his health he is always making. Pete held his temper very nicely, but of course neither of us being what we are, could think of much to say. However after spending the rest of the day thinking of what we would ask him and say to him etc. and talking with Allan and doing a lot of talking between ourselves, we asked him who he was leaving in charge and he said he wasn't going so soon. That left us pretty flat ~~xxxxx~~ and we are wondering what changed his mind. and whether he is going to go and see Uncle Pete instead, for Mom is very concerned about him.

We rather hoped Mr Vallance would drive up to-day but as we were supposed to have a cold wind and snow to-night he probably decided not to come, Mrs Vallance is very timid about the roads and last Sunday they had the worst snowstorm of the

winter in Calgary and district. We just heard this noon that our storm has been held up near Edmonton or really has veered off towards Saskatchewan. Thank goodness.

W^m have had a quiet Sunday, Went out the West road and saw some Canada Geese swimming around near the Beaver Dam, saw some pussy willows on the Sundance Canyon road and this afternoon I have written 4 letters which is something.

Now we may get to the station in time to mail this to you. Do hope your back is better, could it be a touch of Arthritis do you think ?

Loads of love and will write again soon

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. April 21, 1948

Dearest Mother,

I really intended to write you a nice letter to-night, but thought it best to do the dishes while the 8 o'clock news was on so that we wouldn't have them to do in the morning, and suddenly we looked out the window to see the grass blazing away next door. Our Neighbor Mr Crosby has a mania for burning the long grass and we are always scared to death it will catch our trees and then if it did the house would certainly be in danger. We expect it every spring and hardly dare go out of an evening for we know that he is bound to pick a windy one to do it. One year the fire came so near the fence that it caught the fence post which burned merrily, but that has been taken down. Every fall I am careful to rake the tall dry grass near our trees and we try to get our long grass cut each summer which helps, but invariably he burns his and a lot at once so half the time he can't watch it all. We hadn't expected it quite as early and sure enough to-night he started fires going all over the place, with an east wind blowing. They are out now and we hope it is over for another year but the evening is most gone too.

We have had a wonderful week of weather, yesterday and to-day lovely and warm and sunny. We have been out as much as possible to get the good of the sun but it is still too wet to rake the grass on the lawn. The snow has melted so recently and as it did last year it leaves a sort of cobwebby matting all over the grass, it may be a sort of mildew. Some of it we have done and it was good to smell the earth. Our larkspur near the kitchen are now up about five inches and poppies are showing. All the winters snow went in just the week. They are having bad floods of the prairies at certain little towns where rivers and creeks have overflowed. It seems strange for I always think of the prairie as being so very dry.

I should get your recent letters out to answer but feel too sleepy to write much, maybe it is the sun and air. I haven't gotten very far in the spring cleaning, just the upper hall and the stairs (which should be varnished again) and the ceiling of half the large room and the cupboards at one end. We have been a bit upset again by Jackie just when we thought we were getting somewhere. He was sick over the weekend and tells Mom that the doctors have ordered him away for at least two weeks as otherwise they don't think he can carry through all summer. We think he would just like a bit of a holiday, but perhaps that is not quite fair for he is in a bad way nervously. He said has sort of nervous indigestion and doesn't digest his food properly and gets terrific gas pains so he can't sleep etc. Then Mom gets all upset as she always takes what Pete calls " a dim view " of everything. Most discouraging. If he goes away, he had told us he was going last Sunday and then for some reason changed his mind. but thought he might get away Thursday which is to-morrow

Pete isn't pleased at all and yet it is hard to do anything. Mr Vallance is ready to draw up the lease but with Jackie away we can't do much about that. However we heard to-day that Sam and Cis start home from Bermuda this coming Saturday and then should be home a few days later. He has a weeks work to do on the house before the Vallances move in. and once Mr Vallance moves to Banff it should be easier to get things done.

We are having quite a time keeping Mom from doing too much as she has a mania for house cleaning with spring weather here. Mrs Powell came one morning and was willing to come any afternoon but Mom decided to do some herself

Thursday, Have been cleaning one end of the big room and Pete helped so we did quite well, then Mom came down, which of course she shouldn't have done though it is drying up, to tell me Pearl wants me to go to the Red Cross, so I have had a shower and am all ready, Will send this and if I get a chance start another to-night.

Loads of love,

Catharine .

7.5. It looks like rain .

Banff, Alberta.
April 25, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

There is nothing I dislike so as to disappoint you and yet I am awfully afraid we are going to have to. What do they call it " circumstances beyond our control " ? or something like that. When I wrote that we would try to visit you this spring I was pretty sure we could manage it, but now it doesn't seem sure at all. It isn't that we wouldn't love to come and that spring isn't the nicest time of year to be in Conrod, but I don't see how we can leave yet awhile. We realize you are growing older and naturally would love to see you but sometimes one can't just do what they want to most.

I have decided that Life is a balancing of things. If you want one thing you have to give up another, you just can't have or do all you want, and it means trying to figure out which of the alternatives ~~you~~ to choose. Pete and I have made our life into the kind where we work as a team and we do practically everything together. We like it that way and also feel we do better doing things together. Naturally it makes us more dependent on each other too. Pete by nature isn't as methodical as I am and doesn't like bookkeeping, whereas I do. So gradually I have taken over all the keeping track of things and filing papers etc. If I am away he can't find things either. and right now when we are trying to get the business things straightened out before every one is too busy with their summer season, it would upset it all if I went away.

Then there is our health to consider, for otherwise we won't feel like doing any painting this summer. Pete's nose or sinus is improving and he is gradually feeling better but there are still mornings when he wakes up feeling pretty miserable and I just wouldn't feel right leaving him when he gets that way. He may go a week without feeling badly and then has a bad spell. Of course some of it is due to being upset by the family but if I am here to joke a bit it doesn't seem as bad, it can get awfully discouraging otherwise. Last evening we played ball with the kids and it is the first time for over a year Pete has felt like doing that and he enjoyed it, so I am hopeful that by being patient and getting a little more exercise and out doors more we can get back to the way we used to do things.

Before the war we didn't have so many ties in Banff, but since Pete's father died he has had to take on more responsibilities, We hoped that Jackie would look after the property but he hasn't proved capable of it and the whole thing has been very disappointing to Pete, so now we are just in the process of getting things straightened out. We want to get some sort of lease signed

with the store business, which Jackie is manager of, so we know how we stand. and if things go well Jackie might take over Pete's share in the business and then it would be no reflection on Pete how they ran things and no problem of ours. The last two years ~~Y~~ have been hard and exasperating but it looks now as if we might get things cleared up soon. Pete couldn't possibly leave right now and I honestly feel that I should stay with him at this time.

If by any chance we did get everything settled sooner that would be different but it looks now as if it would be the middle of May. ~~Erving~~ Having Jackie sick so often makes it all the more difficult.

It is Sunday, we rather expected that the Vallances would be up with Dr Skinner, but he arrived just after lunch and said that as it was snowing and raining in Calgary they decided not to come this weekend. Mrs Vallance is very timid about slippery roads, and we don't blame her. They hope to move up in May which is going to help us alot, as Mr Vallance is doing all our legal work for us.

Dr Skinner had a young couple and his nephew with him and they came in to see our house and were crazy about every thing, so were here over half an hour looking around. We should be out raking but it is overcast, rather a cold wind and every little while it snows, we can't complain as this last week has been wonderful and beautiful sunshine.

Yesterday was a very busy day, Saturday and we were up early as Pete didn't feel too good in his nose. I put glo-coat on the end cupboards in the front room and did the usual cleaning, Allan came over about the lease for Dr Kennedy as he thought one little thing should be added, and then Dave Pposser ran in with figures on a winch for a Jeep. We had thought we might get one for Allan as he has given so much extra time lately to the building and apartments, but now believe it will be too expensive. Then I went and did our shopping and Moms, having to have a few minutes chat coming and going. It was lunch time by then. We had a letter to write for one of the Wets and that took time and Cliff was down for a short time, we had the mail to get and a few odd things, then cooked some ham, wrote a letter to Marion and just as we were going to mail it, Gordon Mclean and his mother from Calgary came in. Then we had supper and right afterwards noticed that the kids were starting to burn the grass back of their house so felt we should keep an eye on that, in the end played catch with them and I broke Barbaras glasses for her ! Then took some books up to Mom and it was bedtime by then.

Now we have some Income Tax papers to mail and his too and if it isn't too unpleasant might go outside for a bit.

Thank you mother for the nice cheque for our tickets, I will keep it until we are sure we can't use it, ~~before~~ We really are sorry that things have happened as they have but we just can't help it very well.

Loads of love always

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
April 25, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

There is nothing I dislike so as to disappoint you and yet I am awfully afraid we are going to have to. What do they call it "circumstances beyond our control" ? or something like that. When I wrote that we would try to visit you this spring I was pretty sure we could manage it, but now it doesn't seem sure at all. It isn't that we wouldn't love to come and that spring isn't the nicest time of year to be in Concord, but I don't see how we can leave yet awhile. We realize you are growing older and naturally would love to see you but sometimes one can't just do what they want to most.

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Thank you mother for the nice cheque for our tickets, I will keep it until we are sure we can't use it, before we really are sorry that things have happened as they have but we just can't help it very well.

Loads of love always

Banff, Alberta.
April 27, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

Tuesday evening and thought I would write a little bit to mail to-morrow. Sunday after writing you we had quite a snow storm and woke Monday morning to find everything white again, about four inches of fresh snow and really very pretty for it stuck to every branch and twig. blew off later and tried to snow most all day yesterday, Today was nice here and it melted most everywhere, but in Calgary they got 8 inches more in Red Deer wh which is further north. The wind was strong and drifted the roads in again, the people on the prairie are having a terrible time and terrific floods, the worst in years, whole towns flooded in southern Saskatchewan, where the C.P.R. line goes across the border. and Winnipeg too is having trouble. So I guess we shouldn't complain though we may get high water too this year, though the river is quite low right now.

Mom got her cast taken off to-day. It took a whole hour to get the xrays and the thing cut off. She had to go up to the hospital, we took her at nine and about eleven she walked down here to tell us. It hurts a bit yet to walk but she does very well. Is to have massage on her shoulder as that still bothers her.

This afternoon a funny thing happened, we had gone to get some French bread for her about five having forgotten it earlier, and when we came back Pete noticed it was train time and he said " lets go down and see the 'New Look ' its so nice out." I wasn't very anxious to, as we had stew to make which takes long to cook well and also I had some clothes in the washing machine and wanted to get them finished before supper. (Mrs Scott had come in for a minute and stayed about half an hour which put me behind in my plans) Pete said " oh just turn the wabber off we won't be long." So that was just what I did do, and we went on down to the station. Sometimes you get a whole train full of remarkable hats and skirts and its rather fun. We got there just before the train came in and we watched when it did come, though no one very exciting seemed to be getting off, Then we spotted a familiar person as she spotted us and it was Mrs Muddy of Montreal who was the lady on the same car last time I came back from the east. She is the one who went to see the Spring exhibition last year in Montreal and sent us the newspaper clipping about it. She is the wife of a conductor on the Montreal Quebec run and I expect has a pass, her daughter lives at the coast and she was on the way out when the first baby came last time, now the child is 15 months old. We had a nice chat, but wasn't it funny that we went down, Sometimes we do on a Sunday but not often on a weekday and on the spur of the moment like that.

Wednesday, Had a letter from the Wards yesterday and they flew to Toronto on Saturday, should be here Friday or Saturday. It will be nice to see them back.

Last night we went to bed early and listened to the ten o'clock news and just as it was over we heard a tree crash on the Crosby's side of the house. There wasn't enough wind and I said to Pete " could Mr Crosby be working that late at night ? " We looked out later but it was so dark could see nothing. This morning sure enough, one of the small aspen trees about 30 feet from our kitchen window had been neatly cut down and the top half also had been neatly cut off, Beavers from the river. We are going to watch to-night and see if they take it away.

I don't seem to make very rapid progress with the cleaning, partly because Pete hates the idea, he had too much as a child of dismantling of rooms and beating carpets etc. So I just do a section at a time and with the vacuum and all the appliances which suck the dirt out of every nook and cranny it doesn't spread the dust about. Actually it isn't very dirty, I guess Pete takes after Grandpa Morse, but like most women I feel a certain satisfaction in knowing things are clean.

It looks like a nice afternoon so will try to get out a bit if it is sunny.

Loads of love

Catherine .

Banff, Alberta.
Sunday, May 2, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

We seem to have lapsed into winter again and the last few days have been snowing and raining. a bit discouraging. The lawn hasn't been dry enough yet to rake in front and we would like to be able to get out and do a bit around the yard.

Thursday I went to the Red Cross, the last time this season we think, for all the material has been used up. I had stopped going having so much to be done at home, but the week before Pearl Moore sent a message for me to be sure to come and that day we each made a tiny night gown for a layette for Jean Robinson's new baby, beside the usual Red Cross work. She brought the sandwiches but Mr MacAuley made us a cake for the occasion. It was a wonder, the lightest one I have every tasted. That evening after supper the kids came over and though it was cold and cloudy we took them down to the golf course to hunt for crocuses, No that was Wednesday night. It started to rain hard Thursday night and poured all night long, making everything very soggy and wet.

Friday was miserable too, it snowed as well and we were glad when we met the noon trains to find that the Wards hadn't come, for they were due back Friday or Saturday. It was so dark all afternoon that we sorted films for a change.

Yesterday the trains were all late, due to floods on the praines and as they had the trains listed in a confusing way on the board we thought they were to be later than they were. However they ^{Wards} came ~~at~~ ^{about} one thirty and we brought them here for a bite to eat. They didn't expect to be met and both looked well and had had a wonderful time. Were just full of it. Told us all they could each interrupting the other. It was 12 years since Cis had seen her only sister and she said that it was quite a ~~shock~~ shock when she first saw her for she was so much thinner and worn looking, but the three weeks in Bermuda did wonders for the London folk. There was quite a party of them. The sister and her husband, a doctor and his wife (the doctor had been the hero of the district they lived in, out every night during the bombing and had been buried under buiddings three different times but was always dug out alive. his wife head of the Red Cross there) a business man named Higgins and his wife, and then the father and mother of Doris, who's husband runs the Eagle Nest Hotel where they stayed. It wasn't very crowded at this time of year and so they all had rooms in the hotel, and at Bermuda is in the Sterling area and their money pounds. the London ones could spend as they liked. Will, the brother-in-law, is a great person for dining out and took them all over the place so they were very gay, Sam said he is also a great organizer and was always getting them together to do this and that. They have photographs of the party and they

look a lively bunch. We took the Wards up to their house about three I guess and while they put the fires on and turned the water on etc. We got bread and milk etc. and their mail for them. One of the valves in the hot water system had stuck but we couldn't find the plumber. Sam wasn't very worried, but the house was rather cold and damp. We went up after supper again to see if Mr Watt the plumber had come and though it was nearly eight and he hadn't gotten home until nearly seven from another job, up he had come to help them out. ^{He was on} pretty nice on a Saturday night. We stayed a while and heard more tales of their trip. You can now leave Calgary by plane at 6.30 in the evening and by making connections at Montreal with a plane direct to Bermuda you reach the islands at 4.30 the next afternoon.

I had this half written this morning and we decided to go look for crocus as the sun came out bright and lovely. It was very sloppy as the four inches of wet snow that was still on the ground was melting, but we found a few tiny buds, one was sticking right up through the snow. We stopped and gave a few to Mom, Did I tell you she got the cast off at last but the ankle is a bit sore yet and her shoulder bothers her, she goes each day for massage. She wants very much to go to the coast as soon as she can get a regular shoe on. She hasn't mentioned it but I have an idea she might have thought of joining Jackie who is still out at Harrison Hot Springs we believe. Florence didn't go which we were glad of for at least she can run the store when he is away. Well I hope he feels more fit when he comes back.

The uncle up north who is in a hospital is still there, but Pete's aunt, who just lost her husband, is planning to go up and see how he is and make arrangements for him to be looked after etc. It is lucky she can go for it was hard to know what to do and so difficult not knowing the doctors etc.

This is the funniest weather, first lovely and sunny and then a regular snow squall, Pete said after lunch when it was blowing and snowing. "maybe we have started the ice age again" it certainly looked and felt like it.

Mrs Mayor sent us the book about Anna Hyatt Huntington and thank you so much, it was good of her to send it, I didn't realize it was sort of privately printed but am awfully glad to have it to show several sculpturs here and then give it to Agnes Hammond.

It is sunny now so perhaps we better take advantage of it and go out, even if it is too wet to do anything. It seems as if we had had so many dull Sundays.

Loads of love

Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. May 4, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

It rained hard most all night and is raining now, though it does promise us a good day to-morrōw but then says another disturbance is due to-morrōw night. We are wondering if we are ever to get good weather and have it warm. Yesterday afternoon was dull but no wind so we took advantage of it and Pete leveled as many of the winter's pile of ashes as he could until he reached the part still frozen while I raked the front lawn for the first time this year, it was really too damp but I did it carefully.

Had two letters from you yesterday, the first one had gone on to Field and back, guess that is why they both came the same day. Am awfully sorry to hear that you are so nervous, couldn't it be a form of spring fever and with getting out in the garden it may help. Was so glad to hear that Cousin Jane Barry was there, even for just a few days as it would be good company for you, I am awfully sorry it isn't us who are there to admire the budding tulips with you, for Concord is at it's loveliest in the spring.

We were up seeing Sam just before lunch and to see how much more has to be done to the Vallance house before they can move in. There is still a bit of finishing to do in the basement and the kitchen floor to lay yet so that the stove can be moved into place, but otherwise there isn't much unfinished. It is so hard now-a-days for as Sam showed us, last year the finish around the doors was a certain width and so all the plastering was done with these certain measurements in mind, now the new stuff comes in a narrower width and it is all one can get and it means patching where the lath shows. All of which takes time. He said that he had spoken to Mr Vallance on the telephone last night and they would be up this weekend and stay over Monday so we may have a chance to talk with him. Don't know when Jackie will be back but he said not later than the 15th. which will be the end of next week. Then we are hoping that we can make him decide what he intends to do about running the store etc. It has been very trying and just when we think we are getting somewhere there is another delay.

Mary and Jimmy Simpson ~~were~~ over the other night, Big Jim has moved up to Bow Lake with Bill Stewart the brother-in-law, they are shovelling snow and cutting wood etc. Jim said the drift in front of the building was 17 feet deep and hardly any snow seems to have melted from the mountains, he thinks that there will be a very high water this year if it all goes at once. So maybe our river will get high again, it does about every 8 or 10 years.

I had planned to clean the kitchen this week but there were other things to see to yesterday and we thought we would feel better if we worked outside in the afternoon. and to-day has been so dark.

Not much of a letter but lots of love always,
Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.
Fri. May 7, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

Seeing that we aren't with you as we had hoped to be at this time, the next best thing is to write a letter and have a bit of a chat.

This was the week I had planned to spring clean the kitchen, not thoroughly but to dust it well, not wash it down or anything too big a job, and yet due to one thing and another and a lot of rain I haven't done more than the easy end and have all the cupboards to do yet. Will make a stab at it next week. It seems so hard to get a chance at it.

Yesterday was quite nice, great big clouds and as it looked like rain thought I better go to the Red Cross, and as I haven't taken sandwiches for ages thought maybe I better find out if Edméé were taking them, so when we went over town we went by her house and found her staining the large floor which had been newly sanded. She wasn't going to Red Cross, so I didn't try to take my turn at sandwiches. Then we met Pearl Moore who said we must go into George Nobles and read a letter he was framing for Charlie Biel ~~xxxxxx~~ from Charlie Russell. That took more time, then we saw Jow Woodworth and asked him how Casey Oliver (his partner in a china store) was feeling, having heard he was in the hospital, that led to a long talk about what Joe would do if Casey decided to sell out his share etc. and about his daughter and her husband who have just come from Australia. We also ran into Ted Paris and his wife K. who is a great problem, so tried to sort of cheer her up not too successfully, all this while we were getting a little meat for lunch. We should know better than to go over in the middle of the morning when you run into people, and here they always have time to stop and talk, it is the custom of the country I guess, and is a nice custom too.

The day before was nearly as bad for Pete saw Allan Mather at the bank. Allan came across the street as Pete walked towards him and they met by the silent policeman right at the main intersection, (I was at the meat market) There they stood and talked for at least half an hour, for Allan has been away to a Rotary convention in Saskatoon for several days and besides discussing what was best to do about the store roof which leaks in a few places, he had to tell a bit about the bad floods across the prairies. In the meantime I had quite a talk with Mrs Walker about Kieth who is due to fly back from the Gold Coast in Africa and hopes to arrive before his wife's baby comes. Then we met Gerry Monod who is a Swiss Skier and he wanted us to write a letter of recommendation to the immigration as he is trying to get his brother John in to the country on the right kind of permit. That took a bit of talking too.

There is an awful lot of building and changing round in Banff right now and people ~~to~~ come for this, ~~that~~, and the other.

Well I did get to the Red Cross after first washing out the laundry that I had left soaking expecting more time in the morning. We think that Mrs Lonsdale who is head of the Red Cross and a great worker and organizer, keeps us going to sort of make her reputation better. For here she is off on a holiday and we thought last week that once we finished up the material there would be no more work, but they sent a lot more up from Calgary. Actually none of us would keep going if we didn't enjoy seeing each other! I am going just once more and take the food for tea and then call it quite.

While I was at the Red Cross, Pete was busy and then Cliff came down and had a long talk which Pete finds tiring. Cliff is much better and very cheerful but still not at all practical, he should be a promoter for he has a way of talking about his plans for the future and you can't see how they can fail to be successful until you look back into the past and realize what has happened to his dreams. I think that was what made it so hard for Mildred. All sorts of wonderful things were sure to happen if he did this or that and yet she knew there was never enough in the present to pay the bills and they just kept going into debt expecting to have enough later on. Pete finally had to go as he was to see the Superintendent about writing the letter for the Monods and also to ask if he could take out some trees as a birthday present for me to have a view.

I met Cliff on the way home and we had a long talk right on the street. He is all interested in collecting old stories about the early days and putting them together in a book, and has been talking to all sorts of people. It should be good if he can make it go, and even if he doesn't get the book written the tales will be written down and it will be good for him too.

Pete took Ethel Knight from the Government office to the station to see a party of Eastern Skiers away and Pete had a chance to meet a brother of a boy we used to know. That made supper a bit late and then Jonnie talked us into taking him out to see the Beaver, when we should have been raking. We saw a distant beaver, further away than one which was in the river in front of our house, but we saw a herd of Elk and six moose or seven, five all together. Then we could see the clouds gathering and it started raining when we got back. Was not too bad this morning but pouring now. so no raking to-day and no housecleaning as it is so dark.

Mom was to go to Cochrane to-day to see her relations, but when we went to drive her to the station found she didn't feel well enough to go. Her ankle is getting on fine but her shoulder bothers her and her eye swelled up. Now she is talking of going out to join Jackie at Harrison Hot Springs. Florence went Wednesday, for how long we don't know, she never even told us she was going! Mr Vallanne will be up this weekend we expect and then maybe we can figure out what to do. We hope he moves up soon and then will be on the spot and not in such a hurry all the time.

I didn't really mean to write so much and should be sending those cards and short letters to the Agges and Miss Briggs~~nd~~ and thanking people for sending us things. As you know I am way behind answering letters, must get at yours soon too.

It was nice Cousin Jane could be with you for a week and I know you must be busy showing people the garden etc. We picked the first crocus^{bed} a week ago and they are only just coming out into flower now. Edmee has some yellow ones up in her garden the kind you have on the driveway. They are just out too.

Must start on the other letters.

Loads of love,

Catherine.

MADE IN CANADA

WINDSOR BOND
HOMER D. SWIFT

Banff, Alberta.
Mon. May 10, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

We have had rather a busy two days and yesterday it seemed as if summer had started. Sunday was miserable cold and snowy, though we were fortunate and it was only in the air, they had 11 inches in Calgary and most of it on the ground. They have had a worse time than we have in Banff. The Vallances were to drive up for the weekend but Saturday being so bad in Calgary they didn't come and though we knew that Mr Vallance was to give a showing of slides to a convention on Monday night we wondered if they would get up as planned on Sunday. Went up in the morning to see the Wards but they hadn't heard, I watched Cis make a cake and then we talked so much she forgot the butter! (However the cake baked alright for I had a piece later) Sam told Pete how in Bermuda when they were filling out papers for a visa or something coming back, when asked who their next of kin were, they gave our names, figuring we were the closest family they had in Canada !

After lunch we decided to telephone Calgary so we would know if the Vallances were planning to come or not and Pete found they were on their way, but never thought to ask when they left, so up to the Wards we went to tell them they were coming and found them already there and eating the cake with some coffee in the kitchen. Pete spoke to Mr Vallance very hurriedly and of course Mrs Vallance was very impatient to see their ~~how~~ ^{house} as they hadn't been up since before Christmas and wanted to see the paint etc. We didn't want to delay them then and knew they would be here Monday. However we wanted Mr Vallance to meet the two Swiss boys who wanted advise on the immigration and after Pete had explained a bit about them, ^{my} he was anxious to help them too. So off we went to find the boys and of course they were out walking, We left messages around and even went back again about five. At six, just as we were thinking of supper, the two boys came in. It was only the 2nd. time we had met John Monod. Gerry we have seen several times, and we ~~met~~ ^{met} him New Years when Gladys Atkins brought him down. John is only just learning to speak English and it is rather a strain making ourselves clear to them. We showed them photographs and the pictures of the Swiss Univ. Ski team that was here before the War, John brightened up considerably then as he knew them all well and since then we have found that he was one of the ones to start the Anglo-Swiss University Ski races in Murren in 1929. He is 36 and much older than we thought, (we forget we are getting older) He was 2 years at the University and we have an idea has had a hard experience during the War. They stayed until nearly eight and we didn't ask them to supper as we really didn't have much to offer. Then sent them over to see Mr Vallance if they could find him.

By the time we had had our supper we were pretty nearly ready for bed.

Yesterday, Monday, was a nice day for once, though there was a chilly wind from the North east all day but the sun was lovely. We set out to look for the Vallances and met Mr V. crossing the main street, he had run into all sorts of complications even to a flat tire and had to go to Canmore unexpectedly in the afternoon, but said he would come round here on his way back and that if Mrs Vallance didn't go she might come round earlier to see us. We spoke to him when we gave him a ride up to his house and then before we had really finished a man from Victoria appeared who's wife is to be here in the hospital for Arthritis, so that ended that. However there isn't a great deal we can do in settling things until Jackie comes back.

We left to look for the Monods again as he wanted to see some papers they had, and could only find John, and had another long talk with him. long because it takes time to make him understand he knows so little English. After lunch we went for the mail and saw Allan a minute in case he had any questions. and then back here by 2 o'clock. We thought it was so lovely out we would rake until the others showed up and hadn't even gotten a wheel barrow full when Mrs Vallance and a Mrs Trotter came along. It was too cold to stay outside and talk so we came in and Mrs Trotter was very interested in everything in the house. We had a most interesting talk about all sorts of things, We had told the Monods to drop around and rather looked for them, one time Pete went out thinking he heard someone and it was an Indian, Tom Kaquits, He had a new uniform and wanted Pete to take a picture of him. Also there was a long story about having sold his eagle hat for \$12.75 and it was worth \$75.00 and he wanted the money to buy it back. luckily Mr Vallance drove in just then and saved Pete any more talk with Tom. I started making tea and another knock on the door. Young Cliff with a young lady to see us, so asked them in too and we all had tea together. Mr Vallance was so tired from his Canmore trip which had proved a very good one for him that we didn't have the heart to ask him anything, and anyway with the others here we couldn't very well. The Monods never showed up so we figured they hadn't understood. The Vallances left about five I guess and Mrs Trotter, and then Cliff and his young lady friend stayed until about quarter to six. She is the sister of Jonnie's teacher, Miss Pogue, and Paula Pogue has been working out at Sunshine all winter. a nice girl and a good sense of humor.

Gerry

They had barely gone when ~~John~~ Monod appeared and we sent him over to the King Edward, a few minutes later and John Monod arrived having seen Mr Vallance but missed Gerry. We lent him the French-English dictionary I had at Wheelers and he was very pleased as the one he had gave only one meaning for each word and you know how many meanings some words have and uses. Then we had our supper and Jonnie arrived. We decided that to pick a few crocus would be a nice change for us all, and off we went to the golf course in the Jeep. Found a few crocus on the course also two elk which aren't supposed to be inside the gate. Coming across the bridge we saw Jimmy Harbidge getting gravel

and he pointed out a beaver right on the 9old course on the first fairway by the Spray River. We watched and he beaver cut a bit of willow and then went into the river where it is very swift, was carried towards us quite a way by the current and then came out on the other side below the first tee. We had never seen beaver there. and later we saw three Elk right below the Legion on the river bank near the main bridge. Jonnie was very pleased.

Now it is Tuesday, sunny but still a cold wind. Pete has gone over to see if Mr Vallance is at the hotel while I stay, in case they come round here and Pete misses them.

Pete is glad that you agree with him about House cleaning, I think one should keep doing a little all the year, but I never seem to be able to and the kitchen cupboards do need doing. should be at them now but if it is nice out it is too nice to stay in just to clean. Maybe to-morrow when there are no people to see around.

Loads of love,

Catharine

MADE IN SWITZERLAND

VICTORIA BOND
HOMER'S SWITZ

Banff, Alberta.

May 16, 1948.

Sunday.

Dearest Mother,

I was going to write you last night but we stayed outside helping Mr Scott do the lawn at the top of this Lot until nine O'clock and went to bed shortly after we came in. Yesterday was the loveliest day of all, no wind just a gentle breeze and it felt like spring, lovely clouds. so we took advantage of it and stayed outside all afternoon.

It is funny but one can do so much more when it is really nice and sunny. We were up quite early and I had just gotten a good start on doing the kitchen floor, (had waited hoping to get the cupboards cleaned first but the floor was getting too scuffed and needed doing badly) When two men drove in. Pete went outside and talked to them, saying that it was better there as a lot of housecleaning was going on inside. One man had been here two years ago with Norah Cornwall one evening and the other man was something to do with the Alberta Motor Association, We joined, having mean't to for some time and I had the floor all done by the time they left. Had they come in of course I never would have finished. They said they had come to see us about ten the night before but saw a light upstairs and didn't want to disturb us. We have been going up early, which was lucky that night or we would have been up until midnight entertaining them. Their times of coming to see us were not the most convenient, it was 9.30 in the morning when they came and you hardly expect company at that hour. They are here on a convention.

Besides doing the floor, we got the usual Sat. morning cleaning and shopping done, and while at Unwins I noticed an auxiliary heater that is made to sit beside an electric stove and you can use it to burn garbage or papers or for extra heat. We measured it up and found it would fit perfectly next the kitchen chimney, between the present electric stove and stone work, It will make an ideal place to burn rubbish as the garbage is quite a problem for us. We don't like to put it in the furnace as with a stoker it is apt to gum up the thing, and outside the dogs and animals are always upsetting the garbage cans and strewing the stuff and papers it is wrapped in all over the place. It is a well built stove, white enamel to match the other, same height and 16 inches wide. You can pull a damper to have the heat in the kitchen or not, and one can use coal or wood. Now we can get rid of the little airtight which we only use once in a while when we

want heat if we have been away in summer, or if we don't want to start up the furnace. and it will mean less stove pipe showing etc. Someone had ordered the thing and then when it came in a few days ago decided not to take it. Lucky for us.

In the afternoon Pete cut up a tree which was down, and we burn't that and raked a bit too. Mom went to Cochrane for a few days and may have come back on the late train or may arrive this morning. No sign of Jackie and Florence but we rather expect them to-day.

/ It is not nearly as nice out this morning, very dull but no wind so we may be out gardening. It is almost impossible to get anyone to work these days. If they are too old to work on the Government they are too old to do more than the easy raking I enjoy doing, and if they can hammer a nail they call themselves cappers and are on a job. Any strong man is much in demand for the few hours extra he might come to work in the evening and you have an awful time running around to try and find them.

We have been talking to the Scotts about a garden as they really are farming people, and so we have figured where they can fence in a small plot etc.

We wrote a four page letter to Mr Vallance Friday so that when he does come up this week he will have an idea what we plan to do or have thought of doing. Things do take so long to get done. Most discouraging.

Had mean't to answer your letters and will the first evening we stay in.

Am enclosing a hint for my birthday, THE ATLAS OF ANATOMY FOR ARTISTS, to be gotten at the Boston Book & Art Shop, 122 Newbury St. Boston. You could send a check for the \$6.00 and they would send it to you in Concord!

Mr Walker has just called to return some books and now it is time to go and meet Mom on the noon train, for she didn't come last night

Loads of love,

Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. May 19, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

We seem to have run into a lot of callers the last couple of days and again I will have to make this a hurried letter.

The new stove we set up Tuesday, it mean't taking all the canned goods and cooking utensils out of the shelves we have built around the electric stove and then moved it out ~~a~~ and the other new stove between it and the stone chimney. we think it is going to work very well as an incinerator of papers and some garbage. Now the shelves need a bit of changing and as everything is out of them it seems a good opportunity. We have been trying to figure how to do it. Yesterday it rained most all day and was awfully dark. Pete had planned to do it or at least make a start but didn't feel too good in the morning. We also had Maynard down about the store roof and I wrote a few letters and then after lunch when we came back from getting the mail Mr Paris came to call.

He seldom comes and as it was miserable out and rather comfortable in, he chatted to us for a couple of hours. He is very interesting, brought us a book and then told us a lot about physic, that's not spelt right, research. He has made a great study of it and collected books on it. all about spirits etc. Has a photograph of some fairies someone took and wanted us to see it. (He brought it over to us this morning) He also told us about his childhood in London, he was born in a lane near Whitechapel and Aldgate, and the houses were the old ones that lean in towards each other across the street so that from the top windows you can shake hands across the street.

After he left we got out mail, a nice letter from you and how smart you are to do so much. ended up with the call from Mr Daniels, then after supper had a talk with the Scotts and looked at the floor Maynard had sanded in their dining room. I was going to do the ironing having put a few shirts out to get damp in the fine mist we had. Was just nicely started when Jonnie came in and he hadn't been here long when Fern Clarkson and a boy Pete - - from New York who is to be here all summer. *came in* Had a nice visit from them until ten.

To-day it started rainy and I did the rest of the ironing, then Mr Paris came and while he was still here Jackie arrived to say that he had had a letter from the lawyer in Calgary about settling the claims on the Ski Co. Being Wed. we left to do the necessary errands at 11.30 and as Pete says one should park at the back of the store. As we drove up to the store Mrs Mac met us and asked if she could bring a friend down this afternoon who writes for Chatelaine, named Dukes *with the funny picture*

Just for a minute if we weren't too busy. Then General Trudeau came by and we had a chat about distilling liquor and how the French do it (he is French Canadian) and the Ukrainians. His daughter came along and finally he went off with her, then Mrs Walker to tell about Keith getting back from Africa and the new grandchild about to arrive any minute and also about her stoker. I broke away then and got the meat, while Pete had a talk with George Eisenshimml and he was still talking to Cyril Paris as I finished the shopping, so of course I had to talk a bit with Cyril too.

Harold arrived at lunch time as it is his birthday, we had gotten a lock for his bicycle but he already had one so he said what he would like best is if we will show some slides. We could hardly refuse when he would rather see slides than get a birthday present so about five or a little later we will be going over there. If it is nice, looks as if the sun might come out, we might rake a bit now.

It may be that if the Ski thing gets settled then we can straighten out a few things. too, it would be a great relief to get things cleared up.

Not much of a letter but will send it along.

Loads of love,

Callarue

Banff, Alberta.
May 22, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

Here I am in another hurry, but do want to be sure and get ~~another~~ letter off to you to-day as this might be a weekend with lots of callers, you never know. Monday is the 24th of May, the Queen's (Queen Victoria) birthday and a holiday with a fish casting event on the main street in the morning and a regatta in the afternoon. the river is getting higher by nearly a foot each day and with all the snow still to melt we are wondering if it isn't going to be one of the years when the water comes over the road. you can see all sorts of debris floating down now. This is the first year they have had a fly casting contest. They will do it on canvas. Aim at something. never having seen one I will have to wait and tell you about it.

We seemed to jump from winter into summer and yesterday was really muggy for us and we felt limp as could be. Pete worked on putting a metal edge around the linoleum top of the cupboard thing around the stove and it was so dripping that it took us most of the afternoon. He had never done that kind of work before so we went very slowly, I held things and handed things and it came out very well. We still have the little top part to do yet. It is the first time for over a year that Pete has felt like making things and it is good to see him want to. He put screens on this morning, but there is so much to be done like that we don't expect to do everything right now.

In the paper it said this was the latest spring in the history of the province and in most places they have only just started to seed. Ike Mills has two of his horses grazing on our lawn and their ribs are sticking out poor things, they are in the worst condition they have ever been from the hard winter and he lost several. We don't mind their eating out grass as long as they leave their calling cards in the right area.

Last night we went for a short drive and saw the Moores shutters off so made them a short call, they have just moved in from the hotel. Later that usual.

To-day is showery looking but sixty out, and after we get the mail and do a few odd errands we might rake. provided that it doesn't rain. We had an inch and a half last night, so I hear Davy saying, he is talking to Pete right now. *It was during 2 heavy thunder storms after the oppressive feeling all day.*
Young Cliff went over to visit in Windermere and came back in the Jeep bringing young Peter with him, also some apple blossoms and fresh asparagus and rhubarb to us. They had to go back next day as Cliff is to work out at Sunshine this summer and they want him to start sooner than he expected. *He will return by train*
We were quite relieved for there was a bit of a problem ~~and~~ he

worked in Banff, where he would sleep. We had said at one time he could sleep in the tent house beside the old house, forgetting that there were no toilet facilities and that the Scotts and Mom were neither very keen on young boys tramping in at all hours. But now Donny is going over to Invermere and likes it so well he will most likely stay from now on. Things do seem to be clearing up in more ways than one.

This was a nice letter we had from the Morrises. we were sorry we never got to Victoria when they were there, for we had hoped to go out for a couple of weeks last fall. but glad they liked the doctor we recommended. He is Bobby Hunter the old friend of Pete's. Please thank them for writing and we are sorry too they aren't going back this way, so we could see them,

Loads of love

Catharine .

MADE IN SWITZERLAND
3
STOVAN BOND
HEAVY DUTY

Banff, Alberta.
Sunday evening.
May 23, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

This has been rather a funny day with frequent trips between heavy rain showers to see how much the river has risen, it has been rising all day, over parts of the walk along the bank last night and gradually covering more all day, we think it may be up over parts of the road to-morrow. 1933 was the last time it was very high and the Crosby's had a canoe on the road. We have had a lot of rain, rather mild and still lots of snow to melt on the mountains, so unless we have some cold weather it will keep rising.

We went up the Sundance Canyon road before lunch and in one place the river was almost level with the road, then this afternoon we took Harold and had a look at the falls, they are quite a sight and the water is almost high enough to come over the road there.

Went up to see the Vallances, they are cleaning the house ready to get in next weekend, and rather discouraged that everything isn't finished, not quite realizing how much work it takes to build cupboards and hang doors and fit latches etc. We brought them down to tea here and I think they felt better for the rest from washing windows and vacuuming. Also he spoke to us about getting things straightened out with Jackie and Barbara and us. Barbara still has a hold on Jackie's property and he can't sell us the furniture in the suites until she releases it etc. all most complicated. However she happened to be in her yard and I got her to come over and she talked to Mr Vallance in his car for a few minutes which was fine. You have to work things in as best you can. Mrs V. is rather nervous and a bit impatient so it isn't easy. You might say the delay in their moving up here has also delayed us, but just this week the Ski Club thing is to be settled. Jackie got a letter about Wed. and if that is cleared up it means that Cliff can settle what he owes to Jackie who can pay us or Barbara etc. It really is fortunate we are here right now for otherwise we might have missed a good opportunity I can't explain it all in a letter but will tell you sometime all about it.

It is now Monday afternoon and the holiday nearly over, We have been in and out all day and feel rather weary from doing nothing special. We slept in until nine and then as Pete said "I bet you can't wait any longer to see how much higher the river is" which was true. Just as I had the bacon and eggs cooked Harold came running to the door to say the river was over the road in one place, we had already had a look, and he stayed to breakfast which meant cooking more of everything. Then Bubby arrived and Jonie and we were to go out by the Cave and Basin to get some fresh water to drink. ^{did the river first} the main water is literally back I have never seen it worse. like it is when the papes have been

fixed after a break in the main and it is just turned on. There is a spring near the road beyond the Cave and Basin and when we all got out here in the Jeep, Harold and Jonny asking questions most of the way, we found Bill Young with the same idea. Later we bought a 2 gallon can and have just made another trip out and back.

We weren't back very long from the shopping and mail etc. when Mr Scott appeared and we showed him some plants he could take of ours for his garden, and while talking to him Mario came to say that there was a big spike in Mom's stoker and could Pete come and look at it. Dawy and Jonny came back here, Jonny hoping we were going to the Regatta which had to be moved to 2nd lake out the west road. but we didn't want to get into the jam of holiday drivers so finally sent Jonnie off to look for his father.

By quarter of two Pete was back for lunch, having found the trouble with the stoker, repaired the drain pipe, been told about the kids putting a ladder up against the garage roof and taking down the new radio aerial which Mom had just gotten Bill Ridgway to put up having waited until since Christmas, and then Ikes boy came for the horses grazing on our lawn and took them across hers. All of which didn't help !

So after a nice quiet lunch even if it was late and we had gotten bottles ready to fill with water, we decided to just go by the Vallances in case there was a question or something. Found them just getting into the car to come by our house on their way home. So we came home and put the kettle on for them though they didn't want us to bother. They were feeling much better about everything, have the house all clean and ready to move in and quite cheerful about it all. Mrs Vallance said that she had worked so hard all Friday on things at their house in Calgary with her cleaning person and I think she was just plain tired yesterday. anyway they seemed to find the tea very refreshing and were quite delighted when they set off.

Now we are back after getting the water and delivering it to several people, like Mom, the Scotts and the Steels with the 2 children over the store. Got a lovely long letter from you just before Margaret Watkins was to arrive with Margie. What a shame you had so much rain to ruin the tulips, but how often it comes to flatten something in a garden, or wind.

To mail this had better get it off on the train.

Loads of love,

Catharine

P.S. The river isn't rising as fast today as yesterday. rose 5 or 6 inches in the night.

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. May, 26, 1948

Dearest Mother,

We are just going over town to do a couple of errands and waiting a few minutes for Pete to coal off after cutting the grass for the first time this year. The man who usually does it hasn't shown up yet this season. So will just start a letter.

Yesterday was lovely, sunny and warm, like summer. I intended to rake all afternoon but first a Mrs Jamison who was walking by on the road stopped to tell me how much a chiropractor was helping the arthritis in her neck. Then Marmie Hess came along in a friends car and just stopped in when they saw us, for a few minutes, luckily not for too long. Then Barbara came over to tell me about Jackie coming over to see her when he came back from Harrison and it was so nice in the sun that she stayed and chatted about one thing or another for a long time. So I really didn't get much caked! Oh. Yes, then Cliff came down. He came on the train from Golden to go to Calgary with Jackie to settle up the Ski Club affairs, and as they came through by the Kicking Horse, between Golden and Field the engine of their train hit a rock slide and just by luck it rolled over onto the rocky side and not into the river. Cliff said the man inspecting the track had been by only a few minutes before and the slide must have just come down as the train came along. It de-railed the baggage car but had it gone the other way all the cars might have been thrown into the river. It took six hours to repair the track.

It is now evening and an east wind so that low clouds are coming in around the mountains, it was rather humid to-day and quite warm. Pete fixed the top part of the shelves around the kitchen stove while I held the metal strip, he shaped it to go around the edge to hold the linoleum top on. it looks very well, now we think we will put the rest of the odd bits of linoleum that was left over from the floor and which we had saved, on the inside shelves. there is just about the right amount if we figure it out carefully. I don't know if you remember the thing Sam made to fit around the stove. it is the same height as the stove and hides the gleaming white enamel. Holds pots and pans in the front part and canned goods in the back.

After we finished that Pete did the rest of the lawn and I did the flower beds. or some of them. I usually skimp on one end for its always time to finish when I get to the far end.

We always run into the darndest things, went up to the mail right after lunch so as to have a long afternoon and as we went up saw a lady carrying a big parcel to mail, we knew it was Wednesday afternoon and the wickets closed, so sure enough when I got in the post office there she was, most discouraged.

So I told her if she didn't mind riding in a Jeep we would give her a lift back down town. She was staying at the Homestead Hotel. Was born in Banff, Scotland and lived in Honolulu for 30 years, still lives there, and has been trying to come to Banff, Canada, for years. We took her to the station and found that was closed at the time, but left her there. Then as we came up the road saw Mrs Vic Lord on her way to their camp on the road to Windermere. Her husband was a wonderful mechanic and went blind, she does all the driving and most everything that he can't do by feel. They are a wonderful couple. We spoke to her until he came out from the Union Milk. and then Pete helped him stow the box away and tie the canvas on etc. Then I saw Mrs Redfern who's husband has just been put in the insane asylum, a very sad case and so went over and spoke to her. That led to more talking, she is selling all her things to get enough money to live on for a while, as anything they have is tied up while he is there. So our afternoon went pretty fast.

Then after having chinese supper, Harold appeared and talked us in to going and looking for orchids and sure enough we found some up near the camp ground. It is always a temptation to go for a drive when it is so pretty out. The trees have that spring tinge of green right now and it really is lovely.

Thus. Has cleared this noon & lovely & warm.
cleaned the shelves ready to put Lin - x on & also the
bits of linoleum. Mr Paris was over about a
Psychic Book, but we did quite a bit.
Loads of love
Catharine.

P.S. Pete is a great one for making up jokes for the kids,
His latest - " Which do you like best, chocolate cake, angel
cake or stomachache ? " Said fast it sounds funny.

Banff, Alberta.

May 30, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

This must be Memorial Day in Concord and I

hope it is as lovely a day as it is here, we are really having nice weather at last. The river went down last week and then suddenly Thursday night rose about six inches to a higher level than anytime this year. Was right across the road in front of our house down to the corner, but never came in the driveway at all. It was overcast here but up west was lovely and the sun must have melted the snow enough to cause the rise.

They are having a terrible time all through B.C with heavy rain and lots of snow to melt in the mountains. In a place called Kimberly over in the Windermere a creek that runs through the town overflowed and they had to dynamite houses in case they floated down into a jam and dammed the water up. 60 family's lost their houses, as it was. Now the Fraser River has risen so fast, and to the highest level in years and the whole Fraser valley near Vancouver is flooded. There are no trains through. the last one from the west came in yesterday afternoon was really the morning train and went through at 3 P.M. We happened to be at the station (having given an Indian a ride down) and people were dashing up in taxis at the last minute, quite exciting. There may be a local to-day so thought I would write this and have it ready to mail. The Canadian National trains have been going over the C.P.R. lines all week as their lines from Jasper west were washed out. Then from Kamloops they go on their own line down the Fraser Canyon and from Hope where the valley flattend out the C.P.R. have been using the C.N.R. lines. but yesterday they were under 4 feet of water and for the first time in history there was no rail connection from Vancouver to the east. The Railways in the Western states were just about as badly hit. It is lucky that the Morrisons went home when they did, for they might have been stranded somewhere had they gone this week.

Several farming towns in the Fraser valley have been completely evacuated and practically the whole place seems to be under water. It will be a terrific loss in many ways as it is a great farming and fruit growing and dairy community for the west and lovely big farms. On the radio it said that all that shows of some farms are the lightning rods on the barns. and in one town where the water was just rising a man counted over 60 houses where the water was above the front door nobs. What a time people seem to have had with floods all over the country. It is partly the late spring.

Last night I was going to write, then Harold came over saying he was awfully hungry at five-thirty so I said if he could wait long enough we were having roast beef at six. Mom came down too and we had quite a party. She had had a letter from Lila saying that David had saved his money for a trip to Banff this week and would leave on the train last night, and would be here To-day. However with no trains coming I don't know whether he will give up the trip or what. Mom had planned to go to the Eastern Star convention in Calgary this week, Tuesday to Friday but David was going to just stay in her house and take care of himself. Now she wonders if he will come just as she goes, if he does come I can see we are about the only ones to sort of look after him. Maybe he won't turn up.

Cliff went back Friday night and we hear there was a slide west of Field that same night and are wondering if his train got through before the line was cut or not. Maybe he is sitting in Field. some people have been sitting in Kamloops since Thursday, nothing worse than sitting on a stalled train!

Pete is putting the 2nd coat of varnish on the shelves and maybe by to-morrow it will be dry enough to put back in place and the things back in. I will make a drawing so you will know what it is like.

Have one more letter I should get off so all for now.

Loads of love,
Catharine

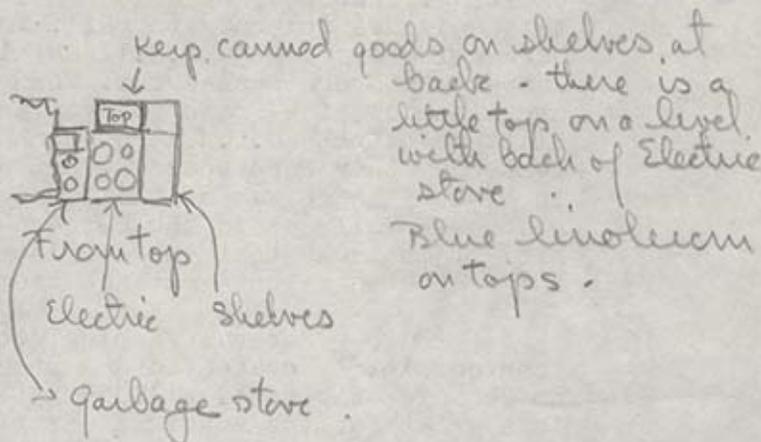
The way it looks from
sink side -



new stove
where we can
burn garbage
paper coal or
wood -

electric
stove

shelves
where we
keep pots &
pans -



keep canned goods on shelves at
back - there is a
little top on a level
with back of electric
stove
Blue linoleum
on tops -

front top
electric shelves
garbage stove

P.S. Meant to say that last night as we were finishing
the dishes The Steels came to call with their two cunning
children. they are the kind interested in everything in
the house. Stayed until nine.

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. June 2, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

Decided today to bring a pad of paper with me when we went to do the messages as so often it takes Pete longer than he expects & I just sit & wait. Yesterday we came over after lunch to get the mail. See if we could get a bus to take Bobby & the junior baseball team to Canmore. (She & another little girl were over at noon to see if by any chance we would be going to Canmore in the afternoon & could give the team a lift down). So we decided if we chartered a bus it would be much easier all round as even if we both went we couldn't take them all. While Pete was making the arrangements he ran into half a dozen Indians. They had come up to put on some sort of dance etc for a convention. That meant much talk & Enos Hunter wanted us to drive his squaw & another old Indian to their camp. Then we had to wait to see where the camp would be. While waiting Barbara came blurry up along. Wondered if we could run her up to Bobby Smiths. Her husband had just telephoned that Bobby had been hit in the head (by a tree putting up the clothes line) & could Barbara come & help. The Smiths & baby have been living in 2 rooms at Barbara's ever since the end of the War & just moved into their new unfinished house on Monday. So we took Barbara to the house on Deer St. said we would call

Back after taking the Indians out to the Camp.

When we got up town again found the Indians were all to go to-gether in a bus and we needn't bother, so then we had to go back to the Smiths as they haven't a phone and see if Barbara was to stay or come back. So away went our afternoon!

We had asked David and Donny to supper, (steak asparagus and mashed potato and ice cream,) They used to be great friends before David went to the coast 3½ years ago but both being shy they hadn't really gotten to-gether this time. It worked perfectly and after supper we went to watch Bubby's team practise, the boys watching a short time and then going off to-gether. We hoped Donny would get home early to study for an exam to-day and were relieved when we saw him at noon to hear he got 85 in it.

Mom has gone to an Eastern Star convention in Calgary, left yesterday morning, so we had David Stockand on our minds a bit. He is staying at her house. Also we hope if we get to know him a little better we can find out how they are getting on at the coast. David is working on a newspaper and flew on when he heard he couldn't come by train. I think he will have to fly back too. We heard to-day that the rail connection between Vancouver and Seattle is cut too and it may be three weeks before there is a train out of Vancouver. The river is still rising, 25 feet above now and 9000. homelsss which is a lot in farming country. It is a very disastrous flood.

Have been having better weather and real summer right now, things are growing awfully fast. I have cleaned the bedroom this week, but seem to be slower than usual.

Will send this along, haven't had much mail from anywhere lately as the trains are just one a day each way to Kamloops but can get no further, all through passengers have to fly from Calgary to the coast.

Loads of love,

Catharine.

P.S. Am sending you one of our "lady slippers" I think they are the prettiest wildflower of all, they are really an orchid and a bright magenta when picked. grow in shady places among the pines and in lovely clumps of any number up to 30 or maybe 40. and they have a lovely scent, almost like a lily-of-the valley.



Banff, Alberta.

Sat. June 5, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

Another lovely day and nice clouds, we seem to be making up for the poor weather earlier. In the paper it said that we jumped right from Winter into Summer and that is true.

The floods in B.C. are really bad and though they have gone down a few inches they are still afraid that some of the dikes may not hold. They say it may be several weeks before the railroads are repaired, rather hard just at the start of the tourist season.

Think I told you that David Stockand came after all for his week's vacation. had to fly from Vancouver, took just two hours on the new plane but going back he is taking the Greyhound bus and left at one to-day, part of the way the roads must be washed out for he will have to take the train part of the distance. We thought it a little foolish to come at this time but he has been planing it for so long. Mom went to the Eastern Star convention so we looked after him a bit more than we would have otherwise. He was here two nights for supper, once with Donny and we took him out for a drive two or three times, then yesterday afternoon helped him get his ticket to go back etc. to the police to see if he needed any papers when the bus crosses into the states. He is a nice boy, quite shy but after seeing this much of him we got to know him better. He is working at the newspaper having quit school but I was glad to find out this morning that he will go back and take the rest of his course next year and so finish school in B.C. Then if he wants to go to University he can.

It is after lunch, Davy and Harold are here with their bikes and Pete is helping fix them, They both want to go swimming and find that the teen age club from Calgary have the Cave & Basin for the day and they aren't allowed in. Of course that makes them want to swim all the more !

Had callers the other night, Marmie Hess, Margery Crosby and another little girl. They had been asked to see the Frenches house that evening and it was their last chance to do so before it is to be rented and so they stayed here until nine which just suited us. Marmie has been to see us several times with friends and this time she brought me the loveliest roses you ever saw. Talisman I think, yellow, orange and sort of reddish. First time I have had roses given me for some time. Last evening we took three of them to Mrs Paris as she doesn't get out much and loves flowers, then we made quite a call on them. Pete talking to MrP while I chatted in the other room with her.

Now it is time to go to the mail and see if Mr Vallance came up and then perhaps we can rake a bit. It really is funny, I don't know how many times we have started to do a certain patch and each time we rake about ten rake strokes and are interrupted sometimes we don't get more than ready to go out and do it.

The Moores got permission to take a few trees out on their lots and as the power line is putting in new poles etc. they got two men to come down and take out the trees in the evening. a dollar a tree. So we thought we might get them to take out the big one near the house and perhaps a few others. Got the Gov't man down to look at them and give us permission, but now the Power men may be leaving this week and may not get around to doing ours.

I have written Margaret Watkins where the exhibition is in Windsor, if it is there, she wants to take a Dr and his wife who go to O'Hara each year, to see it

Must go so lots of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.

June 8, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

We are having a real heat wave and coming so soon after winter weather we all notice it. The leaves are all out and the flowers coming fast. The river goes up and down, this morning it is up over the road again from the hot day yesterday. However there is no real flood danger here as the Bow Falls takes it off so quickly. They are having an awfull time in the Fraser valley going to Vancouver. and yesterday an unusually high tide backed up the river waters and the waves were 14 feet high where the sea and river met. The trains go part way and then you have to transfer to a bus for the last 60 miles. They say that some of the farms will be poor for ten years from the silt. It doesn't hurt the wild hay but ruins the pastures for planted hay like timothy.

What a rainy time you have had this May and part of June. We are making up for our poor weather and day after day has been lovely and sunny. over 80° yesterday and we all got headaches from the first real heat. In Kamloops B.C. it was 100° and 90° in several places. No wonder the snow in the mountain is melting.
still ice in Bow Falls -

We had a not very exciting weekend. Hoped to see Mr Vallance to try and get the new lease for the store drawn up and also an agreement with Jackie to try and straighten things out once and for all. Saw Mr V. Saturday afternoon but he was busy fixing clothes lines for Mrs V. and so we arranged to meet him Sunday afternoon. tried to get him to come here but he thought it would be far nicer if we went up there early in the afternoon and talked before tea, and stay to tea with them. That seemed a good idea to us. David left Saturday by bus for the coast, and that night we heard over the radio that the first trains would run on Sunday. (Later- At noon it was 86° in Calgary, about 80° here. ^{now} but a nice breeze)

As usual I will finish this in a bit of a rush. Sunday we got up at 6.30^{AM} to see the parade of the stage coach and an Indian in a democrat (an old wagon) a few cowboys on horse back too. They were to meet a train with people coming to a Credit Men's convention. We went to the station at 7 o'clock when the train was due and all we saw was a moose and three deer near by. ~~The train~~ We then drove up to the barn and met Charlie Beil on his horse and he told us the train was an hour late, so we came home for a bit and then went back later. Got a few kodachrome of the coach and it was rather amusing to watch them all meet the train and then talk a few of the delegates into riding up to the Banff Springs in the coach and the democrat. The busses followed. Hardly anyone was up and about in town but it was a lovely morning and so fresh so early

The rest of the morning we worked on questions for Mr Vallance to answer, as we find we make more headway if we get a list. Went up there when it was the hottest and they were just going to change their clothes so we sent a wire for them and returned a half hour later. By then some Calgary friends had arrived and Mrs V. insisted we ~~finish~~ have tea first, which we did and then as we were going to chat more friends arrived, However Mr V. snuck off with us into the kitchen and we left the list with him, he said he would see us the next morning after he had talked with Jackie. So we stayed a little longer then went home. That evening we took Jonni with us up to the Wards as we hadn't seen them for a while and sat in the garden until nine. *a lovely warm evening.*

Monday was hotter and rather a trying day. Pete felt rotten whether from the fuzz in the air from the aspen which troubles lots of noses or just from anxiety etc. I don't know, but he stayed upstairs most all day. I talked with Mr V. who had seen Jackie, found him agreeable but he wanted several points "clarified," so said I would talk with him and Mr V. but we both agreed if Pete didn't feel well there was no use dragging him in, as it only upsets him more. Erling Stormm came to borrow some tools to wreck a shack and then right after lunch Jackie appeared and had a long talk with me, then later he and Mr V. appeared and we went over all the angles. Had a caller who I put off from Montreal during that, and someone else came to the door. But Jackie wasn't quite as irritating as usual but Mr V. had to see Barbara first and she wasn't home, so I took her up to the Vallances after supper. We were all tired by then from talking, thinking and the heat and we were in bed by nine.

Pete feels a bit better this morning, it may be what both Donny and David had the last few days, a bug, but I rather think it is just being tired of the goings on. Mr V. will be up this coming weekend and hopes to have the lease and agreement ready to sign.

Now must run. Loads of love,

Calhounie .

Banff, Alberta
June 9, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

Seems to me my letters consist largely in news about the weather. We have had several really hot days for us, 80° and over and it has felt like the weather we usually get Indian Days. Yesterday was equally hot, too hot to trim the grass as I had planned and in the evening we just took a short ride out the west road to see how high the lakes were, for the river had started up again and on both sides of our road, and finally over it except for the high crest in front of our drive. It was lovely out and the water so still, when we turned to come back you could see low clouds creeping over the range of mountains to the east, looked like smoke in one spot and then a wind sprang up and before we got home it was a strong wind from the north, the branches of the trees waving about and the temperature dropped about 20 degrees by the time we went to bed, It was so windy I tied up the larkspur once more as they had grown quite a bit in the warm weather,

This morning it was raining and about 45° above, and by noon it was pouring hard and had dropped to 40° above, and later even got down to 38° and snow fell during the afternoon. Quite a change from over 80° yesterday! The river had risen again in the night, a few more inches so the road by the river in front of our house is all under water from one corner to the Crosby's corner. and to-night it is almost up to our gate in the driveway. But still it isn't as high as it was in 1933, but almost.

We went over to Allan Mathers this morning and the river water was just beginning to run across the road, again when we went for the mail at three the water was running across the road quite fast but from the other direction, As soon as it gets high enough it comes over or through a banking way up at the other end of the recreation ground and floods the whole flats and pours through by Allans, to-night when we went over the water had spread all around their house and cabins and Allan had the boats tied to trees, a boom around the woodpile to keep it from floating away and several things moved to higher ground. During the afternoon after going down there we decided to go up Tunnel Mt. to get a good view of the flooded meadows and ran into so much snow the ground was white and it was coming down so quick we couldn't see a thing. Stopped in to see how Mrs Vallance was making out and she had a couple of letters to be mailed so went to the station. Another ~~xxx~~ wash out near Revelstoke and the G.P.R. trains are all held up again. It was snowing a bit at the time, great wet flakes, and after the deluge of rain we had had all morning everything was pretty wet. While Pete was waiting for me outside, a lady came along and he heard her say " Well this is the last straw ! " So whether it was the snow or the late trains we don't know.

We have managed to get three long letters written and away, the kind that need figuring out and re-writing and then typing. So that is something. This was the week I was sure to finish the cleaning of the upstairs, but first it was too hot and now it is too dark ! Barbara says her mother cleans one room thoroughly each month during the year and in that way each of her six rooms gets a real going over twice a year. That sounds a good idea.

It is now Thursday and raining quite hard and steadily but due to the colder weather the river is going down, Whether the rain is enough to bring it up again we don't know but hardly think so.

Haven't decided what to do to-day, whether to wash out a few clothes (the water has been so dirty from the melting snow and washes up the canyon where our supply comes from that I haven't been able to do much the last week or two) or write letters (there are dozens to answer) or clean the bathroom (it is light enough to do that) or a couple of clothes cupboards. I should do that soon) probably we will go out and do the shopping and run into someone about Indian Days or else someone will come in here.

What nice letters you have had from the various garden club people, you realize how much it is appreciated by so many, makes it all seem more worthwhile, doesn't it? What nice photos of Pieta and his boy and the garden, am so glad to have them.

We were sorry to hear how ill Mrs Harris is but hope that she will have recovered by the time you go to York Harbor. for it was nice for you to have her there too.

Guess I should get started on something. so all for now.

Loads of love,

Catharine

P.S. Someone came here. Sam, to see how our basement was. We did a bit of philosophy-up & talked over all the jobs until it was nearly lunch time. So now we will go to the mail & the errands & see what we can get done this afternoon.

More love

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Fri. June 11, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

Now if no one comes in I am going to try and sort of read over your letters and answer any questions, I haven't done it for so long. You should see our desk, its a mess.

First of all two parcels have come and a tiny envelope in your letter to-day, all of which I suspect is for my birthday Sunday. Also a lovely card and letter from Jean and in the mail to-day a pretty card from Anna in Scotland. Don't know how she ever remembered it. Just hope we do when the day dawns! Many thanks to you and Jean.

What a hard time Eileen is having, It was nice Aunt Julie could be there with them for she is very understanding and has been through that sort of thing with her sister and so will know what to do. Just hope it isn't a case that goes on and on if incurable. It must have been very difficult for John and Eileen while the thing was coming on with Mrs Cullis. Am glad you could help them out.

How too bad that the Agges lost Celia, but how fortunate that when she died it was at her home, for had it all happened at the Agges it would have been even more upsetting. We enjoy Miss Annie's letters, they are like Cranford or Jane Austin in their quaintness. *Haven't sent that card to them yet!*

Did I tell you we had a nice letter from Jose Harris telling us of a friend, Pauline Fenno who was to be in Banff soon. She hasn't appeared yet and though we asked at the hotel, wasn't booked at the Banff Springs, Most likely she will drop in the day we clean the furnace, we always can expect dignified guests that day! He must be with the Massachusetts Bonding & Insurance Company.

Did I tell you how nice we thought all the letters from the garden club people, what a shame you had so much rain this May. Yesterday was the first Trooping of the Colour in London with the guards all in full regalia, and the weathermen didn't dare forecast fair weather and the head men didn't dare risk the uniforms which they couldn't replace if damaged, so the whole thing was cancelled. much to the crowds disappointment. Lady Gardiner in her last letter said her husbands office overlooked Whitehall and they would have a good view, so she will be disappointed. Yesterday here a whole lot of Indians were to come up to entertain a convention with dancing etc. Were all ready in Morely waiting for the train, ^{double} bags costumes and all, when that too had to be cancelled, so 50 or 60 Indians were very disappointed, for it was a real spree for them and a chance to get some food etc. Jacob Two-Young ~~gave~~ drove in here about six last night, wants to borrow the head dress we bought from Mark Pocette for the Calgary Stampede. The Moores are always lending their costumes to the Indians. *but up to now we haven't,*

Was interested to think the Episcopal Church street fair was held on a Sunday. Times have changed. I know here some of the ministers think it is awful that people should ski on Sunday, and yet I am sure it is far more uplifting for a lot of the young from Calgary to come to the mountains for a day in the open than to stay in the city and hang around. The Catholics have the right idea, an early morning service before the young want to go skiing, and in the Laurentians they have a special chapel on the ski slopes!

I think you are mighty smart to work in the garden as you do, but as long as you don't overdo it I can't see why it is any harder than going to a party and standing in a crowd of people in poor air with a fearful din going on. I'm sure the garden is better.

How are Miss Everett and Barrett and Mrs Motte? you haven't mentioned the latter for ages.

Hope all the 25th Harvard things go off well. I got quite a surprise when the Mary C. Wheeler news came and found the class to celebrate their 25th anniversary was the class before mine! Time does fly.

Wasn't that strange about the baby squirrel on the Golf Course, will have to tell Davy, he caught two magpies the other day, one is very tame. they are just babies too.

Where is the summer place Russ and family are going? I am a little mixed. Is it Martha's Vineyard and near Nantucket.

How sad about Mrs Hepburn, don't think I ever met her. Did you know the Edwin Brooks were planning to come out for a trip this summer, were to go on a fishing trip with Chuck Millar who we know and then to Erling Stroms, but they can't go on the trip we hear and wonder if they are coming at all.

Does Charlotte Bemis live in Concord or just for the summer? nice for Mr Hutchins if she does.

Thanks for the Daphney you sent, it had very little smell though, not like the lemon verbena.

Was amused about the Kings Daughters and some of them doing more talking than sewing. That is the way Mrs MacAuley is at our Red Cross, she stops to listen if anyone tells anything, while the rest of us work away like mad, we tease her about it though!

Am so glad that Miss Morrison liked Bobby Hunter as a doctor and that he could send her to someone who knew what her trouble was. Bobby used to drive for Brewsters in the summer when Pete did and lived with Pete at he house, he is full of fun but guess he is more serious when he is doctoring. We have heard he is a fine diagnostician, He is a great friend of Bruce Hutchison who wrote "The Unknown Country." They have lots of fine doctors in Victoria. Too bad the Miss Morrisons have to let their house go, couldn't they divide it and let part of it or something? didn't realize that Judge Chase had been ill again.

You spoke of your primroses, Mrs Macloed who lives in our Block has some lovely yellow ones next her house and they are

Blooming now, so are her lilacs, very lovely this year and warm near the house. Also those double buttercups you have. The Homestead Hotel has some tulips out, they have been pretty a week now and the forget-me-nots are out, Seems to me they all come at once.

The Arizona Highways I think is a state advertizing book, and probably lots of tourist places contribute or else an appropriation is made for it each ~~way~~ as part of their Advertizing campaign. The subscription probably helps pay a little.

The Beaver never came back for the rest of the tree he cut in the Crosby's yard, I think they must have had to vacate their house in the bank across the river as the river rose way over the bank. We were down to-night and with the cold the river has dropped way down. We looked at the ~~path~~ path and it must have two inches of wet silt, we are wondering if they will have to scrape it off or what. It will be dusty when it dries, but the flowers are all blooming where it was water a few days ago, they seem none the worse.

Did you ever find Aunt Mary's pincushions ? I have quite a few and some I think you sent after she died, Do you think you may have devided them up among her friends? Even her Concord friends Aunt Julie might remember. (You can see how far back I have gone in looking over letters)

That book "Proper Bostonian " sounds very amusing. Did you read the one about the James Family that came out this last year. Col. Moore is always asking me about them.

Remember I told you about the Wards leaving their plants sitting around a wash boiler full of water. Then she had strips of cotton about an inch wide from the earth in the flower pots and draped from there over the edge and into the water in the wash boiler. They were gone nearly six weeks and there was still water in the wash boiler and the plants had the right amount of moisture. Except for the ones up in their sun room ~~and~~ they got frostbitten, but those in the basement were all right. It is a good thing to know about.

Don't you think the series of the Wedding in the last New Yorker by Gluyas Williams is worth taking the magazine for ! We used to read more articles during the War but I agree with you, except for the first part of short bits the other things aren't very nice, Sometimes the ones about people are awfully interesting, I loved the series about Percy Granger.

I am now on a letter of April 2nd. where you say "the river is very high and lovely & many people have water in their cellars " It made us laugh for we have a couple of inches of water in our cellar right now and are late going to bed because the pump which is " Automatic " isn't. Pete has been fiddling with it and we notice that water is coming down the walls where it hasn't before, rather disconcerting at 10 o'clock at night! It hasn't been working just right anyway. The first pump we had worked well, then it needed cleaning so Pete thought it would be a good idea to get an extra one, in case one broke at any time we would have another handy. So the new one was put in and the old one cleaned and brought back for an emergency. This spring Mr Watt came around in a great hurry one day to see if he could use it for Unwins basement that was flooded with melting snow. So of course we said yes and they still have it. Now this pump has gotten stuck we think because of the sediment in the water, and we have no spare.

The pump is in a round sump hole and when it fills with water a float trips something and the water main syphons it out into the sewer line. It is very clever when it works. Lately it has been working when we run the water upstairs, so periodically we turn on a tap and the pump starts. If either of us wakes up in the night we do the same. Henry Kingman once told us that his idea of the perfect life was a log shack in the mountains and you got water from the creek (that too can have its difficulties) but he said they had every modern convenience in their house near Minneapolis and there was hardly a time that one of things wasn't out of order and having to be seen to ! So I guess for the nice heat in the winter we have to put up with a little other things when the river is high.

Did I ever say what a nice thing that was to do for the Fenn school, I don't wonder they were all pleased. The Fenns really have made a wonderful thing of it haven't they ?

One question. The story about the nurse who went into the back woods and when everyone thought the little newly born baby would die she kept it alive etc. Yes I think the father did come and see his child and then married again, but the girl always called the nurses home hers until she married herself. I shall have to ask Mrs Stewart more about it when we go to Bow Lake.

Why in the world does a girl ride instead of a man as Paul Revere ? Did you ever. Pete suggests that it may be Pauline Revere but I expect she is Queen of something.

Saturday. We had rather an interrupted night last night. Set the alarm for every hour and which one of us was most awake would get up and turn the tap on which started the pump going in the basement. One time I had just gotten back into bed when Pete jumped up to do it, had been too sleepy to realize I had already done it, and another time I thought I had just done it when the alarm went off having been dreaming about doing it. This morning Pete got hold of Steam Watt, the son, and he came over and took the pump out, oiled it etc. and brought it back, in the mean time Pete and I baled the hole and took 7 or 8 buckets out. But now it seems to be automatic once more, though we listen to make sure, and keep our fingers crossed too.

It rather interrupted my usual Saturday cleaning and tidying and now we will be going over town.

Loads of love

Catharine .

Banff, Alberta.

Mon. June 14, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

I really had such a nice birthday and so thought I would like to tell you all about it. Saturday when I mailed your letter there were two parcels at the post office, one from you and another from Fanny Farmers, so that was rather exciting. When I got a lovely card from Anna from Scotland and a nice long letter and card from Cousin Alma and Bert, also on Saturday.

We had spent most of Saturday morning over the pump in the basement. Pete got Steam Watt to come over and though he was coming after lunch he appeared before, maybe I told you this, took the pump out of the sump hole and took it home to repair it while Pete and I kept the water from rising too high in the corner of the basement, taking ten pailfulls out before he got back. It was a relief to have it working again. There was a lot of muck and sediment in the hole so no wonder it didn't work.

In the afternoon we went around by the Valances but didn't find anyone at home and decided not to disturb them, they did the same to us and we were out when they came by here. but more of that later.

We had Mom down for supper of roast beef on Saturday night and then she went to a movie so we went for a short drive taking Jonnie with us. He really is amusing and awfully good. He may turn into an architect for he has been designing a fireplace with an Indian Head on either side and now one over the mantle, with colored feathers in the latest version (he got a new box of crayons which may be the reason) but he got the idea from an Indian head that Charlie Beil made in Bar relief for one of the store doorways. Anyway it seems an original idea.

Sunday my birthday was a bit cloudy in the morning but a beautiful afternoon. I came down to find the table with a large pile of parcels, mostly from you. Am awfully glad to have the new Dr Fairchild book, and the other amusing one I started to read when we went to bed last night. I felt like a light one. The anatomy book really is a wonder and we only wish we had had it when studying anatomy at school. It was a German book originally and cost from \$25. to \$30. We had never heard of it but is a fine thing to have in drawing or painting figures etc. So many thanks for them all. The stockings I really need and also the slip. The ones you send are always so much better material than we can get here or in Calgary, unless you go into the expensive hand embroidered ones. So I am delighted and the little flowered bag is most original. I am anxious to show it to Cis for am sure she will like the way it is made. Who made it, do you know? When Pete gave me a small radio for the bedside as our other was pretty well worn out and this is a neat little one, so you see I did very well indeed.

and I nearly forgot the wonderful box of candy from Jean and the box of nuts and the box of candy from you too. I still have a sweet tooth and as Pete isn't much on deserts I often have a bit of candy instead.

I had said I wouldn't write a letter on my birthday but there was one we had to get off so did it in the morning. After lunch we did the lawn in the back, Pete mowing while I clipped around the trees, We have a wonderful newfangled grass clipper, and you can do it standing up as it has a long handle, once you get on to it it works very well. In the midst of that Mom appeared with a lovely cake, as she said she was disappointed in the frosting as she had no icing sugar but it tasted good to me. Mr Scott brought down some pictures of home on the prairies, their peonies and rose bushes etc. So we all had a piece of cake together. Then last evening Jonnie appeared again and read "When we were very young" and "Now We are Six" He reads unusually well we think and as he read the poems with a swing to them he would sort of sing them, and read with real expression. The Inspector at the school said he read very well for his age. I nearly forgot I had a "Social Telegram" from Asta Hauge with birthday wishes. So all in all for a person my age I did pretty well.

X Another nice thing, Mario got the mail as the boxes are open on Sundays now, and one from Mr Bice saying that he would look after sending the exhibition of sketches to Concord for us and would try to get them off to the Art Centre in the next ten days. They didn't go to Windsor after all, as the directors of that Gallery decided they should show the children's work during June but may show ours next winter. So to-day I wrote to Margaret Watkins not to go, having written last week where they were to be, Also wrote to Dorothy Motton again, she went to school with us and now lives in Detroit. In his letter he said "Certainly the people in London enjoyed the exhibition very, very much. We feel ~~it was~~ that it was one of the finest groups of small pictures which we have hung in our gallery." So that was nice to know. Up to now we hadn't heard a word good or bad!

To-day we started to clean the back hall when Mr Vallance came, had a short call, he told us he had seen Jackie and given him the papers to look over and sign, then later we saw Jackie ourselves and he had found all sorts of things wrong, so we spoke to Mr Vallance again, and he was good enough to go down and see Jackie and point out a few things. Then came back here. We get so darn mad, for Jackie can be so irritating. Mr Vallance can't decide whether he is "childish or smart" for he tries to wear one down to doing what he wants. Anyway we hope we are getting somewhere. It would take too long to go into and not much use, but it does take so much time talking things over and over.

We are supposed to go up to the Vallances this evening but Pete seems rather sleepy, so don't know if we will bother to get all washed up. We will see.

Loads of love,
Catherine

P.S. Am sending some clippings of the Fraser River Flood.

Banff, Alberta.
June 16, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

I am doing awfully well, had two birthdays this year. Last night Sam and Cis blew in about nine o'clock with a big bunch of lilacs, poppies and an iris and a big box of candy and wished me "Many Happy Returns of the Day" I didn't have the heart to say it was two days late, and we had great fun celebrating! Cis also had a bit of that fine white spyrea.

We had quite a day yesterday. On Monday I think I told you Mr Vallance was down in the morning to tell us he had drawn up a lease for the store and an agreement as well for settling affairs in general. (Too long to go into but what Jackie had agreed to when he and Mr Vallance and I had a talk the Monday before.) He had left them with Jackie on Saturday to go over and sign if he liked. Then we went over after lunch to do the shopping and Jackie was sitting in his car at the back of the store, spoke to us and right away lit into Pete about the roof which the men were working on right then. So Pete just walked away and wouldn't talk, I did a little and tried to calm Jackie down a bit, ~~talked~~ He spoke of several things wrong in the papers so I suggested he make a list of them and we got away. We then thought we had better tell Mr V. about it so drove up there, they were busy unloading a truck of summer cottage things and we helped a bit with that. I was quite interested for the sideboard they had had in a cottage at Lake Minnewanka years ago was a design just like some of those in your old Studios. They gave us an old iron that was to be thrown out. a real antique and fine for a door stop.

Anyway we spoke to Mr V. and he said that he would drop in to see Jackie once more and see what he couldn't sign about the papers, which he did and came back to us. Said he had pointed out a few things to Jackie and suggested we get the papers ourselves and read them over and then when he came up this weekend, they could be signed. So next morning about noon I went to the office. Found Jackie wasn't down, had a sore eye. So I went upstairs and there he was just sitting feeling very sorry for himself, went on about the 21 years he had spent in the store etc. etc. He can go on and on and be no further ahead at the end of it. He gave me the papers, pointed out how much we were to gain by the thing etc. But on the whole was quite amiable.

After lunch for the second day I was trying to get a letter written to the curator of the gallery in London, Ontario, and we had had a long talk with Donny ~~about~~ trying to find out his plans and what he wanted to do, when about 4 o'clock Barbara came running to the door, Jackie was out in the car and wanted to talk to me or both of us. (He is far more reasonable with me and I no longer get worked up at what he says, it is usually so out of all reason, so we feel it is better for Pete not to enter into any of the talks.) Well it seems that Jackie has now decided not

to sign the lease he was agreeable to before, but to quit the end of June, sell out the business and take a year off! Of course he may change his mind again one never knows, but it sure is aggravating. As a matter of fact I wouldn't mind if he did quit, for it is only a continual worry and unpleasantness. Of course he didn't say it in two minutes but led up to it in about half an hour. He finally went off and Barbara came in and talked with Pete and I for another hour or so, until supper time. Both she and I are of the same idea that Jackie wants to make it so that Pete makes him quit and sell out. I think it is all sort of ~~physiologi~~ ~~physiological~~ psychological (I had some time trying to spell that, even with the dictionary) Jackie won't take the blame for his own mistakes and must find someone to blame for the things he has done in the past and is doing now, so if it isn't Barbara's fault its Petes , etc. and he twists things in his own mind, but says them with so much conviction you don't feel like disputing them as you never have the facts and figures at hand at the moment. Look things up later and find he was all wrong or greatly exaggerated. It is most difficult and he has gotten himself in such a position he can't seem to straighten it out. ~~anyxxxw~~

Anyway we were pretty tired from talking over the pros and cons yesterday, and were glad to see Sam and Cis when they came. Today I wrote a letter to Mr Vallance, thinking he should know the details and I was the one in on the conversation. We haven't seen any of the family to-day so will just have to wait now for Mr V. on Saturday and hope he has time to figure the next move out. It does seem to be coming to a head but we hate the time it takes and somehow one can't put their mind to much else.

I didn't mean to write all this to you, but you will understand how some days we seem to do nothing but talk and get pretty tired of it all. Yet if we don't get it settled soon it can be much more complicated.

We are too having rainy weather but rather expected it after that wonderful fine stretch.

Loads of love,

Catherine

P.S. Thurs. morning. - I have written Mary Abbott that the sketches would be shipped within the next ten days (from June 11th) and also that as they are the material we have to work from for larger pictures we still hope to do someday, these particular sketches are not for sale. Usually a Gallery makes a little from an exhibition by getting a commission on the pictures they sell. I was wondering if it wouldn't be nice to give the Art Centre a nice donation, for they can't possibly make anything from this Show of ours. Also I told her that I would ask you to pay the packing and shipping cost, which shouldn't be a great deal as we had special boxes made to hold the framed sketches. There also should be the list and titles of the paintings, if by any chance it is missing, just let us know.

Banff, Alberta.
June 20, 1948
Sunday morning,

Dearest Mother,

According to my diary this is the Morses 49th. wedding anniversary, we will have to be sure and remember next year. Get Jean to think of it, she is good at remembering dates.

Well such a lot has happened in the last two days that it seems almost like a week. I could tell you right now but it might be more interesting to lead up to it all gradually if you have time to read through to the end. It turned out better than we expected so here goes.

Thursday was raining and I wrote Mary Abbott and I think you, and in the afternoon we saw Norman Luxton about Indian Days, Pete has promised to help with the collecting of the money donations from the various business men of Banff (which is the job no one wants) if he doesn't have to help during Indian Days itself. So we will be freer to take pictures etc. We are trying to get it sort of organized and people to help, but Norman is a man few can work with, he will only do things his way so many won't even try. But as long as he lives he will run it the way he likes, waiting until the last minute to get people to help. We are trying to line a few up to be handy if they are needed. We also saw Sam start on the new house he is building on the Cave and Basin Road. and we had a long talk with Allan about Jackie having changed his mind. and not wanting to sign the agreements that Mr Vallance had prepared for settling up family matters and the Lease.

Friday dawned nice and clear and we have had summer weather again. I broke a bit of tooth off the other day and then must have lost the filling next to it for Thursday I had sort of a tooth ache so ~~made~~ went to the dentist but they have no appointments just told me to drop in at ten the next morning and Dr Quigly would look at it. I was one of five to drop in but got there first so he looked and put in a temporary filling, hopes he can fill it later but doesn't know when he will have time, May have to go to Calgary. Anyway that started Friday morning. Then Donny had been down the evening before to tell us Cliff had telephoned and wanted him to come as soon as he could, and as his school is over he decided to leave Friday noon on the train.

He was here when I got back from the dentist, all pleased about going, Pete went with him to get his ticket and I made up a few sandwiches and we saw him off at the station. Then we went for the mail after lunch and as we rounded the corner saw Earl Pletch on a bicycle talking to some boys, He is the Ski Jumper very daring and won the Dominion Chamgionship this year. We noticed he seemed to have his right arm inside his shirt, stopped to talk and discovered he had just lost his right arm. He is a trainman on the C.P.R. and in making up a freight at Golden evidently fell under the car or something. Anyway his hand was cut off and his

arm so badly mangled that they had to amputate it right below the shoulder. He was conscious enough to insist on them bringing him to Banff to Dr MacKenzie and Pat Costigan and evidently was very badly shocked by the time he got here, had blood transfusions etc. We hadn't heard a thing about it. It had only happened a week before and here he was out riding a bicycle with his hospital shirt on tied at the back of his neck. He looked rather pale and has a terrible bruise down one side of his head, but was most cheerful. Said he figured he was lucky to be alive at all, think the Doctors are swell and they say the same of him. We felt pretty badly for he is only a young lad in his twenties. He was up in Tofino when Pete was there and really comes from Revelstoke. He said that George Eisenhimml, (who is putting in the Ski Lift on Norquay) was in to see him and said he would give him a good job anytime he was ready. But imagine after a thing like that being out on a bicycle *in a week's time!*

✓ To get on, we got a letter from Mr Vallance with the agreement between Jackie, Barbara and us, which he had prepared the day he got to Calgary and before hearing that Jackie had changed his mind. You see in the divorce decree, Barbara has what they call a restraining order on Jackie's assets, so unless the court lifts them he can't sell his shares in the store or the furniture in the suites etc. Jackie also owed us some money, so we made a proposition to cancel that, for Pete to turn over his shares in the store business and for him to transfer the house Barbara lives in to us jointly, and in turn we will give Barbara a 15 year lease, until Jonnie is 21, and then will leave it in our Wills to the children. We will also keep it in repair which Jackie doesn't really do. The advantage to us is that we can control who lives there and keep it looking nice, and if anything happens to Jackie (as he is far from well) at least they are sure of a place to live. It really is a darn good proposition for him and clears up all debts etc. and is good for Barbara too. Mr Vallance wrote Jackie a darn good letter and sent him the agreement.

Well when this came I went to show it to Barbara and when I got back who should be here but José Harris' friend. Babs Fenno. Miss MacGowan had told us she was at the hotel and leaving Tuesday but seems she was going sooner and so down she came. We had looked for her without success. She is about the size of Betty Dumaine, no smaller and it turned out that we came out the same year together. I remember her quite well, but she was away part of the time I think for I didn't know her as well as some. She is a sister of Pauline Fenno. What gave me a start and made me wonder how old I look, was that she must be my age, and she looks so much older than I feel. She might just as well have stepped out of "The late George Apley" or "Pulham Esq." and the joke is that she knows John Marquand and is related to his first wife. In fact seems to be related to nearly everyone you can think of in Boston, even Mrs Mott-Shaw on Mr. and Mrs Bigelow in Concord, and her great grandfather was Louis Aggizey. We were sorry not to do more for her so offered to take her for a drive in the evening, she seemed delighted.

As we were about to start out after supper and the dishes were done, the two tree men came to take down the big tree. thought they could do it allright but of course Pete wanted to be here, so I took Babs around the Golf course and Tunnel and it was a lovely evening and then back here. The men worked until nearly ten and took the big tree down in sections of 8 feet. It was 75 to 80 feet high and no room to fell it. The last piece was 23 feet and fell

within a foot of the shed. I was sorry to miss the fun but it couldn't be helped. Then after she looked at our sketches we drove her back to the hotel.

Yesterday, Sat. I cleaned a little, we slept late being so tired, then Pete went in search of Mr V. but without luck. We also had Bob Maynard look at the back hall and figure what kind of tile we would like put on. They hope to do it if it rains this week. Then Harold came over and said Jackie wondered if Mr V. was here or not. We ~~saw~~ word he was up, but hadn't seen him.

Next thing we knew, about 2 or 2.30 Mr V. appeared. (The tree men had ~~also~~ come to finish up the trees) and evidently much to Mr V's surprise Jackie had appeared up at his house ready to sign all the papers. This nearly floored Mr V. but he didn't waste any words and as Jackie had one copy of everything, he got him to sign then and there. Then came here for us to sign those and the copies we had. I ran over for Barbara for Mr V. was so afraid that Jackie would change his mind again. *we went up for a short time last evening and found Jackie had signed all he had to and Florence too. It hardly seems possible yet. The only thing now is to get the Judge to lift the restraining order, which Mr. V. will see to this week as the courts close the first of July.*

We felt funny to have the thing done at last and went to see about the train to see Babs away. it was late. so then for Gas, and that was where we ran into Erling with his Jeep and car both broken down and wanting to get a trailer of wood out the road to his new pack shack. So we offered to tow it out to-day. It seemed as if it would be great fun to get out for a Sunday, for all year we have waited it seems for someone, either Mr V. to come up or it was too stormy to go anywhere. We are supposed to go this afternoon and may yet, are waiting for them to come and tell us.

Then after supper we saw the Vallances and went to the station to see Babs Fenno away. The trains were very late and we must have been there an hour. I was so tired by the time she left on the last section, I couldn't get to bed quick enough.

Now this morning we have watered the plants (it looks like a thunder storm) I also washed out some clothes I had had soaking for two days without getting a chance to do them, and shown the lad who will lay the tile tex floor where it goes etc. We had some linoleum but the hall is just over six feet which meant a join all the way, so decided the black, red and white mottled tile might look better.

The tree men expect to come back some night this week and take out a few more. they work for the power company and are experts.

Must go and mail this

Loads of love,

Catherine
P.S. Of course there are still a few things to decide & settle up. but the 5 year lease is signed.

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. June 22, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

It is raining hard to-day, like the weather you have been having! We have been pretty busy lately. Monday I had to go to the dentist again at ten, and this time had to wait until about half past, then he put in another sort of temporary filling and it ached all day but didn't bother much. When I got back home found that the two men had come to clean the furnace with the vacuum.

They really looked exactly like a couple doing an act on the stage in vaudeville. they are the funniest pair I ever saw. Fat as Tweedle-dum and tweedle-dee and look a good deal like them. very jolly as well. They had an add in the local paper and so having waited all spring for Neilson's man, we decided to try this pair. With a vacuum they can suck out the soot from the air chambers in our system. Pete wondered if there was too much ~~xxx~~ water in our basement for them to work, but they said goodness no they had worked in two feet of water in the school basement in Canmore. Of course, though they did all the work, Pete had to be up and down stairs most of the time, to see that they didn't get anything into the pump and to see that the other man didn't fall off the roof. He told Pete that last time he fell off he hurt his shoulder but when he feels himself falling he just lets himself go. Pete holding the ladder wondered what it would feel like when the man's two hundred pounds came down on top of him but luckily he didn't fall. In Calgary they have a jockey weighing 98 pounds go up on the roof for them, but didn't bring him up here as he spends too much time in the beer parlor. Before I got home from the dentist, one had already cleaned the chimney and dropped the brush down and they had quite a time fishing it out. They worked all morning and came back after lunch, they really are a pair.

About 1.30 Erling came along and wondered if we would like to run him out to Douglas Creek on the fire road. It is about ten miles from town. We had offered to take them and the trailer of wood out Sunday afternoon but then they couldn't get the wood so we didn't go, and the two boys who work for Erling went out after supper in the old car he has, It is such an old car I don't know how they make it. Their jeep won't be fixed until Wednesday. The lads are working buliding a cabin for saddles etc. and that was why Erling wanted to get them out in time to start early in the morning and then he was anxious to get out himself yesterday afternoon. So we said we would run him out at four or a little after, if the furnace men were through which they were, and we wanted to be home in case the tree men came at seven. Had some shopping to do for Sam's birthday and then we picked up Erling about 4.15 I guess. You have to go through a gate which is kept locked, but he has a key. We hadn't been out that way since we went to Assiniboine years ago, the road is much like the Temple road but very good except for a few places where it crossed rocky washes. It didn't take us long, about 35

minutes from the gate. The boys were hard at work, we didn't stay as it looked like rain and we weren't very keen to have the road too slippery coming home. Got home just as it started to rain hard and it has rained hard ever since.

Jonny appeared as we were eating stew and we all wrote a poem in honor of Sam's birthday, did up our presents and washed up and all three of us went up in the Jeep only to find no one home. We toured the town till we spotted their car on the main street and decided they had gone out to dinner. Jonny had to go to bed by that time so we came home, Pete snoozed over the evening paper after the drive and cleaning the furnace he was tired. And then at nine we decided to just take one more run up by the Wards and found them home and all alone. So we had a very pleasant call until after eleven o'clock.

This morning I got the back hall tidied up and things moved a bit in case the man comes to tile it with these new sort of tiles. The tiles arrived but he hopes to get some sandpaper to give the floor a rough sanding first. However if it rains tomorrow he said he would be here, if the weather is good he does the roofing on other jobs. So we are hoping for a rainy day. We have been meaning to get linoleum or something down for ages and decided on black tile with white and red running through it. At first we had thought of red but were afraid it would be too much of a contrast, with the blue of the kitchen floor.

Pete has been starting up the furnace as it was getting damp. Now I must do some other things so all for this letter.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
June 24, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

Well I got out the Atlas and looked up Edgartown and Martha's Vineyard and now I have a better idea of where they are in relation to the Cape and Woods Hole. Somehow I never did have all that district straight in my mind. Edgartown always seemed nearer New York to me. It will be interesting to be in that district for a summer and I imagine the water is nice and warm.

We were sorry to hear that Miss Anne Agge is so ill, I sat right down and sent her the card I bought ages ago intending to send it to her long before this. Somehow it is so much more fun to write to you instead of odd letters and notes.

We didn't realize that Judge Chase had been ill all winter, seems to me it is always harder for a man to be laid up as they hate not being allowed to do this and that. I feel sorry for Martha as she has had all the care of both her mother and father and the house is rather large to look after. Where are Ted and Dorothea now? Haven't heard of them for some time.

We too are having rain, only in a showery form. Maybe it is because the man ~~who~~ was going to tile the floor in the back hall, if it rained, and the men were going to finish taking out trees in the evening, if it was nice, that the weather has acted as it has. The tiler is also a roofer and with so much rain in June he naturally has to roof when it is nice and tile on rainy days. Each morning the clouds are low and it threatens rain, a few odd showers and we wonder will he come, but not really enough to stop him roofing, then by evening it starts raining in earnest and the tree men haven't shown up since Saturday afternoon! Also it is a waste of the longest days of the year to have it rain of an evening.

Haven't done a great deal lately, have seen several people on various matters which takes time and I have been to the dentist two mornings at ten and had to wait, so it took the best part of each morning! However the tooth is filled so hope it doesn't act up. Dr Quigly was good to take me as he is booked up for 4 months so they say. But he just worked me in early in the day. Maybe he saves that time for unexpected tooth aches.

Last night we had quite a time, forgot to close the gate until we were in bed and then it was pouring and so we didn't think anyone would be partying that time of night in the rain. We were listening to the Republican Convention and suddenly saw lights on the ceiling, jumped up and sure enough a car had driven right in and headed towards the Indian Cabin between us and Barbaras. I stumbled in the dark to get the outside back door light on, for when you switch that on suddenly most people turn right around and drive out. but this car just kept on going and then parked on the

driveway right back of Moms. We watched for quite a while, but with the heavy rain could hear nothing and after a while the lights in the car went out. What to do was the question. It was about 11.30 by then, and not knowing what kind of people they might be and whether drunk or not it wasn't very pleasant going and telling or asking them to move. We wondered if Barb~~aaa~~ or Mom had noticed but as nothing happened we decided they hadn't. So we got dressed and Pete went with a flashlight up by the Scotts and to Mom's front door. Her lights were still on and of course it gave her a scare to have anyone ring the bell at that time of night, and then when she saw Pete she feared the worse and thought someone sick. Pete telephoned the police but they were out on other jobs, so he called Mac, an ex-mountie who is night man at the King Edward Hotel. He said he would come right down if Pete needed him or send someone and perhaps one of the Mounties would drop in on his way around. So Pete told Mom to watch and if he got into any trouble to telephone Mac. Then he went down and tapped on the side of the car, (all this in a regular cloud burst of rain) Told the man that the gate up the road was open and that they better move on out as this was private property and it was disturbing the lady in the house etc. But if they went right away before the police came, no one would bother them or take their number. It was a man and a girl and the man had a very broken accent. The girl was sleeping in the front seat the man behind, and hadn't sense enough to realize they must be in private property with Mom's lights on right there. Anyway they went right off and probably were scared to pieces. Then Pete telephoned Mac they had gone and came back to me who was wondering all the time what was going on, though I could see their lights as they drove out. But of course it was 1.30 when we got to bed. *we were wide awake by then -*

I am enjoying the book you sent for my birthday, have nearly finished it. Did Kitty know the girl who wrote it I wonder ?

You asked if prices were bad with us, some things are way up, and meat going up but people are refusing to buy now, and they *prices* have come down in some places. Tomatoes seems bad at 85¢ a pound but when you consider they are greenhouse ones and it takes months in this part to grow them I guess it isn't quite as bad. To save U.S. dollars they don't import fresh fruit or vegetables from the states which makes the price of things higher that are grown here. Meat is high. Bacon 80¢ a pound but our last roast over 3 pounds was \$1.90 so it isn't as bad as with you, and calves liver for us is *(3 slices)* 23¢. I am never very good knowing the price of things, for we get just small quantities. Mays bill with eggs, was \$27. but it used to be half that before the war.

We saw the Walter Phillips to-day, in fact they came and parked their car next us to tell us how well the exhibition looked in the Gallery in London Ontario. They were there for the opening and Mrs Phillips said it was such a relief to see something sane after so much of the stuff they had seen in Toronto. She couldn't get over the picture that had won 1st prize *of \$500*, a cow with pink horns and something sticking out of its side. They were quite funny about the Montreal ~~show~~ Spring Exhibition. The show Pete had two pictures in last year, and sent one down this year but it wasn't hung. She said she doesn't know why Mr Phillipses was hung for it and one other were the only two that weren't this awful very modern kind. She said the letters to the paper were terrific as so many people were up in arms about it all. A new man in the Montreal

Gallery and he and Mr McCurry (of the National Gallery, who Mrs Phillips claims, is easily lead) picked the show as the other man on the Jury resigned in protest at the pictures they chose! She was really funny about it. But it was nice to hear from them that our pictures made a good show. I hope it looks well in Concord, and that it gets there alright. The reason it wasn't shown in Windsor is that the directors of the Gallery there thought the children's work should be shown in June and there was nothing the curator could do about it. He was the one who had wanted our sketches.

Friday, Raining again this morning though blue sky in the West. We got word from Mr Vallance that the court had lifted the restraining order which Barbara had on Jackie's shares in the store, also on the furniture in the suites which we were trying to buy from him. So it looks as if it were pretty well settled at last. Jackie has taken over Pete's shares in the store business, so that no longer need we worry about how the business is being conducted. Pete still owns the buildings and has given Jackie a five year lease, which he wanted. but with lots of conditions, But as long as he pays the rent etc. he can stay on. In return we now own the house Barbara lives in, but have given her a 15 year lease, until the children are grown up and if anything happens to Jackie she can make enough on the roomers to support the kids, especially if they earn a bit too. So this morning we feel a bit better about things and I hope Pete starts picking up. He seems to get tired so easily and then his sinus will bother him or his hip and knee where he hurt them years ago. Any way once we get out and painting I think we will both feel better about everything.

Must copy some of the papers for Barbara now.

Loads of love,

Catherine .

Banff, Alberta.

June 28, 1948

Dearest Mother,

We are having nice weather at last, no sign of the man who is to lay the tiles in the back hall, after sanding it a bit first. He was coming the first rainy day and last week I would expect him to appear after each shower but I guess he didn't consider the rain enough to keep him from roofing. I don't know how much dust the sanding will make so don't want to clean a lot up stairs until he does it! It is getting so late now I don't expect to really clean at all, just roughly in the bedrooms. When the tree men never came back so don't know whether they have left these parts for good now. Anyway we got the worst trees out.

Pete has started collecting for Indian Days, donations from the business people and a few others, nearly 150 in all. We couldn't think of anyone else who would do it and decided as long as we didn't have to do any of the rest of it during Indian Days itself Pete would agree to collect again this year. It is an awful job in a way and rather tiring. Norman was around Saturday night and said he would start at ten this morning. However he appeared at 9.30 and off Pete went with him, didn't come home until 12 and then at 1.30 went out again. They telephoned most people this morning and then Pete had to go alone this afternoon. I thought it a good chance to do a lot, but got left with all last night's dishes to do this AM. and then a strong wind came up so in the midst of vacuuming the up-stairs ceiling I had to go out and tie up the larkspurs, they grow so fast and tall. Then this afternoon I was going to just run Pete over and do the errands and then come home, but Norman not going along Pete used our car and I moved it down the street, doing a few errands in between, so it was 4 when we got back. Pete had a nap for 1 1/2 hours and I weeded four of the plots in the garden.

Sunday Yesterday was a nice day, we didn't do a great deal. Slept late and then went to see a couple of the camps ground people about their donations and to the Wards to ask about a room for a friend of Norman Luxtons who is to be here Indian Days, and after lunch there was a fire which we went to when we heard the alarm. Just a little smoke from a heater. ^{Patricia} We were just about to pile some wood when Aunt Maggie Grayson from Cochrane called. Her family were picnicing over at the park so we drove over in the Jeep. (She got a great kick out of that being 82) and couldn't find them ^{at} as they had come down through Mom's here. So they all came in for just a few minutes and stayed until 5.30 Uncle Charlie Grayson and the granddaughter and husband and her two children. Great Grandchildren. They had never been here before and as they were going Pete discovered the grandson was in the R.C.A.F. and up near Tofino at Coal Harbor. *They were here about 1 1/2 hours - had a cool drink.*

Last night I spent typing the lists of names, as that seems to be my job, the typing. and we had just gotten to sleep when another fire alarm went. and up we got, gressed and very sleepily tried to find where it was. In back of one of the restaurants, but evidently all out by the time we got there.

So now it is getting near bedtime and if there is a chance I
will add a bit to-morrow.

Loads of Love
Catherine .

Banff, Alberta.

July 3, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

This may not be much of a letter but wanted to mail one to-day if I could. They have just started a new service in Canada. All first class mail weighing one ounce and with a 4¢ stamp will be sent by air between points in Canada when it is convenient. The 7¢ Airmail has priority and always goes by air but the ordinary mail will be sent by plane when there is room. So it will be interesting to see if my letters reach you any sooner

We have been very busy lately, most of it in connection with Indian Days. Wednesday was a holiday here, it was Dominion Day, but the stores stayed open and the only thing making it seem like a holiday was the crowd. Lots of cars. We were going to an auction, at least I had hopes of it, and planned to have a look at the things in the morning, to be sold in the afternoon. But Jimmy and Mary Simpson came in about ten and or eleven and we got talking and telling stories and the first thing we knew the morning was gone. Had a late lunch and then had a lot of people to collect from.

One story Mary told us was rather amusing. One evening a lady, named Jeffers (?), came down to the dining room and spoke to Mary saying, "A great tragedy has happened upstairs!" and poor Mary had visions of someone having died or been murdered or goodness knows what. The room was full of people but luckily no one had overheard. So Mary asked "what is it?" and the lady replied, "Mr Jeffers has accidentally flushed his false teeth down the toilet and can they be gotten in some way?" Mary was so relieved to find that there was no death that she almost laughed but said that she would see what could be done. The system is a little different from some and they have a septic tank or cess pool (I forget which) Anyway she rushed out and found her father, little Jim and Bill talking at the back/. Used the same words as the lady had, and of course it struck them as funny too and while she was telling them she looked up at the bathroom window and there was Mr Jeffers waving to them. Anyway they set to work to see how the teeth could be retrieved for Mr Jeffers had come all the way from New England and would have to return minus teeth unless these could be found. Here Jimmy broke in and said very seriously that he figured afterwards that he might have gotten them alright if he had only thought to use a net. but instead they put a bucket on the end of the pipe where the thing went into the cess pool, and then flushed the bucket, but there was such a rush of water that the bucket didn't hold it all and the teeth either washed out of the bucket or else are still in the pipe. With a net over the end of the pipe it would have let the water through but caught the teeth. Rather an unpleasant job in any case! Anyway Mr Jeffers never did get his teeth and had to go the rest of the trip without them. All sorts of unforeseen situations take place in a tourist lodge!

Time to go, so all for now.

Loads of love,

Banff, Alberta.

July 4, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

This is the 4th of July weekend for you and it is pretty busy here too, people already sleeping in their cars for the want of a bed. The Calgary Stampede starts to-morrow and all the tourists will be heading down there I expect for the parade. We don't intend to go this year. Somehow it doesn't seem as much fun as it used to and is so hot and dusty. I expect if we knew more of those taking part it would seem more exciting.

We are having the most wonderful stretch of weather you ever saw. After the one rainy week it has been sunny and around 70 or 80 ever since. a couple of showers at night. It always seems as if when we promise to do something else, then the weather is at its best and we wish we were out painting. We thought this year we would rather help with the donations for Indian Days this last week and then be free to take pictures etc. Indian Days. Pete started collecting Monday. ~~They~~ Both he and Norman Luxton felt tired and it was hot so N.K. did the telephoning to as many as he could while Pete told him the names from the list. Then in the afternoon Pete went down one side of the street, Norman was to catch up to us but never did as people kept coming to see him. Tuesday morning Pete was so weary (not being used to going to one place after the other and talking, and hoping to get the donation a bit larger than last year but not being too successful) So Tuesday A.M. he got me to go and telephone Norman and say he couldn't come until afternoon, ~~He~~ No answer, so a little later Pete went and phoned himself and left a message. On his way back from Mom's phone Norman met him and next thing I knew Pete was off on another collection trip. In between times all week we have been looking for people and talking. Quite a bit of money has come in already, but to top it all. Norman came over and handed us about 100 cards to be typed and then sent out to the list of donors, they are really complimentary tickets as a gentle hint to get their donation in soon. We worked on that for several hours before it was done.

To tell the truth I am rather mixed up on the week as a whole, I know that Jimmy and Mary Simpson were down Wed. morning and we got chatting and it was soon lunch time. That was the day of the Auction and also the afternoon we met Mr Gibbon who has retired from the head of publicity for the C.P.R. but who still writes and loves to come back to the mountains. We saw him coming out of the Superintendents house so spoke to him and he insisted we come to the Mt Royal to have supper with him. So we did and I guess that was the way we celebrated our wedding anniversary. He was in good spirits and seemed to enjoy it as we did. We took him over first and he said it was his first ride in a Jeep.

He wanted some information on Alexander the Great and so we lent him some old history books.

I can't remember much about Thursday, except that at sometime Lloyd Harmon came down to ask Pete's advise or help. It is a long story too about his family. The father died, left most everything to his 2nd wife and the estate got all tied up and Lloyd thinks it will sort of blow to pieces or something and he wants to get into a business on his own. So that was quite a seige. Then Mr Vallance was down one morning to tell us what he had written to Jackie, as Pete's guarantee at the bank on the store business has to be lifted before we pay Jackie for the furniture etc. It is almost settled up, the papers all signed but not everything carried out. Did I tell you that Pete has exchanged his shares in the store business for the house Barbara lives in? She will have a 15 year lease and we will leave the house to the children in our Wills. And now to get the transfer from the Governamnet we have to see that certain things are done about the house. The roof painted etc. Just one more thing to be seen to!

Then in the midst of it all a letter from the Secretary of Mr Bise in London Ontario that the sketches are held in the U.S. Customs and a paper to be signed before they can be released to go on to Concord. They have gotten through the Canadian ones allright. So there may be some delay. We spoke to Mr V. about it. making a trip up there and he helped us to decide how to sign it all etc. but all those things that are unexpected take time.

Then yesterday we had to take posters around to all the stores and get them to put them up advertising Indian Days. and there have been collections to make and receipts to make out etc. Norman Luxton goes to Calgary to the week of the stampede always and we thought if nothing happened to prevent we would try to get out for a few days. However this Tuesday is the day Steve is to cut the long grass, (if it doesn't rain and he remembers) and we will have to be around to see that someone takes it away. These days it is so hard to get anyone to do things when they say they will. There was some wood taken out of the basement at the store this spring and we tried to get it taken to the store house first in the store truck but though we mentioned it several times it was never done. Then we asked Jimmy Harbidge to do it, but he forgot and so did his father and it is still over there sitting in the weather. By the time we do get out it will probably rain!

Indian Days is the 15th through the 18th. and then we should be free. Oh yes. last night we were listening for a short time to a boys band concert in the park and Young Bill Holmes came along and asked if we knew that Young Cliff was up at the hospital, we had visions of him having been hurt badly driving the tractor but Bill said it was a pain in his side and a fever and sore throat. We went right up and saw him for a few minutes and he expected to get out to-day. He is out and around but we suggested he stay in another night or two, not knowing where he could stay until he felt like going back to Sunshine. Mom has a high blood pressure and the nerve that was injured in her shoulder still hurts her so she doesn't really feel like taking on any more. Pete spent quite a time talking to Dr Atkins about it this morning and he thinks the work is a bit too heavy for young Cliff's build.

Pete is having a bit of trouble with his nose again , and has been waking up in the wee small hours of the morning. So last night we had a good sleep and were sleeping in late when we heard a whistling outside and it was Jacob Two-youngman from Morley to borrow Mark's headress for the stampede parade. It was nine o'clock when he came.

We haven't done a great deal to-day. Got up for good about nine-thirty, after breakfast we went to look for the doctor to enquire about Cliff. and Pete had the talk with Atkins. then I had a talk with Mom for we knew she would want to know if Cliff was sick. Then Barbara called that Ethel Knight had some old clothes for the Inidans if we would come right away within the next hour. We don't really collect old clothes but went anyway and then took them over to Luxton's. After lunch we went down to show an article in a magazine ("Punch" and about a trip to Banff) and he gave us the manuscript of a book he has just written about the fur traders, most of it copied or quoted from old diarys. Then Pete cut part of the lawn that Steve missed and I trimmed a bit. We had stew for supper and were just going up to the Wards (with the same article) when Jonnie came along, so of course he had to go too. He was sullen of it and hard to control among the flowers! Cis showed him the "hens and chickens " that cactus thing that grows on the wall back of the kitchen and laundry in Concord. and then there was a great big one, and Jonnie quick as a wink said " Oh, a rooster !." She gave him one of the blossoms off the cactus inside, a really lovely one and has 20 or 30 blooms on it, all large beautiful red flowers (it was one of the plants she left without water in the basement while away) She cut a bit of the leave with the blossom and told Jonnie to stick it in a pot when the flower was faded and it would grow, Just put it in the earth and Jonnie said " weak or strong earth " which amused Cis.

She is having trouble with ants in the garden and asked if I knew any way of getting rid of them. So as I don't I said I would ask you ?

This year they are slow getting the roads oiled and ours in front is so dusty every car that goes by (and a lot go tearing by on Sundays and holidays) sends clouds of dust towards our house. Mr Crosby said it was to be oiled on Friday and as the holiday Wednesday was pretty bad we did hope for the best. but instead they plowed the surface all up and scraped it and it is dustier than ever. However it gave us an idea, and we are thinking it would be a wonderful idea if the Government would make the part along the river into an esplanade or parklike bit and just let people walk by. There is about 15 feet between our land and the road, and between the road and the river it varies but is 20 or 30 feet anyway. It would be lovely if it was just a nice wide walk and then grass and seats. We notice that over half the cars go along and no one in them even looks at the view. Lots come along as they go straight ahead when coming from Lake Louise across the tracks, instead of turning. The Simpsons and our house are the only ones who have driveways out in front and they use the back one most of the time, so it wouldn't really interfere in that way. and even down the street most of the places can have driveways off the side roads.

We are tempted to speak to the Superintendent about it, and see what he thinks. It is one of the loveliest places to walk all the year round, and would be a continuation to the present park. *Could be made right to the C. & P. R. tracks -*

Must start reading Col. Moores book, which is to be just privately published.

Dan and Mrs McCowan were down Saturday afternoon. She told a good story. A little boy handed his grandmother a piece of candy saying "Would you like this Grandma?" and she being very pleased said "Why yes" and ate it. Whereupon the little boy asked, "Did you like it Grandma?" and she said "Yes, it was very good." and He said "That's funny, I gave that piece to Fido and he spit it out twice."

Better stop, or you will need two meals for this letter.

Loads of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta
Wed. July 7, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

Just a short letter I think, for I should really be cleaning up the desk and paying bills etc. From now on I am going to try and not tell you ahead of time what we are going to do or have done. I am becoming superstitious, for it seems as if everytime I say "so-and-so is going to happen" it doesn't!

We were all set for Steve to cut the long grass in front and to the side of the house which he does once a year on one of his days off from work at the Golf course. It looked like rain and did rain and thunder on Monday, but he came around that night and had a special blade for the ~~scythe~~ scythe with him, all wrapped up in newspaper. He prefers an Austrian one and so borrows it from a friend, takes the blade off ours and puts his on for this special job. So next morning we listened when we woke up expecting him to have started work as it takes him most all day and he usually starts about six o'clock in the morning. However though it was a perfect day for the job, he never showed up all day and we haven't seen him yet. So we are wondering if he is sick or what, but will have to wait another week now I expect.

When I told you we were expecting a tiler to come the first rainy day, well, during a rainy week he never appeared and when we saw the head man he said it would be another 3 weeks before they could get to us. So we decided as the back hall was cleared of everything and we had some bright red linoleum (that I got last year in Calgary and which we never got down at all) we would lay that and give them their tiles back. It might be easier to look after anyway than the tiles. So the kitchen floor needing some Glo-coat I decided to do it before we get too busy Indian Days and suggested that Pete see if Nelson Williams could come before the 15th of the month to sand it first, ~~and then we could~~ that is the old wood floor, ready for the laying of the linoleum. As it has been rolled up so long it has to be stretched out for a warm day. So off Pete went and saw Percy Williams the father, he said he would get Nelson to look at it after lunch. Luckily we had a fearful lunch and then I was just putting on the glo-coat in the ^{kitchen} when the Williams arrived with the sander and did the floor there and then! After all the waiting we had done it seemed easy at last. It didn't make much dust luckily, as the floor was only half coated and wet. After they finished we rolled the linoleum out in the front room to flatten and the day even got warm to help out. Harold was here to help, being rather lost without Davy who has gone to the Y.M.C.A. camp for a week. Lloyd Harmon called in the midst of it too, and afterwards when I had just finished the 2nd coat of the Glocoat Allan Mather appeared. So we had a ~~busy~~ busy afternoon, I even managed to dust the logs down in the back hall. Then Harold appeared for supper. I couldn't figure how he knew we were to have a good one of fresh salmon, new potatoes

and fresh peas, but he said he had seen me do the shopping !
Anyway he thoroughly enjoyed it and I had enough ice cream
from the weekend to give him some of that.

To-day is overcast, a little rain. Such crowds in town
and so many tourist cars. They have been to the stmapede and now
are coming on up here. Everything is taken and the camp ground
is thick with tents. I wish you could see them and the many kinds
of trailors too. with bbats on top of cars and all kinds of things
Lots of farmers with trucks built in at the back with wooden
houses and some with canvas. children's head sticking out the
back/. This noon one truck was parked at the old zoo and as we
went by we could see a bit in at the back, an opening in the canvas,
and all that showed was a man's legs and he was evidently eating
at a table down the centre of the truck.

It is nice that Mildred is with you and I hope you
don't get too much hot weather for I know how she doesn't like
it any more than I do. I don't dare say when we might visit you
but will give you plenty of warning. It won't be before fall I
am sure.

Monday Chuck Millar dropped in, he was going to take
the Edwin Brooks out on a trip and then they were afraid that
it might be too much for them, so they hope to fgo to Assinaboone
with Erling and maybe a three or four day trip from there. While
Chuck was in the army his wife mentioned that he had been to
Edinburgh to see the Miss Richards who were at Assinaboine once.
We had never met them in Banff but when we were in Jamaica we met
Two Miss Richards from Edinburgh and I wondered could they be the
same, so while Chuck was here looked up their card, and sure enough
it was. and that was in 1931 we met them at Montego Bay. They have
been in Capetown this year. But rather a coincidence.

Must stop. loads of love, + to Mildred

Catharine

7.5. Bill Ridgway came over about 3 o'clock to lay the
linoleum, it looks very well. nice & colorful. Deep
vermillion in color. same as our curtains in the
kitchen.

Banff, Alberta
Fri. July 9, 1978.

Dearest Mother - Pete is out re-collecting for Indian Days and I am sitting in the jeep giving him moral support. If only people would remember to send the money they promise, in but they invariably forget as no doubt they are, so busy. All the various business men & women give a donation which is good of them, but most realize it indirectly brings them more tourist business. There are over a hundred people to call on, Pete & Norman Suxton going together the first time when they can. & now they are about 50 to see again. We have also been trying to get the things organized now that we know from last year what needs to be done. I can play for it. Have found someone we hope will do each job, but after they promise you still have to be sure they will do it when the time comes.

To-day we suddenly thought that if there was a sign on the gates to the grounds saying "Banff Indian Days, July 15-18-1978. Sports held here" that people driving in from the Stamped would see it & know about it. Where it was to be etc. So we drove over to see Len Suxton, Norman's brother who runs the trading store, but though he thought it an excellent idea didn't feel he could say "go ahead" so we decided to telephone Norman in Calgary. It was noon & he might be at the hotel. Pete tried to call at the time he was evidently on the phone talking to Pin Spiller of the Rag & Canyon. He hung up in Calgary before they could find out where he was telephoning from. So we decided to wait & in fact I had figured out one while sitting waiting for Pete to telephone at the telephone office. So was reading it over to him, when out ran one of the telephone operators with the ear phones still on looking for Pete. They had gotten hold of Norman, nice to live in a place where they take an interest. He was pleased & said to go ahead. So we got the boy who runs the movies, & also makes signs to make one, then asked the Gov't. for permission to put it up. Then down to the grounds to measure the space & back to the sign maker who had already gotten it half done & will finish it after midnight if he feels like it. So I think we did pretty well. We also got the Gov't. to put in an extra gate this year so there is an entrance & exit for cars, should help a lot. Have checked on that & had to ask them to take a few barrels off for the buses to clear.

but because we showed a little appreciation they did a fine job. even gravelled the road. As long as things go well there is satisfaction in helping & we also are trying to get some young lads working on it so another year they can do more. We try not to get annoyed when people say "Well of course you have plenty of time, so why shouldn't you help run Indian Days!" I guess we don't get busy enough. Sam always tells us that people say to him "It's all very well for you to do this or that." Just because we don't go to a place of business each day I guess they don't think we have much to do!

I wish you were here to see in a car on the main street & see the sights. Such costumes. All the old ladies have their skirts up to their knees & the young ones down to their ankles! or else they are in the briefest shorts & the old ones in slacks. As people are from all over the country the styles vary - & a few are too dressy. even to a black lace long dress in the morning. It's really amusing.

Did I tell you that Elizabeth Rummel had just now. She was running Skoki when Russ & Kitty were there. Had been there 6 years. but when Cliff was let out Sir Norman & Capt. Head asked her to stay on & run the thing. She didn't know what to do but loved Skoki so decided to stay with it. Don't know just what has happened but evidently Sir Norman has sent out a Swiss manager (who has his wife & sister & a Swiss chef) and a Swiss Architect. There is also an Englishman. We have heard all sorts of rumors from the local carpenter how the Architect wants all the things put in last year. changed around. How they don't care how much they spend etc! Seeing that Elizabeth had the pigging of the X cheques maybe she did care. They felt they should run everything so I guess she decided it was no place for her. She has made the couple at both Skoki & Temple promise to stay on this summer & Sir Norman will be here in the fall. It's the darndest thing really. one could write a book about it. We still feel Sir Norman is anxious to build a wonderful place but has no idea how to put his plans into effect. He knows the big development he wants eventually but has no idea of the foundation part. but it has been hard on all those who have worked for him & very disappointing.

Edgartown sounds awfully nice by the cards. & the house must overlook the harbor! Couldn't you go down for a visit if you didn't do it all in a day. or is the ferry trip too much. If they only had boats going from Boston. or are the boats large enough to get a cabin for the trip? Anyway I know you will enjoy York Harbor. & having Mildred with you. Maybe my next letter should be sent there. Guess it will.

About the pictures. They got through the Canadian Customs alright but were held up by the American ones. Mr Beece at the London Art Gallery must be away, for we have had frequent letters from his secretary who is looking after it. She sent us papers to sign last week, but we wondered whether or not I should be the only one to sign it. (as she had directed) so asked Mr Vallance. He said it was alright for me to, but didn't see how the U.S. Consul could without having me do it before him! Such a lot of Red Tape. Anyway the secretary had the pictures returned to their gallery fearing to let them sit in the U.S. Customs shed where anything might happen there. So to try once more to get them into the states. If unsuccessful will send the sketches back to us for the rest of the summer.

It is now Saturday & we have just hung the sign up at the Indian Grounds were pleased to watch the ^{people in} cars slow down & read it. It just says "Dauff Indian Days - July 15-16-17-18. Sports held here"

Am finishing this while again waiting for Pat. Mr Vallance was down last evening. He is head of the Alpine Club for 3 years & has the annual camp to arrange said to us: "You know any hardable position like being president carries a lot of responsibility & work with it" you wonder if others realize all one has to do it.

Loads of love
Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. July 13, 1948.

Dearest Mother. I meant to have a letter waiting for you on your arrival in York Harbor but as you probably can guess we are rather busy with Indian Days etc. Also yesterday three groups of friends were in Banff, though we didn't see them all.

First we heard that the Castles from Honolulu were ashore for us at the store - would call around at the house. So everytime we went out would leave a note when we might be back. They arrived in a pouring rain while I was in the midst of washing some clean shirts for Pete knowing there would be no time later on.

Mr & Mrs Castle, their granddaughter aged ten I guess & a friend of the governess. They are awfully nice & every one talked at once. They hadn't been here last summer & want us to be sure & have dinner with them at Lake Louise next week. Their son Donald was the one who went to Harvard. came out one Thanksgiving eve.

Ran out of ink at this point. Now supper is cooking and I will try again. The Castles weren't here very long yesterday afternoon and then we rather expected some people who were going out to Assinabonine. Their mother, Mrs Tommy ~~Hitchcock~~ Hitchcock was here two years ago with Betty Dumaine. There was her daughter Peggy, and her married son (and his wife) Alex Laughlin. Mrs Hitchcock had written us that she would love to have them come to the house etc. We tried to find them Sunday but no luck; Then saw Erling and he said they had spoken of coming to see us Monday afternoon, so we waited for awhile after the Castles left to go back to Lake Louise (where they spend the summer) and as it was pouring decided to take a run up to the Banff Springs and see if the three Hitchcock family were there, they were in their rooms and would love to come down. So down we all came and they had tea with us. They were all so interested in everything and so nice about it all. The young married girl wanting to help get tea etc. It was a strenuous call as young Peggy, who is about 16, wanted to know all about everything. The young man suddenly remembered he had to get a hair cut before going out to Assinaboine and so Pete took him back to the hotel as the girls didn't want to leave, then when we got talking about Indians, Peggy said "you know I have never met an Indian" the other girl said she was interested as her father's father was a doctor on an Indian reserve, an Osage Indian one in Oklahoma, and he had been brought up with Indians. So we said as they weren't to be here for Indian days we would take them down to the camp for a few minutes. There are a few Indians who came up ahead of time to work and luckily we saw Tom Simian and he

is one of the finest young ones. They were quite delighted and he took us into the one big teepee already set up, so it worked just right. Then left them up at the hotel and it was about 7.30 before we got our supper.

We knew the Brooks were in town and rather thought they might be calling, but it was getting late and we were rather tired last night and so decided it would be wiser to go to bed early and not try to do too much.

We had also done all sorts of things yesterday. This morning about ten we ran into Erling and he said they ^{the Brooks} wouldn't be going out until 10.30 and he was to pick them up then at the Alpine Club. I think it was nearer 9.30. Anyway we went up and the staff saw a Jeep coming and thought we were Erling and hurried the poor Brookses until I got up to their cabin and told them it was just us. Mrs B. said she was sure there was a mistake as she had never known Erling to be ahead of time! Didn't stay long but they said they would come to see us on their way in from Assinaboine about July 29th. We may not be here then but if the weather is bad we might. If we stayed in for everyone we would be here all summer.

This morning Steve came at six and cut the long grass, didn't do it all but got the part in front of the house done and most of the rest, and we also told the man who will take the hay, where it is etc. As we were going out Mom's gate to see the Brookses Mom told us she had had a letter from Marion from Helena, Montana and they were all on their way to Toronto where Cameron has a job. They must have sold the house they were paying so much a month on and just packed up, and left. But not a word to any of us and it was a bit upsetting to Mom, and Pete didn't feel very good about it. One thing I tell him is that not being told a thing about their going it isn't any responsibility of ours. Had we advised them to go or to stay on in Vancouver then they might have said later, "you told us we should do this or that" but this way it is up to them. However we can't help wondering how they will make out in a big city like Toronto where they know no one as far as we know, and all the girls had jobs too. Well it is up to them.

We will be terribly busy the next few days until Sunday so unless we are rained out you may not get another letter for five days. Also there is a Railroad strike threatened for Thursday, right across Canada and unless it is averted it will be very serious for the tourist business. The hotel will even have to close they say. We will just hope for the best.

Must iron the shirts now! Have a nice vacation and I do hope Mrs Harris was well enough to make the trip, but nice for you to have Mildred.

Loads of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
July 17th, 1948
Saturday.

Dearest Mother,

We are right in the midst of Indian Days and after forgetting what we thought was someone to look after the gates found they still left it mostly to us. So we have been going steadily all week and still have to-night and to-morrow.

Just heard that the pictures will be allowed to enter the U.S. allright and are to be shown the first of August on at the Art Center.

No time to write more as we have to go up to the concert as the ones taking the tickets can't get there until 6.30 as a rule and a few come earlier.

Have a good time and will write you lots soon.

Loads of love,

Catharine

*Look as if we would be
rained out to night
the Moores (Col + Pearl) are to
be made members of an
Indian family rain a shine
I guess.*

Banff, Alberta.
Mon. July 19, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

Well Indian Days is over for another year except for balancing the books and paying the bills, and once more we both say " never again ! " It really is far too much for us and yet we can't seem to get Norman Luxton to understand that we don't want to have anything to do with it, and we also can't find anyone else to do it instead of us. Most discouraging.

Ever since the beginning of the week we have been going steady from early morning until we go to bed at nine or ten, and this morning we could hardly get our eyes open. Now it is four o'clock (we are just back from sending Rusty a wire for his birthday and I had an awful time finding the address you wrote down in one of your letters, but we did get it off) There are so many dishes piled up that I wonder if we will have to get out our camping paraphernalia to have clean dishes to eat off of, I have just made the bed. but I guess it is all worth it.

There is so much to tell you about that I don't know where to begin but I suppose when I do start it will be less confusing if I start at the beginning of Indian Days. First, we have your letter about Marion Hudson Wilmot and will keep our eyes open for her somewhere along the way. We probably will still be in Banff, if not at Bow Lakes or Lake Louise. The Brookes come back in about the same time.

Did I write last Tuesday ? Must have. We were on our way up to the Alpine Club to see the Edwin Brookes when we met Mom and she told us of a letter from Marion Stockand saying that her father had got a job in Toronto and they were all on their way by car. The 7 of them. We were rather annoyed about it and I know it troubled Pete, they are so impractical and always have the idea that they will do better with a fresh start. We hope this time they are right ! Anyway we try not to think of all the difficulties they are bound to run into.

We saw the Brookes just a minute, they plan to see us on their way back. Then there were endless errands to do and the town is so busy it takes so long to do anything these days. Oh . Yes and Steve cut our long grass at last and we tried to get someone to take it. (They came Friday or Saturday in the end but it has been taken away now) I can't remember all the things we did but it was quite a bit.

Wednesday was the day before Indian Days and we had thoughts of going to the grounds and getting a few pictures of the Indians coming in but of course never did. Just to help there was a threatened railway strike and it meant all the trains would stop and the hotel would close. If it did close

they weren't going to open again this summer. We hadn't realized until the last few days how serious the strike threat was, but had it not been settled a few hours before the deadline Wednesday night, more than Indian Days would have suffered. We were down at the station to meet the noon train from the east, and on the board was a notice saying that people should plan to reach their destination before 6 A.M. Thursday morning because of the strike etc. There were several extra cars on the siding to go on the train west and they said lots of people were checking out of the hotel, in fact most of them. It really was serious. We were at the station when the word came that the strike had been called off and it really was quite funny the relief on all the faces, after the previous tension. The funniest were the people we had just watched boarding the sleeping cars with all their bags and baggage, and next thing they were doing was stepping off the cars, getting into taxis and going back to the hotel! It was funny to see them and we hope the baggage didn't get mixed!

I must get this off now so will tell you about Indian Days later.

Hope you are having a nice restful time and not doing too much entertaining! I'm sure the change will do you lots of good, it helps anybody to get away for a little bit.

Loads of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Friday, July 23, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

I meant to write to you yesterday but never got a chance and now I should really be working on the accounts for Indian Days and pay the bills. We had thought of getting Gaidys Atkin to help with some of it but Norman Luxton wouldn't have anyone else in on it for some reason. We are still hoping to get out soon but just have to finish things first. This morning I expected to make good headway and then a Mrs Sieburth from Vancouver called, she used to go on the Trail Hike and my morning is most over now she has gone, so thought I would write you first and work on accounts after lunch.

We have had such nice letters from you from the Marshall house the one written the 19th came to-day with Cousin Harriets enclosed. I didn't realize that she had spent so many summers there, too bad she can't go still. It sounds as if you and Mildred were having a nice quiet time and I do hope the weather stays warm and nice. I guess Mrs Harris couldn't make it after all but maybe next year you can all go to-gether, even if you say you aren't going away again !

Never told you about Indian Days and now I most likely can't remember it all! Think I wrote you about Enos Hunter arriving on Tuesday and said his horses had gone back to Morley leaving the squaws stranded near Exshaw and he wanted a truck to be sent down for his things. Well in the end they evidently found the horses and the wagon appeared in plenty of time, as Norman Luxton was sure it would. but such a lot of time both he and Pete spent talking to Enos when they could have been doing more important things.

Thursday was the first day and we were up early and down at the grounds to see the Indians getting ready for the parade. Last year we had gotten the prize money out of the bank all ready for the parade. (each with headdress getting so much those with not many beads less etc. then the 1st, 2nd prizes too) This year Norman said "no " he would count the Indians who were in the parade as they rode up the street and then figure what he would need and there would be plenty of time to get it out of the bank. Which we did. Said \$150. would be plenty, (though I had planned on \$200.) then Pete had to dash in later for another \$50. We had asked Bud Gourlay to be handy to give out the money, at least to carry the bag full of \$1.00 bills and 25¢ pieces. Norman said he didn't want anyone else, but we had Bud there, and by the end of the week Norman said Bud was the best yet ! We thought so too.

The police handled things much better this year and kept all the traffic from crossing the bridge so people had a better chance to take pictures etc. We went up to the hotel the first

morning to see how things went, but after that left it all up to Bud to assist Norman Luxton. Bud has to work in his father's drug store and in a cabin camp at other times so couldn't get much time off. Otherwise he would have been fine for helping/ more.

It was a rush for us the first day and we just grabbed a bite to eat then down to the grounds. By that time we had a sudden shower which laid the dust and luckily the sun came out and it cleared off for the rest of the day for more people come the first day than any other so the "Gates" are larger.

This year we had said we would help before Indian Days but not during them, thinking to get Jackie Anderson to look after the gates/ getting the people to take the money and the tickets. and hoping that Jackie would look after the prize money for the sports and Bud for the parade and we would be free for pictures. However when we got down to the grounds the first day we found an awful mess. Jackie Anderson had been late and the cars had piled up on both sides of the gates. It was pouring rain and Norman Luxton was furious and in the middle of everything swearing to beat the band. It took some time to get the admissions and the people in the cars inside the grounds. Because Jackie Anderson had done the job two years ago we expected he could handle it but he certainly let us down. He couldn't even get enough to collect tickets and we had to round up three who had helped us last year. Then as they had been good enough to come down we didn't like to leave them to do all the work and stayed pretty much all the time near the gate. Jackie Anderson went off for a few minutes and when a house later he wasn't back by the Gate we went looking, found him sitting in a car with a girl watching the sports. I guess that was the 2nd afternoon. We were furious, or very annoyed! The first afternoon we asked him to be sure to take the gate receipts right up to Sid Worts at the bank and when we went up half an hour later, found he hadn't arrived. We hunted and found his car and they were counting the money at an accountants office. But we lost an hour trying to locate them and we just hope they turned all the money in! But for the next three days we had to do as we did last year and be near the gate, in fact both ~~Thursday~~ and Friday and Saturday we made a point of being down at the grounds by 1.15 so that we could take the money from the early arrivals as Jackie Anderson was never there in time. It was too bad for we would have done better not to give him the job. Saturday he again disappeared to take a few pictures and never came back to the gate, leaving the other boys to do the collecting. and then told us he wouldn't be able to come on Sunday afternoon as he was going to Windermere for the day. He would try to get two of the boys to be at the gate but evidently was unsuccessful as the only two who showed up were two that we asked to come. They were fine and collected twice what they got the year before. But we almost didn't get lunch on Sunday getting a second man!

The two men taking admissions at the evening concert work until six and so were late too getting up there, so Pete and I made a point of being on hand with the programs at 6.15 (for the 7PM show) each night and while Pete guarded the further opening I took admissions until Syd Worts and Sven Hansen arrived. They are a fine pair and wonderful on the gate, sizing up the people and letting in any poorer looking ones that they felt couldn't pay the full admission for half price when the performance was underway.

We didn't see the show, a pageant put on by Mrs Greenham (who used to run the mountain school and a real English school teacher, very keen on the drama) and Ike Mills (who used to run the dog team to Skoki & Ike got the old Red River carts in condition but the last night the Rev. Lonsdale was a bit worried that Ike had been celebrating so hard he might fall out of the cart he was driving! The Indians danced in between the scenes of the play written by Eleanor Luxton, some episode in the early days of the Bow Valley.

Jakke White did very well on the Sports prizes though he got too tired by Sunday and we ended by having to handle that money. He can't stand for long and one day we had to round up someone to help him at the last minute so most of the week we were rushing around seeing this person or that. The bucking they said was the best ever. We didn't see it.

Sunday morning we were up early again and down to the grounds to help Norman pay the Indians for the work they did, also in the evening.

Must go now, have to find a room for Niall Rankin, the others aren't coming after all, and will telephone the Simpsons to say hello to the Wilmots who arrive there today,

Have a good time and don't over eat ! Loads of love to you and Mildred.

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
July 27, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

I wish we were as energetic and smart as you are but somehow we can't seem to entertain the way you do and keep from getting weary !

Yesterday Pete was so tired he slept until noon, and yet we didn't do such an awful lot Sunday, maybe it is the things we don't do that tire us most. We slept until ten Sunday, made a short call to see how the Graysons were at Moms before lunch, then as I wrote up my diary we saw it was Pearl Moores birthday so hunted up a bag (she collects them) and went by Edmees where they usually have Sunday lunch. No sign of their car so went to their house, all the gates closed, so back to Edmees and asked. The Moores had made their annual expedition to Yoho on her birthday and found out it was Also Rupert Edwards birthday, He was killed flying over Burma so we thought it would be nice to drop in and see his mother who is rather a pathetic soul and very fond of Pete as one of the boys. She was very pleased and then we saw Mrs Paris getting out of a car at her house and stopped a few moments to talk to her and also met Margaret Campbell when getting Time at the Drug Store and drove her to Moms. She is the one going to India for 5½ years as a Presbyterian missionary. an awfully nice girl, very small and pretty. After supper I think Pete had another snooze in his chair and I worked on the Indian things and then we went down to Rearls about ten o'clock for just a few minutes. I asked her about being taken into the Stoneys but she couldn't tell us much. They sing a song and say a prayer and sing God Save the King and she and Runt each got some present of clothing I think. She is now a Princess (which name doesn't seem to go with Indians) and Runt is a Chief. They weren't very keen on having it done and wouldn't do it at the concert but quietly on Sunday afternoon. We missed it not knowing when it was to take place.

Yesterday afternoon we drove up to the Banff Springs looking for Marion Wilmot. At first when I telephoned the room they said they weren't registered, so then I went to the desk and insisted that they must be there as they had reservations for two months (this was to impress them) then they found that they had come allright but the room not being ready for them they hadn't gone to a room so I looked all around the hotel but couldn't find them anywhere.

We hadn't been home very long after going about in connection with Indian things when a Mr Offram from Camrose came to call. Luckily Jackie had tipped us off he was in town and asking for Pete , as otherwise Pete might not have recognized him so quickly. When Pete was a boy and ski Jumping he stayed at their house in a little town in Camrose between Edmonton and Calgary. They are Norwegians and a wonderful couple. Mrs Offram,

the daughter and a friend came in too and we made a cold drink for them. (we have a Calgary bakery which sends up very good homemade tasting things and it helps one a lot in having things ready for callers) They hadn't seen Pete since 1927 , Mrs Offram said he didn't look the same but his laugh sounded as she remembered it. Mr Offram was one of the first people to come to Banff and Ski Jump, when Pete was a little boy. We had a nice time with them, they are on their way to "Yasper" not "Jasper".
My dear shop Norwegian accents though she was born in N. Dakota.

After their call it was supper time and then we again got ready to go to the hotel on a search party for Marion. Pete has to sit in the car up there or else park miles away, so I put on another dress again and sallied forth. Telephoned their room , but no answer so walked through the lobby and various rooms, I almost spoke to one person listening to a concert , she looked a little as Marion might by now but with such big glasses I couldn't tell. However she looked at me and didn't seem to know me so I didn't interfere. I walked up and down and met Miss McGowan but she doesn't know many of the one or two day people, There were lots playing bridge and she said they now keep a book on the bridge players, those who play " social Bridge " " serious bridge " and those who like to play for "high stakes " then when they get people to play to-gether they are more apt to play the same kind of game.

I left a note after telephoning the room again and said we would like them to come for tea this afternoon and we would be up there at the front door at 3.30. So in a few minutes will have to go. Its too bad but to-day is rainy and miserable, it was clear and lovely at five but clouded over and settled in raining. We did the shopping this morning and just as we were coming home one of the taxi Drivers came over and told Pete had had a lady in the taxi who would like to see him as she hadn't seen him for 20 years. It was a Miss ~~Erwin~~ Gray from Boston , sister of a girl who came out here with the Browns years ago. Pete and I went to the Browns house about the time we were married. So we brought her over to the house, with her friend Miss Agnew and they were very pleased. While they were here Mr Vallance dropped in from the Alpine Club for his mail, so Pete drove them back to the hotel. They are on some tour and have just to-day in Banff leaving for the west early in the morning, have just 55 minutes in Victoria, but as she said had she wanted to be here longer she couldn't have come at all. Miss Agnew felt it was worth the four days on the train just to see our " ranch house " So now we have finished lunch and I did one lot of laundry and Norman Luxton has been here for the 2nd time to-day and we are ready to go to the hotel. Mr Vallance invited the other two ladies to the Alpine Club to-night to see some slides, wanted us at his house for tea and to-night too. but we try to do just one lot of people in a day

Your nice letter with the ones from Russ and Kitty came this morning. Edgartown sounds a wonderful place for them and how nice they have had good weather.

Loads of love.

Catharine
Will send this to Concord as I believe you get home the 30th & this will welcome you -

P.S. Am afraid I will forget a story if I don't tell you now. The other evening as it was getting dark. Pete said " Lets look for mushrooms after the rain " so out we went and as both cars were out Pete thought we better put the Ford in the garage first. So I opened the doors and he started to drive the car in, turned on the lights and said " look " so I looked and right in the middle of the floor of ashes, under where the car stands was the biggest mushroom you ever saw. A perfect one and not a worm. We found a few tiny wormy ones outside but this was a really good one.

Last night about two I woke and heard something flutter over my head, and it kept fluttering around the room, you could hear the low whirr of its wings, it hit the screens several times on both windows and then would take a flight around the room. It was too dark to see and everytime it would come near I would get shivery, didn't dare turn the light on next the bed as I was afraid it would come for it. Sounded like a tremendous moth. Finally I woke Pete and he listened, then he was brave enough to take the flashlight, get one screen open and put the flashlight on the windowsill, then he waited and in a few seconds the thing flew out the window. It looked quite large but we have no idea what it was. It might have been a bat. Horrid thought. but even now it makes me wet and clammy to think of it!

More love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs, July 29th. 1948.

Dearest Mother,

Am afraid I have neglected you lately but we have been rather busy this week. I don't mind it so much but after Pete gets interested talking his frog comes in his throat or nose and he gets rather tired. I think once we finish up the Indian Day things and our own things we have had to neglect the last month then we will be free to go out and get away from people we know!

One thing that uses up ones energy is to have so many deversified people, though of course that makes it interesting too, Just for the fun the last three days we have had people from all over and all stages in our lives you might say.

Monday afternoon the Norwegians from Camrose who were interested in Norway and skiing and Pete had to think back nearly 30 years to when he stayed with them. Then Tuesday we had the two Boston ladies who talked of 20 years ago when Pete was in Art School. That afternoon we had the Wilmots down, Concord and as they are great hockey fans Pete had to recall all the players he knew etc. Then Yesterday we went up and saw Mr Bridgen who is the elderly artist, 76, and a remarkable man, from Toronto, I think you have his book. and we talked of the early explorers etc. Then Mrs Castle from Honolulu was here for tea in the afternoon and we talked of entirely different things. Saw Mr Bridgen and the Wilmots off and more talk at the station where the train was an hour late. and now to-day we had Charlie Comfort and Will Ogilvie down for a short visit just before supper. They are two well known eastern artists and both were Army War Artists in Canada, so again different talk. We have just been up to see the Brookes but they have gone to bed or to their cabin and we will go to ours, even if it is just after nine.

We had such a nice visit from the Wilmots, met them at the front door of the hotel and as it was a rainy afternoon it was a good time to have tea with us. Marion hadn't changed at all in looks and the evening before they had gone for a twilight drive. They are the kind who use their heads and see all they can, It was lucky they took the drive the first night as the next day was pretty rainy, however they took the General drive Tuesday morning and then Wednesday went to Minnewanka. They got a great kick out of the various tourists they saw along the way and told many amusing stories. We were sorry not to do more for them but it was too rainy to drive the day they came to tea and we didn't have a chance to do anything the next day. They came about 3.30 and it was six when we took them back in the Jeep. Aunt Maggie Grayson and Uncle Charlie came down while they were here to say good by to us. They are both over 80 and were leaving that night for a 65 mile ride to Cochrane in the Greyhound bus.

X I forgot Mr Vallance was in to get his mail that same morning and told us Mr Briggen was up at the Alpine Club would leave the next day, so we ran up Tuesday evening after a late supper and saw the water colors he had painted. Mr Brigden came to see us last year and was so surprised to see a place like ours out here! He is a wonderful man of 76, too lame with arthritis to go into the Alpine camp but camped on the Bow Summit and sketched there. We met Charlie Comfort there too, but only stayed long enough to say hello as Mr Vallance was showing his pictures. Kodachromes.

Wednesday we went up about 11 to see Mr Brigden and had a nice chat in front of the fire in the library, he reminds me so much of Pete's father, a very quiet manner but so nice to talk with, quite deaf too.

Mrs Castle was to come down to tea and as it rained in the morning we wondered if she would want to come that day, so tried to telephone, first at Mom's but one had to go to the telephone office or the station to get the Chateau. Went to the telephone office but it was so full of others that I gave that up and tried the station, made it just before the train came in, as otherwise it is hard to hear. But it was nice in Lake Louise so they came and it cleared here too in the afternoon. Each morning it has been rainy but clearing later. We had a nice visit, Mrs Castle is great fun and we had a nice time. She brought a Miss Rouse with her, I think helps look after the granddaughter and friend. They have gone with Mr Castle to the Hidden Lakes beyond Skoki.

After they left it was five and we dashed to the station to see the Wilmots off, the trains were all late and they hadn't come down yet, but we found Mr Briggen with Dr Riley and his boy and as they had to go to Calgary that same evening by car, we sort of took charge of Mr Brigden, Marion and Wesley came along and we all sat together on the platform and admired the hats. It was a lovely evening. They went on the same train together as far as Winnipeg.

X Then yesterday, Thursday, I worked all morning getting the cheques made out for Indian Days and in the afternoon we took them around, so most of the bills are now paid and receipted. It was four o'clock by the time we got home, made out two more cheques after seeing Norman Luxton and took those around, that was when we ran into Charlie Comfort who wanted us to meet Will Ogilvie. They are both fine types. Charlie Comfort has done lots of illustration too for the Hudson's Bay etc. and Will Ogilvie was born in Africa but one of the better Canadian Artists now. They came around to see where our house is and stayed half an hour. I am sure we made them late for supper. Ours was late and then we took a run up to the Alpine Club but didn't see the Brooks, found out they aren't leaving until to-morrow so well no doubt see them before then.

Now I must type out the report on Indian Days after doing a bit more figuring on how much we took in and paid out. Norman Luxton comes around once or twice a day but we don't count his visit

It is a beautiful day to-day but don't expect we will go out until Monday, and then Niall Rankin comes for one day the end of the week, so we must see him, but after that there is no one we have to be here for, except Dorothy Whyte on her way to and from Assinaboine.

Loads of love

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
August 1, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

It is hard to realize that it is August already. A beautiful morning and we are still sleepy from our first really late night, one when we got to bed. We have just seen Tom Link on his way through to Lake Louise and O'Hara and for once when we had someone to see on the train it was only 15 minutes late.

Did I tell you that we saw the Brookses on Friday, went up to the Club in the morning and happened to meet them and they came to tea in the afternoon. It was nice to see them and we had a nice visit. I have given her a book to read on the train and then give to you. I thought after Marion left that I should have given it to her to take, and then decided to give it to Mrs Brooks. They look about ten years younger after the trip to Assinaboine. When they came in she said "Your larkspurs would be a credit in your mother's garden" or something like that, but I am not sure that Pietro would agree!

Yesterday morning we had to go over town early to take a box to the train on its way to Morley to David Bearspaw. We had promised to send it and then last Saturday the Express man never called so this week we took it down ourselves. Then we had to see about some insurance policy and it took most of our morning running back and forth. After lunch we were very quiet, Pete snoozing and I working on Indian accounts. We felt much better for a bit of uninterrupted quiet and decided to see if the Comforts would like to come down in the evening, as we wanted to have them down at some time and before we went out painting. Mrs Comfort said they were playing golf. Charlie Comfort and Will Ogilvie but were sure they would like to come here after supper. They were late getting back so it was nine when they came and then Mr Ogilvie having a previous engagement thought he shouldn't stay too long so Pete drove him over to the Boat house. But we had a most interesting evening and it was after twelve when they left.

Charles Comfort is one of the best artists in Canada and also has done a lot of pictures for the Hudson's Bay and illustrations too. He was overseas as an Army War Artist and he told us quite a bit about it and the funny times he had. His studio in London, or the building where he worked, was hit by a V 2 rocket bomb and the roof off and the whole place a shambles, he said he was in the toilet at the time, otherwise he would have been killed as several were, 23 casualties in the one building. It is fine for us to know some of the Eastern Artists and they seem interested in us. We have lots of friends in common too. They have two daughters and one came down with them. A most attractive girl.

Mrs Comfort was talking about our exhibition and I told her about the duty you had to pay on the frames. It really seems awful. and she said a friend of theirs who is a very modern

Abstract painter was taking some pictures across the line into the states. He told the Customs men that he was an artist and this was his work. They looked at the pictures, couldn't make head nor tail of them and thought the man was crazy, so let him through without any trouble at all!

I am nearly through the Indian Days things, just have to type out the various pages of the amounts taken in and paid out. Then I have a stack of mail to be answered and things that we really must see to, but after that we will be free we hope to get out. One thing we seem to be getting things cleared up and on a better basis with Jackie. He is feeling better and working in the store pretty regularly now. Cliff we haven't seen or heard from for sometime, not since he returned from a trip to the coast to see Mildred. The Stockands have reached Toronto and we think Cam has started in on his new job. Marion has written Mom but we haven't heard a word ourselves. We just hope they make a go of it this time, but Marion says there are lots of jobs to be had there so hope they all get work. We can't help but realize a lot of the difficulties they will run into and the expense etc. but it is up to them, it worries Mom we know and she hasn't been very well, her shoulder still bbbhers her.

Guess I better get started on the accounts and will have this ready to mail. We enjoyed your letters from York Harbor and by this time you will be back in Concord.

Loads of love

Catharine

P.S. Please thank Jean for her letters & tell her I'm sorry I never got one written to Ogenquit while she was there!

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs, Aug. 5th, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

Some days no one comes and we really get quite a bit done and then a day like to-day and Mrs Simpson dropped in just as we were going to have lunch so had some with us and then before she left Lloyd Harmon came to ask Pete something (he is doing that right now outside) and we got talking about all sorts of things, then she left and Lloyd told us a bit about his experiences in Burma during the war and it is about three or after. and as he left he asked Pete to speak just a minute, so am taking this chance to rush off a line to you.

We should go to the train anyway to see Margaret Campbell off to India, none of us think she should be going as a missionary at this time but of course she hasn't asked us our opinion on the matter, but perhaps she won't be allowed to stay if and when she reaches there, with things as they are.

We still get accounts for Indian Days, Norman Luxton was over this morning with a few more bills to be paid. and I have had a hard time getting the books to balance, for some reason there is \$30.00 more in the bank account there I figure there should be so I must have made a mistake somewhere. The cents come out right at any rate!

For some reason I picked up the head cold going around town and had it on Monday but luckily it didn't last more than one day so I am feeling fine again now.

This is as far as I got. Lloyd wants Pete to sort of back him on a business venture, the bank loaning the money but he has to have someone to sort of stand behind him. Then after that we went for the mail, as Pete thought it a good idea to get out before someone else came in. So we started off, stopped when we saw Steve Hope at the Gov't building and gave him a chain to mend as he is the blacksmith. then thought we better run up to the Alpine Club to see if there was any word from Niall Rankin, and found that he had changed his reservation we had made to Monday instead of tomorrow. We really have to stay until he comes and he is only to be here a day so we must be around. Then took Johnny by the middle Springs as a little side trip, it is just off the road. Then we remembered a friend of the Panets who we hadn't looked up so went to Miss Carriks tea shop where she was staying. I found the lady in bed with a cold. A most attractive person and she is coming to tea to-day if she feels better. Has seen our paintings that the Panets have and wants to see more etc. Is here at the Art school.

We then went to see Margaret Campbell away, but she didn't go on the Montreal train as we expected but to Toronto first.

As usual the train was late, When she wasn't at the station for the Montreal one we thought we better go around by the house and found them just leaving in the Ministers car for the station. It was as well we went for the Good-byes were pretty teary I think. Uncle Jack has a bad knee, having been kicked by a cow and so didn't go to the station, the Minister stayed with him which was nice as Uncle Jack naturally was feeling pretty badly having his daughter go. I really feel sorry for him as he is getting pretty old, lives with his sister who is very quiet and nice, or with his son on a farm. Margaret is a trained nurse and has been away for a number of years anyway but to think of her going to India for 5½ years is quite a different matter. Her other Aunt had come up from Calgary to help pack etc. and it was nice she went on the same train to Calgary with Margaret. Mrs Tollington (the sister who Uncle Jack lives with and helped bring up Margaret and her bother, Kenneth after their Mother died) went to the station with us and we luckily had Johnnie along and he kept up a lively chatter most of the time we had to wait. Hilda Kelly Tom and her husband and two little boys also went down and it made things more cheerful and there was no time for tea's etc at the station.

/Another caller, Bill Shulman so it is 3.30 and the lady jay come at four, just time to mail this.

Loads of love

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. Aug. 8th. 1948.

Dearest Mother,

We are having our streak of bad weather now. and to-day has been cloudy with sudden showers. In fact for ages now it has seemed to rain about half of each day, most discouraging for the sketch classes in the summer school and photographers. It was just as well we couldn't go out this week after all.

I think I told you we expected "Iall Rankin to come on the 6th of August, told him to wire the Alpine Club where we made a reservation if he was delayed. Went up Thursday and found he had changed it to Monday, and then to-day to be sure went up again and find it is Wednesday he will arrive. However with this weather there is no use trying to go out for painting and better to finish up things here. I have only just got the various things listed in connection with Indian Days, and there are still a few donations and a couple of bills to come in yet before I can really finish it up right. At least it now balances correctly and I didn't have to put in any "Miscellaneous itmes" could account for every penny received, lent, or spent, or credited. and we have more left over than we did last year so have a nice reserve for another year, just in case sometime they have some rainy weather and poor gate receipts but just as many Indians to feed.

We met Carl Rungius the other day, as usual talk of the amount of rain every day or two. He thinks that the floods this spring may have something to do with it, all that water has to evaporate into the air and then when a cold current of air or something hits it, it precipitates. Sounds logical.

Haven't had quite so many callers this week, Mrs Simpson dropped in Tuesday (or maybe Thursday) we were just having lunch and just the right amount to divide up, She told us about Young Jimmy nearly being killed by a grizzly, He is a person with no fear, so if he thought it was a close call it surely was. He went out on horseback to look for some lost horses, was alone and saw two bears up on a slope but gave them no particular thought, when suddenly a third one attacked him on horseback. Mrs Simpson said had he been riding the horse he usually does he would surely have been killed, but this particular horse he had taken that day didn't scare so easily and for at least 20 minutes they fought off the bear. Jimmy tried to hit at it with his lariat but of course didn't want to rope it. and he says that in the end he doesn't know how he and the horse got away from it. I didn't realize that a bear would attack a horse but Mom said that in the old days you often heard of the ranchers being attacked while on horseback. Mrs Simpson said that Jimmy was a sickly yellow when he got home and didn't sleep that night, at least not very well.

Mrs Simpson has a man named Haddow from India and his wife up at Bow Lake and I am wondering if by any chance it is Peggy Gowens first husband, Mrs S. doesn't know his first name, but it would be strange if it was.

Lloyd Harmon came in too and wanted to speak to Pete, think I wrote you about then and no time to re-read the letter before sending it off. Lloyd seems to feel we are friends and likes to come and talk to us, he has a very difficult family situation and we like him and would like to help him out.

We had a boy come around the other evening. think it was Tuesday or Thursday, can't remember. He is from Montreal, had a letter to us from Roy Wilson who we had to tea several years ago. This lad is working with the game wardens and we had a nice call but it was late when he came (9 o'clock) and late when he left. We also had a long call from Bill Shulman, an old friend of Pete's and also goes on the Trail Hike. Was on the Empress of Australia when it went into Yokahama during the big earthquake in 1923. He certainly had a terrific experience then. He is a very eligable bachelor and works in the Income Tax Office in Calgary. But what interested me most was when he was talking about a tailor in Calgary and a shirtmaker, knowing that on the hikes he wears very good looking plaid shirts and wishing that Pete had some, I asked him where he got them. and he said, I have five now and I made them myself. He didn't like the way his mother made them so tried himself. It takes him all one Sunday and most of the evenings of the next week to make one. For he said he bastes everything, which is the hardest part for him. Also presses everything before stitching. The tailor evidently helped with advise. He also shrinks the material in the bathtub first. I wish I had dared ask him to make Pete a shirt, but instead he gave me good advise so I must try next winter.

Please don't count on my visiting you too soon for I can't be certain for a while yet. I am glad that you talked with Miss Abbott and decided to show the sketches downstairs. We were thinking that the wall space upstairs is pretty large for such small pictures, also if there isn't room for them all, no one will know if you don't hang them all. When you can, let us know the exact dates of the exhibition for I must find out when they want them back for shows in Eastern Canada. Will write to the gallery in London Ontario to-morrow and find out if it will be allright if they have them back by the end of September. It is good of Kitty to go to all the trouble of giving a tea, but it doesn't need to be a big one, better wait until we have a real exhibition with larger pictures. After all these are just sketches the size of the ones you have, and people may be very disappointed in them.

We have had a quiet day, except for dashing over town to hear the cadets play, a good band, but all they did was march up and down on the bridge and disrupt all the Sunday traffic! But I have the bills looked over and cheques made out which is a good job done and to-morrow if no one comes in and the weather is still bad will try to write some long over due letters.

Loads of love,

Catharine .

P.S. Nearly forgot to tell you that Cliff called up Mom on the phone from Windermere that Wednesday when we had several bad thunder storms, he got struck by lightening. He and Donny went out when they saw a big black cloud overhead, to bring in the laundry off the line, Cliff had his hand on the wire, when the bolt struck and knocked him out and knocked Donny down. Cliff didn't come too until they had carried him inside and for two days he was very sick to his stomach. Did you ever? Also it sort of numbed his bad arm (he hurt the elbow long ago on the tractor and it has bothered him off and on since) but the feeling was coming back into his fingers. Mom said she didn't get it all straight, but Cliff called up in case she heard it from someone else.

Bubby has just gotten her marks from Edmonton and she passed all her subjects with honors this year. Grade 9 has to take exams and they are corrected in Edmonton. Barbara was very pleased, one other girl in the class did too. But Bubby isn't the very studious kind, being good at sports too.

We have had several fires in town lately to go to. Not bad ones for they have all been out when we get there, Now when we hear the alarm we grab our coats but before we can get to the Jeep, Johnnie is already in it. How he gets there so fast I don't know. True enough the other day he said he was in the bathroom when the siren went and he didn't even stop to flush the toilet! He is funny. Asked me the other day where Margaret Campbell was going, I said "India" and he asked if it was in Canada, I said " no, on the other side of the world " and quick as a flash he said " down there?" pointing to the floor of the car as if we could get there by going in that direction.

Better stop this time.
Loads of love

Catherine -

Banff, Alberta.

Wed. Aug. 11. 1948

Dearest Mother,

Just a short letter to-day as there isn't a great deal to tell you of. We are having a lot of rain and it is discouraging for the tourists. Right now the sun is shining brightly but we had a heavy shower this morning, looked as if it might rain for several days. It has been quite cold too.

X Monday we had the Belmore Brownes in for a short call as we met them over town and George and his young wife had never been to the house (he is the son and also an artist and they are to live down near Seebe all winter this year) They too have a log house and cabin I think and were interested in every thing. We made them tea and just as we were having it, Mrs Mac and a Miss Roche from Ottawa came in. She was Gen. MacDonal's secretary in Ottawa.

I don't know if you ever met the Brownes, they have a most attractive daughter too, and she now lives in New England, having taught in a school there. Recently she bought an old house in Durham, New Hampshire, near Dover. and I think that is on the inland route to Portland where an arm of the sea comes in. She evidently is fascinated by the east, which I think is interesting for Mr Browne comes from an old Salem family though he says there are no family left by the name in Salem now. I think they were Brownes.

Niall Rankin has been postponing his arrival in Banff and the latest is that he is due this evening. We expected him the 6th. then the 9th and then the 11th. which is to-day. but last night we got a wire saying he hoped to see us this evening and it was from Kaslo, Washington. and Pete thinks that is two very long days of driving to get here, and of course he doesn't know how bad the roads are from the Windermere over this way. So we may not see him until to-morrow. Anyway we have enough if he should get here for supper.

As soon as his visit is over we are going to think just what we will do ourselves as so far this summer we have had to do things according to others plans. with the result we have done nothing in the way of sketching. However the last two weeks would have been poor ones in the mountains, and even the poor Art Students here have had a hard time getting any work done with so many frequent heavy showers and changing effects.

May enclose a few clippings.

Loads of love,

P.S. Tell Russ I will be writing him one of these days & we are so glad they have had such a good time in Edgartown.

Baugh.

Thursday Aug. 12th
1948.

Dear Mother

Just a scribble in answer to your Air-mail about the exhibition. Pete is out just now & will ask him as soon as he returns what he thinks and add it at the end of this letter.

Niall Rankin arrived about eight o'clock last evening though we didn't expect he would get here so early as he was in Kelso Washington Monday night. It was good to see him & we made supper, steaks & mushrooms etc. Then he stayed up at the Alpine Club last night. We were up early this morning (washing the dishes before he arrived) & then Pete took him to see about getting the car washed & oiled etc.

While they were out Sam Mairer's friend Mr Pick called. I had almost forgotten he was coming, for when Sam wrote we expected we would be out in the mountains this time in August. He is quite young, a Papist (which Niall tells me is just a Roman Catholic) but he made it sound something special. Has been giving a course in Medieval History or

criticisms or literature (or something or other medieval)
in California & is on his way home. taught in
Grotton for several years. Knows Betty Peabody,
& other friends. We had quite a talk, for he came
about 10 o'clock & was still here when Pete came
back for a few moments rest at 11.30 I told
him about Niall having come to see us etc. but
I think he wanted hoping to see him. Anyway,
we didn't offer to show him round or anything
he was a bit intellectual for me & the affected kind.
great gestures & quite an accent.

I don't think he thought much of my pictures
as he said he had taken up painting, had been
doing it the last 5 weeks & wondered about
framing the pictures for an exhibition! Then
when I remarked about the effects in the
mountains changing so quickly, he admitted
it didn't bother him as he does rather abstract
things! Maybe that's the beauty of abstract
art, you can't tell whether a person has
been painting for 5 weeks or 5 years. He was
very nice really. - Loves Pete -

We think "~~CANADIAN ROCKIES SKETCHES~~"
"SKETCHES OF THE CANADIAN ROCKIES"
would be best.

Lloads of love
Catharine

Banff, Alberta
Friday evening
August 13, 1948

Dearest Mother,

Considering that it is Friday the 13th. I guess it hasn't been too bad a day ! Don't expect this will be much of a letter to-night, but as to-morrow is Saturday and usually rather busy and we have a donation for Indian Days to put in the Bank and on Saturday it closes at 11. That means the morning is nicely interrupted.

Niall left this morning about 9.30 and now we feel free to go out, (except that Pete will have to vote in the Provincial Election most likely on Tuesday.) The visit went very well but it was quite strenuous for us, especially as Niall had all his meals but breakfast with us, and he being very "fit" has a large appetite, However as he says, he can eat anything so was easy to feed.

I think I told you that he came about 8 o'clock Wednesday night, having driven from Spokane in a day, We cooked him consomme, steak & mushrooms, carrots and boiled new potatoes and raspberries and coffee. Then after a bit of a talk took him up to the Alpine Club a little after ten. We had a place for him there. As he had mentioned wanting to be in Winnepeg by the 12th we thought maybe he would have to leave the next day but he had planned to stay over the two nights in order to see various people.

Thursday morning he came here about 9 and we had all the previous nights dishes washed, so Pete set off with him to look up a few friends and I started to sort out some slides to show him as he is interested in Photography. That was when your letter came and also Mr Pick, Sam Manierre's friend. Pete returned ahead of Niall for a bit of a rest and of course Mr Pick was still here. However Pete had a few minutes to sit down quietly before Niall came back from the barber shop. I thought we might have lunch at Paris-es so as to see Cyril, but Niall and Pete thought it would be better here, so I dashed over town and got a bit of liver and bacon for lunch. It was rather a late lunch and then we took Niall up to Norquay in the Jeep. After first he and Pete went to get his car and I went shopping for a pressure cooker for him to take back to Lady Jean. So it was three when we set out for the Ski Hill and after five when we got home. We saw the new Lift being built. The great steel things that hold the cable and with all the work going on a cow moose and calf walked right across the ski slope, quite unconcerned. The lift rises 1200 feet vertically and 3000ft on an angle, but the runs down will be mostly for experts I should think. It was rather a lovely afternoon but we had several showers. We can't get by without some rain each day.

When we got back Pete thought perhaps Niall would like to go back to the club for a while and then come for supper, but he said "do I have to go?" so of course he didn't and after a few errands came back here and we cooked another steak supper, corn on the cob, string beans, potatoes and raspberries and ice cream. Then we showed the kodachromes until we were all sleepy and he went back up to the club, a little after ten.

I thought he might want to get a very early start and so we wouldn't see him this morning but he left us a book he had written on Birds "divers" and so came around to pick it up and say good-bye a little after nine this morning. But to-morrow we can sleep in a little longer!

X It was good to see Niall again and he is the easiest sort of person to look after, likes anything and everybody. Wanted to see Ike Mills and Watty Potts who had driven the dog team to Skoki when the Rankins were there, then he put on some dark glasses and surprised Norman up at the Banff Springs. Norman had stayed with them in England when in the Air Force. He went up to the Brewster desk, pretended he was just another Englishman, said he understood that Brewsters could do anything for one, and when Norman said they tried to or something like that, he said he didn't want to go back to England until he could get a live black bear to take with him and could Norman help him! Norman bit, but had to laugh, and then Niall took off the glasses.

He has done a lot since we last saw them. He evidently made a trip into Tibet and took a movie that has been running for 5 years in England. When they were in Hollywood for a time, and also made a trip from Indo-China to Hongkong by station wagon before the War. He has done many interesting things. They live part time in London as Lady Jean is one of the four ladies-in-waiting to the Queen. Has two weeks on and six weeks off, does mostly letter writing I guess and accompanies the Queen on certain occasions. The other 3 are all widows and so as Niall says they usually get off during their childrens vacations but Jean having a husband to look after the children on holidays usually is the one to stay. That was one thing I got straightened out at last. When school holidays come in England. They get five weeks at Christmas (no wonder they can go Switzerland and other places) 4 weeks at Easter, usually the month of April, and two months in the summer. August and September, really 8 weeks. That was why they were coming here in August and until sometime in Sept. until Jean's mother, the Countess of Stair, had to have part of her lung removed and Jean was the only one left to help look after the house.

X They also have about 2000 acres on the Isle of Mull, and their House of Treshnish, as it is called, is in a place called Calgary. It rather annoys Niall to have letters from London and other places come to Calgary in Canada instead. He says he has gotten several that way. They also have some islands off shore, 12 of them, and I think it is sort of a bird sanctuary. He is taking 2000 live birds back with him from this trip. ducks and suchlike. Quite a job I would think. Eggs too. 2000 sound an awful lot but I am sure it isn't 200.

They also have bought a small hotel called the "Bridge of Orchy" Jean may know of it, for it is on the way to Inverness I think. It is a great place for salmon fishing, the hotel is 7 miles in one direction and 15 in the other from any people and so they have a

good stretch of river to fish. It is a small hotel, about 30 people. Niall told us rather an amusing story. One time this year when they were up there with a full house, the cook left on a Saturday night and no one to cook the meals. So Lady Jean said she would do it and Niall took on the Bar and they got along very well until the new cook arrived on the Monday I guess. But the funny part was that Jean had to go direct from cooking in the hotel to Buckingham Palace to her job of Lady-in-Waiting. She said she hadn't dared tell the Queen about it but thought when she got a good chance she would tell the King as he would be amused, and then it would get to the Queen that way. But since then Niall said he had heard from her and one time at the hotel, while he has been away she has had to help in the Bar and go from that to her job in London!

You would laugh at the presents he is getting for her. On her birthday he had a girl in Washington send her "stays" as he knew her size etc. and then in Idaho he saw a glass butter churn, (it sounded like the one you used to have) and he knew she would be delighted with that as they only have an old wooden barrel one. However a friend in Hollywood has sent her three lovely dresses and the Canadian Customs were nice about it and said as long as he was taking them to England it was O.K. with them.

After he left this morning we forgot there might be a letter in the morning mail and he hadn't been gone very long when Mario arrived with it (he brings it over each day) We knew ~~Mario was~~ ^{Will} was going to see the buffalo on the way east so jumped in the Jeep to see if we could catch him but were too late, so took the letters to the station for the train due about then. There we met Ed Hanson just leaving. Haven't seen him for ages. So had a chat with him and met his wife. Then we got home and found some "muffins" on the door step "really between the screen and regular door. I had to see the dentist for a few minutes to have a filling polished and thought this morning might be a good time, so we headed up by Mums to thank her for the muffins on the way through the yard, and there in the driveway was Cliff's Jeep. So he and Donny were there. Cliff's arm is still sort of numb from the lightning and he can't do much with it yet, also his eyes bother him, so Donny had driven over with him just for the day. We were to see him after one.

I got the filling polished without having to wait long, it only took a minute. and then we were just through lunch when Sam ^{was} came down to return a book on his way to the new house he was building. and we had a short visit with him. I think Pete rather dreaded hearing what Cliff might have to say in case they weren't making a go of things, and we waited quite a while. It was about 3 when Cliff and Donny came and stayed about half an hour and everything is going well. They are haying a lot. Lloyd is working steady and young Peter is helping on the Warden service. Donny helping his father, and in the evening, he and Lloyd have been haying for others. But Cliff said this last month it cost them 24 dollars only for what they had to buy, everything else was off the farm. So that was pretty good. Cliff is always so full of the future possibilities of a place, and he is sure things will be wonderful over there. It is a lovely valley but too far from any large centers.

We feel a little let down now and haven't made any plans. I must get at some letters this weekend, my hair washed and such like. Am sleepy now. Loads of love, Catharine (over)

It is Saturday Afternoon and almost time to go shopping and for the mail. I know I should be doing better in my letters to you, for I can just hear you and Russell Say "Why can't Catharine answer our questions and tell us when she is coming east." Well I really don't know myself and it will take some figuring out. Most of my recent letters I just rattle off on the typewriter and if it is about what we have been doing I don't have to think much but just dash along with the words as they come into my mind. but one day soon I will try to write a carefully worded reply to your questions.

Must run. Loads of love to all

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. Aug. 18, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

I really mean't to get a letter off to you today but all sorts of unexpected things seemed to happen and the day was soon gone. It is now after 8 o'clock and we have just washed the days accumulated dishes and it is pouring outside. Was nice early this morning and then the clouds gathered and it has been showery all day and to-night a real storm with wind.

Did I write you Sunday? think I must have. We had rather a quiet day. Went for the mail after lunch and met a friend who mentioned that they were taking movies at the station so down we went. It was a while before we found where things were going on, Pearl Moore was looking too, but we did find them at last at the Y where the trains switch. The movie is of the building of the C.P.R. and they had several old cars and a few tents, one supposed to be a Saloon but it wasn't awfully exciting as they were waiting for the sunlight and there were so many clouds.

The only shot we saw them take rather amused me. There were a group of men sitting on standing on a flat car, the hero (Randolph Scott who we never heard of before but is evidently famous) and the heroine were on the ground in front of the car. When it came time to shoot, they spoke to each other then evidently said " come on boys " for they all ran as fast as they could towards where we and the rest of the curious were watching. Then when they came to a halt and the cameras had stopped there was a rush of the admiring onlookers who surrounded the hero while he stood with a slow smile and the people gathered around him. It would have been funny if they had taken the whole thing, shouting " autographs " just before the movie actors ran towards the crowd, for it really looked as if they couldn't wait to have the people ask for autographs etc.

It was all so slow that we didn't stay very long and then a big storm came up, another bad thunder storm and we went up to Moms for a while until it was over, she is so scared and usually goes into a cupboard. That night after we had finished supper I saw a taxi drive in, couldn't think who was coming when George and Mrs McLean stepped out. We hadn't realized that any Indians were up, though we knew there were teepees at the Golf course for the movie. They had been there since Thursday and had we only known Niall would have loved to have seen them. The Mcleans had had supper but thought a little bacon and eggs would be nice, so we made quite a meal. toast and jam, tea and cake. and then drove them back down to the camp. Monday we saw George again and he said they had enjoyed their visit so much the day before that they would like to come and see us again, so Monday afternoon he appeared, having walked up part way from where they had camped on the Golf Course and hooked a ride the rest of the way on the road scraper, which he said was a bit like riding a bucking horse.

So after a cool drink of gingerale we drove back down picked up Mrs McBean and made another supper of bacon and eggs and this time potatoes, and fruit with the cake, and we ate with them. They always say grace before eating and I invariably forget and wonder why they don't start eating. After supper, as it gets dark early now, we showed them the slides of Indian Days and they did enjoy it, When one of Mrs McLean came on they both laughed and George said "Miss Flora Crawler " which was her maiden name. They love a good joke and have a good sence of humor. Mrs Mclean doesn't speak at all in English but understands a bit. However Geofge always translated the storés. They even laughed when I told them what Grandpa used to say when people asked how he^r was, and he would say he had " one foot in the grave the other on a banana peel."

George speaks such good English that it is interesting listening to his tales of the old days, he is over 75 and can remember when the Railroad was built and when Calgary was just a few log buildings and tents.

Tuesday we were through lunch, had just come back from the post office and two Squaws appeared, one was the one we painted years ago, and Pete calls the Red Squaw because of her dress. They were so tired and their arms were full of bundles and they couldn't find a taxi to get back to the camp, and they expected to have to pack up and go back to Morley that evening. So we gave them some fruit juice and ginerale and cookies and then took them down to the camp, they were very grateful. On the way we saw the movie company at work so as it was nice and sunny we decided to stop and see what was going on. It was rather fun watching as they were taking the Indian boys in the rocks below Rundle, a sort of ambush in the picture and much firing of rifles and all. Some having to pretend they were shot etc. They were all dressed up in old fashioned Indian garb brought from Hollywood, bare above the waist and several of them had gotten bad sunburns, for they are quite light in color under their clothes.

We talked to George a bit more and he told us that he had been standing looking at the back of Tunnel Mountain and had the thought that someday in about 50 years time maybe, they will make a big hotel right in the mountain with windows and all. Just the way they tunneled out the 5 mile tunnel in the Salkirks, Rather an interesting idea at that.

That same evening we went down to the station to see if we could see the old engine that had been brought from Montreal for the picture. It is #30 and 61 years old. Was originally a wood burner but has been re-converted. While we were waiting on the platform we walked down to the tracks where trains with people on tours are put. Such accents as there were and we found it was the ex-Governors party or tour from Mississippi, about 250 of them and really very nice people, well dressed and enjoying the lovely evening. They were to move on at midnight and one man showed us the little booklet they all had, with everyones name and address like a ships passenger list, and then the times of arrival and departute everywhere in the two weeks they would be gone. They had been to Sun Valley , ~~Utah~~ Idaho, and ridden up in the Ski Lifts to the top, then to Seattle and in the boat to Victoria and Vancouver and then to Lake Louise and were going back by Winnepeg.

Some were eating in the diner and others strolling up and down, then there was much interest in some bears on the other side of the tracks and there was much crossing over while the yard engine was switching cars about, we were sure someone would be run over as the ladies had high heels or no heels. and weren't always very sure of their footing.

All of a sudden two girls appeared, one with a very fancy hat, and another pair standing beside us said " Oh . here they come, we must find out ~~xxx~~ what it was like "(this all in the most Southern Drawl you ever heard) We thought they must have done something very remarkable and so were quite interested as were some of the others standing by. One asked and the answer was. " Why she rode up in the elevator with Randolph Scott"~~xxxx~~ He is the movie star. But you would have thought it was the most thrilling experience of the whole trip!

Another two ladies, nicely dressed in afternoon dresses and decidedly middle aged in looks and figures asked us if we knew where they could get horses to go for a ride, as it would be such a wonderful time of day to take a horse back ride. They had seen some horses for hire in the afternoon , so we told them the name of the man and they went off to telephone him, though how they would have ridden in their attire I don't know, but we were pretty sure the horses had all been taken out to pasture.

When the engine came along one man we were talking to was very anxious to go aboard as he used to be a train engineer. He was just as pleased as could be when he got on and went a little way on it, being very interested in all the engine part.

It is now Thursday, after a heavy rain last night and clouds ^{to rain} to-day. The wire from Russell came early this morning about Olive and I can hardly realize it. You mentioned in a recent letter about Cal being over and wondering if she should go to England as Olive had a high blood pressure, but I never thought of its being that serious. So many have high blood pressure, but perhaps it is more natural in older people and they live many years in spite of it, but in a younger person it may be more serious. I believe that was what Frances Hiam had really, and then a stroke.

The wording or rather spelling of the wire wasn't very accurate. It was addressed to "Mrs Peteryte " and the girl who brought it wondered if it was for me, then inside it said that " Oliver Carruthers " etc. but I am sure it must mean Olive as Russ would hardly have wired had it been one of the children, It is the youngest that is named Oliver. It seems so strange that something should happen to Olive so soon after practically the same thing happened to Elizabeth Parsons. and yet you rarely hear of a young person dying of a high blood pressure. Do you suppose their physical make up was much the same, being cousins?

I was just thinking that during the war when so many members of the Buttrick and Hoar family might have been killed, like George Parsons, or Alec, or Danny Keyes or Jack Amory or any of the younger ones, and yet I think they all came through without a scratch. yet in this last year they as a family have lost three very suddenly. Life is strange. I have a feeling that familys have periods when all goes well and then all of a sudden everything

seems to go wrong with various members. Like the Webster family who for years seemed to have everything that people could want and then Eddy had that bad accident he never really recovered from. Polly had T.B. and Frances and her husband both died. It was almost the same with Pete's family this last year, only they were more fortunate and pulled through, though none of them are well really. Four of them came very near dying. Cliff in those strange attacks which luckily happened near a doctor each time. and then recently when he was nearly struck by lightning, (two mountain climbers were killed in that same storm) Mildred just barely pulled through the gall bladder operation last spring, the doctors weren't very hopeful, and then Jackie was awfully sick last fall and winter. Cam had what they called "amnesia" last fall ~~and~~ ~~so~~ when I was in Concord, and they found him after he had been missing a couple of days, and this spring he was nearly killed by monoxide poisoning, had Lila not found him in time. and Pete's mother could die any time with her high blood pressure. I am hoping that they are through their period of bad luck for it has taken an awful lot out of Pete.

Perhaps I will hear more in your next letter about Olive. We do feel it, though as I say it is hard to realize being so far away. What a shock to all the Concord family.

This is quite a letter and I still haven't told you about our day yesterday, Pete has been so tired that he sleeps late and I thought yesterday as it said on the radio it would be 80, it would be a good time to wash the kitchen floor and put the Glo-coat on and then it would last for a month or more. So had just finished ^{by washing} and Pete had had breakfast and we were going over town to get the Glo-coat when a taxi drove in, the Castles from Honolulu to say good-bye as they leave to-day and don't know how soon they will return. (She spoke of the time Donald came to Concord and asked me to thank you for it. He came out one time before Thanksgiving, was a brother of one of Ebbs friends.) They didn't stay very long and we went over before the store closed to get the Glo-coat (and ^{then} they forgot to give it to me with the groceries) Then we saw the Castles waiting at the Auditorium for the taxi and so went looking for it as they were anxious to get started before the rain, it had gotten stormy. Got home and Harold came for something, then Susan to return some books, all on my clean floor which should be waxed before it was walked on too much. Then they having forgotten to give me the stuff we had to set out for another store, ran into Pat Costigan who wanted us to see a picture he had brought back from Germany, so that took longer and we were too late to make the bank where Pete has to go on business to wind up the Store affairs. So then after running into numerous people we saw the Art Students Exhibit and met more people, mostly the artists. Came home and found Nick Morant had been here, so after waxing the floor at last, went in search of him. By then it was nearly supper time. We were supposed to go to the staff picnic at the lake but as it was getting stormy didn't go.

Now I must do all sorts of things.

Loads of love,

Catharine

PS. Sunday morning, Your letter of the 18th. came yesterday and so we telegraphed about the paintings. The trouble is that originally when ~~the~~ you asked if the pictures could be sent it was for July or August, and now it will be another month. I don't know just where the exhibition will go first in Canada, for they will have to work it in where they can. but if there is a delay with the customs again it will make it awkward. The last letter from the Art Gallery in London Ontario said it was all right if the sketches were back there by the end of September, for at ~~that~~ ~~time~~ ~~ixth~~ ~~ought~~ the time I wrote them last I understood they were to be shown in Concord from the end of August to the 16th of September. Those were the dates in Mary Abbotts letter to you.

It is very good of Russ and Kitty to go to so much trouble over a tea, but I hope they don't make it too large an affair for after all the pictures are only small sketches and it isn't like an exhibiton of paintings. It would be too bad for people to expect to see a lot of fairly large pictures and be disappointed, for then when we ever have a real exhibiton they won't be so interested.

You asked if we had read "Canadain Spring " I think I sent it to you at Christmas or your birthday. I enjoyed it very much but when reading had put the outside cover away because of the picture on it and so got the impresson that the Jacques were a very young couple Perhaps he had been in the War and after he came out of the Service they had made this trip having done a bit of such things before. So when I looked at the pictures of them on the back of the cover I was perfectly surprised to find them rather middle-aged looking. The Belmore Browns know them well and Niall Rankin met them in North Dakota this summer. He was at Delta getting material for his book. Have you read Mrs Jacques other books? The one in the snowshoe country should be good.

Perhaps I should give you one more address to send a notice to of the exhibiton,

Mr Gorden Hansen, 16 Barret St. Marblehead, Mass.

or did I give you this already?

We had a busy day yesterday, Dorothy Whyte coming down in the morning. We drove her around to see the changes in Banff, to call on the Moores for a minute and back here for lunch. More going about in the afternoon when we took the Indian Accounts over to Norman Luxton. and then picked up Edméé and brought her back for tea with Dorothy. By this time I could see Pete was tired and losing his voice so we took Dorothy up to the Hotel about 5.30. We had been invited to go up to Gerry MacGowans room for cocktails but decided it was too much of a thing, as it meant getting all cleaned up and changed. Pete went to sleep in his chair and before we had time to get our supper Joe Kingman his wife and her brother called. It woke Pete up. They were here for another brothers wedding at 8.30 and staying at Barbaras so just ran over for a short call. They are from Minneapolis. After they left Pete was just eating his soup etc. when another knock on the door and a Mr Dean and a friend from Calgary called. staying until nearly ten. They aren't really friends of ours but he came here once with Norah Cornwall from Victoria and I guess they hadn't much to do so dropped around to see us. But it made a long day.

Dorothy has gone to Lake Louise to-day but we may see her to-morrow.

Loads of love, Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.
August 20, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

We can't help thinking about Olive, even though it is hard to realize, I shall be anxious to hear what happened and whether it was the high blood pressure or what. It does seem so very sad when a Mother has to leave her children when they are growing up and really need her and they don't always have a Miss ^Pride to help. How old was Aunt Olive I wonder when she died, pretty young too. It is just terribly sad and we feel it very much.

It is Friday night and another busy day. Johnny was just over this evening and it reminded me of his escapade last Sunday which I forgot to tell you about. The young couple who lived at Barbara's for several years and have a baby just walking, are in their new house and the wife has Asthma badly and had a bad attack so the husband, who had to work at the hotel, asked Barbara if she could come up for the day to be with her, as the baby was bothering her and at times she can hardly breath, and in the end had to go to the hospital.

Anyway Johnnie knew she was to be away all day, but all the kids know where the food is and can look after themselves pretty well. Barbara came home at supper time to find that Johnnie had spent the day at Lake Louise having hitchhiked up there all by himself to see Bubby and come home on the bus. And as Barbara said she hadn't worried not knowing a thing about it.

Soon after 8 o'clock Sunday morning Johnnie started out, (so he has just told us) Walked to the station and then thumbed a lift, five cars went by and the 6th. was from New York with 4 boys about 19, Johnnie thought. Anyway they gave him a lift, he doesn't remember what he said to them. They stopped at Johnsons Canyon and walked up it 7 miles and back (this may be exaggerated) Then when he got to Lake Louise he looked up Bubby who is working at the Soda Fountain at Deer Lodge. But she didn't notice him right away as she was talking to " a traveller " (we think Johnnie mean't a tourist but the word traveller sounded funny as they get so many in the store selling things) We asked if he had lunch, and he said " Oh yes, two ice cream sodas " and then he went out in a boat with Yvonne LeGace (Bubby's school friend who she stays with up there) and had a horse back ride, " on Ray LeGaces' best horses with the fancy saddles, " and then Bubby put him on the bus for home. Quite a day for a 7 year old but I really think he was quite capable of the trip, He is very much interested in travelling and going places so no doubt he will try it again some where.

To-day Norman Luxton was down this morning, then we went over to see Jackie who wasn't there, found a letter from Toronto for Mom which we knew she was anxious for, and took that to her. It was from Marion and the Stockands have a furnished apartment, " with a grand piano and 40 steps to climb, " but not much more in the way of a description. However it is something that they found a place to live, Cam is looking so much better and like himself again so they all feel the move was worth it. We just hope so.

Then to the mail and back and I tried to finish up the Indain accounts, as there were a few items to add to several pages. Was just ready to take it over to Luxton when Johnny and Billy MacKenzie with Robert Walker came in, Also Dave to show us some pictures he had taken. The little boys are so interesting in everything and as it was Roberts first visit they had to show him the various things. Pete is very good explaining things and they just love it. Then we realized that it was time to meet Dorothy's train. Not knowing which one she would be on we met the first, and sure enough she was on it and it was only about half an hour late. Gerry MacGowan was down too so we all went up to the Banff Springs in the Jeep. (Dorothy is the one we saw so much of at the coast, Dorothy Whyte) We will see her to-morrow.

After that we had the Ford to pick up, having taken it around to be serviced earlier in the day, and when we got home found a note on the door. Mr Comfort needed some warm clothing for his trip to Jasper and wondered would he borrow some, so we ran around to their house, met the two daughters, (the wife was at a tea) and as he needed to buy some dungarees we all got into the Jeep and went to the store. Mrs Comfort came along about them so she came in the Jeep too, with her arms full of beads and other shopping and we came to the house, the six of us, to get a slicker etc. They stayed until nearly 7 o'clock for one daughter hadn't been here before and they seemed to enjoy it, then we took them back. He was one of the War Artists I told you about and terribly nice.

Yesterday was about as bad. First the wire from Russ which was upsetting, then Lloyd Harmon dropped in. (We are helping him a bit start a new business, ~~for him~~ He is buying one already established, but new for him.) Then we had to go to the Bank about the Guarantee and other things which took time, and a talk with Jackie about the insurance. He also told us that he is going away for two months this fall, taking Florence, her mother and Mom. This was the first we had been told, they expect to leave after Labor Day and drive into the States. Arizona I think is the place he spoke of. We are glad that Pete no longer has to think of how the store business is being run otherwise he would have felt rather concerned.

Bed time now. Oh yes. Most important of all. A letter from the Gallery in London Ontario, and it is allright with them as long as the sketches are back there by the end of September. When you first wanted the pictures it was for July and August, which we told them were the dates so we were a bit worried if the exhibition was to go on into September in case they had made other plans. But now it will be allright as long as the Art Centre allows plenty of ~~the~~ time for them to get back to Canada

Loads of love,

Catharine

P.S. Since writing this your letter came

Banff, Alberta.
August 25, 1948
Wednesday.

Dearest Mother,

It is just a week since Olive died and we were glad to get your letter of the 20th this morning, for we couldn't help but wonder what had happened. It didn't seem possible it was just her blood pressure but if one kidney was bad that might complicate matters. I wonder did she have the operation and the kidney removed, I guess it will be sometime before you hear the details, or should I say more details. Olive always seemed such a strong person and of course so very capable, but I expect the strain of the war years was hard on her. We feel so very sorry about it all.

Here they have a saying that the deaths in Banff always come in threes and it does seem to be that way. It is a small town and so you notice it more. But remember how Aunt Carrie Uncle Fred and Grandpa all died within a year I think it was and here the Buttricks have had three deaths in such a short time. It is hard on Aunt Mary Hoar.

Our weather is still cold, very windy and showery. So far we have had but two nice days this month when it was at all sunny all day and warm. and really since Indian Days it hasn't been very nice. Everyone talks about it but of course there is nothing one can do about it. For three days they have had rain in B.C. where the floods were and have lost a million dollar pea crop and the potatoes, which is hard on top of all their other losses, I am wondering will we get the rain here !

Have forgotten when we last wrote but have had lots of people dropping and various things to see to, and worst of all two bats in the bedroom night before last. Pete woke about 5.30 and heard one fluttering over, the flash light was downstairs and he had quite a time finding it. Did get the screen opened but only half way and if one bat didn't land on the wrong side of it and I was too shivery about it to get up while he was downstairs and do anything sensible about it. By the time Pete got back it was getting light and so the flashlight didn't attract them to the open window. We watched for sometime with our heads under the bedclothes but neither of them went out the window. We figured they must be hanging out of sight above the beams. It wasn't a pleasant thought. Charlie Reid told us in the evening that we should try the moth stuff as it would suffocate them, but we didn't like to do it too soon before going to bed ourselves. In the afternoon we had a good look on the outside and inside for a way they might get in and for them too and found a hole above the top beam in the very peak of the roof and thought we could see daylight coming through. Plugged the hole with a rag and a long pole to poke it in, and then of course last night kept listening for the bats to fly over. But they never did and we hope they had gone back out the hole where they came in, as they are like mice and perhaps a good memory.

Poor Pete was ducking about the room at 6 in the morning, my dressing gown over his head and the bats darting about and swooping this way and that, while I got wringing wet under the bed clothes and cold shivers down my back at the thought of the things.

Dorothy left to-day with Erling for Assinaboine. They spend the night at a halfway cabin and coming out at the same time is President and Mrs Copant of Harvard who have been at Erlings for 2 weeks. Hope they aren't having it too cold and rainy. They were down (Erling and Dorothy) yesterday morning, she stayed to lunch and then we drove her back to the hotel when we went for the mail. Allan Mather was over about Insurance, as we are trying to get the various policy's straightened out. Then Mom came down at supper time and stayed to eat when she found we had chicken and fresh peas the first Banff peas of the season for us. They are grown at Anthracite, my but they are good. We will have them every meal until the first frost! A Mr Fulmer died and she came to tell us about that and we urged her to stay. She was in good spirits last night and feeling better. The evening before she was down with some cousins of Pete's the Hilikers of Renton near Seattle. Their father worked on the railway with Jim Hill and later on the C.P.R. Pete knew them when he was little, 30 years since he had seen this one.

We also had a short call from the Vallances the other afternoon wanting us to go on a trip with them yesterday, walking, but we are so out of practise even if we hadn't so much else to do it would be hard to keep up with them. Now we are going to go for the mail and then maybe start the furnace, if we can to dry out the basement and warm up the house. We have just been using the fireplace and kitchen stove which is allright but it gets chilly up stairs. We could have run the furnace all summer I guess.

Am so glad you are having such a nice visit from Rusty. We owe him two birthday presents as they are always away on that day, Does he collect stamps? for if so that would be such a good present to send and easier than dutiable things.

Must go so loads of love,

Catharine .

Banff, Alberta.

Friday, Aug. 26, 1948

Dearest Mother,

We are so glad that Rusty is making you such a nice visit and I am sure he must be good company. Maybe he enjoys being on his own and feels more grown up, but it is nice to feel that he really likes Concord.

Our weather is not a great deal better but more sun than rain which is something. We have had a couple of quieter days and have had time to think and we are both feeling more relaxed, ~~and time to think~~. I thought that Cousin Jane put it very well in her letter to you when she said "it is not what I do that tires me but what I think." or really to quote from her exact words - "It is always the things I think that tire me rather than the things that I do." What I usually feel myself is that it is the things I don't get done that tire me the most. We try not to get annoyed when people keep saying "of course you have nothing to do and plenty of time for this and that." When there is always so much to be done and to see to. I guess people say the same about you, thinking you have so many people to do everything for you and yet never realize you must plan what they all do, and when, and what they eat etc. Anyway we are quite happy the way we live but would like to do more picture making than we seem to get done.

This morning Pete had trouble with his nose or throat so slept a bit later and I took the chance to write some letters, got two written besides vacuuming the front room, when a young couple came to invite us to cocktails at the Ronny Grahams house and also to have a look at our house, as they want to build a log house sometime. They are the daughter and son-in-law, had a big Great Dane with them, Pete was still upstairs so stayed and I sort of showed them round. She did most of the talking, the husband, named Neison I think, teaches Drama at a college in Georgia and was here for the summer school, but as the wife doesn't think he will ever make enough, and so she will ^{do the} cooking, she thought our arrangement just right. for while cooking you wouldn't miss what went on in the front room;

Then when we later went for the errands we kept running into people who wanted to chat. The Phillippses, Ted Paris and Mrs. Painter who we haven't seen all summer. Then as it was warm (for a wonder) out, we decided to pull up thistles, for it felt good to be working outside. Johnny appeared with Billy MacKenzie and a little girl named Charmain and they all came in for a cold drink and cookies. They love the house and had to show things to the little girl. Then Harold came to supper and had barely finished when Davy appeared feeling he had missed something. Pete has been talking to Mr Scott and now it is close to bedtime.

Yesterday I don't think we had any callers but we had an eleven o'clock funeral to go to which took a good part of the morning and in the afternoon we decided we had better start

the furnace ~~which~~ which we haven't had on all summer and it was pretty damp in the basement. We also went to the Indian Grounds to check up on whether or not the teepee poles had been put back and couldn't find them, talked with a Sergeant and then went to see the Harbidgees about them. We did see a flock of blue birds and feel it is early to see them starting back. But that is how the time slips by.

Saturday. Woke to find it raining but it looks as if it might clear yet with a few spots of sunlight. On the radio it said they have had two weeks of rain in B.C. and the Fraser River has risen 6 feet, and is 17 feet above normal, another 3 feet and it is in the flood stage again. The rain has ruined the pea crop, a million dollar crop which I think they mostly can and the potatoes are ruined too. What a time people have had. We haven't watered the lawn but once all summer and that was the first of July I think. and there hasn't been a forest fire so it does help the growth.

Better send this along now. Loads of love to you all. I expect that Cousin Jand and Mildred are with you which will be nice. How about Miss Anne Agge? I figure she hasn't been well enough to write for I miss her lovely letters but do hope she is not sick all this time.

Loads of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. evening
Aug. 29th. 1948.

Dearest Mother,

We have had a quiet day to-day and it has been sunny out for a wonder, but with Sunday traffic what it is in summer we never go on the main roads if we can help. I spent most of the morning writing a letter to Gray and Eleanor Campbell, the ones on the ranch near Pincher Creek. They write us such wonderful letters and I had answered their last written in July. Felt pretty good to get it mailed this afternoon and then went to our post office box and there was another letter from them! No wonder I get discouraged trying to catch up with my correspondence !

Also cleaned my hair from the dust of the golf course road and made a short call on Mom, she rarely goes out on Sunday except to sing at church in the evening and says Sundays seem a week long. Last night we were just on the verge of going to bed when the Comforts came to return the slicker Charlie Comfort borrowed to go to the Tonkin Valley near Jasper on a weeks painting trip. He and Will Ogilvie went together last Sunday. It is a long drive to Jasper, a horseback ride into the Tonquin Valley, and they hoped to do a lot of sketching as they hadn't had a chance during the summer school. Poor things it was so stormy they only got a glimpse of the mountains and never a sketch. Stopped at the Simpson(s on the way home and found 72 women their for lunch, a head lady with a whistle who organized them. They were quite amusing about it. I guess we wouldn't have fared much better had we gone out last week. They were saying goodbye to various friends and leaving early in the morning for Toronto. We showed them some of the Indian slides and it was really funny for the daughter couldn't believe the blue skies, said she hadn't seen any like that since she had been here ! They left a little after eleven and had one more call to make.

And now perhaps I can answer some of your letters for I forget not only questions but lots of things you enclose or mention and it is one way of having sort of a chat with you. First of all we don't have much time to read, not even the newspaper which I glance at and then read over later on, the same with the magazines. Winter we do better, reading after we go to bed.

Did I tell you when the Stockands went to Toronto they drove in their car (which Cam had when he had a salesman job) how the 7 of them got in for so long a trip we don't know , the U/S, roads are better and more direct, so that was one reason why they didn't come through Banff, but they could have, had they taken an extra day or two on the way. Latest word, they are in an apartment near the University in Toronto, so we hope no news is good news ! Pete always says that they have Rolls Royce ideas with a Ford income and that about hits it. Cam always liked things like Trap shooting and duck shooting and took The Spur and other expensive magazines and it is not easy to live on that scale with a large family.

Remember the 3 women at the Marshall House that all dress alike and hard faces? You said you would like to speak to them sometime, did you ever get up nerve ?

You spoke of the dish washer that Anne has and I have read about them in the various magazines. They do sound wonderful and maybe when we fix up the shelves in the kitchen (which we meant to do last time we changed the heating system and have a warm air duct to cover, but never have so far) we might put one in. I think it would be a good idea. Pete doesn't like me to do the dishes without helping to dry them, so we often leave them when it would be easier to have them done, but I know he doesn't feel like it lots of times. You can put them in the washer and then wash them later all together if there aren't too many. There is still no use of thinking of building things as materials and labor are too hard to get.

Do tell me if Rustie is interested in collecting stamps ? for we owe him two birthday presents. 1947 and '48.

Don't ever bother re-writing your letters, we love them as they are and don't think you are having trouble with your mind at all, We think you very bright in fact!

No, we don't read the Readers Digest so didn't see the article on the insane people in private houses, but there certainly are lots of people who have someone in the family a little mental, Ted Paris here is having one of a time. He married the Superintendents daughter and first she lived with the family as he was in the Air Force, was with him only a short time, got the idea her mother needed her as she might not live long, and now her father having died her mother lives with them and the girl can't stand to have Ted away more than a hour at a time, and the mother feels the daughter can't be alone and Poor Ted looks 20 years older than he should. It is a sad situation all round.

How is Mrs Motte and also Miss Anne Agge ?

Young Jimmy Simson plays professional Hockey in the winter and was very good until he dislocated his shoulder last spring and I don't know if he will keep on with it or not, maybe be a coach.

That was very nice about Farnum Smith marrying Sukey Locke, She was about Bo's age I think and a very sweet little girl with such a nice smile, haven't seen her for ages. Didn't Farnum Smith marry the Chittenden girl first ?

I still don't know what to say about the trip east, it depends on so many things, but I hardly think we would make it while the pictures are on exhibition, and am not sure whether Pete would feel like going in any case. I am really sorry not to give you any idea of what we will be able to do but I honestly don't know myself. We will just have to wait and see and hope for the best. I know you like to plan ahead and I do too but sometimes we just can't.

Its bed time so guess I will call this another letter. Hear that you are having a heat wave in the east and we think 70 warm here !

Loads of love,

Catherine
Mon. Guess what! Its raining again today.

Banff, Alberta.
Tues, evening.
August 31, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

It is hard to believe that tomorrow is September first, though goodness knows it feels like fall. To-day very windy and at times looked like rain and in the paper says showers tomorrow. Have been catching up on various things. Last evening we checked up on whether or not some Teepee poles which Pete had given Elmer Charlton permission to use for the movie when Normand Luxton was away, had been put back or not. We felt sort of responsible and were glad to find them safely back. Its all these little things that add up. Anyway we are feeling better and more rested. This afternoon asked Mary (MacDonald) Bell-Irving down to tea with Mrs Mac and the two children as there was no one to leave them with. One is five the other one and as Mrs Mac left Mary, ~~she~~ she had some things to do, we had rather a confused tea, though the kids were very good. However with little children there is always one to see to or take to the bathroom or pick up or something. In the end Ginnie, the aged four little girl asked if she could stay with us, would get her clothes and come back, so guess she liked it all right! Mary's husband is still in the Air Force, the Permanent one, and they live in Toronto, in some Veterans housing place, they had to have two children to get in and Mary likes it for it is sunny and they even have three small bedrooms and nice big kitchen and the other wives share looking after the kids when different ones want to go out which helps a lot. It was nice to see Mary again.

And now I think I will answer some of your old letters. First of all did I send you the clipping about the spider which trapped an 8 inch garter snake? in to-nights paper it says that a 2nd spider came to help but after three days the snake got away.

You did well to see the German Paintings, we haven't heard much about them as I don't believe they come to Canada. I expect they are famous ones from Museums in Germany and no doubt Sam knew them all, what a thrill he would get, it was quite wonderful he could go. John Pick (the friend) said that Cousin George was so good to Sam and made all sorts of ingenious things for him to use while lying in bed. Also that the slides he had made were wonderful too. I will enclose the letter Sam wrote, I got a bit mixed at first, as it came when we were so busy with Indian Days and so I just glanced at it, saw that it was Cousin Kathie's handwriting so thought it from her at first, and was to be a friend of hers! I see Mr Pick is a great friend of Sams, he was very nice but seemed sort of the affected kind and I am always wary of these "brilliant conversation-alists" the last one we had from Monteeal was described that way and had the most difficult time finding the right word to describe what he wanted to say. I suppose I understand better the ones who really paint themselves and produce something, not the ones who criticize others work though they can't do it themselves, if you know what I mean. Mr Aeyes was one of the few who knew a lot about pictures and had a great appreciation of them though not painting himself.

Did you read the article in the New Yorker by Cornelia Otis Skinner about their going to see the Pope when in Italy, she and her father and mother, I thought it awfully good. Yes I read the one about Ski Racing last winter, thought it true though I have never raced.

You never sent us the Book " Proper Bostonians " am sure we would like it and so would the Moores.

Remember you sent us the clipping about the Latvians who sailed across the Atlantic in a small boat, Well they couldn't enter the states and came north to Canada, while waiting to see if they could stay three or four other boat loads have arrived, and yesterday they said that the first boat load could stay, 30 or 40 people I think it was. The same thing happened last year and all those that were allowed to stay have made good. Pete and I feel that if people have enough courage and sense to cross over in a small boat like that they should make good citizens, don't you think so? I am glad they let them enter the country, poor people.

I don't know if I mentioned all the nice letters you had from people who had seen the garden, it just shows how much they must appreciate it. The gardens here behind the Administration building are very popular now, always a line of cars, they are really lovely being so full of color and the shrubs have grown a lot, and the pools and things look more natural than they used to. I am ashamed to say I haven't walked through them this year.

I think the Chambers have built a new house, just where is it and what is it like?

The Ant stuff you sent the Wards worked perfectly, I believe she hasn't written you yet, being just as busy as we are if not more so as they feel sorry for people who have no place to stay and then rent a room or put up an extra bed and have friends from all over who visit them, and also Cis does all the gardening and weeding etc. We haven't been up for quite a while. Pete isn't very keen on going out when evening comes.

We have no Public Library in Banff, only a tiny lending library. Some people are very interested in starting one but this spring couldn't find a building that someone wasn't living in. They even lived in the waiting room of the curling rink and the skating rink too.

No one has said much about Bert and Ann's baby lately and I hope he is allright. Hard always having a tiny baby ill. We were much interested in Frances and Gill and their painting lessons. They will have to come to the summer school here sometime! I think it is a good idea for people to try to paint and then they enjoy pictures so much more, it is different than leaning to play a piano or other musical instrument, you have to be pretty darn good to get much out of it I would think.

That was quite a time you had when the men from M.I.T. came to the swimming pool, Does seem funny for the Kidder boy never to ask, *and what about the ones who came at night?*

What a time over Aunt Esther and Phik and Frances visit, and how fortunate this time that it turned hot. It would be nice to see them but they never think of all the trouble it might be, cooks away and all and as you say they don't give you time to plan.

Aunt Esther must be pretty smart to travel so far. for isn't she getting quite elderly?

The picture you sent of the five South American Quints are awfully cunning, really handsome children, I remember the first notice when they were born.

Am sending a couple of clippings, one about a thief stealing Satsuma China, seemed funny to have them know what it was. The other about the Sprinkler system going wrong at Rideau Hall where the Gov. Gen. lives in Ottawa. It was on the radio and well told, for it seems that the housekeepers etc were getting every thing in readiness for the state visit of Lord Louis Mountbatten and the sprinkler broke and the water came down through three floors bringing plaster with it and leaving 3 inches of water on the ball room floor I think it was, then it added that this happened on Friday, the Alexanders would arrive home on Saturday and the Mountbattens would get there Sunday. I guess accidents still happen in the best of reguâated familys !

The family will all be home now but what a nice visit Rustie had with you, He must be very good comapany and as you say so thoughtful.

Loads o love to all, and Mildred and Cousin Jane if they are still with you, I get a little mixed.

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. Sept. 5, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

This is the Labor Day weekend and not a very moisy one though there were lots of people over town when we went for the mail. It has been real fall weather and very chilly. They said on the radio it was 25° last night or early this morning, though it didn't seem to be frost all over town and Cis said her garden didn't get it, but the Government garden looked a bit black. and the potatoes got it too,

We haven't caught up with Mr Vallance as yet, Peter Vallance came down Thursday night to tell us his father would see us over the weekend, we might have missed him yesterday afternoon when we went to do the shopping and we don't like to trouble him on Sunday so will have to see him to-morrow .

Friday we wondered where Dorothy was, think I told you this for we went looking for her at the hotel, heard she was down town and came right back, she came in a few minutes later, stayed about an hour and told us all about her trip, she was to have lunch with Edmeé and other things. Had a fine time with Erling Strom, on the way out, they spent the night at Brewster Creek the same time as the Conants of Harvard. He is a great fisherman and had good fishing and wants to come back next year again which is nice. Dorothy said they were very nice.

That evening we were supposed to have supper at the hotel with the Moores but hadn't known and in the end we didn't go. but after supper Erling brought his neice Else Blick down and met Dorothy here. Else is a most attractive girl, speaks her native Norwegian. French and Italian (having lived there during the War) and English. Dorothy thinks she is a wonderful girl and very resourceful. For Erlings birthday she made a model of the camp out of matchboxes and things that she had out there, which aren't many. it was all to scale and the ground graded realistically, on a tray. She had been to Calgary for the day and just back on the bus when she came here, liked the house and pictures. Dorothy met them here and we showed her the Indian slides while Erling had to go up to the campground to see some one.

Saturday I did the usual cleaning and we looked for Mr Vallance to come round, and then Dorothy came about noon. she stayed for lunch with us and we talked afterwards for quite a while about all sorts of things, it was too cold and cloudy to go anywhere much. Then did the errands and took her back up to the hotel. They are going to Lake Louise for to-day and then Dorothy leaves to-morrow. We met Mary MacDonnãd overtown and she was leaving later for Toronto, so when train time came we thought maybe it would be nice to go down and invite Mrs Mac (her mother) to supper after the train left, for otherwise she would have to go back to her house which would seem v very empty with Mary and the 2 children gone. Of course in the end the

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Saturday I did the usual cleaning and we looked for Mr Vallance to come round, and then Dorothy came about noon. she stayed for lunch with us and we talked afterwards for quite a while about all sorts of things, it was too cold and cloudy to go anywhere much. Then did the errands and took her back up to the hotel. They are going to Lake Louise for to-day and then Dorothy leaves to-morrow. We met Mary MacDonãd overtown and she was leaving later for Toronto, so when train time came we thought maybe it would be nice to go down and invite Mrs Mac (her mother) to supper after the train left, for otherwise she would have to go back to her house which would seem v very empty with Mary and the 2 children gone. Of course in the end the

the train was an hour late and it was after 7 when Mrs Mac arrived for supper. We had sort of slowed it up and the roast wasn't too done. Then we sat and talked in front of the fire and I think Mrs Mac hated to go home for it was way after ten when she left. She has to have some serious operation this fall (she didn't say what it was but it might be her gall bladder removed) anyway she can't decide where to have it done. If in Calgary Mary would want to come and have to park the children with someone, and if in Toronto it would cost so much more in many ways, She said the doctor told her she couldn't do much for a year afterward.

To-day we were a bit late getting up and then Dr Riley came to bring us some brocoli and cauliflower from his Calgary garden. He is always full of interesting things. Does the autopsies in many of the cases in Calgary so when he said he had been doing lots of carving lately I didn't know if he meant People or wood. He also said that he had never heard of a bat getting in anyones hair, but that they dive to catch mosquitoes and so often dive near a person's head

England This afternoon we went up to Edmees for a few minutes to take her a birthday present, some lavender that Lucy Kerr sent me from London. A great big box full and still on the stalks. Lovely real English lavender. When we came back we met Sam and Cis on the river road and so they came in for a while, the first time we have seen them for sometime. Cis is to write you soon, is still using the stuff you gave her, for the ants moved over from one place to another.

Did Aunt Julie really celebrate her 50th wedding anniversary ? and Uncle John of course too . It doesn't seem possible they are old enough, but of course they must be getting older too.

Has Mrs Wayman's book come out yet ? Maybe in it she will say why she turned Catholic, or you might ask her. and Has the new Walt Disney movie about Apples come out yet ? Sounded good.

Am so glad that Rustie collects stamps for it is a wonderful present for a boy. Does Gale still collect them and Hanna ?

We had such a nice letter from Marion Hudson Wilmot.

Dorothy said that they had the most wonderful response to the appeal for the flood sufferers in the Fraser Valley and other parts of B.C. got \$ Two million dollars, that is a lot for a country with a population of only 12 or 13 million. and she said a lot came from the states.

I am reading over old letters and see that in one you spoke of Kitty having danced with a man who asked for me. Marcy Lichauco. He was the Filipino boy from Manila, was in Russell's class and Bubby Shaw knew him well. He wrote a book about the Phillipines struggle for Independence. I often wondered what had happened to him, so it was fun hearing from him again. Wonder if the Adamoski boy turned up. Tad Adamoski he was Polish.

Did they ever get the Monument St, Bridge fixed ? You spoke of having to go way around by Steds.

Mrs Simpson said that it was Kenneth Haddow from Kashmir in India who was up at Bow Lake. I think they were there when the

Wilmots were. They have gone now but hope to settle in Canada and may come back this winter for the skiing. Next time I see Mrs Simpson will find out more about them. I think this wife is European but am not sure. She thought them very nice.

Speaking of "Canadian Spring" by Florence & Francis Jaques see if you can get "Snowshoe Country" for it won the 1946 John Burroughs Medal as the most outstanding nature book of the year. They also wrote "Canoe Country" and "The Geese Fly High" and "Birds Across the Sky." I loved "Canadian Spring" and Delta which they wrote so much about was where Niall Rankin was. He by the way with Lady Jean are the ones who came to Canada on their Wedding trip the year we first ran Skoki and it was largely because there was a wire to Cliff that they were coming, that we got busy and equipped the camp and operated it. They came for a couple of weeks and stayed six weeks in all, then went around the world. We visited her Father and mother in Scotland. The Earl and Countess of Stair at Lochinch Castle in Stranraer, Jean was in Scotland at the time. We went just for a night we thought and had to stay two as there were no trains running on Sunday. Niall isn't titled, he writes for magazines and books on birds and is well known as a photographer.

We got the invitation to the Exhibition ^{in Concord} and thought it well worded, really just right. I am sorry there was such a mix up about how long it could be there, but guess it is allright even if they couldn't say how long it would be hung ^{on the card}.

Sam Maniere's friend just seemed a little affected to us perhaps because we don't see many of his type. His accent was the Cultured kind some people sort of affect. I can't quite explain it but I guess he has been awfully good to Sam.

I guess I never thought to say how stout (the polite way) of saying fat) Pete is getting. Actually he wasn't very much stouter until last year and everyone teases him. I think it is mostly lack of exercise, and he has lost most of his hair too, on top. But sometimes people who were very muscular get stout when they stop exercising strenuously.

Still can't give you any idea about coming on, it was good of you to say that Pete could rest and not see anyone, but we will just have to see how things go. Right now he doesn't want to go away from home very far. You know if you don't feel awfully well home seems best and a lot of his trouble is emotional. I realize you and Russell want to know but I honestly can't tell.

The heat must have been terrific, lucky the Bagleys didn't arrive just as it started or you all would have been exhausted! The hot weather did you one good turn.

How nice you had the call from Mrs Hyatt. Nice too of Mrs Cochrane to want you to visit her. She always seemed such a nice person. Am glad that the Morrisons found a place to stay and hope they can find something in Concord. It is too bad there isn't sort of a row of tiny houses where the heat is taken care of etc. but where lone ladies can have a few rooms, just enough to be comfortable in, but none of the care.

Hasn't Mr Longstreth just written a book on Daniel Chester French? I don't think I ever met him.

This is getting to be quite a letter, it is like spending the evening having a little visit with you. I know you don't think I get east very often but I am not as bad as some daughters. Allan Mathers wife, Grace, is going home to Prince Edward Island to visit her family for the first time in 12 1/2 years. She is taking the two children with her and Allan hopes to go on and pick up a new car so they can drive back.

You spoke of Sted and Cal going over, Did Bo go or not ? You mentioned it once.

That was a nice letter from Edith, I guess her family keep her on the go allright.

It is bedtime so will end this long letter. To-morrow we most likely will be busy seeing Dorothy off at noon (she is the one I used to see nearly every day in Vancouver and where we went and stayed in the country with her mother who was over 80 when she lost a leg. She is dead now.) When Mr Vallance to see and probably Jackie on account of the new Grocery thing if it goes through all-right.

We are having wonderful fresh peas, or were, for maybe the frost took them . Seems funny our first peas of the season the end of August.

When Mary left on the train with the two kids, one 5 and the other 1 and teething, they asked the doctor if they could give the baby anything if he started to cry etc. and the Doctor said, an aspirin every 4 hours. They had tried it when he kept them all awake for several nights and it worked like a charm! They got the idea when Mrs Hammond took her small Grandchild to Nassau by plane from Calgary, Just a baby in arms. The doctor gave them something, a sedative of some sort which he said would be harmless, and the baby slept most of the way ! Sounds awful but Mrs Mac said it wasn't nearly as awful as the paragoric people used to give children, and I can remember that, a drop on some sugar in a spoon and it tasted real good ! Ideas change.

Loads of love,

Catharine

3auff.

Sept 10, 1948.

Friday.

Dearest Mother,

just wanted you to know why I haven't written the last few days. Pete has been awfully sick but feels better this morning, but we had quite a time yesterday & for 2 nights. I can't explain it all now but think the way things were going it just reached a climax. Funny each one in the family have had their turn at being sick. We hope to get a real check over for him.

Its lovely weather
thanks for writing about the
pictures being hung. Sounded
fine. Loads of love & will write
more later. Catharine.

Bauff.
Alberta.
Sept 11, 1948.
Saturday.

Dearest Mother,

Things are much better now and am sorry that I couldn't write more & sooner. Pete is feeling so much better that it is hard to have him willing to go the hospital, but Dr MacKenzie feels it is best (& so do I) to have him up there for a while where he can be quiet & rest & no visitors & where he can build him up again.

You fine letters & those of Mildred's & Aunt Jules came today all about the exhibition & how well it all went. How beautifully arranged the flowers were & how well Kitty gave the tea. The letters came just the right time for

them to encourage Pete. + jeans too about fixing the flowers + saw much she thought people would enjoy the sketches helped out too.

This trouble of Pete's has been building up for a long time but I had hoped we could get a change + he would gradually start to feel better. But always something happened to prevent us doing our own things.

There is no chance to really write until Pete is settled in the hospital. I haven't made the bed or washed the dishes since Wednesday night. Pete had a high temperature + sort of delirious. + at first Dr Mackenzie thought it was a flu going round. He was down Wed evening. + gave him something to take. Pete woke in the night + had such

realistic dreams he was sure
 there was a fire over town & he
 must go. I couldn't keep him
 in bed & he insisted on dressing
 & going out. Luckily I got him
 to Maria & a telephone. She was
 home. It was 11.30 at night &
 we got the doctor in spite of
 a big wedding & dance that
 night. He was wonderful &
 stayed until 2.30 in the
 morning trying to settle Pete
 down. Mom & I were up all
 that night except for 2 hours
 sleep I had. Then at 11
 the next morning we go a nurse
 & she was fine! Stayed right
 through until midnight. But
 Pete was so restless that he
 thrashed around & some one had
 to watch him all the time.
 However he finally settled
 down & slept the 2nd night.
 Mom had 5 hours sleep & I

Thanks

approve of ideas
if possible for Sat.

~~Miss Seaton
at Fred -~~

72 Station 7
D

Monis 25th

These were notes about getting
reservations for Elsie Freeman.
Please excuse

about 3 hours. So we are a bit bleary eyed. They would have taken Pete in at the hospital yesterday but 2 emergencies used the rooms. We are just waiting now for the doctor to come.

He came & P is to go up this afternoon for a few days complete rest -

No time to write more. Don't worry things are going pretty well.

Lots of love
Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. evening.
Sept. 12, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

I don't know when I will get caught up in telling you all that has happened, but we are nearly back to normal and Pete will come back from the hospital to-morrow afternoon. He has recovered quicker than we thought for he really was terribly sick from Wednesday night until Friday morning, I wouldn't have sent the air-mail or scared you but at the time it looked pretty grim and thought I should give you some sort of warning. However after he finally slept late Thursday night he was alright though a bit groggy Friday and then Saturday afternoon he went up to the hospital as the doctor thought a few days rest would be good. Dr MacKenzie had to go to Edmonton for a few days until Wednesday and Pete seemed so much better last night that he said there was no reason he couldn't come home to-morrow and stay as quiet as possible here.

Naturally I haven't done much but be with him and never before have I sat up two nights in a row with only a couple hours sleep, it didn't seem to bother me much only I was a bit more stupid. After taking Pete up to the hospital and getting him settled, I did the shopping for the weekend and then had a bath at Mom's which felt awfully good, a light supper and back up to the hospital for the evening. Then to bed for a good sleep.

The sleep was good but at 8.15^{am. Sunday morning} I could hear Mom's voice outside calling me, jumped up thinking "Pete must have fallen out of the high hospital bed" but it was a telephone from Lake Louise for me, and they were leaving in half an hour. So I put on a coat over my pyjamas and ran up thinking it was the Cliffords again. Got Deer Lodge but they couldn't locate them and then I thought it might be Tom Link, which it was and he wanted to know if we would be in Banff Wednesday as his brother wanted him to spend the day in Calgary, so it was fine to tell him we wouldn't be able to spend the day with him in any case, and will just see him at the station as he goes through on the train. Of course he didn't know that Pete had been sick. But those are just the unexpected things that happen. Then I had a cup of coffee with Mom and went back to bed but not for long as it didn't seem worth while when I was wide awake by then.

Instead I washed up Wednesday nights supper dishes and then decided to try and start the furnace as Sunday I knew I wouldn't have to go anywhere until it was going properly. It mean't a lot of running up and down stairs and as the basement floor is wet changing shoes each time I went down and came up. Usually I stay upstairs and Pete down until it is regulated, but I managed alright, doing the cleaning downstairs at the same time. Had a sandwich for lunch and up to the hospital for the afternoon.

I knew that Elsie Freeman Clifford (she was at Wheelers) her husband and two boys would be coming from Lake Louise and as I drove in Mom's gate noticed a jeep station wagon and sure enough it was them , so took them over to Barbaras and told them to come here as soon as they were washed up. So they were here a short time and then I took them to supper at the Mt. Royal, a very good supper too. and then at seven I went back to the hospital and they out to see the beaver. So now I have just come back home, fixed the furnace for the night and will go to bed now I have written you.

Mom and Jackie and Florenve and Mrs Waterworth (her mother) are leaving for a motor trip into the states Tuesday morning. They were to have gone to-day but Jackie had to stay over as he is subletting the grocery department and then with Pete being so sick Mom wouldn't go and also didn't have much chance to get ready. However I think now they will go as planned and in a way it will be best to have it quiet here for us. Though Jackie has been so good ever since Pete was sick, couldn't do enough to help and so concerned. He drove him to the hospital and I was glad ~~that~~ they could talk over the letting of the Grocery etc in a nice friendly way. Jackie didn't disagree as usual with everything we said. I think he is feeling better and has his affairs settled too which helps his peace of mind.

Must go to bed now. I am afraid that this sickness of Petes may make it difficult for me or us to go east, for I feel I mustn't leave him, I really shouldn't have gone that last time for he had a cold while I was away and was real sick then and he never got over it that winter and then got caught in all the family troubles. Mom and I were saying that it is two years since it all seemed to start, Jackie being sick, Mildred breaking her leg etc. and it has kept up steadily ever since. I don't know how Mom has stood it all so well. No wonder she has a high blood pressure!

Loads of love,

P.S. We are leaving ^{California} lovely weather!
Your Airmail about the book just came, haven't had time to read the folder yet but doubt if we want it.

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. Sept. 15, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

I hope I didn't upset you by my first letter telling you that Pete was sick, he is so much better now, but at that time I was a bit worried myself and felt you would want to know he was sick in case he got worse. By this time you will have received my other letters and know that he is all right again and back home. Dr MacKenzie had to go to Edmonton Saturday but when he saw Pete up at the hospital that night he said it would be alright for him to come home Monday afternoon and he would call as soon as he got back which will be to-night but no doubt it will be to-morrow afternoon before we see him. Poor Dr. After being up until 2.30 with Pete Wednesday night and two small operations that Thursday morning and around to see Pete about 7 times that day, He never got to bed until 6.30 Saturday morning with a difficult maternity case. Said that in the old days both the mother and baby would have died it was such a difficult birth. Anyway after he sees Pete to-morrow he can tell us a bit more.

We have had two rather quiet days. I picked Pete up at the hospital about two on Monday, had the furnace going on Sunday (thought I was quite smart to get it going so easily) and the house nice and warm. Mom was down a couple of times as she and Jackie left with Florence and her mother (Mrs Waterworth) for a trip into the states. They had planned to leave Sunday morning but with Jackie subletting the Grocery starting the first of October he couldn't get away until Monday, and with Pete sick it delayed Mom. She was wonderful really in all she did for Pete, and I am afraid pretty tired when she left. for one night she never slept and the next night was almost as bad, and then there were so many sheets and things to be washed out and the house to tidy up and all. However they got away Tuesday morning, though we didn't get up to see them off.

Yesterday, Tuesday, Pete felt well enough to say hello to the Sidney Cliffords who are staying at Barbaras, We had Elsie and her husband over for tea and a nice visit, and it didn't seem to tire Pete, though we are trying not to have people come and stay too long. While they were here your wire came, and Elsie said that when they get back to Providence they will try to drive up to Concord to see you and tell you that Pete is alright again! They are such a nice couple and I think that her father was a friend of GrandPas, Uncle John might know. Freeman was his name. An engineer in Japan I think at one time. They left early this morning for Edmonton, having borrowed a friends Jeep station wagon to drive here in, that was why there were so many messages etc.

Last night Harold and Davy were over at supper time to tell us that they are both in an educational movie being taken in the mountains and quite tickled with the idea, especially as they have to miss school. Harold stayed to help me dry dishes, which I thought very nice of him, then he remarked that he would rather help me as there aren't as many dishes here as at their house.

While Harold was still here there was a knock on the door and we thought it was Johnny, but it turned out to be Ted and Mrs Evans, they rent the meat market and live above it, and knowing that Pete has been sick they brought a big pitcher of wonderful soup and some fresh eggs for him. The first time they have been here and were very interested in the house and pictures, but it was nice of them to come.

To-day We saw Tom Link go through on the morning train. Just time enough to hear of the trails he had built at O'hara, His brother is a geologist for the Oil companies and is just back in Calgary so he was to stop off and see him instead of spending the day with us, It would have been too much for us this year.

Otherwise the day was rather quiet, I did a bit more washing trying to catch up, also went looking for Will Ogilvie's pants which he lost at one of the dry cleaners but didn't know which one and wrote us from Toronto about it, and then arranged for an Indian Jacket for Gerry MacGowan's to be cleaned etc. All sorts of odd things. Then just before supper the Morrants came in but didn't stay long when we explained that Pete had been sick etc. and then this evening Allan Mather dropped in about Insurance and told of his trip east to Prince Edward Island. Grace and the girls go by train first and then Allan goes later, picks up a car and they all drive home together.

Now it is nearly bed time so will call this a letter.

Loads of love
Catherine

P.S. We don't care about the \$15.00 Art Book you wrote about for to tell the truth we aren't as interested in old paintings as in the contemporary ones. Also about the cheques, I don't think I did cash them, the first because I wasn't buying tickets east and I put the birthday one away with it and now I can't find it will look to-morrow.

Thus, nice letters from you this morning. no need to worry now, am sorry to have gotten you so concerned. will write again as soon as Dr M has been here

more love

C.

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. Sept. 16th '49

Dearest Mother,

Another Airmail though there isn't much new to report. We waited most of the day expecting Dr MacKenzie to come round after his trip to Edmonton, then when I went for the mail this afternoon and saw his car outside the clinic I stopped in, but found that though his car was there, he was in Canmore with Dr Costigan and Dr Fulton. They had two major operations this morning and another two this afternoon. Things that had come up while he was away taking a few days study on anesthetics. So I knew there wouldn't be a chance of our seeing him till to-morrow. However I went back later when he was due back and met him as he came in. He is coming over to-morrow but thinks that if Pete can get doing our own work again he will be allright, and the little troubles will gradually disappear. Anyway he will be over to-morrow.

Dr

While there I learnt that Pat Costigan is flying east to-morrow for two weeks and is to take a short course at the Harvard Medical School, I asked if it would help him if we gave him Russell's address and both Pat and Dr MacKenzie seemed very pleased as they haven't been able to make any hotel reservations from here and he might need some help while there. I think he decided to go in a rush and hasn't been able to apply for extra money so if Russ should be away in New York he might telephone you if he got stuck, He is an awfully nice young man, was a doctor with the Canadian Paratroopers during the war and dropped with them into Germany, He is the one who plays hockey and in Time they had a bit about him leaving the game and delivering a baby and getting back in time to play the last period! Of course he may not call you at all but just so you know about it.

I am getting sleepy so can't think of much more to-night and no time to look over your last letters to answer them properly. I won't try to telephone you as it isn't very satisfactory and some of our local operators are a little too interested in the conversations, However if you really want to just say hello and not have me tell you anything, I can call up some evening ?

Loads of love,

Catharine .

Banff, Alberta.

Sept. 18, 1948

Dearest Mother,

This will be the last Air Mail I will send for a time, just mail them ordinary mail, so there may be a lapse of a few days after you get this letter.

Pete seems to be getting on fine, Dr MacKenzie was over yesterday morning and stayed for quite a long talk. He feels that with a person who creates something, like painting or writing or music, that if they can get back to doing that one thing and forget about the other responsibilities, they will be alright. He realizes all that Pete has had to contend with these last few years, but now that most everything is settled Pete can turn his thoughts to pictures etc. As Dr MacKenzie said, it was the people who had no real interest that were hard to help. He told Pete to finish up the medicine he gave him, I think it is most likely vitamin things, and then he would see whether he needed any more or not. But he didn't think it would help at all to get away or go on a trip, he thought we would feel better just to be able to get painting again, so that is what we are going to try and do and with the fall color just starting and nice weather we might get out for a bit of sketching this month.

I haven't time to write much this morning, we are just waiting now for Dave Prosser as he is to take a new Jeep down to Gray Campbell on the ranch if he can get one in Calgary. We told Gray we would help him get a new one for his old one, as with the two little boys and Eleanor having a new baby in March we think they should have reliable transportation this winter. There has been a bit of writing back and forth about it and we telephoned him last night with some difficulty. Once that is arranged we won't be entering into more arrangements for other people.

The book Cache Lake Country came to-day thanks so much. Didn't you think it interesting? and the little sketches were so good. I thought a lot of the things Rusty and Gibby could do in the woods. Have some stamps for him and will try to get them mailed this weekend. I sure have lots of letters to catch up with.

Loads of love,

Catherine .

Banff, Alberta.

Sept. 20, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

We had the most perfect fall day yesterday, not a cloud in the sky and very little wind, the sun nice and warm and the aspen trees turning gold. We were up quite early for a Sunday and had a letter to mail on the 10 o'clock train, after that we went looking for Allan Mather and found he had gone to Minnewanka so decided to go out there too and see how the color was coming along. Found them busy trying to haul in the Osprey, one of the motor boats that they have on the Lake in summer and is then hauled up a track into the boat shed for the winter. The tracks had spread and the lake risen rather suddenly because of a recent rain and so the spread part was way under water and they were having quite a bit of difficulty.

We watched them working for quite a time, Allan and five others, one with the Jeep and two to turn the winch, It was lovely in the sun. We were anxious to get some old bus seats that Allan has stored out there for Grays Jeep and it worked just right for we got those easily while the shed was unlocked. Then we drove back via Anthracite. The color is best way up high on the slopes, in the valleys the trees are still a dirty green but there were some nice patches out by the Lake. It was such a beautiful day it was nice being out, but before we had gotten home again the Sunday traffic started and with most of the roads dusty right now it isn't much fun with many cars about.

Had a chicken dinner, We get the chickens cut into pieces for frying and then fry just what we can eat, then cook them under pressure and make gravy and it is very good, We also had the last peas of the season, so they say. After luncheon washed my hair and then Pete washed and cleaned out the Jeep, he seems to feel more like tackling such things, so much of the time this summer he has spoken of things he wanted to do but never quite got around to doing them. Harold was over but otherwise it was a very quiet day.

Monday, to-day we have been busy doing all sorts of odd things, it has been cloudy and looked like rain all day and a high wind, funny after such a clear day yesterday. We paid bills, and saw about Insurance and paid the nurse and other errands. Pete had a talk with Joch McCowan who is coming into the Grocery part of the store and will start in next week to run it on his own. In fact we did a lot. Also went and had our chests x-rayed at the T.B. clinic. They do it very well now and so quickly. a trailer all fixed up with the X-ray and darkroom and two men doing the work. All you do is register and give your age and doctor etc. and then without taking off any clothes but your coat, you stand in front of a thing in the trailer and they snap the thing. They say they can handle 80 people in an hour. They go from town to town in Alberta and if anything shows on the x-Ray they let you and your doctor know about it. It is free too, they do it at the school.

We also went over to see Grace Mather, she and the two girls go east to Prince Edward Island to-morrow. She is pretty excited as she hasn't seen her father for over 12 years. Her mother died when she was only ten and so it is a step mother they call Grand-ma. The girls are terribly excited.

I should answer some of your recent letters but I think I am too sleepy to to-night. If it is cloudy and rainy to-morrow I will. I know there are some questions to answer. If it is nice we just might get out sketching, we got the paints and canvas all ready this afternoon just in case.

Tuesday. It is very mild, was overcast early but clearing now, so won't write much more. It was nice of Mrs Brooks to want the sketch, I will have to figure out what to do. It will have to stay with the show this winter but later on I'll see. I can't quite remember if someone else spoke for it or not, but I don't think so.

Loads of love
Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.
Sept. 22, 1948
Wednesday.

Dearest Mother,

We really feel badly that we worried you so about Pete, so please don't worry any more for he is feeling so much better and more like doing things. You know how nervous you get over some things and it is apt to start exema etc. and yet it is hard to stop being nervous? Well, Pete isn't nervous but he gets very tense when he is troubled or worried about something and that upsets him. It just came to a head two weeks ago and that was what I think caused him to be sick, but now that the things that were troubling him are settled he should feel better and he is much more rested. I can't really explain more now and he hates me to say anything about it anyway. I guess all people are made a little differently so what bothers one doesn't trouble another. Just give us time and everything should be allright. and there is really nothing for you to worry about.

To-day was great fun. We went to O'hara after breakfast and could have been home for a late lunnh ! George Noble got permission two years ago for us to take him and Bill Jamison(who works in the store for him) up to Lake O'Hara for pictures in the Jeep. But we wanted to go after the camp was closed, and two years ago because of the weather and a wedding of one of his girls we couldn't get it in, last year we didn't make it either, so when it was such a lovely day on Sunday and quite nice Monday, Pete thought it would be fun to see if we could go this week some time, Bill is having his holidays and Wednesday the store closes so George thought it would be a good day. We spent most of the afternoon getting ready for all emergencies, an axe for fallen trees, a shovel in case of getting stuck, rope and chains and a couple of blankets and raincoats and of course tea and the lunch.

This morning we were up at 6 o'clock, had a big breakfast and also made the sandwiches and tea and soup etc. They were here on the dot of 7 o'clock and we started a few minutes later. With the two bus seats in the back it is quite comfortable for 4 of us in the Jeep. The weather didn't look very promising for there were heavy clouds in the west but after getting all ready we thought we might as well go. The sun was out a good part of the way and though the clouds were fairly thick we weren't too discouraged. The color was nice in patches on the way up and it gave us a good chance to see where it was nice for parts haven't turned much as yet. One can't go as fast in the Jeep so it was nearly nine when we got to Wapta, after stopping to fill the gas tank just in case - . George had telephoned the day before saying we were coming for we had to get the key to the gate from the Game Warden. Bill and I were a bit worried when we saw George f going all round the game warden's house and no sign of smoke or anyone at home, but the key had been left in an envelope on the back door. So George didn't even have to show the letter which was 2 years old!

It seemed funny after walking into Lake L'Hara so many times to be riding up the long first hill in a Jeep. The weather was no better and pretty overcast with rain on mountains in the west beyond Field, but we kept on and the road was pretty good. It really is just a trail and in one part so many ups and downs that it felt just like a roller coaster to Bill and I in the back part. The first big creek we forded through the water, but the next one we thought for a moment would stick us for there were two bridges, 1 for horses and people and it looked too narrow for the Jeep, the other was just two logs with a smaller log on either side of the big ones which would keep the wheels on the main log, but the two tracks so far apart for the Jeep that we were afraid it wouldn't stretch, it was for wider gauged trucks. George had a measure and found we could just make it nicely, the narrow bridge had just an inch to spare and the tires would have caught in some places. So we got across quite nicely. Pete drives those kinds of roads well for it was quite tricky as there are lots of rocks sticking up in the middle. It took us from 50 to 55 minutes to drive in and we were there by ten o'clock.

It was as lovely as ever even if a cold wind with hail hit us as we walked down to the lake by the cabins. We had a good look at the garden that Tom Link had made in front of the building, where before had been just gravel, now it is grass and little stone walks and steps and very naturally laid out, a great improvement. It was getting colder and too cold to just stand around and as we wanted to see the new trail the Links had built around the north side of the lake we decided to go on that. It is really a lovely trail and represents a lot of work and gives a lot of fine views from a different angle. We walked right around in spite of sudden squalls of hail and wind. As we came back the hail was beginning to pile up in tiny drifts.

We then ate lunch in the shelter of some big trees on what is called Sargents point as John Singer Sargent painted his famous picture of Lake O'Hara from there. We didn't take long over lunch and by 20 minutes to 12 headed down the trail again, it was ten to two when we came into Banff. 2½ hours. what it usually takes to walk out from O'Hara to Wapta. As we got down the trail it turned to snow and we couldn't even see the Wapta Lake from the top of the hill far less the mountains. It snowed until after we left Lake Louise, then rained a bit but was clear in Banff, though after we had been home a while we had a big wind and rain storm which broke up the Canmore Banff School track meet planned for to-day.

We didn't take a photograph but had a good time and now we know how comparatively easy the trip in is, so we can go another time. The larches above the lake were all turned, another year we would like to go in the middle of September and camp in there when the regular Chalet closes. For it is the loveliest time of year.

Now I am getting too bleary to write any more, I did write a letter to Tom Link this afternoon to tell him how much we liked his trails and garden, for he has been anxious for us to see them and we have never been in since they were made.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Sat. Sept 23, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

Don't know if this will be much of a letter but I am too sleepy to write anyone else to-night and maybe I won't be able to write much to you either.

The last two days have been lovely, perfect fall days, probably because of a good frost each night, even Calgary had it 28° last night and it has been that or lower here. We really were lucky to have gotten the tip to O'Hara for now even if the weather is nice the chances are there is too much snow to tackle the trail to O'Hara with unknown rocks etc. The mountains still have snow on them, especially to the west, it must have snowed from the time we left until Thursday morning, We heard that they had a foot and a half at the Icefields Wednesday, That is on the Banff-Jasper Highway so expect there was about the same in the O'Hara district.

Thursday was cold and gray here and then yesterday morning after a good frost it was lovely and clear. We at last went sketching, not that we did anything very remarkable but at least we started. Went a little way out the west road, near the Beaver dam. The rain storm here Wednesday night sort of ruined the color, or else it knocked off the brightest leaves for it is very disappointing this year. Wednesday as we went up the road I thought some of the patches looked really nice clean color but now it seems hard to find any but a dirty brown, even the aspens near our house have changed from a yellow to a dirty color, but there are still lots of balsam-of-gileads to turn, which change later than the aspen as a rule, so maybe we will get a few patches, anyway the mountains are lovely. To-day we went out to Minnewanka and there was little wind and it was lovely, no color where we were except on a distant hillside but the lake and Rundle were nice.

We took our lunch both days, yesterday went earlier and ate lunch after sketching, but this morning there was so much hoar frost that we did the weekly cleaning first and the errands and then went out, eating a bite when we got there and then making a sketch. To-morrow I don't know what we will do, unless it is nice I won't try to go anywhere as the traffic is such it is not much fun, To-day we had one car and a truck in the distance but otherwise not a soul. On the West road there were a good many cars going by, thru to B.C. I expect.

I don't know if I told you that we offered to help Gray and Eleanor Campbell get a new Jeep. They had an army one that they got the summer before but it is always breaking down and they really can't depend on it at all. We felt that living out of Cowley and Pincher Creek they should have some sort of reliable transportation, especially with two little boys and a baby coming in the spring. So we got Dave Prosser who got us our Jeep, to take one down to them, trading in their old Jeep. There have been

numerous letters, wires and even one telephone call with the result that just in Their busiest harvesting season where they get up at 4 A.M. and don't quit until 11 at night, they have been so excited that they couldn't sleep ! Anyway Dave delivered the Jeep and it turned out that it is the last new Jeep in this part of the country and evidently they don't know when they will get any more. Weren't we lucky? We are only lending Gray the money but his advisors in Lethbridge (who don't know us very well) were afraid for him to go in too deep, and want him to have a good bank account in case of emergencies. Which he will have, but we feel better to think that he will be fixed for the winter than to have his old Jeep broken down and our money sitting in the bank, when put to-gether they give him a new Jeep. We have had such enthusiastic letters and now a wire yesterday that they hope to drive to Banff this Monday for a day or two and get the 500 mile check up here at the same time. They don't know we even have some back seats for their Jeep which we got from Allan at Minnewanka. and also we have the radio we had at Tofino to give them, so not only will it be fun to see them but we will hear all about the ranch and see the kids. Sometime this winter I may have time to copy off some of his letters for they are really like a book to read.

We had a nice big supper to-night, roast beef, roast potatoes which I do right under the top burner in the oven so that when we have a little roast they get done quicker and nice & brown too. Did I tell you I cooked Hubbard Squash in the Pressure cooker the other day and it was delicious. I just put two big hunks in, outside skin and all and it was very nice to eat as one might a bit of cantelope, with butter and salt & pepper. We had vegetable marrow last night which had lots of flavor. I don't know what I would do without the pressure cooker.

I wonder did Pat Costigan get in touch with you or Russ ? it was good of you to think of Cobb but I hated to trouble him, for he must be so busy, and I expect that Pat will be too!

Too sleepy to write more now, one of these days I will do better and catch up with the mail.

P.S. I forgot to tell you the time we have had with about 10 or 12 horses. You know here when they turn them out in the mountains they put a bell on a mare and then all the other horses stick to her. Well at 3 A.M. yesterday morning we were awakened by a horse with a bell and many thundering hoofs on our lawn. The Crosbies had chased them off their lawn so naturally they came to ours, and stuck around until 6 making it hard to sleep with the bell, like a cow bell, jingling and the thud of feet. Also they did things on the grass which will leave nice round dead patches I expect. This morning about 7 A.M. they were all back again and so we are up early for Sunday. Don't know if we will go very far to-day.

Catherine .

The weather was cold overcast Monday. quite nice again today. So we didn't miss any good days

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. Sept. 28, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

Just a quick note to thank you and Russ and all for doing so much for Pat Costigan, We had a most appreciative card from him yesterday and he said he had had lunhh with Russ and was staying at his Club and spending the weekend in Concord, and that he would give us a "play by play discription" when he returned! That is the way they speak of Hockey games. I really didn't mean you all to do so much but we know that he will certainly appreciate it. He comes from Stettler, a small place in Alberta and I think his father is a lawyer and two of his brothers are doctors or at Medical School. He wrote that the course was good and he was learning a lot, so now we will be anxious to hear all about it when he gets home.

After writing you on the weekend, Dr Riley drove in just as we were driving out of the yard, Sunday morning, He had brought us some more brocolli from his Calgary Garden. The joke is that he too is going to Boston via Chigago and New York so you may have another doctor looking you up! Dr Riley is quite a different type and full of beans, a bit older than Pat and I think that Cob and Edith would be very interested to meet him as he has a good sense of humor and interested in all types of things besides medicine etc. He is the director of the Cancer Clinic in Calgary and is making this trip to arrange for the various members of the clinic to take courses at different times ^{places} in the states. Quite a wonderful thing. The Clinic is at the Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary. Dr Riley also does Autopsies (?) and you are always seeing his name in the paper in connection with deaths by accident or murder or something where he testifies in court. We tease him as he is quite an artist and we always ask if he has done much "carving" or "cutting-up" lately, and I am never sure which meaning it has.

It got very stormy at noon Sunday but after lunch we went up Norquay to look around, later to the Vallances for a little while. and then just as we were finishing a late supper there was a knock on the door and I went. Just a little boy saying in a tiny voice " I am Dane Campbell " then I suddenly realized that Gray and Eleanor and the two kids had arrived a day earlier than we had expected them! We hustled around and got them supper while Pete and Harold (who had appered at the same time) went up to make sure of a cabin for them. After sending the wire they realized that the wrong day might be on it or at least worded wrong, but couldn't telephone, so took a chance. We had planned on getting supplies for them etc. Monday morning but had enough in the house to give them to take up for Breakfast. Aiso had cold roast beef, marrow and peaches for supper. Coffee etc. The little boys were pretty tired as Saturday they had driven to Calgary from Cowley, 8 hours in the Jeep which they had to go slow in, and then after seeing people and a night there had driven up here Sunday afternoon.

We had a busy day yesterday. They came down about ten and Gray left Eleanor and Timmy the 18 months old boy here, and with Dane who is nearly 5 went out to Ffrenches with Dave Brosser to see about a power take-off. Pete went shopping for steaks and lunch and we had it about one. We find kids rather distracting and with Gray and Eleanor having so much to tell us our heads swam. However Timmy went to sleep about 11^{AM} and never woke until two so that was a big help. He has a sort of exzema very badly and we thought they should see Dr MacKenzie about it, so I went with her there at 3.30. Pete having made the appointment, and after that Gray and Eleanor and the kids went off to see a few people and we started to think of supper. Could think of nothing on a Monday but chicken in the pressure cooker and then as it got near supper time and they hadn't come back we wondered if they had understood or maybe someone else had asked them to supper. However they showed up again at 6.30 and ate another big meal. so we had two Saturday night dinners in one day, and I felt I had done more than a weeks cooking! But they enjoyed it all so much and the kids were really so good that we didn't mind. They took the kids back up to the cabin we had for them and put them to bed and we went up later for a more quiet and less interrupted talk until nearly 11.P.M. *late for us*

This morning I made a lunch for them so as to save time on their day in Calgary and then they came around before ten to pack up the Jeep. Allans seats we put in backwards for the trip so as to save foom, on top the baby carriage for Timmy to feel more at home when napping, then the radio we had at Tofino which works on Batterys and the Batteries in another box. A Coleman lamp we had also had up there. A mattress folded up for Dane in case there is not enough room where they are to stay in Calgary, a couple of blentkets and two suitcases and then we all went over to the garage to pick up the Power Take off that Gray got 2nd hand. He hopes to pick up a trailer in Calgary as Dave says there are some but not many, If he has one with the Jeep he can do all his own hauling of cattle, grain, salt and coal etc. They were very much pleased and excited about everything. Dane was so cunning when he said good-bye, for he asked me " Can I give you a hug ? " He was a dear little fellow for when we last saw him ^{at Tofino} he seemed a bit spoilt or else hard to handle but now he is very helpful and good.

This turned out more of a letter than I expected. But After lunch Pete said, "lets just dit down before doing the dishes for a few minutes" and my suspicions are that he has dosed off in his chair, it is very quiet. This is the week that Jock McCowan is taking over the Grocery Dep't. and there have been questions of Pete about partitions and already they have improved things a lot. We have seen Allan about things. Joe Woodworth about Insurance, George Eisneshimml about a ski Club pin and Ted Paris about his store and the bank, all since 11 when the Campbells got away. It was a bit of a let down as you may imagine.

All for now and I can't seem to find those cheques you sent. For a time I thought I had cashed the birthday one and then found it was some money owed us that had been put in our account at the bank, I know I saved the other until we might go east as it was for a ticket. But if you keep the money there then when we want something in the states we can ask you to pay for it !

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Sept. 30, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

Just a short letter about stamps and to tell you that we saw Pat Costigan this afternoon, just for a few minutes as he had only just arrived back. But it seemed funny when he said " When I spoke to Russ yesterday - " It made the distance seem pretty short.

Russ certainly did an awful lot for him and he appreciated it all so much, gave us a rough outline of all he did but said he would tell us the details later. We heard how Russ got in touch with him and they lunched together and then Russ put him up at the Sommerset Club and how embarrassed he was at the end when they wouldn't let him pay. That was when he telephoned Russ before leaving. And then how he had gone to Concord and had a nice call on you, and a big dinner party with lots of parachutists and then about the new Cadillac and seeing the Buttricks (though we couldn't figure which ones if Sted and Cal are in England) and then how Rusty took him for a swim and told him ~~that~~ something about if he ever wanted a job that he could have one looking after the pool. Pat thought Rusty a most unusual and remarkable boy and he said that Gale was a lovely girl. He also told of the dinner at Edith and Cobs, where Bob asked him if he thought a boy his age should decide his own vocation. or something like that and he said Charlie would hardly leave him alone. But we must hear all about it from him later, he says he has notes of people's names to tell us. Said he was pretty tired when he went east and then with the studying in connection with the course and all he had quite a strenuous time. You were all awfully good to do so much but it certainly was appreciated.

About the stamps. To-morrow there is to be a new issue and I thought it a good time to mail the birthday stamps to Rusty, but do you think I could find them, hunted high and low and almost thought I should get another set when I came across them among the unused envelopes. So now I will send him some new issue and the " cover " as they call the envelope with the new stamp on it and dated. I will mail this too and you can give it to Gale if she wants it. I thought it would sort of take away from Rusty's present if I sent one to her at the same time, so just give her the envelope in a day or so and a new uncanceled stamp too.

Will send this along, as it is bedtime now.

Loads of love,

Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. Oct, 3, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

This is Sunday evening and after quite a late start this morning we ended by having quite a day. Last evening we had Allan Mather over to a fried chicken supper, He has been cooking his own breakfast and eating his other meals out for nearly two weeks since Grace and the girls went to Prince Edward Island and we have been meaning to invite him over but haven't had enough before to make it worth while, He has a big appetite and it probably was just as well to wait until he was tired of restaurant meals so ours tasted better! Anyway we seemed to enjoy it very much and we had a nice evening. He is leaving to-morrow to fly to Windsor Ontario to pick up a new car and drive to P.E.I. He goes across northern Vermont and Maine (hitting Bangor and then Calais) then after a few days there the family will drive back with him. His sister from Victoria was going to come here for her vacation but now is to fly on the same plane and stay in Toronto until Allan, Grace and the girls come and then all drive back together. He expects to be home in time to watch the bridge (he puts across the river for people walking to the skating rink) on Halloween, as someone cut it last year.

After a busy evening looking over old maps and routes that Alln could take across the country we were late going to bed and so late getting up. Then we had the supper dishes to do and have been bothered with a noise in the Jeep which we found was the hood vibrating. We also made a short call on Ada Wilson at Mrs Parises, and by one or a little later were finished lunch. Pete thought we might drive up west a little way, it was nice and mild though a few clouds gathering in the west. I knew that Pete didn't like driving on the main road on Sunday so was a bit surprised when he suggested we take the thermoses of tea. There wasn't much traffic and we kept on going towards Lake Louise and when I said something about Bow Lakes, Pete thought we might go up there for a short call. The weather wasn't too promising but we kept on, met only two cars between Louise and Bow Lake. We haven't been up all year and have been talking of going up some day but I didn't expect we would go in just an afternoon. Pete hasn't felt like going very far in any direction, so it seems quite exciting to go that far. Of course it is only 60 miles one way, took us about 2 hours each way and we were back by 6.30 after a nice call with Jim and Mrs Simpson.

Found Mrs Simpson starting to make a pie and Jim stoking the fire. Ken Jones who used to pack to Skoki in the ski days is going the log work on the new addition and depending on the weather they hope to get up to the top of the windows on the first floor. Young Jimmy is out on a hunting trip and one of his helpers wife is helping Mrs Simpson cook for the men. They were glad to see us and showed us all around the new building, the stone work Jim has finished and it will be much like the old part but Mr Painter is to help plan the inside.

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It had been getting cloudier and colder all the time we were there and as we started to leave the clouds were on the tops of the mountains and snowing up high, soon hiding the peaks. It came in so quickly and we were anxious to get started home. Just as we left I noticed a big bird by the lakeshore and it was a gull. Maybe blown in by the storm. However as he drove back we ran out of that part of the weather and it wasn't bad coming home, no rain or snow though just ahead and just behind the mountains would be hidden. We are glad to have gone up and won't have to go again this fall unless we want to. It looks pretty wintry and dull up that way, not much snow just a sprinkling on the shadow side of the mountains, but the ground looks gray and rather bleak. There are still a few patches of color as we got half way home, but none of it is very good this year, not worth painting. I saw Mr Phillips yesterday and he said it was so poor he hadn't even been out and yet the weather has been lovely.

Don't think I told you much about our doings this week. Gray and Eleanor were here Monday, leaving just before 11 on Tuesday. AM We felt a bit let down after so much company so didn't do a great deal Tuesday afternoon, except catch up a bit. Then Wednesday morning it was real cold, I think 19° above, and very frosty, about ten Young Peter appeared from Invermere and wondered if we had seen his father. We hadn't and it seems Cliff had gone to Golden the previous Friday as he was having trouble with his teeth and was going to telephone Peter when he got to Banff whether he would have them fixed here or in Calgary so that Peter could drive over with some potatoes for a person in Banff and pick Cliff up. Peter never heard a word and called up Donny who hadn't seen his father either, so Peter thought he better come over and bring the potatoes anyway and maybe Cliff would be here by then. We were rather worried for we all know that he has those funny turns and if he was on his way somewhere it wouldn't be very good. So we all went over to the telephone office and put a call in for Golden to see where Cliff had gone. Unfortunately Sid Feuz who runs the hotel where they stay was away on his holiday and his wife too. but the people in charge thought that Cliff had gone to Vancouver on Saturday, for he had checked out that day. We knew that one of the guests at Temple had been a Vancouver dentist and had offered to look after Cliff's teeth if he would go out there, so we thought maybe he had gone to him. We didn't like to get in touch with Mildred knowing it would only upset her. So decided to wait until evening and Peter would telephone Lloyd and see if there had been any word since he left Invermere. It wasn't a nice afternoon so we didn't try to do much, I think I wrote letters, anyway in the evening Donny and Davy came over to tell us that Lloyd when telephoned had heard nothing. We had a feeling if anything had happened to Cliff we would have heard but it did make us uneasy.

Thursday morning Peter came again and had decided to drive back to Invermere and maybe there would be a letter or some message. Lloyd was expecting him anyway and he said he would phone Donny at night. That was the day Pat came back and we took a drive after an early lunch up to Castle Mountain and the new road, it is new about 7 miles and we drove 5 of it to the summit on the way towards Windermere. That evening Donny came over to say that when Peter got back he found a letter from his Mother that Cliff was in Vancouver having his teeth fixed. Lloyd was working in the other direction from the Post office so hadn't gotten the mail. We were much relieved after all the unnecessary worry but perhaps Cliff sent a message that wasn't delivered or something.

Anyway we were glad it turned out alright, but poor young Peter was really worried when no one here had seen or heard from his father.

Friday was the opening day of the White Groceteria at the store and we have great hopes that it will be a great improvement, it already is and the delivery man told Jock that the first day was bigger in the way of deliveries than any day this past summer. Jock is younger than Pete and has worked for the Jenkins Groceteria a chain store for 29 year, 19 of which he has managed it, but wanted to have his own business. He is anephew of Dan McCowans. He has changed things around making it more efficient, and in the window is a small stand with fresh fruit and vegetables, which you can walk around and help yourself from, and they keep putting in fresh things as the others are sold. Before the window held so many things, some were bound to wilt before being sold. We also saw various people about various things. Pete is trying to help design a ski pin and we spoke to Cyril Paris and Mary on the eve of there leaving on their trip south with the Worts. It is funny but we have been helping so many plan their trips and yet are going nowhere ourselves! Somehow we feel glad to be staying here and doing some of the things we have been planing for so long. We also spoke to Bud Gourlay about the pin and even came home and went back a second time with another idea.

Yesterday it was frosty again, real hoar frost each morning. We had thought of going out in the afternoon but the light was poor so thought we would do a bit around the place, I still have the larkspur to cut down and things like that. Pete was standing and looking at the aerial where a bit of the hpp vine had sneaked up it without our noticing it and somehow it had to be taken off as it was wound right around. Pete couldn't figure what was the best way to do it and who should come in the yard but Bob Maynard who is a roof man and keeps his supplies in the Indian Cabin for nothing. He had some extra time and offered to go up on top of the chimney disconnect the aerial and take the vine off. So all was done with the greatest of ease and without Pete leaving the ground. Then while on the roof he offered to nail all the nails into the shakes on the eave where they have worked up, which he did, noticed that the flat roof on the studio was drying out and offered to put 5 gallons of a cold tar mixture on it which should make it last another five years. So weren't we lucky and I made him a cup of coffee and away he went. For so long we have had to run around so much trying to get this man and that to do odd jobs and here were 3 done in less than ~~an~~ an hour.

We also had a wire from Mom Friday afternoon, they are in Santa Monica California and at last we have an adress for the 1st time since they left Salt Lake. No word of when they will be back or how ~~many~~ long they will be there but it was something. Oh yes other exciting news, The cousin who set out for ~~India~~ was delayed a month in Toronto because the boat they were originally to sail on went the wrong way with freight, and now we have heard that she is not going at all, is to marry a Presbyterian Minister. We are awfully pleased for she is a lovely capable girl and can do so much more good as a ministers wife than a missionary in India in these unsettled times. I must write her.

Must go to bed now! Loads of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. Oct. 7, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

We are listening to the ball game to-day as we did yesterday, not that we are overly interested but the news is delayed until after the game so we keep tuned in. Yesterday was a short game but it is funny to hear them talk about the Harvard crews practising on the Charles River etc. it is easy to picture.

Was going to write you a long letter last night. Then as we were in the midst of supper, stew, Barbara came in to say there was a friend of Pete's at the station and he was going to wait there until Pete came down to get him, someone he had known 25 years ago. We couldn't think who it was and then we thought of lots of people we might know but not be too anxious to see. So Barbara was good and went back to telephone the station but the man wouldn't give his name, said he would wait. Pete didn't want to go down and we thought it was someone we had known at Art School for when the girl at the station asked if Pete was the Artist who went to Art School or something, he said "yes". Finally Pete went down and Barbara helped me finish the dishes and pretty soon Pete came back with the man, As they came in I wracked my brain as to which Art Student it was and it turned out to be a Skier! Sigfried Steinwall. Pete hadn't recognized him, but do you wonder, for it was 1920 or '21 when he was last here, Pete being about 15 years old and 27 years ago. Steinwall is a Swedish Jumper and well known in those days too. Had a lot to do with the building of the Ski Jump on top of the Granstand in Calgary, and was billeted at the Whites when he stayed in Banff. Pete often tells a story of his being there during Carnival time and there were some Indians from Morley who dropped in at supper time, one was Mark Poccette and Sig was very interested in trying to talk to them though he had quite a broken Swedish accent. finally Mark who couldn't make head nor tail of what he was saying said, " You look like a white man but you talk like a Chinaman ! "

Our supper being stew which cleaned out the refrigerator there wasn't much to offer but what was left of the stew but he claimed it was very tasty, and with bread and milk and peaches and coffee he seemed to enjoy it. Then we had a great evening talking of skiing and all the jumpers that Pete used to know and jump with years ago. He knows Leif Nashe quite well too. About 9 we took him to the hotel and got a room, then to see Ted Paris who he arranged to meet this morning at 9.30, not being sure whether he would go on the morning train or in the afternoon.

This morning we felt tired when we woke and I think the thought of a whole day entertaining anyone, no matter how old a friend made Pete even tired. We went over about 9.30 to Ted's but found Sig had been there and left as he was to take the 10 o'clock train so we went down and saw him off. sending messages to all the friends he was likely to see. He wants to bring a group of Swedish skiers here next year also is in the Ski business.

It looked very stormy this morning and settled in for a good rain, however a wind came up and now it is quite nice with a lot of blue sky. So don't know just what we will do. *but very relieved not to do too much entertaining.*

Yesterday the afternoon was largely taken up by a young girl (well she was 35) who died giving birth to twin girls in Rosland B.C. We know the parents better than the girl but ~~axist~~ it was such a sad affair that we all felt very badly.

Have cleaned up the studio which is a good job done and will gradually get the rest of the spring cleaning done.

Must send this along so lots of love.

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. Oct. 10, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

This is our Thanksgiving weekend in Canada, It always seems funny having it so early and really Thanksgiving has no historical significance here, but as they always celebrate it on a Monday it makes a nice long weekend for people when the weather is still apt to be warm enough for them to enjoy it.

We got a turkey and a 8 lb. one before it was cleaned out, partly for a change and it is the first one we have had since last New Years I guess. It took part of the afternoon to get it ready for roasting, Johnny appeared in the middle of it and was much interested but very good about it, He wanted to help us outside, Said it was a good time to rake leaves as there were so many of them, to which we agreed, and as we had to stay near to keep an eye on the 6 pounds of turkey ^{we were} glad of his help. Once he remarked that it was real autumn, and it was, a nice warm afternoon about 50. The afternoon before was clear but a cold wind and we washed the downstairs windows being afraid it might turn even colder. but yesterday would have been better had we known it.

Johnny really worked the hardest he ever has worked, and the turkey smelt pretty good, so we suggested that instead of paying him for helping that we would invite him for supper with us, but not to tell the others, just to go home and get cleaned up and ask his mother if he could come and we would eat about six. The ~~two~~ other two boys appeared on their bicycles and after a bit Johnny ~~we~~ went off home with them and we thought he had forgotten about the turkey. However I cooked some mashed potatoes and creamed onions and made giblet gravy and at six sharp Johnny appeared with a clean shirt and pants and his hair slicked down. Pete asked who had gotten or helped him get all cleaned up and he said he had done it himself He was awfully good about everything and behaved perfectly. ~~trying~~ trying to help but only confusing me, for I am not too good cooking and talking or answering questions at the same time.

While we were eating supper we were planning what we would do to-day, Sunday. Barbara makes the kids go to either church, Sunday school or church at night, every Sunday and they can choose which they like to do, So Johnny said to Pete " Why don't you get fancied up and come to church with me to-morrow ? " It was rather hard getting out of that one, especially as Pete doesn't enjoy getting "fancied up" at all!

Just as we were finishing our second helpings of turkey Harold appeared and we had to explain that it was only because Johnny had helped us rake leaves all afternoon that we had invited him to Turkey supper, but maybe Harold would like a taste of turkey too. It didn't take long for him to say yes, even if he had just finished 3 eggs, 2 cups of cocoa etc at home. and then he asked if he helped us on Sunday could he have more turkey, We had to say yes but saw our holiday supply dwindling fast.

We are always missing out on the drumstick ! But they naturally love the bone. This morning was clear in the west but cloudy in the east and a cold wind. Really too cold to do the leveling of ashes etc that we had spoken of, so we went out for a little drive in the Jeep as there aren't many cars Sunday mornings. Went towards Minnewanka along the Calgary Power Co canal, and investigated a new camp ground they are building and typical of what the Gov't does they have dug a huge ditch down the centre of the road for sewer and water when they really might have done it on the side without ruining the road. They have the road blocked so we had to turn round and come back.

Then there was the world series baseball game and we had to listen to that during lunch and for a while later as it was quite a game. True to his word Harold appeared for his turkey dinner promising to help afterwards, The other drum stick gone ! Though we did skin a little off first. Last night we used only one side of the turkey having two days ahead to think of.

It turned nice and warm as the sun got around to the part of the sky that was clear and it got up to 60, we worked outside with out even a windbreaker. Harold raked the back and the Billy Mackenzéé arrived and he too started raking, He is Dr Ms, boy and Johnny's great friend. Johnny came along and then of course they all wanted to do what the other was doing and we wondered was it really a help or not, a pitch fork and he wheel barrow helped distribute the work but even then we were so busy straightening them all out that we couldn't do much. However Johnny soon tired, not being proving as diligent a worker when with the others, and Billy went off with him leaving Harold still working off his meal. Pete and I worked at cleaning up the corner near the shed and leveling the ashes ready for making a lawn there next spring. We intended doing it last fall so it just shows how far we are behind things. Then Harold having fins finished the raking helped me repile the woodpile and move about 6 wheel barrow fuls of logs over from where they have been drying for a couple of years. So now we have plenty of wood right where we can get at it for the fireplace etc. Davy appeared but wasn't really interested to do very much work. He went off to ride one of Ike's horses which they let graze on our lawns. Pete was rather provoked later when the boy from Ike's road over on his bike and told Davy he couldn't ride the horse and to get off. This right in Davy's yard while it was eating their grass. So Pete told him to tell the boy to keep their horse off our lawns unless the kids could ride it, but Davy decided it was easier to just take the horse out of sight and ride it anyway ! By this time we were all tired, had some gingerale and cookies and then Pete thought as the boys had been good, especially Harold, that we would go for another Jeep ride, this They were very pleased and Harold said he had some brilliant ideas where to go, so off we went up to Norquay, there were a few cars but not too many and we took the boys up the unfinished road beyond Norquay where they had never been before, We found some nice stones which interested them, then to see how the Ski Tow had progressed, they hadn't seen that either and then down a short cut and he ski trail and we saw a Ptarmigan so dark and speckled you could hardly see it against the fallen logs and underbrush, just the red over its eye showed.

So now we are back home and nearly ready for more turkey. but no company this time.

Will send this along though I had meant to write a bit more. Loads of love Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. Oct. 13, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

I am afraid we are not much help to you or your nervous feelings but hope that by the time you get this that you are feeling better. After writing you all about our turkey over the weekend I meant to add one more page, and not only did I not have time to do that but I didn't even get the letter mailed until Tuesday. What a day we had Monday and all so unexpected too. Now to-night we are trying to hurry up the drain in the kitchen sink for it has been getting slower and slower but we hoped it would do a little longer but guess we will need to get Steam Watt ^{the plumber} over soon. Anyway while I watch that from time to time will write this. So it may be a bit disjointed. I won't try to answer any of your nice letters to-night. Might get a chance to-morrow.

Monday was Thanksgiving, we slept a bit late and it was so overcast and looked like snow that I began to wish we had all the windows cleaned (We remember the time that Pete took his leave in the R.C.A.F. the first two weeks of October remembering what a lovely time of year it usually was, and except for the first day it snowed nearly every day a tiny bit) so finished the upstairs ones, all that one can reach inside, when about 11 o'clock the two Cliffs drove in in the Jeep. Pete was downstairs when they came so I didn't hear just what they said, but evidently in driving over Cliff had felt sort of sick so as soon as he came he lay right down. Young Cliff was having a hard time with his mouth, it sounded like trench mouth to me as it was sore inside, so Young Cliff went off in search of a doctor and was to bring him down to see Big Cliff too. The later laid down in the front room on the couch and after a while I made him some hot consomme and he felt better. Young Cliff came back about noon with Bill Holmes, a great friend of his, but they ~~had~~ hadn't found a doctor, and it was a holiday. We didn't ask the two boys to lunch as we didn't have much but the precious turkey and knew they would make short work of that, so they went off again and were to get a room at the hotel for Cliff, and as he was feeling much better it didn't seem necessary to get the doctor over. ~~But~~ ^{if} the ~~two~~ boys left and I made Cliff a bit of lunch, cold turkey, carrots, toast and more soup and then he had quite a sleep after lunch. By this time it had turned into a lovely afternoon but we couldn't very well leave while he was still sleeping and so we read a bit etc. Had a nice chat about things when he woke up and then about 3 o'clock. I think Pete was getting a little tired of sitting around, so thought as the boys hadn't returned and Cliff wanted to go to the hotel that he would run him over in the Jeep. So off they went and I thought they were gone sometime when back they both came. Out I went and Pete was about as white as Cliff had been in the morning and said " we have a pretty sick boy in the Jeep and the doctor is coming right over." It seems that on their way to the hotel they met MacDowell the Ex-mountie who used to work at the Lake Louise Ski Lodge & now at the new Cascade hotel and a great friend of Cliff's, so they stopped to talk a few minutes and as Pete said, they were even doubled parked. Pete had his ~~left~~ head turned out his side speaking to Mac

when suddenly without warning Cliff let out one of his awful screams, stiffened up as much as one could in the front seat of the Jeep and sort of frothed at the mouth (Also broke the ising glass window in the righthand door which cracked with an loud retort. Pete grabed Cliff with his arm round him and luckily Mac had been with Cliff once before when he had an attack like t that and so knew what to do, Also the police have a bit of first aid and he could tell when he was coming too etc. It didn't last long. Then Mac telephoned Pat Costigan who said he would be down to our house as soon as he could. At least Pete gathered from what Mac said it would be very soon. So after getting back here we sat in the Jeep for a time as Pete thought maybe the doctor would suggest Cliff go to the hospital. However when he didn't come and Cliff was feeling more himself all the time we helped him into the house and again he laid down and had a good rest. But as that was about 3.30 and there was no sign of Pat or even Young Cliff by five (I guess it was) I went over to Barbara's (no I forgot twice in between Pete went to the clinic, the 1st time it was locked up, the next time he drove around and couldn't see Pats car at the hospital or anywhere and came back) Later we found out that Pat had been called to Canmore for a ruptured appendix operation or something and I guess knew that Cliff would be O.K. which he was) At Barbaras I called Dr MacKenzie who is really the one Cliff has had most, and he wasn't home yet. So when he came in he called Barbara who sent Johnny over with a note saying to keep Cliff quiet and he would be down after supper and then we could decide what was best to do with him for the night.

So again we waited, but Cliff was feeling ever so much better though he didn't feel like supper. About then young Cliff arrived, having been out to Sunshine and Back to see when he would have to report back to work, but never thought to tell us he was going way out there, it had taken longer as something broke in the Jeep. He had supper here & we boiled his dishes as he had seen Pat for a minute in an awful hurry on his way to Canmore, and Pat had told him what it was and the dentist was the one to see as they treat it) , we thought later perhaps Pat thought it was young Cliff the message was about as no one knew old Cliff was here. Anyway we told Young Cliff about the attack his father had had and he then told us that coming over he had had three seperate attacks and he had stopped at the game wardens to send for a doctor on the way in but Cliff by then had felt well enough to come on to Banff. neither of them had mentioned that part when they first arrived. Not that it would have helped much had we known. The attacks don't worry big Cliff at all, I guess he doesn't know what they are like and it is more like a faint for him, but they scare the wits out of others I guess. Luckily they are getting milder all the time and Dr. MacKenzie thinks he will outgrow them. He told Pete they were a form of Epeleptic attack, at least similar. I seem to be making a long story out of this, but it was a long 8 hour day for us. About 7.30 or 8 Dr MacKenzie came along. Pete told him outside all that had happened and he checked Cliff for all the usualy things and he was perfectly normal, was feeling fine by then and it even seemed sort of silly to have gotten Dr MacKenzie out. So Young Cliff having gone over to get a room after supper, took his father to the hotel and Pete and I went to bed !

I got the drain fixed in shorter time than it took to write this. But what a day it seemed to us. Just sitting waiting most of the time. Next morning, Tuesday, Cliff said he would be around to see us, which he did, and was fine as if nothing had

Happened, Why he came over in the first place we don't really know, except he did have a little business to see too, but Cliff (young) was so miserable with his mough and to come back via Golden takes so long, 2 days if they Jitney misses the train, that he thought he would divie Young Cliff over and go back himself. He had been at the coast having some teeth out and seeing Mildred so perhaps that brought it on a bit. Anyway We was full of all sort> of stories and the skiing developments over in the Windermere etc. and later Tuesday both Mrs Simpson and someone else said they had seen Cliff and How well he looked! Anyway Young Cliff drove him back over to Invermere Tuesday afternoon and we just met him at the train to-night, he having caught it by two minutes, in Golden. and we were relieved to hear he had had no more trouble and was home safely.

Tuesday we hadn't much energy but did a few things outside, it was a most perfect day. Our great trouble is that we go over town for a little errand and then it is a continual meeting of this person and that. We saw the Belmore Brownes, up just for a few hours from their ranch at Seebe, then Mrs Simpson in the store, just in from Bow, She said she nearly came to see us Monday, wish she had as it might have added to the day! Then the chimney & furnace cleaners arrived, will do ours and he stores to-morrow ready for winter. They are the tweedle dum and tweedle dee ones and no smaller. up from Calgary. Last night we went up to the Wards the first time since Pete was sick, and had a nice evening there though we really stayed too long. To-day another warm day, started cloudy and looked like rain only to clear and was warm and sunny.

We went in search of the men who were to cut our trees for us we thought we had it all arranged but they have never showed up, finally got Mr Barnes who is one of the head gold course men and he is to get some one, and then to-night saw one of the original men in town again after we were told they had left for the winter, so now we don't know what to expect or who will come or if any one will! Also saw about a new stairway for the grocery etc. there have been several questions in connection with that but we are getting on.

It is now Thursday morning, we are so darn foolish. The men said they would be around to clean our furnace this morning but we never thought to ask what time, so got up before 8 to be ready and they never showed up until nearly 11 o'clock. They are working hard with their vacuum now on the pipes. Another good job done even if they did drive the truck right up over the lawn and our flag stones! Most likely they will crack a couple at least when they back out! We have been trying to compsoe business letters that needed doing so that is something we got done.

Another nice fall day, We have had the most wonderful fall weather this year and far better than it was anytime last summer. However the color has been the poorest we have ever seen, the Belmore Brownes mentioned it too. most disappointing, for with such a wet summer we thought it might be wonderful. Perhaps the moisture kept the leaves from turning fast as they should to be brilliant and they have clung on the trees in some cases so long, but a muddy yellow. We went out and got four little tiny spruce yesterday to plant in front of the flower beds to take the bare look away in winter. When they get big we can move them, as they are only a foot or so high they will take some time to grow and maybe we should have gotten them a bit larger.

Must call this a letter,

Loads of love,

Catharine.

Banff,
Alberta.
Sun. Oct. 17, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Am sure this won't be more than a note for it is so lovely out this afternoon that we will be going out soon, it was cold and overcast this morning but just lovely now. Pete was busy cleaning out the fallen leaves from the gutters yesterday and has one more to do and there is still the dried up hop vine to take ~~down~~ down and a few more leaves to rake off the ground in case we have a snow storm.

We got the furnace and chimneys cleaned for the winter Thursday afternoon or I should say morning about 11, they did the store in the afternoon and Bob Maynard also patched a roof over there. The men never did come to cut down the trees and yesterday afternoon one showed up who did our lawn all summer and wanted his money for that as they were leaving last night. They either misunderstood or forgot but anyway even after Mr Barnes thought he had them coming they didn't appear. Now we can perhaps get someone else without hurting their feelings, which would be as good for us but it is so hard to find workmen.

The drain really clogged Friday afternoon and Pete got hold of Steam Watt (we had gotten him to say he would come on Monday next week) but he was good enough to come over after work Friday and before going out to dinner that night. It didn't take him very long to poke down from the vent in the roof and then we had a bit of a chat. His wife is the trained nurse in the Atkin Clinic and he had heard from Pat all about his trip east. He said the course he took was wonderful and he learned a lot, At first he wasn't sure if they would let him take the thing as he was the only Canadian there, but he said that without my family he would have had a very dull time of it. He evidently had told Steam all about it. Then Steam told us that Pat was to be married yesterday to Mary MacDonald a nurse, who Steam thinks is just the right one for Pat, and very understanding for a doctor's wife. He was married in Canmore (we think maybe she is a nurse at the hospital there) and Dr MacKenzie says Pete hates fuss of any kind so it was a very quiet wedding. He already has a nice big house here right near the clinic.

I am sorry you are having trouble with Rheumatism and do hope it is better, maybe the frosty mornings at this time of year. It was 15° above yesterday morning but not as low to-day but the radio said that in Saskatchewan somewhere it was just 2° above this morning.

Have had a couple of callers already so now had better mail this and get busy outside. The Vallances want us to go to tea there this afternoon so we may yet.

Loads of love

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. Oct. 20, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

We are having the loveliest weather though anytime now we can expect a nice snowstorm. Sunday was nice too though we didn't do a great deal. a bit of tree trimming in the afternoon as the morning hadn't been so nice.

Monday Mario came over with word that the family were on their way home, had spent the night before in Invermere. They telephoned to the Waterworths on Sunday but hadn't gotten the message to Mario or us, so we had to get busy to warm up the house. On account of the stoker and thermostat you have to do it gradually, so Peter and Mario between them spent most of the morning getting the house from 40 to 60. We also got in a few groceries, bread, butter etc. in case it was evening when they came. Then it being such a lovely afternoon we decided that we would never mind waiting for them but go and get a few more little trees. I had been cleaning the bedroom all morning for the winter. Have a new idea, am going to do as Mrs Carpenter does and clean a room a month. in that way it won't be hard work and by doing a little at a time can get it done. For instance clean the Studio in September and March. The bedrooms in October and April, the kitchen November and May, the living room December and June. or something like that.

Anyway Pete was just putting his big boots on and I was getting ready to go out Monday afternoon when Minnie Wheatley and her sister came to see if we had an apartment to rent. They had never been to our house before and foolishly Pete asked them in and of course they stayed longer than they needed to. Not that it really mattered but just took extra time, then as they left Mom arrived and by the time she had told us all about their trip etc. The afternoon was gone. However it was nice to see her back and they had a fine trip. 5000 miles. She had supper with her us that night and her appetite is very good !

Tuesday I finished the bedroom except for one lot of shelves, another perfect day so we decided to take the afternoon off so to speak. Went up to the new road near Castle Mt. to take some pictures for Lucy Kerr of her old camp and just as we had stopped Ken Ford, who is the engineer in charge of the new road for the Parks Dept, came along and seemed to want to talk about things. We must have been there talking to him 15 or 20 minutes, but we got the pictures which we hope turn out allright.

It was one of the loveliest afternoons you ever saw. a soft hazy light that one gets sometimes in the fall and with the extra long shadows of this time of year the effects were lovely. in fact I don't ever remember its being as lovely in between seasons.

Have written down to Calgary for a dentist appointment. as I like the dentist there better than the Banff one.

Got word this morning that he can see me Friday, so hope the weather stays good.

Last night Erling Strom came around at Supper time with a big bit of Moose Meat, like a big roast. Then later Mr Steel came to pay the rent for his apartment as Allan is away yet, so we took him a bit of the meat this morning as they had never tasted it. Now it is after lunch and two men have just been here about cutting the trees and are to come to-morrow morning at nine. so hope that works. Now we are off to take a bit of Moose meat to Mrs Phillips as she is all alone and we haven 't had time to go up and see her any evening since Mr Phillips has been away. Also had a letter from Elsie Freeman Clifford of Providence and she still plans to go up and see you. Remember her father was an engineer in Japan and she would be interested in the Japanese things. Was with him when Pete came back on the boat from Japan when Eunice Pepper and her cousin were on the convention too.

Must run as usual, Loads of love,

Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.
Sunday evening
October 24, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

We have just finished supper (made muffins of that cornmeal mix, very good - and easy) listened to Fred Allen with Dale Carnegie his guest. It was rather amusing for Dale Carnegie spent a couple of summers up at Bow Lake with the Simpsons with his secretary one year and the same girl his wife the next time. However they were very nice, he wrote in one of the cabins but have forgotten whether it was this how not to worry book !

This will just be a rambling sort of letter so as to have something to mail next time. We took Johnny with us to get the little trees and went up Norquay. There are the dearest little spruce trees of all sizes and shapes in the part of the road beyond the Ski camp which was never finished but which we go up in the Jeep. It was barred off for a long time. The only trouble is that many of the best trees are in gravel, it started to rain when we got there so we only picked up a couple and Johnny got two minute ones, about as old as he is himself and with maybe five or six branches but about three inches high. We brought them back and with Barbara, Harold Davy their Dacshund we all helped plant them only I am afraid they will be stepped on before they grow very far!

Well we had a rather busy week. There have been so many little things to see about, you know what that is like. The pipe from our furnace to the chimney which is about ten feet long was worn through when the men cleaned the furnace and so we got a man in town to make a new one for us. He was supposed to come the first of the week but the truck bringing the metal from Calgary tipped over and that delayed it. Then he said he would come down during his lunch hour between 12 and 1 Thursday I think it was. We let the stoker fire out and had lunch early and then waited (some times we feel one does little else but wait for people) and when one thirty came and he still hadn't come Pete drove over and speeded him up, but instead of getting out really early to do something it was about 2.30 or so. Not that it mattered but you spend a lot of time waiting.

The men finally came ~~for~~ to cut the trees, arrived at 9 A.M. but it looked so like snow or rain and wind that we didn't dare let them start on the two big trees in case it stormed and they didn't look very husky, are really elderly gentlemen, and as there are lots of dead aspens to be chopped down at Barbaras and things to be cleaned up before the Governemnt will give the lease, we sent them over there on Thursday and they really did a good job. It looks much better. The government have to approve any change in leases of land or transfers and before they will hand the actual papers over they want you to comply with certain things. like painting the roof or fixing a chimney, mostly outside things. So it was good to get that done, of course about a half hour after they had gone over there the weather cleared into another lovely day! Mr Barnes came again on Saturday to see if we had gotten the big trees out yet and said he would tackle them if no one else would.

But it is the time all these things take to arrange. as you know. We should have done them in the spring really.

Saw Dan McCowan the other day and he spoke of the nice letter he had had from you. Was very pleased about it. We haven't read the book ourselves yet. They are just back from a months trip to the coast. It is Dan's nephew who is running the grocery department at the store. He sent the parcels overseas for me this year so hope they get there allright. Tell Jean I sent six from her to the Wintons the Youngs and Jessie Brown. Then when I was in Calgary I sent each one a ham in a tin. They guarantee them reaching the people. We ~~tho~~ thought it would be a treat for them to have a ham for Christmas.

Did I tell you that Mom and Jackie came back via Invermere and so saw Cliff. We asked how he was and they said " fine except for his ankle " It seems that when they went back in the Jeep they stopped to get water for the radiator that leaks and it was dark and as Cliff stepped out his side of the Jeep he went right into a deep hole and wrenched his ankle. I never knew anyone who ran into so many difficulties that are purely accidents, like being struck by lightening.

We get very nice letters from Mildred. She is almost through with her Nurses Aides course, it is much like a practical nurse is in the states. She had about 2 months studying at the technical school with a special class, a group starts every month I think. and she happened to be in the first class when they were just starting. Then they each have a month in various wards in the different hospitals. The Maternity ward. The T.B. san. The childrens Preventorium, the Semi private Ward and now she is in the Emergency Ward and I think graduates next month. At first when working in the hospitals they get a little pay and this is increased each month, I have forgotten the figures. We are very pleased to think she had done so well and she likes the work. If she decided to go back with Cliff she will still have something she can turn to any time for she will have her certificate and all. Cliff stayed in her boarding house when he went to Vancouver to have his teeth fixed and they seemed to go places to-gether and all, so perhaps they will really come to-gether again, one never knows.

will send this too

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. Oct. 24, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

This will be a very hurried note so I can mail it when we go out shortly to get three more little trees, The weather is so mild it is hard to believe. 54 when we got up about 9 this morning and some years we have several inches or feet of snow about now !

Was so sorry to hear about Mildred and her eyes, must write her a line, diabetis is an illness you have to watch so closely. but more of that later.

Had a good trip to Calgary which I can also write more about later but you might be pleased to know + have spent the birthday and Christmas money for a Beddix washing machine. It is to be held until we get a proper location for it in the kitchen, but it will be a wonderful time and hand saver for us. This one not only runs everything through automatically but you can turn the dial and either skip a rinse or do an extra one or just let it go through. I shall be scared of it at first but after I get used to it it should be wonderful

Also had my teeth cleaned and he found no holes which is something. Glad to have that done. There is so much to tell you I don't know where to start so will call this a letter and really write you one later on.

It looks showery but not too bad and it is warm.

Cousin Jane will be with you so please give her our love too. I do hope your rheumatiz is better, can't imagine you going slow enough to use a cane except for walks in the woods.

Loads of love,

Catharine .

Banff,
Monday, Oct. 25, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

Jean's letter just came and we are so very sorry to think you have felt so sick and we knew nothing about it. Your last letter of the 18th. hadn't even mentioned the pain in your knee so we hoped that was gone by now. But I guess this was much more. It was too bad that Russell and Kitty were away that one weekend too. and of course I am no help at all. Am glad to hear you are ~~xxxxxx~~ feeling better, and do hope by the time you receive this that you are really yourself again.

This as usual will be hurried so as to catch to-nights train, I spent last evening, in between programs on the radio and what not, starting a letter to you of what we have been doing so will enclose that too to maybe cheer you up. One of Johnnie's remarks that might amuse you I will tell you about.

We were on our way up to Norquay which is a very twisty and windy bit of road, and as we went up Johnnie remarked " Why don't they unwind this road ? " We wish the Government would take his advise, and straighten it out!

From Jean's letter it seems that Uncle Marshall was in Boston with Florence, wonder did you see them for it would be too bad if you had to miss them too.

I do hope that you won't feel sick long, Jean said you were feeling better and of course now it is four days later. If you have as nice fall weather as we are having it will cheer you up and Cousin Jane will be visiting you too. Wish I could give you some of our Moose or Venison, that would put new vim and vigor in you.

Keep forgetting to ask you if you ever try those new kind of Rennet Custards all flavored ? Pete likes them and as they take about 3 minutes to make and you can make one cup at a time I often use them, the maple flavor and orange are about the best.

Had better get going so loads of love. Pete says he is going to write you a note too but I think you better see it first before you count too much on its getting written, he has one of those new ball point pens so he might find it easier to write one than he used to, but I doubt it. It is worse for him than going to the dentist to sit down and write a letter!

Loads of love mother from us both and we do feel so sorry about your feeling sick.

Catherine .

Banff, Alberta.
October 26, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

Just got two more nice letters from Jean and one was written the 20th. the day before the letter we got yesterday. It must have gotten into the wrong post office box for it also has a Banff Post Mark showing that it had been mailed in Banff too, of all letters to get delayed! That is the one that tells that you have Pleurisy and I know that is a terribly painful thing to have. You must have been awfully sick and we are so very sorry.

From Jean's last letter Russell and Kitty are back and by now Cousin Jane will be with you. so I am glad of that. Seems to me it is quite exciting having Uncle Marshall in Boston, he must be feeling rather spry.

What a shame about Mildred's eyes, didn't Aunt Eleanor have trouble with hers, seems to me she was almost blind wonder was it diabetes with her? I know it does effect the eyes. I do hope the operation was successful.

There isn't very much to write of a cheerful nature. We are still having good weather and the two old gentlemen came again this morning. Pete set them to taking down the aspen trees with the dead tops over at Barbaras and I think they took them down willy - nilly for on one side there is only one left. but it is true they are all dying. We haven't gotten our two out, yesterday we saw Mr Barnes but he too is rather thin and hasn't been able to find any husky men, thought we saw a man working down the road and sent him off to try and get his help. haven't heard yet if we were successful.

This isn't much of a letter but do hope it finds you feeling better and all the pleurisy gone. Carl Rungius goes back to New York to-day for the winter. Mrs Mac was in at noon with some silver for us to store for her, she is going to Toronto to have a serious operation and is dreading it. She has gotten very old and thin too and we are wondering if it is more serious than she says or whether she is scared. We do feel sorry for her.

I will send this along.

Loads of love,
Catharine.

P.S. It was good to see your handwriting on a letter today. Sorry you still have a little temperature but otherwise you might get going again too quickly. Maybe its Mother nature looking after you. If it is Trachoma Milled has Dr. Klein had it here & yet he does a lot & still Doctors. ^{in at the Post office}
Banff, Alberta.
Wednesday, Oct. 27, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

It is always more fun writing to you than to other people when I can just go rambling along and not worry about how the spelling is or the sentences expressed and as we had an early supper will write this while we listen to James Melton. I suppose it isn't very polite typing when there is nice music but this silent one doesn't really make much noise and Pete is apt to snooze anyway.

Thursday is usually the day we get Jean's Sunday letter and I hope that you will be much better in the one that comes to-morrow. Jean has been good to write so much and keep us posted. She must have been kept busy with all your friends telephoning to see how you were.

We are still having lovely weather, though to-day was frosty, we managed to get out and I pruned trees while Pete shoveled old piles of ashes and leaves over into a far corner so we will have a place for the ashes this winter. The spruce trees take lots of trimming. There is a Teachers convention this weekend and I am hoping to get one of the boys to take some branches off a few trees to give us a better view west. I wouldn't mind climbing up myself but the trees are a bit public for that, and Pete doesn't enjoy heights any more, funny when as a boy he would go in awful places.

Now I think that I will read over some of your old letters for it is always fun to re-read them and comment on some of the things you have written about, it also reminds me of things I may have forgotten to tell you.

Did you read in the last LIFE about Grandma Moses? such a nice picture of her, she must be so bright. If she can still paint, I believe you can still design. The main idea is to get the uninterrupted time and goodness knows how to tell you to do that, for we don't seem to find it either. Maybe if you lived in Hoosick Falls or wherever it is it might be easier. Also she has given up trying to run her farm and place. What a remarkable little lady she must be,

Do tell us how to cook corn beef, Pete loves it and I never think to get it.

I think I wrote to stop payment on your last birthday cheque to me, and also told Miss Publicover too. I still haven't found it.

Concord is a great place for people to change houses and who goes into the Hudson's House? The Lovejoys have moved around quite a bit as I remember. It probably is a good idea, maybe you don't pile up so many possessions that way or maybe you just have dozens of boxes of papers and things you never look at, just

move about. That reminds me of meeting Norman Sanson the other day a real character. over 80 and yet spent his birthday on top of Sulphur Mountain in the observatory as he used to make trips up to take weather observations years ago. He tells things in such a funny way and this time it being cold he had a drip on the end of his nose which kept us wondering when and where it would drop, It landed on his lapel at the very end of the conversation. He was talking of a man who used to live here they nicknamed "Bugs" Bryant and as Norman Sanson told us. " When he left Banff he had so many bugs in his collection that he had to get 2 or 3 freight cars to move them all."

I still think it is wonderful Miss Annie Agge envying Gale riding horseback, at her age you might think she had forgotten how it felt. Wonder did she ride in Salem.

Are we to get Mrs Wayman's book " Bite the Bullit " ? this is a hint for Christmas. Also the "Proper Bostonians" we haven't seen it yet though I think the Moores have it, but they have moved into the hotel until they go away in January. They are going to take a round trip to Australia and New Zealand on the Aorangi, have had the booking for about a year. and now they have heard that Elaine and Merrill Cruikshank are going to come from England in November and go on the same boat as far as the Fij Islands. He is the Doctor we knew in Nassau, has been in England the last few years and now will be stationed in the Fij Islands. She was a Calgary girl originally and in Banff in the summer.

About the sketches, We wrote to Mr Bice in London Ont. and asked him to let us know where they will be and when but haven't heard as yet, but expect if they hadn't arrived we would have heard. There was no special date for the show in Toronto and we don't know where they were to go first.

Thanks so much for the little booklet about the Concord Library. It is very interesting though I haven't read it all as yet.

Did I tell you that Elizabeth Darling sent us a nice card about enjoying the sketches, we also had a lovely note or letter from Mrs Bartlett and one from Frances. How nice of you to lend her the piano. It is so much better to have it used.

Just read over one of your letters when Mildred and Cousin Jane were there and Rhoda made an angel cake, just for fun I will quote what you wrote " She most fainted when she opened the oven door and saw it (the angel cake) was about 6 or 7 feet high. " some cake is all I can say. but you can see there is always a lot of added interest if we read your letters carefully! I guess I make just as many mistakes! but yours are always such interesting ones.

Did you see also in the last Life an xray picture of a bit of bone grafted onto the spine, I wonder if that is what Sam had done. What a shame he had to have another operation and more months in bed. It really is remarkable that he can keep up his spirits so well but how often a person who has to suffer so much has more patience than others. Think of Katherine Dodge's husband writing those funny books when he was so sick with Arthritis.

Peter send this much love. Hope you are really feeling better. Loads of love Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.
Sat. Oct 30, 1948

Dearest Mother,

They are celebrating Halloween to-night and we are waiting wondering if anyone will show up here for what they call "Halloween apples" we have those and also candy ready to give to any kids who drop around, but as they have a big school party for all ages and there are bears in the darkness around here, the kids don't come around as they used to. Later on about midnight is when one has to watch for the older, destructive ones. To-morrow being Sunday they are supposed to celebrate to-night.

Last evening about 7.30 Erling Strom dropped in and we had quite an evening for Erling got wound up and told stories and I wish that you could have heard all the tales about Lowell Thomas who is a great friend of Erlings. I kept thinking of you and trying to remember what he said so as to write you all about it, for don't you listen to his newscast most evenings ?

Erling told us that Lowell Thomas had quite a life. He was born in Colorado in a mining town where his father was a school teacher and it was his father who impressed upon him that if he talked to a roomful of people he made 4 or 5 friends but if he lectured he made 4 or 5 hundred at a time. So anyway Lowell Thomas went to the Univ. of Chicago and as he had been one of the kind of children who like to get up and recite in front of the class and parents, he took the course in Chicago of Public speaking. The professor of the course suddenly died during the term and they wanted someone to take over and Lowell Thomas took over at that time and continued until he graduated teaching the course in Public Speaking. He evidently had a great flare for it. Somehow, I can't remember just how but at Princeton they heard him speak and though he was only 21 at the time, they asked him to come and teach Public speaking there, said they would make him a professor if he would stay, and he would be the youngest professor in the U.S. He wouldn't promise to stay in case something else turned up he would rather do, but they made him professor anyway and he stayed quite a while teaching there. Then he was asked to make a speech at some sort of meeting in Washington, was to be the final speaker and did so well there that they offered him the managership of the "See America First" Campaign. Then the first world war came along and he went over as a correspondent for one of the big papers, was all through the war and Allenby's campaign in the Holy Land and then after the war he wanted to be the 1st into Germany, that is the first news man, he tried 16 times unsuccessfully, swam the Rhine four times to try and get into Germany and the first 3 he was turned back but finally did get in. Then he heard of Lawrence in Arabia and went to see him. He was with Lawrence 6 weeks (or months) and that was the greatest experience he had.

After the war he came back to the states and leased a theater on Broadway where he gave a different lecture every afternoon and evening. That is ~~each day~~ the same talk each day but a different talk for every day in the week. He spoke to capacity audiences and for 6 months I think it was, anyway he grossed a million dollars on that. On Mondays he would speak on the war, maybe Tuesday on Alenby's campaign and Thursday on Germany after the war and then finished the week with his lecture on Lawrance in Arabia.

One night an Englishman heard him give the lecture on Lawrance and as he was a manager of such things as singers and lecturers he persuaded Lowell Thomas to go to England, for he said that it would go over well, an American speaking so enthusiastically of an English man and also he said they should know more about Lawrance than they did. So over he went and was very successful there, filled an opera house (again I forget the time) After that he went around the world giving the same lecture to 42 English speaking places. It took him two years.

When he got back to the U.S. he decided to settle down and raise silver foxes on his place in ~~Yonking~~ New York, he was married by this time. But he hadn't been there very long when the radio thing started and I think it is 14 years that he has been a news commentator on that. He also does all sorts of other things as he is in great demand as a speaker and toastmaster at dinners etc.

Erling told us how he had met him at Lake Placid and how he had been on the newscast telling his Mt McKinley story, or a part of it. and then Lowell Thomas had gotten him to go to New York and speak to three different gatherings about the Mt. McKinley trip. Erling made it very amusing *about his stulting & giving lectures.*

He said that Lowell Thomas never gets excited and is so calm that you feel the same way. When he described one day with him when Lowell Thomas got him to speak before some gathering in Philadelphia. To help Erling he had suggested that instead of Thomas talking for an hour, he split the time and the fee with Erling so they both spoke 30 minutes.

Erling went down from Placid to New York, got there about dinner time, then they realized that the movie of McKinley had titles and in order for Erling to speak while it was going on they would have to be cut out. There were over 40 of them, So Thomas said he had to go down to do the commentary he does for the news reels that evening and they could get someone to do it in the movie studio. (He does this two evenings a week, besides his broadcast at 7 every night to the east and at 11 to the west) So down they went, could find no one to do it but got a room for Erling to work in. He worked until after one ^{AM} and got it done and Thomas came along about then saying Erling better go back to the apartment as he had still more newsreels to do and Erling said it was 4 A.M. when Thomas got home that morning. He was up at 9 o'clock as fresh as could be and at 10 they took the train to Philadelphia. In the station they met his secretary of many years, Miss Davis and she went on the train with them. Had ~~a~~ a stack of mail which they went through on the way down. She would say " a letter from so-and-so wanting such and such" and he would say " answer no " then the next maybe would

be " answer yes " One or two he might read himself, and then if he wanted to answer it a certain way, he would turn it over and very quickly write in shorthand the answer, and she could read it. After the pile was finished and they were half way to Philadelphia he turned and talked with Erling.

When they arrived it was about ten minutes before the talk and the movie projector was all set up. Erling realized that unless it had a 1000 watt lamp it would never throw his pictures clearly on the screen because of the distance, so he spoke to Thomas, who asked about the lamp, it was a 500 watt and the best they could get. He said they would have to do better than that, and when they couldn't with only 8 minutes to go, he walked out, appearing again just before he was due to speak. Within 5 minutes Erling said there was commotion up near the projector and sure enough another one had been found. Thomas had just telephoned the people he broadcasts for I guess, told them a ~~prx~~ 16 millimeter projector with a 1000 watt bulb would have to be there in 8 minutes, and they must have done some hustling for they got several there within that time and exactly on the dot Thomas started his speech as if nothing had happened. Everything went off smoothly. They caught a train right back to New York. The secretary had in the meantime borrowed a typewriter and finished the letters they had gone through on the way down and brought out an equal number to take care of in the same way on the train going back.

When they reached ~~the~~ ~~offi~~ New York ~~about~~ Thomas said they would just drop around by his office and see what was going on and as Erling said it was 3.30 by then. When they got there another secretary appeared and asked Lowell Thomas if he had forgotten the article he was to write for Liberty Magazine, He evidently had, but asked when the deadline was, "5 o'clock!" He apologized to Erling and gave him some tickets to an automobile show or something, told him to look around and come back at five, while he worked on the article. Which they did, the article reached Liberty on the deadline and they went home to ~~supper~~ dinner. (He must have made his broadcast in between, I can't remember that) but anyway in the midst of a nice dinner his wife remarked that Thomas didn't seem to be very hungry as he wasn't eating much, and then he told her he had forgotten that he was to be at a big dinner somewhere that evening at 8.30, and another speech! Erling said he never saw a person who could do so much and it made him feel as if he stood still and did nothing *himself* -

Another interesting part was about his broadcast, He has a whole office staff working on it all the time, compiling it and writing it for him. One man writes in the same way he does and you can hardly tell the difference. Thomas goes through it a half hour or so beforehand, corrects or re-writes it, and then he reads it aloud while a secretary turns over cards with the minutes on them and he marks the script 14- 13- 12 etc. showing how many more minutes he has to go. Then when he gives the broadcast the secretary still turns over the numbers on the minute and he can tell as the script is marked whether he is a little behind time or ahead, and can speed up or slow down accordingly.

He often broadcasts from other places, but it means telephones and much preparation. He has done it from Erlings in Stowe, likes to have people drop in to hear it as he feels he does better with an audience. One time Erling said he was telling a story and the secretary came in just 2 minutes before the broadcast was due to start and handed him a news flash he might like to include. Erling said he finished the story he was telling, just glancing at the slip of paper, then went on the air almost right away and included the bit of news as if it had been already in the script. Nothing flusters him.

He usually broadcasts from New York Monday through Friday, going to Rawling after the 11 o'clock broadcast and not coming back until Monday evening. That gives him sometime at home, but he has been at it steadily for 14 years I think it is. If he goes away it is to some place where he can still do the broadcast.

This is quite a letter but thought you might be interested. It is now nine and we just had the two little Steel children, their father and Mother coming with them so we asked them all in. The first time they had been out on Halloween.

A nice letter from you to-day and glad you are feeling better I think you are doing well to be up at all with anything as painful as pleurisy. How do you suppose you ever got it? Am awfully sorry we didn't know sooner, but it wasn't until last Monday that we got Jean's letter, the first one going astray in the wrong post box I expect, for we have gotten others mail at times. Am so glad Cousin Jane is with you for company.

Sunday AM. It snowed a tiny bit last night but is clear & lovely this morning 22°. So far we can see no damage & didn't hear much noise last night. Last year some kids put the Crosby's canoe in the river & sank it with big rocks. Luckily it didn't damage it but was annoying to the Crosbys.

We may go out to finish a roll of colour film this morning so will mail this on the way.

Loads of love from us both

Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.
Mon. Nov. 1, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

Hope everything is going well with you and that you are feeling much better and your self again. You sometimes write of how people think because you have a big house and lots of help that you must have little to do yourself, of course we know differently for all your responsibilities and things to see to take lots of time. Jean wrote in one of her letters when you were sick that you were feeling better that day, would be up in a day or two and "soon be back at work." So at 84 that is pretty good. Most people retire sooner but with your nature you never will.

We have had quite a bit to see to too, and so much of it in a way is unnecessary. We exchanged certain things with Jackie for the Lot and house that Barbara and children are in and in the park when you transfer a Lease it has to be approved by the government and now-a-days in order to get people to keep up the property they withhold the lease until you have done all the things they consider should be done. Most things one would do anyway but it annoys lots of people to be told. We had to paint the roof & trim. Point the chimney, as the bricks on top look loose, and cañan up the yard, repair the fence etc. Cleaning up the yard was what we had the two old men do and they made a good job of it. So we asked for the lease promising to have the trim painted when it was more suitable weather in the spring as the painters, even with much reminding, never got around to it this fall. So to-day we got a paper to be signed promising to do the things by July 1st. and so this morning we saw Mr Vallance to see if it was O.K. then tried to get it witnessed by the notary public, which mean't 3 trips to find him. Then got the Lease and another trip to the Vallances to give it to him to have it registered. It all takes time running around besides all the other things to be done.

Allan Mather got back on Saturday, we went around to see about 5 and they had a wonderful trip, saw his sister who was with them from Toronto, but though they looked up Lila they found the Stockands had moved and it wasn't until the last morning they were there that they found they were in the same hotel they were in Toronto. Hazel (the sister) thought she saw Lila in the elevator and so they asked and found they were there but no chance to see them. We were sorry for we had counted on Allan finding out a bit how they were getting on.

I didn't tell you but over a week ago we had a wire from Marion saying her father was sick and they needed help. She had written us a letter which we had gotten a week earlier, but it didn't tell us at all how things were going, only that they would soon be moving, and Mavis and Katherine would like to go back to Vancouver where they had jobs they could return to and that would give the family more chance of finding a place to hold them!

As it was the first letter we had had from any of them since they left Vancouver Pete didn't think we need to hurry and answer it, seeing it had taken them 4 months to answer ours. and in the wire Marion said they were waiting for an answer to her letter.

We didn't know what kind of help they needed and so spoke to Mom thinking she might have had a recent letter, but that only upset her and she rushed to Jackie, so we all had a talk. That was a week ago Saturday and finally sent another wire back saying we couldn't help until we knew the details and would write Air Mail asking them to do the same. It took us all Sunday morning to write our letter and it wasn't easy. They always wait until they are in trouble and then wire or telephone. Poor Mom, I felt sorry for her as she naturally thinks they are all wonderful and can't understand why things don't go better. I think it was Monday afternoon that another wire came, this time to Mom saying "Daddy very sick need help by to-night" Mom had felt she should leave at once on Saturday and only the three of us had persuaded her that even if she went to Toronto she wouldn't be able to do enough to really help (for she isn't too practical herself). Monday we decided to wire for them to telephone that night to Mom or Jackie and so waited all evening, not us, but both Jackie and Mom sat by their phones until they went to bed. and still expected a call might come through. Finally the next afternoon Mom got a call, and it was Marion. they had moved from the only address we knew and were at the Ford Hotel. her Daddy was better and she couldn't say much more except that they needed money and she would write that night. So all week we have been looking for a letter and it never came until this Saturday and then it really didn't say anything definite except that Mom was the only one who understood her etc.etc. We knew she wouldn't like what we had said ^{for we} told them after helping them get established in Vancouver, ~~and~~ they had up and left without even letting us know, had they asked our advise we would have felt some responsibility, but not when they acted the way they had. (it wasn't in those words but to that effect) Well anyway we still don't know much more about what is going on and as you may imagine it has been a bit of a worry and still isn't settled. You feel mean not to help if they are stuck but when they won't tell you anything, not even what any of them are doing, except that they all have jobs, how can they expect one to do anything. Also the more one helps the more they count on it. Trouble is they are all super-sensitive and take things the wrong way. You don't need to mention this in your letters but just thought I would tell you what we have been doing the last week, thinking and talking more than we usually do and not being much further ahead.

To-morrow will be election night and we will have to be listening, hope the radio is better than it has been recently.

Tuesday. No chance to write more this A.M.
will hope Dewey gets in today -
Loads of love
Catherine -

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. Nov. 4, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

Guess you were as surprised as we were over the election results, I hadn't read very much about it beforehand but we thought it was pretty sure that Dewey would get in, The other day at Mrs Steel's where I went to tea, Ruth McCullough said she had made a bet with her sisters that Truman would be elected and they were so very sure he wouldn't, as they both live in the states, but Ruth proved right. Mom too was sure that Truman would be elected, she simply went by the newsreels, Dewey she took a dislike to because he was so sure he would win and seemed too cocky about it. Perhaps other people across the country felt the same and changed their minds.

Wonder did you listen to the returns come in, We started right after supper, as before that we couldn't get the U.S. Stations and of course at 8 o'clock here, it was 10 with you. We got pretty interested when it was so close and after going to bed I kept listening until 2 o'clock in the morning, though Pete slept and I would doze off. They still didn't seem to be sure and there was yet a chance for Dewey. At 4 A.M. I woke but they still didn't know, most of the men on the radio sounded pretty weary by then. At one time in Colorado Truman and Dewey were within a vote of each other it was so close. About the best part of the outcome is that for the next two months they can go ahead with the foreign policy and not have to wonder if there will be changes when there is a republican president. Also with the Congress so largely Democratic Dewey couldn't have done much. We did feel badly about Robert Bradford losing out as Governor, worse about that than about Dewey losing.

Our snowstorm didn't last very long, was really a heavy squall, made about 3 inches of snow and it is still with us. except where melted by the sun. Feels colder out but still nice. We have been doing things inside, yesterday afternoon Pete was working on a drawing when Frank Gourlay and Mr Scott both called at once, and neither knew each other, so we had general conversation for a time. Mr Scott had come about building on a porch and Frank about the Ski Runners building a club house up at Norquay, where only members could go. Mr Scott left first but Frank stayed on for sometime, until our supper time really. I laughed at Pete not wanting to go to the Ski meeting so that we wouldn't get talked into helping with anything, now we have promised to go up with Frank and look at the site for a cabin! Probably to-morrow.

Had supper with Mom to-night, a delicious boiled dinner, she has just had her bedroom papered and the kitchen walls washed down, which took her mind off the Stockands, we haven't any of us heard a word since Marions letter so guess they are making out alright.

I have been busy trying to straighten out the desk and have some new filing cabinets. they are a good idea but tempt me to keep too much stuff. However there is a lot in connection with the store property etc that it seems best to keep for a while. However I don't seem to get much time to do it.

Am so sorry that your pleurisy seems to hang on so, it was nice that Cousin Jane could be with you but too bad she had to go home to vote.

Mario Trono, the Italian who is the Janitor at the store and a wonderful loyal sort of person, is going to take the first real vacation he has had for a couple of years. Pete is getting him a ticket now so that he can go and see his son and daughter both married and living near Trail, he will see another daughter on his way through Calgary. We also had to arrange for someone to do the furnaces etc while he was away. He also gets out mail for us and brings it over in the mornings, about ten or later, We find we sort of wait for the mail, especially if we are looking for a ~~letter~~ certain letter, and then in the afternoons unless we get our own mail after the noon train from the east, he will pick it up and then we usually miss him, so we have gotten into the habit of going up ourselves before two when he goes. We think that maybe now that there isn't very important mail expected we might do better to just wait until around 4 o'clock or whenever we happen to be out to pick it up and if we expect a letter can go earlier. Trouble is that if Mario leaves our mail at the store someone is apt to pick up a magazine and read it, lay it down and it doesn't reach us as soon. The best light at this time of year is early in the afternoon and if we go out then we are apt to run into people and talk a few minutes and then do a few errands because we are out, and before we realize it the best part of the afternoon is gone. If we could only get better organized but in Banff that is not easy for no one does things at a certain time and with so many tourists people are apt to come to see you at odd times.

Must do a bit of dusting before lunch. It is now Friday.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta
~~Thursday, Nov. 4, 1948~~
Sunday, Nov. 7, 1948

Dearest Mother,

It really feels like winter now, the sun is low and it is colder out, We woke this morning to a gentle steady snowfall and figured we were in for a foot or more, but before ten it started to clear and was really lovely later, only snowed a couple of inches.

We went down to the train to see Mario start on his vacation of two weeks, if he enjoys visiting his son and daughter, if not we will be back sooner. Louise, his son who works in the Grocery, was there too and Mr Styles who drove them down. Mario was all dressed up and looked very fine. He is a real Italian, one of the best, and a very gentle manner. Reminds me a bit of Louis, only not as husky as Louis used to be. Then we came home and while I tried to sort out letters I should have answered from last Christmas, Pete began to clean the workshop where everything has been piled for so long. We are only just getting straightened around and sometimes there is so much to be "tidied up" (as Cliff usually says) that it is rather discouraging.

Yesterday being Saturday I did my usual weekly cleaning and dusting in the morning, then the errands and in the afternoon we waited as the men were to come to store Mr Pelluis car in the old shed where Mac the ex-mountie keeps his and where we can also keep a car if Mr P.s gets way into the corner. The men didn't show up, so we went out the west road to see if there was skating on first lake, the boys hadn't come yet, ^{in state, so} back here to wait some more for the garage men, then Pete went to find them and they having said they would be down right after lunch, said by 4 o'clock it would be another 15 minutes. So Pete went over to the store to see that everything was straight about Bill Ridgeway doing the furnace when Mario is away, and the men came at last. Did the job very well compared to the ones who did it last year and we are glad to have that done. To get the car into a corner it has to be jacked up or something and the battery is taken out. But it does seem as if we were always waiting for someone to come about something. *we speak nearly all afternoon over that one thing.*

Then just before supper Mom appeared and her furnace was gasing badly ~~and~~ Mario hadn't fixed it properly being too excited about his trip I expect, so Pete went up and spent half an hour taking clinkers out and ashes out etc. Then Mom joined us for a chicken sup supper, it seems mean when we have a good meal not to invite her down. and last night it was fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy and frozen beans, and ice cream. They have the frozen things at the store now and they are so good. Icecream too. but not like the Deep Freeze pées and things you have.

This afternoon we thought we would try first lake again and finish up the roll of color film in the camera, found 2 little girls and no cleared ice, except where the boys were clearing a place for hockey. So Pete suggested we go home and get a shovel,

which we did and coming back picked up Jimmy Masterson and his wife and little girl, So when we got back we all pitched in with a snow shovel, a square one and a broom, and soon had quite a large space cleared. more little girls arrived and some offered to help but we found it was the best way for us to keep warm to do it ourselves. No doubt we will be stiff to-morrow but we felt all nice and tingling afterwards. It was sunny but a wind came up which made it seem colder, it was about 30° all day.

Now we think we better check on the furnace at Mom's just to be sure that Bill Ridgeway has attended to it and at the same time pPete suggested I have this ready to mail at the station.

So will send this now.

Loads of love

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. Nov. 10, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

Don't expect I shall have much time to write this but thought I would start. Just drove Pete to Bill -- Well this was as far as I got this afternoon. We have been having both cars winterized and the Ford Clutch was wrong, now it goes and sounds like a new car, rather nice when a new car is so hard to get, and to-day we had the Jeep fixed for winter, different oil etc. So I left Pete at Bill Bunns and he drove the Jeep back and I thought I might have a chance to write to you before he came, but as you see I didn't!

Sunday afternoon when we went out to mail your letter Pete suddenly remembered that Mrs Scott, who lives in the old house was going east for a few days and went to ask if we could give her a lift to the station, and before he came back Sid and Mrs Worts brought some magazines back they had borrowed, It was the first time either of them had been to the house so of course we asked them in and your letter never got to the mail in time! They told us all ~~xxx~~ about their 3 week vacation in their car with Cyril and Mary Paris going too and sharing expenses. They went to almost the same places as Jackie and covered 5000 miles, quite a trip in 3 weeks time, One thing both Cyril and Sid mentioned was the wonderful color in Utah the hills were all red and at their height ⁽³⁾ and when they asked they were told that they were maples, I didn't realize that they had the sugar maples in the west but evidently they have. Cyril said it was worth the whole trip. The Worts stayed for tea. Then we had a late supper and listened to the news, heard that a Dr Skinner had been in a car accident on his way back to Calgary from Banff and the only Skinner we knew was the one Sam ~~xxx~~ is building a house for, so we went up to the Wards to see if they had heard, knowing they would be interested. Found them sitting in front of the fire. Dr Skinner had telephoned them, and it was his brother who was ~~not~~ ^{is the accident not him} there. So we spent the rest of the evening at the Wards.

Monday another lovely day but cold enough to make the washing freeze on the line! Just as we were finishing lunch George Browne and his most attractive young wife called on us and brought us two wild duck. So now that we have been living on moose and venison, this week it is duck. It took us two meals to finish the first one and it was really delicious. We put some onions inside and it took a lot of the gaminess out. We are to have the other to-morrow.

~~Thursday~~ Wednesday - Armistice Day, and it looks a bit like snow. We just saw Donny and another boy with their skates and hockey sticks start out from Barbara's for a day of skating at first lake I expect. It was 9.30 so I guess there is no school. There is some sort of service at the Auditorium where all the ministers take part and then a shorter service at the cenotaph but don't know whether we will go, might to the cenotaph if we hit the right time.

To go back to George Browne and his wife "Tibby". He is the son of Belmore Browne and when they decided to sell their Banff house and just live in a small log cabin down at Seebe (which is just outside the mountains) where they could have their horses and not so many callers, George built himself a log cabin the size of our front room. We haven't seen it yet but imagine it is very nice. Belmore and Mrs Browne have gone back to Ross, California where they spend the winter, but George and Tibby have decided to spend the winter in their own cabin. He paints, mostly duck and bird pictures I think, and she is learning to housekeep. Mrs Simpson says she reminds her of me. I guess because she is almost as inexperienced as me, however she has started on cakes already so is way ahead of what I was the first year !

Speaking of coming out west, (this was in connection with ranching) They told us of a girl they knew from Philadelphia who married one of the cowboys on a ranch in Colorado I think it was. An Aunt had brought the two girls out to this ranch one summer. Had trouble with her teeth and while the aunt was in town having them fixed, the one young girl eloped with the cowboy ! The Philadelphia family naturally had a fit and when the girl took her husband to visit them she locked him in the 3rd floor or attic and brought all his meals to him rather than have her family humiliate him. (they must have been pretty rotten to him) However she and the husband started ranching in Colorado and George said it was the most beautiful ranch he had ever seen and he husband was a grand person. Now they have just started a new ranch in Montana as Colorado was too high for her and they had to move. But he said they had made a great success.

We have started coloring the Christmas cards, this year when Pete drew them he made them easier to color so it wouldn't take us so long, and also we are getting an earlier start on them when the days are a little longer. The last three days Pete has been getting Harry Hazeldean to build a porch on the kitchen of the Scotts. He came both Tues. and Wed. afternoon (this I see is Thursday) and finished it yesterday. Used mostly old wood that we had around the place. It was to make it nicer for Mrs Scott to hang out clothes, She just walks around this porch to reach the clothes line. So that is another little job done.

Had a letter from Mildred ^{from Vancouver} She is still working in the Emergency Ward but will go to school to finish her course for 2 weeks in Dec. and then should be graduated as a Nurses Aide. What surprised us was that she said Cliff was out there with her and might stay for a couple of months and get a job as there isn't much doing on the farm right now. His ankle was worse than he thought but he can get around quite well. I think he must be lonely for her. Just by luck Mildred met Dr and Mrs Mackenzie while they were on their vacation and had lunch with them, she said he kept interrupting and saying " I can't get over how well you look." So Tuesday we went over and saw him for a minute. He said the same thing to us. That when he last saw Mildred she looked like an old person and now she looks like a young one, He said she was so attractive that he didn't wonder Cliff couldn't stay away ! We just hope maybe they will come to-gether again, as time heals a lot of things.

Pete has started on the cards, so will join him as we work to-gether, he does the gray and blue washes, and I do the others.

Soards of love Catherine - hope you are pulling much better i do be careful!

Banff, Alberta.
Nov. 12, 1948

Dearest Mother,

Maybe this won't be much of a letter to-night as we have had a busy day as usual. We are getting on quite well with coloring the Christmas cards, have 125 done already. and last year I don't think it was even pringed at this time. However the good light lasts such a short time, from about 10.30 in the morning til 3.30 in the afternoon, if it is nice and if overcast like today not that long. Usually we have to see about something over town like the bank and that takes time out of the painting house. However we are doing it upstairs and like this afternoon when some one knocks we just don't answer and they come back later if it is important. We had Jeff Staples this morning, and Harry Hazeldean this afternoon, but he came back at 4.30.

Yesterday was Armistice Day, think I wrote you, it was very quiet, no trucks and few cars. We saw Allan in the afternoon over at the rink, he was spraying the fence green and was equally green himself, cap and hair and all his clothes. We are having rather an amusing time with Jackie and the coal at the store and luckily Allan can see the funny side of it with us and laugh, though it is a little annoying. We use Stoker coal which we get from a man named Harbidge for one furnace at the store, and lump coal from Wheatleys for the other furnace. This spreads things around and also gives us the best coal for each furnace. A while ago Wheatleys asked Jackie in the office why the store couldn't use their stoker coal and how good it was etc. and we think maybe they owed a big Bill to the store, Anyway Jackie took it on himself to tell Wheatley to put stoker coal in the bin and of course they filled it right up. This was before Jackie went away. Harbidge came along to fill up the bin with his stoker coal and was very provoked to find it already full and poor Mario had a hard time using it as it made so much extra ash to haul up and out. Allan told ~~xxxx~~ Wheatley that hereafter we would order coal when we wanted it but not to put it in unless he or Mario asked for it. Then he tried to explain to Jackie not to order coal any more. ~~xxxx~~ He also had to explain it all to Harbidge. and when Mom couldn't see why Jackie shouldn't order coal for the building as he had looked after it for so many years, we got into trouble trying to explain to her.

Well this last week Mario was away and someone from the office telephoned Harbidge to put lump coal in the bin for the furnace where we usually use Wheatleys. Harbidge's coal comes from Canmore and is oiled to keep the dust down and gives off a peculiar odor, so yesterday being a holiday and the tenants home, the ^{pl}ivers evidently were bothered by the peculiar smell and called up Allan, he hadn't a key and the store was closed, and he didn't know how to find Bill Ridgeway who was in the midst of the Legion things for Armistice Day and is looking after the furnaces for Mario, so came over here. We told him where Bill lived and that was why we went over to see Allan later in the afternoon. He had just discovered

that the smell had come from the coal ordered by Jackie without any of us knowing ! Now Arbidge is pleased but no doubt the Wheatleys will be sore. and we are a bit annoyed to think of the time Allan and we too have spent unnecessarily all because Jackie can't get used to the fact that he isn't managing the building ! Luckily we can laugh at it, I said we should send him the bills.

I am not answering any of your lovely recent letters, do hope you are feeling better all the time, but I know it takes a long time to get ones strength back after an illness like that.

Sat. no time to write more now n read this over .

Loads of love

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. Nov. 14, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

We can just imagine Jean's excitement to-night ! and how she must have gone running to you whenever she heard the news that a Prince was born. They got us pretty interested too and we tried not to miss any of the newscasts, but it wasn't until late this afternoon that we heard, and they have just had a special B.B.C. Program from London and could hear the crowds outside the Palace. You know we were outside those same gates the night that King George died, but it was a very silent crowd that night. They posted bulletins beside the gate for people to read of how the King was. We went down just to see it all and it was interesting for all kinds were there, people in dress clothes as well as the poorest. So I expect to-day people have gathered so as to be the first to know the news. Well, it really is awfully nice and I am so glad it was a boy as it will sort of cheer up the people in the old country through another winter, it will be like the start of a new era that we hope is better than the last.

The barometer has dropped way down the side of rain and right now it is snowing gently outside and pretty steadily too. It is about the first time our barometer has gone to the left of center for a couple of months I think, and it is away down so maybe we are to have a storm. We have only had a skiff of snow so far but at this time of year even as little as an inch doesn't melt except where it gets lots of sun.

Didn't have^a chance to read over the letter I mailed yesterday so hope it didn't sound too complicated, actually Jackie is so much better than he was before and is taking more interest in the store, also is much easier to deal with, which is a great help.

We are getting on with the Christmas cards, do about 30 a day which is enough as it gets a little tedious. Last night the Moores came down. just Edmee and Pearl as the Colonel has had his upper teeth out. Pearl was awfully funny about him, how miserable he was and yet wouldn't do a thing or take a thing to help, no matter what they suggested. As she said, just like a man ! I guess some are pretty difficult when they don't feel well. We had a nice evening, talked a lot about Fiji where they are going this winter. They would like to stay quite a while but have to come back on a certain boat which will give them just 3 weeks there. It sounds as if it would be an interesting and lovely place to go.

This morning Mr Vallance made us a short call, now that he is settled here he is in less of a hurry and loves to talk, is always interesting too. He came really partly on business. After we did the cards this afternoon we drove up to Norquay to see the chair lift. They have it practically finished and were working on the buidling where the engine is. It was just starting to snow then. and as we came home was getting thicker lower down, now everything is white.

We were so sorry to hear that Mildred is having a rather difficult time after her operation, as I remember it Cousin Jane was terribly nervous after her eye was operated on. It must be that being so near the brain it sort of effects the nerves, but isn't it lucky that Cousin Jane understands so well, I wonder if people have troubles so that they can help others. Of course lots of operations effect people that way, make them so neryous they do far too much and you can't tell them not to as it doesn't make any difference. Well I do hope Mildred comes along allright.

That was such a nice letter from Louisa Manierre and am glad you sent it on to us for it gives an idea how Sam is getting on. It must be so uncomfortable in a cast like that but am glad he can see out *the windows* -

Pearl said that she had Pleurisy when she was in Jamaica the last time and I remember now she was awfully sick and had a touch of pneumonia. she said you had to be awfully careful afterwards not to catch cold etc. So you take your own advice and go slow !!

We haven't heard yet about the paintings, We asked them to let us know if they didn't arrive ~~but might hear any day~~ so guess they didn't bother to write that they had come. But will let you know what we hear.

You said you have read " Family Circle " if it is the one by Cornelia Otis Skinner we would like it for Christmas, a hint ! Do you read Emily Kinborough's things in the New Yorker, about her lecture tour? They are very funny, she is the one who went to Europe in the first book and they wrote the Hollywood one to-gether.

Remember Dr Riley I spoke about going to Boston soon after Pat Costigan got back? Edmee said he is now in New York but he might just call you up if he goes to Boston.

Yes I remember the Waverly Oaks, you must feel pretty old if you feel like them !

The movie " Canadain Pacific " hasn't come out yet, but I think "Northwest Stampede" has. It may not be a big enough picture to have you hear much about it in the east. But it is supposed to have nice backgrounds in it which Cousin Bert would love.

I was amused by one of the letters that Sam's nurse wrote for him and which Cousin Kathie had corrected in her handwriting. Where " lace " curtains were mentioned, cousin Kathie put " net ". I can just imagine that she was afraid you would think she had lace ones in her house!

*Loads of love
Catharine*

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. Nov. 17, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

As usual I am starting another letter and most likely won't get any of yours answered. Trouble is that I add them to a pile and it is now so big I don't know where to start. Whether to work back ward or forward. Usually I start letters telling what we have done and then by the time I do that it is time it was mailed.

We are still having rather mild weather, about 30° but not below zero or anything severe. Even our last drop in the barometer when we were sure it would be a big storm didn't amount to much, it was a high wind that made it drop and they had the worst storm in 15 years at the coast. ~~Had~~ ^{glad} we weren't at Tofino !

Have nearly finished the Christmas cards, coloring them. The paper they used at the Crag and Canyon takes water color very nicely and on the strength of it we, or at least I, am thinking of using it for quick color notes. Am going to experiment with it later. Think it might work very well for little postcard size drawings.

May go to Calgary for some Christmas shopping on Friday, depends on the weather but the time slips by and it will soon be time to get things mailed. and also for the family here it is fun to get things you can't find in Banff.

To-day I was pretty gay and went out to tea. To Mrs MacAulays. It was the old Red Cross Group and one other lady who is a neighbor. Pearl and Cis were both there. We decided not to go to Red Cross this year as it seems to cut into the week so even if it is just one afternoon a week. It was a nice tea but I ate too much. When this evening we went up to the hospital to make a call on the Padre Tully Montgomery, found he had gone home this afternoon so dropped in for a moment at his house and he seemed quite pleased for we aren't great church people. Now it is nearly bedtime.

Did I tell you the other day when we went to open the garage door there was a gooey mass of fat right in the crack between the doors near the hasp where the padlock is ? a chic-a-dee had evidently put it there, maybe for the winter. Also I just found out this afternoon that I will have to get a wire clothes line as otherwise the squirrels will run out along the rope one and make nests of Pete's best shirts!

I thought Cousin Jane's last letter about Mildred much more encouraging, she is spunky to do so much and maybe it is just as well to keep going as long as she doesn't do too much.

Your first Christmas present came yesterday, quite exciting !
That has sort of reminded me to hurry up a bit!

Next bridge club do ask Mrs Mott-Shaw what the latest news of
d'Arcy Baker-Carr and family. They were in Nanking China the last
we heard of them ? Guess Mrs Cole is just as glad now that she
isn't in Peking.

Thanks for the orange bread recipe. it looks easy enough for
me.

Loads of love
Catharine

in a rush !

MADE IN U.S.A.
VICTOR BOND
HOMER SWITH

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. Nov. 21, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

Before I forget, we hear that your knee is giving you lots of pain and Pete wants me to tell you about a thing he has used which helped so much and wants you to try it. Dr Riley of Calgary was the one who told him about it when he was having trouble with the pain in the side of his neck or ear, and Pete has also used it on his knee which was stiff when he was a little boy and sometimes still troubles him.

It is called ANALGESIC BALM and is sort of an ointment, ours comes in a tube like tooth paste. You rub it on very gently, being very careful not to get any near your eyes. (this was more important when it was used on your face but it is well not to touch near your eyes before washing your hands.) Then you cover your knee with a soft cloth, flannel or just a soft bath towel or face cloth. Then you turn on an electric heater, the kind one uses to heat a room, like the one you used to have in the bathroom would be just right. I think they call them radiant heaters. This you place about two or three feet from the knee and then just sit quietly for 15 or 20 minutes and the warmth to-gether with the Analgesic Balm gives great relief to any sort of pain, especially if it is a nerve or something like that. Pete used to sit in the chair with the radiant heater on the table and almost fall asleep. But he is sure it will help you. If you can't get the stuff in Concord we can send you a tube. It seems to be more soothing when covered with a towel and the warmth sort of seeps in. Analgesic means "producing insensibility to pain" according to our dictionary. and mentions rheumatism too.

Think I told you that I planned to go to Calgary last week, most likely on Friday, well in the end I never went so will hope for better luck this week. It was really funny. On Wednesday I talked of going the kitchen floor. Most good housekeepers in Banff do theirs every week, wash it first and then put on wax or the non-polishing wax I use, but also most kitchens are smaller than ours. I do ours about once in two months and really to protect the linoleum as much as anything. and make it easier to clean with a mop. Pete ~~has~~ is allergic to housecleaning, especially if the furniture has to be moved out and he room looks as if it were to be cleaned! I expect from a boyhood of beating carpets! Anyway he talked me out of doing it on Wednesday so bright and early I did it Thursday, it is not really much of a job with the new kinds of glucose sponge mops etc. but you have to let it dry in between putting the wax on and after the wax is on. We did cards in between and then after putting the wax on with an applicator, (you just spread the liquid on with a kind of lambs wool pad on the end of a long stick, very easy.) We went out to do the shopping and get the mail.

In the mail was a letter about the Dumb Waiter and how much it would cost in Montreal, so I suggested we go to the station and find out what the freight would be. Down we went and ran into Elizabeth Rummel who ran Skoki when Russ and family were there. The train was an hour late so she wanted us to sit and talk but we told her we couldn't stay long, she said Sir Norman was here trying to figure out how to carry on the Ski development etc. and that he wanted to come and see us, just a social call! We told her we would be glad to see him and left it at that. Then we came home for lunch.

Usually whenever the floor is freshly done and looks especially well for some reason or other the kids arrive and do a lot of sliding on it or twisting or something to mar the perfect surface. Pete always tells them very nicely to be careful. Well we were just in the midst of cooking left over red cabbage and frying onions to go with the hamburg when the back door flew open and in skidded Sir Norman, feet covered with the fine snow that seems to stick to ones boots and also picks up little pebbles and ashes. It really was funny. We knew the train was late, for he was to go to Lake Louise with Elizabeth and it was then about 12.15. so asked if he would like to share our lunch. He thought that a fine idea so we just made three little hamburgers instead of two bigger ones, and I had some frozen beans so cooked those too, while he sat at the table and a big puddle of water and stones formed under his feet! Actually it all wiped off later seeing the floor had been newly done, but Pete kept looking at it and feeling much worse than I did!

We had a very hectic meal, for we tried to talk and also cook and sort of changed the lunch as we went along, and then we thought of poor Elizabeth waiting at the station and most likely not eating as she expected Sir Norman along any minute. So I tried to think what I could make her some sandwiches from and remembered a tin of turkey and by the time those were made every square inch of space on the counters was used. Sir Norman had to rush off as we weren't quite sure of the train time and we got him to the station just before ~~it~~ pulled in. He was just the same as usual, talked about the terrible state of things in England from his point of view, and never mentioned the skiing, Temple, Skoki, Elizabeth or Cliff or anything like that and we didn't either. In the midst of it all Sam Ward arrived, I had forgotten that part, about the dumb waiter, just to add a little more confusion to our lunch hour. However he carefully wiped his feet first.

By this time it was getting on, we were considering the dumb waiter if ordered right away we might even get before the Christmas rush, so we did a bit of measuring at the store and then Pete even telephoned to Calgary and then we went up to see Sam at the house he is building for Dr Skinner. While we were there and talking to him a very attractive English couple came along. They were interested in houses as they had just been out in Canada two weeks and were from India and hoped to settle here and build a house, at the coast most likely. They seemed very nice and friendly too, so Pete asked if they would like to come down in the evening and see a log house and they said they would love to. We left them with Sam and hustled home to write a letter to the Darling Dumb Waiter man in Calgary, had to catch the train/ with it.

By this time my head was going round with so many things to think of so I gave up all thought of going to Calgary, unless the couple didn't come in the evening (Glad now I waited for I will be able to do more when I do go knowing some things like the names of Jean's nephews etc.) Well about 8.30 the Creffields came down. We had a fire going in the fireplace and he just settled down in the big chair and pulled out a special cigar and seemed right at home. They were very easy sort of people and interested in building and also very interesting about India. Turned out that he had spend 33 years there and was a Brigadier General, though now they just call them "Brigadier" as there are so many generals. He was first decorated (this the wife told me) at Quetta for his work during the earthquake in 1932. Rescue work. and Louis Bromfield used him as the hero(?) in a novel of his called " Sun Wind and Rain " or something like that. But she says it isn't a bit like her husband. It would be fun to read. They also know Edith Hilda (Hammond's) husband, Hugh Millar. He is also in the British Army in Indian and strangely enough was one of the Junior Officers under Creffield this last spring. They stayed until nearly 11 and wanted us to have dinner at the hotel with them ~~first~~ night. However we weren't very keen on that idea , especially as they haven't many extra dollars and they eat at 7.30 so we told them to come back here the next evening if they liked. Funny part was they came Friday night and spent another evening with us and we saw them off on the train yesterday noon. They were very interesting about India ~~and~~ and the change there. The Officers under him were 90 percent Indian mostly Nepalese, ~~am~~

but I will have to tell you all that in another letter for this one is getting long enough.

I guess this coming Thursday will be Thanksgiving and we will be thinking of you if we can remember ! Last year I spent the day in Calgary I think. Cousin Jane will be with you so please thank her ~~xxx~~ for her nice letter and tell her that it would be nice to know if the children and Hanne collect the blocks of stamps. I have a few I have saved but not enough for all and so thought if I knew, would be able to give them to the ones who it mean't the most to.

Loads of love *to all + Thanksgiving guests -*
Catharine

P.S. Tell Cousin Jane that I was glad she mentioned Uncle Marshall's birthday or I never would have remembered. Didn't know whether to tell him she reminded me or whether to pretend I had known, decided on the letter thinking it might please him more.

Banff, Alberta.
Nov. 23, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

Well I made my shopping trip to Calgary all right but didn't do as much as I had hoped. It seemed as if everywhere I went I had to wait for people. Some days you see just what you want and have great luck but not so yesterday.

It was snowing when we woke up before 7 o'clock and so dark it was hard to tell what kind of a day it might be, but I took a chance on it and just as well I did for it cleared off, was warm and I never had my coat on all day or on the bus. Mrs Iverson was going down to see her husband who has T.B. and had gotten permission to spend the afternoon in Calgary with her. So we sat to-gether going down which makes the trip seem shorter. Now the road is so good one gets there before 11. I usually start by going to the bank then order any overseas parcels and then an early lunch before it is crowded. There were so many kinds of things to choose from in ordering cake and candy sent from London direct through the Bay that I decided to look over the lists as I ate lunch or waited anywhere. But got my lunch so quickly didn't have time there, Then went to the Art Gallery and there was a lady deciding on frames & she was forever. then discovered she was someone who had been to our house years ago. From there to tell them at Eatons to send the Bendix up. They were holding it until we were ready to put it in. Again had to wait to see the man who sold it to me. and so it went.

Got back to the Bay to give them the lists of people to send things to. I had three pages typed out with the addresses, for I thought it would be fun to send a parcel of candy to each of the children so they would have the fun of its being their own. There were 12 children altogether, and then as the cakes we sent ^{below} were the first that came into the store and not too good and we have ~~had~~ arrived in a crumbled state but good for that custard ~~d~~dessert they make, can't think of its name. decided to send a cake to the parents. Well when I gave the girl the list, she said " Oh I am sorry but you have to write out the orders yourself. " She offered to do it in her spare time if I came in the next day so I decided I might as well sit right down and start in. The more I hurried the slower I got and you know printing is rather slow compared to writing. It took me a whole hour just to write the addresses and who they were from. Then she had to do some elaborate taring of each form, giving me one and keeping three and that took another 20 minutes. So

that was quite a slice out of the afternoon as the bus leaves at 4.45 to come home and usually I get a bite to eat before we leave. I had foolishly thought I would have lots of time and so had done the unimportant things first, so in the end had to do a lot of running around. The book dep't of the Bay where they have the best choice, had moved to a different floor the day before and they couldn't always find things, so even that took time. But in the end I got quite a bit, but never did look at the clothes I should get.

When I got home found George and Tibby Browne calling on Pete and dove right into finding things Pete wanted to show them, I am almost as good as Jean at remembering where things are by now. They didn't leave until nearly ten and then there was the mail to read etc. Poor Pete had been entertaining all day. Norman Luxton in the morning. the radio man in the afternoon and Mrs Serra to collect for the Cancer fund.

To-day we were a bit late getting up and this morning we went over town and ran into Allan at the store who wanted to ask Pete a few things and it was noon when we got home. We painted a few more cards and then went over again for the mail. Mario is back so can look after the Janitor things again. He had a fine vacation.

We had a nice letter from Mildred, Cliff is working on a chicken farm not far from Vancouver. Gets his board and room out there ~~but~~ as well as his wages and then on his day off stays with Mildred. She said he was paying part of her room so that he can stay there when he can. so that sounded pretty good to us. She said he hadn't felt so well for ages. She herself will graduate shortly and then look for a job. Young Peter has written them that he thinks it a good idea and Donny seemed quite pleased when we told him. so we are hoping everything will turn out allright.

I keep forgetting, Can you get us " THE ALPINE CALENDER " for 1949 ? You got it through the Concord Bookshop. It is printed in Switzerland by Stehli Freres, Editeurs, Zurich. It is Not the "Swiss Alps Calender" which isn't quite as lovely. It is most confusing. I will enclose a seperate paper with the name on it you can show the bookshop. You can also get them in Cambridge at Shoeneffs I think that is the way it is spelt. George took me there once, a foreign bookshop. Just beyond Harvard square. towards Ware Hall.

Supper is all cooked and it smells good, spare ribs to-night.

Loa ds of love,
Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Thanksgiving
Nov. 25, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

We have tried to think of you all to-day as we knew it was Thanksgiving in Concord, Pete suggested as we were washing the lunch, breakfast and last nights supper dishes, that we send you a wire (I expect the stack of dishes might have made him think of your pantry in Concord) but then we figured that by the time the wire got there (with the difference in time) it would probably wake you up in the evening and in any case would be too late to send a message to everyone. And any way you might get a scare if a wire came at all. I expect you all had a lovely time as usual and that it was pretty lively with so many children.

Have just done up your birthday present which I hope to send tomorrow. This year I am trying not to do everything at the last moment.

I don't know whether or not you can get the Magazine " The Architectural Forum " at the Concord Library? It is published by Time Magazine and Fortune and is quite a wonderful magazine for builders and Architects. In the October 1948 number there is a very interesting article on " Greene & Greene " Two architects who had a great influence on the early California houses, especially in the way they used wood and I have an idea the California Bungalow was their style or copied after some of the houses they built. The thing that interested me most was one paragraph in particular and so I will copy it for you.

" But Greene & Greene felt another influence which was strong on the West Coast at that time. This was the influence of oriental art. Almost as soon as Japan was opened in the early fifties, an appreciation of its art began to seep into the western world. Edward Morse and Ernest Fellonosa, in the seventies, Percival Lowell, John La Farge and Henry Adams in the nineties, were only some of the travelers who helped spread an awareness of this art. By the early part of the twentieth century this was so widespread that it had entered the art departments of the public schools through Ernest Dow, who ~~spent~~ had spent years of study in Japan. "

Greene & Greene ran head on into this influence ~~which was~~ ~~strong~~ on the Pacific coast. One had only to walk down the street to feel it. There were beautiful Japanese tea gardens in Pasadena and in San Francisco Oriental shops, run by discriminating connoisseurs were full of objects which would be museum pieces now - objects which represented the loot of centuries. Morse and others wrote books on the methods of construction in Japan.

The brothers fell under the spell of this art. Their work shows a strong oriental influence. But like Richardson, like Wright, like Maybeck and like all strong men, they made of the sum total of influences they received, something new in the world, something their own. It is one of the pleasures of erudition to pick out the oriental details in the work of Greene & Greene. Unfortunately, like so much of erudition, it leads nowhere."

It is Saturday and three callers this morning as well as our being late^r getting up, overslept. so I didn't do too well with my ~~cleaning~~ cleaning. Now we are listening to a football game Calgary Stampede^rs who won the Western championships, playing Ottawa in Toronto. Nearly 300 fans from Calgary went east on a special train. all dressed in Cowboy outfits, took horses and even a chuck wagon and I guess are having quite a time. Will send you the newspaper clippings later as they are quite amusing.

Must go soon for errands and the mail

Loads of love,

Catharine
7.5. Rather interesting to think that Grandpa is still referred to as having an influence on architecture because of what he wrote on Japan -

Banff, Alberta.
Nov. 30, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

Your letter came yesterday about setting up the tables for Thanksgiving so I expect the next one will tell about the big day. It always seems funny to think how for a while there were no real children and now it is mostly the young ones, I can imagine what fun they all had and wish we might have been there too.

We are busy trying to get the Christmas parcels done up early, and I have Russells and Kittys all packed but as there are a few breakables (it being mostly food from Britain or Canada) we thought it should go express. now find we have 7 forms to fill out. such a nuisance. Your presents will be mostly ~~food~~ books and I am reading them feverishly first, Also a birthday present which I hope reaches you allright, goes to-day.

We have had further letters from Mildred at the coast and she should graduate Dec. 10th. Cliff is feeling better than he has for years and is working at a poultry or chicken farm, 14000 chickens. but gets in to stay with Mildred on his days off. We are now wondering what to do about young Peter for Christmas and as Barbara says she has plenty of room for him he may come over here for a while during Christmas and New Years.

Mom got a letter yesterday from Marion. It was funny for we hadn't wanted to worry her unnecessarily by telling her the latest we had heard, and yesterday Pete saw her in the store and for some reason felt he should just mention that the three youngest, Mavis, Katherine and David were at the coast, and right after that she got the letter from Marion saying that they were there, Mavis got her job back at the Hudson's Bay and David is with the Canadian Press whatever that means (they never tell us any more than they can help) and Katherine is still looking for a job. But no mention of where they are staying etc. The others, Cam, Lila, Marion and Betty are all in two rooms in Toronto, but again no word of where it is or what they are doing. We know Marion has a job but she has never told us the name of the firm she is working for. Well we hope they make a go of it this time but they are so impractical. We think that the three at the coast may do better on their own and Marion sort of domineers the rest of the family we feel.

I have forgotten when I last wrote, was it Saturday ? Mom came to supper that night as we had a baked ham, just a 2½ pound one. Then Sunday it snowed gently nearly all day. In the afternoon I wrote notes with the Christmas cards to all the people in England and Scotland and after mailing them Monday we got a whole raft of letters from most of the people I had written to the day before , rather discouraging for now I owe them all letters again !

Isn't the thing the King has wrong with his leg the same kind of thing that Uncle Marshall had a couple of years ago, something wrong with the circulation ?

This isn't much of a letter but I should get the mail off and the parcel for your birthday and one or two other things. To-night the movies of the Olympics are on, the ones that we went to last week but when we had gotten all cleaned up and our clothes changed and the car out and went over, the place was dark. Seems the reels of movies had been sent to the wrong place from the last place they were shown and no one knew in time to tell anyone about it.

Lots of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Fri. Dec. 3, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

Am getting a little mixed on when I last wrote you. This is as far as I got yesterday, now it is Saturday and I am still a bit mixed when I last wrote.

We had a busy day yesterday, washed the back hall linoleum with a new kind of sponge mop that makes it so easy there is nothing to it, then we mailed the Christmas presents to you and Jean and Gale, and if I can remember will send you the tag to go on the book for Rusty. In the afternoon there were the usual errands and a bit of Christmas shopping. It was cold and snowy all day and now it looks really lovely out, 6 or 8 inches of snow and to-day nice and sunny, our coldest night of the fall and below zero, so guess our winter has started. Did I tell you my overshoes came, just in time, nice flat heeled ones that fit all shoes.

The United Church Bazaar was on in the afternoon and I went early to be sure of a cake, got a wonder, chocolate and a gooey frosting. Had tea there with Pearl and Edmee. It was Aunt's 70th. Birthday so when I got back we both went over to the Mt Royal to wish him a happy birthday, then Pete thought it would be fun to ask them down here in the evening and the Superintendent and his wife who we have never asked down. But the Moores couldn't come as they were going to Edmee's to dinner and later to the Painters as their son and his wife had arrived yesterday afternoon from Japan. He has been over there the last year or two. Hope we will see them and have a chance to hear a bit about it.

The Moores said they would like to come down to-night so we then went to the "Supers" to invite them. On the way we saw Mrs Wellman and she asked if we were coming to see her. She lives alone in the new house her son-in-law and daughter have just built and is rather lonely as part of her family live in California, including the ones who own the house, and another daughter in New York. So after asking the Hutchisons to come to-night, (which they may not be able to do as he is sick in bed with a cold) we dropped in on Mrs Wellman and asked her to come to supper. Which she did and stayed until about ten o'clock. We had a nice evening talking about the old days as she came to Banff when she was 10, or really to Morely,

Now this morning we have done the weekly cleaning and the shopping and after we get the mail will try to do up some more presents, for we have boxes to send to various members of the family for Christmas, as they are all apt to be homesick this year we will make them a little extra special. There is Cliff and Mildred, and we have heard from Cam again and know where the ~~three~~ 4 or them are in 2 rooms in Toronto, they also gave us the address of Mavis, David and Katherine at the coast. Mavis is back at the Bay in the same Dept. David with Canadian Press doing radio work and Kathie still looking for a job, but they too have found a couple of rooms.

Donny has decided he will stay with Barbara for Christmas and she will take Peter if he comes over from Indermere. and so it goes.

Have so many things I should do I don't know where to start. So glad that Thanksgiving went off so well and now I shall have to remember it is your Birthday next. Better wish you a Happy Birthday right now so you will be sure to know we are thinking of you on that day.

Loads of love and Many Happy Returns of the Day. *from us both*,
Catharine.

54 Wlante

Banff, Alberta.
~~Sat Dec 4, 1948~~
Tues, Dec 7, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

Started this letter to someone else and found I had written Dearest Mother before I realized what I was doing ! So had to start all over again.

We have been busier than usual with a bit of company. Saturday I think I wrote you that the Moores were invited down and The Hutchisons if he was well enough. Pearl telephoned Mom that they wouldn't come as the others couldn't, Hutch still being sick in bed. So we made a call at the Hotel where the Moores are now and told them to come anyway, but Pearl said she didn't know if they could as she had invited someone else to supper. So we told them we would be at home anyway and to come if they felt like. It sounded so uncertain that we asked Mom to supper and had a good meal, roast, Potatoes and peas, ice cream and the United church cake. Then about 8 o'clock in came the Moores, Edmee (Charlie has to work at night) and the Jack Brewsters. So Pete hustled round and we lit the fire and had a real evening, and ate more of the Church fair cake.

Then Sunday I wrote letters and addressed cards and did up a few more parcels. I think it snowed a bit most all day and don't think we went out except to get Time Magazine.

Monday was our At Home. We had to see Mr Vallance about a new Lease for Mr Scott, to have it worded right etc. so started out to telephone him when we met them headed for the post office. They said they had planned to drop down to see us in half an hour, so we did our errands and came back and they were here soon after. That worked just right for we had quite a few questions to ask and they made quite a little call. After they left John Monod appeared ^{as our cook} as our lunch was cooking. He is one of the skiers from Switzerland, a most attractive boy just learning English, so we asked him to lunch and by the time we had finished it was one thirty or nearly two when he left. Met Pearl at the Post Office and she said "Better watch out, Tom Kaquits is in town, was in our room all morning." he is one of the Indians from Morely. So when we got back we did the dishes quickly and then went upstairs to work. even put the car away so it wouldn't look as if we were home. About 4 .30 we came down and had the lights on in the kitchen and of course in walked Tom. Well it really was alright, for all he wanted was money for the Christmas party at Morely and his wife is going to send me a doll, so guess that is a hint for something at Christmas time.

After supper Pete thought it would be nice to have the Painters down, as their son is here after 2 1/2 years in Japan. So we got cleaned up and the house in order etc. and changed our clothes and set out to ask them. then thought it might be better to telephone first so went to Moms to do that and they couldn't come after all. and here we were all cleaned up! So we did Christmas cards instead.

This morning Pete having taken down the cupboard where the Bendix will go, we decided to get that corner cleaned which took most the morning until we had a call from Allan Mather about a few thing.

We had just finished lunch when Mom came with a message hat the Painters would like to come down to-night if all right with us. So we had to get some things for them and so it goes. Now it is nearly train time so will have to call this my letter, If we hear anything interesting about Japan will tell you.

Mom's birthday is to-morrow and yours the next day. Hope you have a lovely one. I haven't thanked you for your letters or remarked on them but will have to wait until the cards are sent and the parcels off. A great big hat box came from you to-day, looks very exciting. and two books have come. Please tell Jean that I have gotten a fine book for Peter from her about one of the Canadian Navy boats during the war and one about Candain Art for me.

We heard from Mildred yesterday and she graduates as a Practical Nurse Friday. So that is nice. Cliff has to have all his teeth out the dentist thinks but that might make him much better.

Must stop now. Loads of love,

Catherine .

Zaunf. Alberta,
Dec. 9, 1948.

Dearest Mother.

This is just to let you know we are thinking of you on your birthday & hoping it is a very happy one for you. Mom was 69 yesterday & says she feels old. I don't know about that for she plans to ship a mile for Curling again this winter.

Pete thought perhaps we should send you a wire to-day but we were afraid it might scare you. Allan told us that after they started back from Prince Edward Island after visiting Grace's family, it was the father's birthday & another daughter had forgotten it in time to write so sent her father a wire, & when it came they were so afraid to open it for fear it was ~~new~~ bad news & Allan & Grace were in an accident.

I wrote the first part of this while sitting in the car waiting for Pete to see different people & of course ran out of ink or I might have gotten further.

We had our first real cold last night. It was a clear frosty day, around zero & then about five started to drop. Was 10° below zero when we had supper & 22° or 25° below when we went to bed. We expected it to be awful this morning but strangely enough it was warmer, about 8° below. Now it is above zero, looks like snow.

This isn't much of a letter I know but Harry Hojeldean is coming to look at the place the Bender will go. about 2 o'clock so we are going for the mail first.

Loads of love

Calharrie.

Banff, Alberta.
Sat. Dec. 11, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

Seems to me I have neglected you badly lately, and haven't written a decent letter for ages. Have been trying to get my Christmas presents done up and away and to-morrow I must get the cards written and sent. They are all directed but there are about a hundred to write messages on in answer to letters wither from last Christmas or during the year, and that will take time.

Tell Jean that I had a nice letter from Jessie Brown and she received the ham for which I am so glad. got it the 6th. of December, so it will let them have it for Christmas if they like. She also sent us a lovely calender of the Tay bridge and a lovely card, heather and plaid and all.

There are so many letters to be written I never know where to start. We have a parcel from the Gardiners, says a pewter plate but we are saving it to open Christmas. We also got a nice Christmas card from Harry Hauder and a letter from his niece.

Last time I wrote the painters were to come down for the evening (we are supposed to go to a cocktail party there to-morrow but don't know whether or not we will.) They didn't get here until after 8.30 but stayed until nearly midnight. We had a nice evening. Brookman Painter and his wife are the ones who have been in Japan for 2½ years, at least he has, she went out later. He is an engineer we think, a Harvard graduate. They lived in Tokyo but in houses built for the army so were quite comfortable. They knew quite a lot of Japanese and visited back and forth in a social way with some of them, also made a few trips to Kyoto, Nikko etc. which weren't damaged, but Tokyo was badly hit, though the Megii museum wasn't harmed. One building they mentioned in particular, the Americans bombed all around it but never touched it just to show what they could do. They were pleased to meet someone who had been in Japan and could talk about it. They flew back via the Aleutions and Alaska. Mr Painter was the Architect for the Banff Springs Hotel and very interested naturally in such things, I showed him GrandPas book on Japanese Homes and he was very interested and complimentary, said it was very interesting to him as it wasn't written from a technical standpoint but in a natural way and we loaned it to him to take home.

Mom's birthday was the 8th. We remembered and went up in the morning, about noon she came down rather excited. Marion had telephoned from Toronto, Cam had the chance of some very important job (so it sounded to Mom though Marion couldn't say what it was exactly) but had to go to Montreal about it, and of course needed money, for the trip. Mom said she wouldn't come to us but Marion insisted we would understand, so down she came and though Pete wasn't very pleased about the thing, that is, the way it was done so suddenly and all, still there was not much else we could do but wire the fare. Theyesterday morning we were a little late

getting up and the Telegraph girl left a notice on our door there was a night letter for us. We had visions of all sorts of things, most likely Lila and Bette had decided to go to Montreal too, or worse. and then Pete said " You know it could be your Mother." (Dan McCowan told us that he has long since gotten over getting " butterflies in his tummy " when he sees a telegram !) Then we remembered we had promised to take Mom to the station for the 10 o'clock train (she went to a tea in Calgary, the ladies oldtimers, came back on the late train and never got home until 4.30 A.M. this morning) We didn't mention the wire to Mom knowing it would only worry her, so picked it up after leaving her at the station. It was from Dorothy Whyte about Erling Stoom's neice who went through on the train last night and who we went down to see. But it was a relief. Now of course we are wondering , did Cam get the job and what was it etc? We will just have to wait now for a letter. *Man thought it was something to do with aeroplanes & a magazine*

We did have another nice letter from Mavis in Vancouver, and it gave us more news of what they are doing. She went into the Hudson's Bay to see the people in the dep't she worked in, linen bedding etc. The head man asked if she had a job and she said "no " and he told her she could start on Monday morning, so that was nice. Then David went back to the Sun News paper and after a few days heard of a job with Canadian Press writing news scripts for the radio. He got the job there and writes ~~to~~ news for several stations. and Katherine too has a job filing etc in an insurance office. So they are all working and we think will do better on their own away from Marion who rather dominates the family we suspect. The 3 kids have two rooms in a rather nice sounding house and near the street cars etc. a nice district too. Mildred was supposed to graduate yesterday as a Practical Nurse so we are very pleased about that too.

It is now Sunday and snowing gently, about 5° above but as yet not much wind or else it would feel like a blizzard, it says it will be -20° below to-morrow. A good day to write Christmas cards. but I have only gotten into the Bs, after writing on the back of one we listened to the news and the old lady had just died. Gave one a queer feeling. Her husband Major Baigley died several years ago, he was one of the old mounted police. Last night we listened to the signing of the agreement between Newfoundland and Canada. It has to be ratified by both Canada and Newfoundland and confirmed by the British Parliament and then Newfoundland will become the 10th Province of Canada, this will take place March 31st. But it was a very historic occasion and the broadcast was very simply and well done, you could even hear the scratching of the pens when the men signed.

Forgot to tell you about a deer who was lying down outside the house, a magpie jumping onto its back from time to time and getting fleas or bugs from the hair. The Deer would sort of shoo it off and then the magpie hopped about and pulled the Deers tail, seemed to be teasing it and talking to it. The deer would just flick its tail a bit and then the Magpie would go up and pull it again with its beak finally the deer got up and walked away .

Must get busy on the cards.

Loads of love,

Catherine

SEASONS GREETINGS



CATHARINE AND PETER

Peter Whyte 1948

Dec 14, 1948

Dear Mother,

Will send this instead of a letter today as we are busy getting off Christmas cards. After getting them colored so far ahead we still are behind in writing on them.

I guess it wouldn't be Christmas without a rush at the end. Your parcels have all come in good shape. The big box, 4 books & the Calendars 2 days ago.

Thanks so much and you had a nice birthday. Love

[Redacted]
[Redacted] me -

Banff, Alberta.
Dec. 17th. 1948.

Dearest Mother,

The nicest letters have been coming from you and here I have been so busy I have hardly written at all, will never catch up but am trying to get the parcels away in time and the cards too. Of course I can resort to Air Mail at the last minute. Sent one to Mildred to-day, a letter or note explaining for her present is in with the note this year.

You should see what I call the "mess" the house is in, the studio full of excelsior and paper etc. the bedroom worse with shoes and laundry all mixed up in colored string and pretty paper. We were talking the other night having just received a card from the Michael Miles who run a quiz program in England on the B.B.C. and they were thanking us for the time they had here at the house last spring. They ate supper and breakfast with us. and I said to Pete, "well maybe this house is so different from most people's houses as things are usually in such a mess" and he said "Oh, I don't know." and I said "Look at the desk and the end of the table." and Pete's reply was rather comforting I thought, for he said "That's not a mess, that's just an accumulation."

We have had below zero weather all week but now it seems warmer as we are more used to it.

I won't be able to write more now as Jackie is quite sick and we must go over and see what is happening. They are hoping to take him to the hospital in the morning in Calgary and I will let you know what it is later on.

Just in case the trains are delayed and the mail is slow will send this along and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and I am sure it will be fun with the kids and all. Oh the other book came yesterday. and a wonderful card from Rusty. We nearly didn't get it as it was addressed "Mr and Mrs Whyte" and the Bill Whytes got it first.

Loads of love and will write as soon as the cards get sent.

Lots of love,

Catharine .

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. Dec. 19, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

Can just imagine that by now you are just waiting for Christmas all your preparations made, except of course the last minute things of baskets or a plant etc. I thought I would be all ready but am afraid I am not. All the ~~Concord~~ things got away in good time I hope and then there were the boxes for the Stockands in Toronto and the Stockands in Vancouver. Cliff and Mildred at the coast and young Peter in Invermere. If they weren't all so far apart and no doubt a bit lonely or homesick this year, we wouldn't have bothered to send them a fairly big box. But put in a few extras like candy and nuts and fruit cake.

In Mildred's last letter she had graduated, ^{as a Practical nurse} Wonder did I tell you, the highest in her class in the written exam and the 2nd highest in the practical part and then they all were registered at the nurses place and after a two week vacation she will look for a job. Cliff is with her and has started to have his teeth all out. They have been in poor condition for a long time and we hope that is one thing that is causing his trouble, a Dr who used to ski at Temple is extracting them a few at a time, to see the reaction. Mildred also has gotten in touch with Mavis and a great friend of hers (from her school teaching days who live in Vancouver and have been awfully good to her ever since she went out to the coast) told her that they couldn't have any kids lonely over Christmas and so are going to have the 3 Stockands out there on Christmas. They have two boys at home and know Mavis and the others. But we have heard no more word from the Toronto Stockands so hope things are going all right with them.

We have had a busy week, Have sent 250 Christmas cards and at least half of them have notes written on them which takes a bit of time to do. I think that living in a place like Banff you get cards from more people. So many have been to our house or we knew years ago at one of the camps and keep in touch by sending cards, I also think that they rather like Pete's cards and have a sneaking suspicion that is one reason they keep sending to us. I cut out a lot who we hadn't heard from last year and then of course we have been getting cards from just those few. One couple, a friend of Cousin Berts who spent a winter in Yellowstone Park and wrote a book about the animals etc. sent us a nice letter on their card this year. We only met them for supper by accident years ago on the road to Golden when a slide blocked the road for a few hours and they ran out of gas. They used to send us cards and we to them, but I am sure we haven't heard from them since before the war and yet along came a card this year. Now we have run out of them and have to make about 25 more for the local people this week!

Last Saturday afternoon Pete suddenly got the idea we should go and see how Norman Luxton was, so out we went and as his brother wasn't at the store we went to the house. Most people they don't ask in as Mrs Luxton is a little funny that way. Eleanor the daughter has been very ill, still is, a nervous trouble and on crutches.

but they asked us in and seemed so pleased we had come. Want us to go again. Poor Eleanor, she is in her 30's and it is partly herself that has caused the trouble. We have promised to go again. While we were there they told us about their Christmas cards, They borrowed the negative of the Indian Camp we used one year as it was the only thing Mrs Luxton liked. and they are trying to send 300 cards and both Norman and Eleanor sick. So maybe we don't send too many after all.

We thought it might be fun to get a tiny little tree about a foot high, put it in a pot on a tray (Mrs Luxton being a very fussy housekeeper wouldn't appreciate the needles falling) Then decorate it up and put a few tiny bundles around the foot of it and take it over the day before Christmas. I can do up one piece of candy at a time in the little scraps of pretty paper one has and I think it will make it rather cunning, don't you ? Might tie some of the tiny packages on the tree. Have a couple of handkies too and little things like that.

Saw Mr Vallance yesterday, you would like him he is so full of everything and loves to tell you things like an eager boy, He must be over 50 or 60. He was crossing the intersection yesterday and I had to stop for the sign. He asked where Pete was as we are nearly always to-gether and I happened to be alone doing errands. Then he was so excited as Peter his son had already arrived from his last year at University and his daughter and son-in-law will arrive to-day from Vancouver, they have never seen the house finished. They are the grandest family and one can just imagine the fun they will have. I had hardly gotten around the corner when he dashed out again to ask where the Christmas trees were, Said "is it really true you just go and take one ?" and I said " yes " for the Government cut them all week for anyone who wants one and in that way people aren't so apt to go and take their own from the die of the road. He dashed back to the sidewalk and I drove about 20 feet further on and out he ran again. " Tell Pete I have my new car, it came at last. " and away he went again.

Yesterday afternoon they had planned to have Santa Claus at the store, it was Jackie's idea evidently but no one told us until we read it in the Crag and Canyon. Mr Londdale the minister was Santa (Harold was over last night and told Pete he thought he would have made a better one) It was all arranged that he would arrive by plane, and he did circle the town and store first with our one local plane, then Bill Waterworth drove him in by car and he spent the afternoon in the store giving a Poscicle and box of Crackers or something to each child. It was a little awkward having Jackie so sick the day before, but luckily Dr MacKenzie gave him something to make Jackie sleep and it worked so that he had a good night's sleep Friday night and Florence too. Mom stayed with them ~~xxxxxx~~ at the apartment and slept on the sofa, and then Saturday Morning Tommy Anderson drove Jackie and Florence to Calgary and to a specialist there. We heard from Florence last night that Jackie was in the Holy Cross Hospital and will have a complete check up to-day (or to-morrow most likely) and she will be back to-night. So we were relieved that they got him down allright. Dr MacKenzie told Pete that he was getting in such a serious condition that something drastic had to be done. His liver and Kidneys are bad and he just sits and sort of broods most of the time, even Mom told us that, and imagines all sorts of things and that people are talking about him etc. However this doctor is a specialist on the kidney and liver

condition as well as being a physciatrist (can't possibly spell that but you know what I mean) so perhaps he can get him straightened around. We can't help but think how very lucky we were to get the affairs straightened out last summer as we did, for it would have been impossible now.

Anyway we had Mom down for supper last night thinking she might be blue and upset, but she was more cheerful and laughing than for a long time. Seems that she was at the store to help watch that the children didn't get a few toys they weren't supposed to take or something, and instead she helped hand the popcycles to Mr Lonsdale and all the kids called her Mrs Santa Claus and that tickled her. Mr Lonsdale is her minister and kids her a bit so he entered into it and she just had a wonderful time and it took her mind right off her troubles. It was fun hearing all about the little kids. Pete wants me to enclose this article from the Calgary Herald about Santa Claus.

This is quite a letter but I may not have much chance to write the next few days. I haven't been able to get the house very clean will just cover it with decoration I guess. Maybe wash the windows as that usually makes a place look cleaner! We have Christmas Sat. then Sunday and then Monday is a holiday too, Boxing day. So it will be quite a weekend.

And now as I hope this reaches you before Christmas, a Merry Christmas to you all and lots of love from us both.

Catharine

P.S. Harold called on us last evening. Said with a little smile " You aren't busy to-night are you? Could you show me the Swiss slides? " We couldn't refuse for we have put him off twice before. After that he stayed and talked. Told us he had all his Christmas presents bought except Bubby's and Pete's, he can't think what to give Pete as he didn't think he wanted to give him a handkerchief as he has the last two years. They all take their own savings and buy their own presents. He has 6 glasses for his mother, candles with bells on them for Mom, a hockey puck for Donny, etc. Then we asked what he wanted, Barbara having said he hadn't even told her. He suggested that they ~~they~~ had a modeling set at the store of \$1.35 or a telegraph set which we could give to both he and Davy together for \$4.50. I thought it was pretty good of him to figure it out and not expect us to give him a great big expensive present. He said a box of candy would be nice. They really are awfully cunning. Harold is just 10.

Must stop.

More love and I told you all the parcels you have mentioned have come. Thank you very much in advance. The Swiss calendar too.

Catharine

Banff, Alberta
Wed. Dec. 22, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

I thought we would have plenty of time to do things before Christmas but here it is with only two days left and most everything to do but wash the kitchen floor which we got done today. But yesterday afternoon when I thought I might do lots of things first Agnes Hammond came and we haven't seen her for months so naturally wanted to have her come in for a nice visit. Then when she went I dashed over town without Pete to pick up the thing for him ~~me~~ also a few other last ~~minute~~ minute errands. When I got back Jean Vallance and her husband Bill Gill who have come from Vancouver for the holidays (he is studying law at the U.B.C.) and Peter Vallance were here and they had so much to tell us that they stayed until nearly supper, after six. So the afternoon was gone. We also have more or less lost three evenings, Harold here Saturday, Johnny on Monday and Harold last night again wanting to help us decorate our tree. All the others were at parties. Bubby wearing a very pretty yellow evening dress that Barbara made her for Christmas. Davy said he was going " formal" too to the party, as his new pants would cover his ankles ! He has grown so fast that his old pants got pretty short!

Then Yesterday Donny was over at noon, we had asked him to come and then Mom came down with some Christmas cake as our present and she had to tell us all about Jackie and that gets very tiresome to us. Last week being so cold I hadn't done the laundry so had that to do this week. and when we did get out yesterday afternoon it seemed to take a long time to do things and we ran into people. Had just gotten back and I was planing to use the hour or so before supper to finish doing up presents and Mrs Jennings came to tell us about the new tenants next to them in the suites and how they couldn't sleep because of the late hours the others kept etc. It got rather tiresome and she stayed until nearly six so the afternoon was shot. It is a very difficult situation as the daughter is so nervous and they are trying to get her to the coast to a doctor, it is a long story.

We have our tree decorated which is something. About here we had another caller, just as we were having a late lunch and I just dusted the front room after we had finished even if Lloyd was still here. He wouldn't mind any way. It was too dark to vacuum it.

We had a wonderful surprise Monday morning, a big box and " perishable " marked on it. came by express. In it was the prettiest thing, too lovely large mallard ducks with all their feathers still on and in between a dear little Christmas tree, just right for us, and two T. bone steaks wrapped in paper. from Gray and Eleanor Campbell from the Ranch a Cowley. We have told Jimmy Simpson that we will give them one if he will pluck ours too ! and they were tickled to pieces.

There is so much to do and I will just have to wait and tell you all about it later. So glad to know that Mildred is to be with you and please tell her her wonderful gandy has come.

Kitty's has come too .

Loads of love - No time to read over - Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Christmas night.
Dec. 26, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

It is just after seven in the evening and we are too tired to want to go out anywhere, in fact Pete is having a snooze in his chair right now, so it seems a good time to catch up on telling you about Christmas and the days before.

This has been a busy week, somehow with Jackie not well (he is much better and came back ~~Thursday~~ on the bus) the week before and extra things to be done and the extra cold weather I didn't get on with my cleaning and the things one has to do before Christmas, and then we kept getting cards from people we didn't send to and had to make a few more, still do in fact before New Years, that is why Pete always puts " Seasons Greetings " for then if you miss Christmas you can still make New Years,

Then this last week we ran into company, Jean Vallance and her husband and brother one afternoon after we had had a nice call from Agnes Hammond. and then I think I told you Mrs Jennings came just when I had planned to bake a nut loaf and so it went. Then the kids got so excited at the prospect of Christmas that they kept coming over. Harold one night hoping to decorate our tree, and Johnny another night. Then Thursday night they all came, it really was funny but you know you can't do a great deal with such young though eager helpers.

We had gotten a tiny tree about 18 inches high, maybe shorter, but miniature in every way, a dear little tree, and thought we would decorate it for Eleanor Luxton who is a real shut-in, from a nervous trouble after a serious breakdown. This I planned to do on ~~Thursday~~ night, we had decorated our own tree that morning and hung a few sprigs of spruce at the windows with red bows, and I had hoped to clean the front room and tidy things up that same day but as we were having a late lunch Lloyd Harmon dropped in and we got talking and the afternoon started to go pretty fast. Still had all the family things that weren't done up to do and I think I did some of those or did I, no matter, we started to have supper and Jonny appeared, took off his coat and made himself right at home as he always does, Barbara had had to go to the hospital to be with a patient for an hour or so until the Husband got back, The girl has asthma badly and hates to be alone as she has blacked out with it. So Jonny said he had had his supper but when we started to cook the bacon for the liver he thought it would taste pretty good. Then before we had sat down Harold appeared to help, he liked liver so thought he could eat another supper. and before we had finished Davy walked in. He was really on his way to the Gammons but spent the evening here instead. We had the dishes from the rest of the day as well as supper so Harold helped with those. He is the most consistent helper of them all. I had washed the seat covers for the kitchen chairs that morning and ironed them before supper (that's what I did then) and Mom had come down with a long story about Jackie and I had sewn most of them back together except for one, and when Harold saw that he said " want me to sew that for y

you Cahtarine ? " and I said " Why, yes ! " He picked out a nice big needle, threaded it and set to work, made a very good job of it and then tied the bover in place, real helpful.

By this time I was wondering how I was ever going to do the little tree without being overhelped, luckily we had gotten two in case one wasn't the right size so Harold did the 2nd one and I had a chance to wind the silver tinsel on the one for Eleanor, meanwhile Jonny and Davy unpacked the big box from you so that we could put the lovely done up packages under the tree, they also did the box from Kitty and after they had left we found the copy of Art "ews of the Berlin pictures and are wondering if either of you put it in their box! I have an idea you might have just slipped it in. Thank\$ youif so, it is nice to see and to have.

My idea on the little tree was to tie tiny brightly colored parcels on the branches as we had no trimmings small enough, and then I had some candy sticks\$ which I broke in pieces an inch long and wrapped in clear celophane so the color of red and yellow and orange showed through. Of course Harold and Jonny just had to help do this, and they did it very well though\$ things got pretty sticky at one point. I knew that Mildred's Christmas present would make perfect little square packages and so we were naughty and opened her present and took out a few caramels and wrapped those. I wish you could have seen the tree for it was so dainty and pretty. Had a few tiny things to go on too but the boys got ahead of me so fast that there wasn't room for the little things without overcrowding. I did get a couple on. Then the tree sat on a tray with little white angles holding candles, and holly around them. Oh yes to make the tree stand up we used cement broken off a wall in the basement and stones. The boys did that with great gusto too. It was quite an evening but they did have such fun.

Friday, yesterday was very busy for us, I got the front room cleaned, we read the mail which is quite a lot these days. One friend we hadn't heard from for a long time wrote a 6 page letter on the strength of the card. and then we had the groceries to get for the 3 day holiday, the duck to pick up from the Simpsons. all nicely plucked and cleaned, a number of parcels to do up. Said hello to Jackie and managed to get away before hearing all his ills, and as soon as lunch we took the things around. To the Mathers, to Susan and Mary Lee and two girls from the coast staying with them over the holiday, then we had gotten 5 cyclamen (that George Noble had raised in a tiny greenhouse about the size of yours or smaller, right back of his camera shop and which he was selling for charity, (a children's home in Calgary) and we took one to Mrs Brown who's husband died last year, and had been in the last war and got into the Reserve Army in this last one, and one to Mrs Moffatt who's boy was also in the Reserve Army with Pete and who was later killed in Italy, and another to Mrs Scott in the old house, and one to the Coopers, an elderly couple over 80 and he had a stroke and in bed all the time, and she looked as if she might blow away she is so frail. They were all very pleased and we had to stop just a minute in each place. At the Coopers the minute was about 15. Then we took the tree to Eleanor Luxton and she was really awfully pleased and evidently loves little things, like those tiny little skiers you sent us Christmas. Aren't they cunning? and we made a little call on her. They were wondering what to put on the table and the little tree filled the bill. and I think the fact we had gone to all the trouble mean't as much as anything. Then we

Ⓕ went up to see Sam and Cis and took her a plant too, and had a nice little visit with them. She had received the pictures of the garden from you and was so pleased, couldn't see how I ever left such a lovely place to come to Banff. She is so crazy about gardens and flowers and as Sam says. " Cis will never be satisfied until she has a garden like that. " and he also said to tell you that he wouldn't mind if you shipped the pool out to Banff, that caught his fancy.

We also went to Barbaras with their presents to put under their tree giving them time to say hi & shake them a bit.
By this time there wasn't much time left to cook the duck for supper but we followed Fanny Farmer and cooked it fairly fast and so had it for supper. Didn't ask any one in this year as we hoped the duck would last us all weekend and Mom says she doesn't care much for it. *Stuffing is what takes time & we usually forget to eat it so I just put apples inside.*

Did we tell you about the ducks that arrived Monday morning from the Campbells in Cowley? It was a big square box and when we opened it there was a ~~tiny~~ little Christmas tree about 4 or 5 feet high kitty-corner in the box with the top bent double (it straightened out later) of the loveliest thick soft needle spruce. and on either side a beautiful mallard duck with all its featherson, and two packages, a T-bone steak in each, and other little branches with cones on them. a tiny bit of silver trimming scattered about making it a real picture. The plucking of the ducks had us stumped, until we made a proposition with Jimmie Simpson to pluck them for us and to keep one themselves. But it was a wonderful present.

After supper Pete was pretty drowsy, we had been invited to go up to the Vallances but he wasn't very anxious to, with a lot of people and the smoke it troubles him and so we decided just to run over to the Mathers as we usually do on Christmas eve. About 9.30 or 10 we started out, stopping for a few minutes at Mom's first when we saw her lights on, and we stayed until about midnight at Allans as the others were slow in coming, it seemed to be mostly stray ladies so I think Allan was glad of another man. There was Barbara, and Betty Painter who is also separated from her husband or divorced (am not sure which) and Mary Livingston too. Graces unmarried sister who is a nurse in Red Deer and the two girls from Vancouver. Others came after we left but we were really tired that night.

Christmas morning we woke with the Alarm at 7 to hear the Empire Broadcast but both fell asleep again before the King spoke. However they rebroadcast it during the day so we did hear it later. It was the most beautiful morning, clear and cold and nice all day, same to-day (it is now Sunday) We had bacon and eggs about nine then opened the kids presents so as to be able to thank them when we went over. We were much amused, Davy gave me a paring knife, most useful. The 2 Barbaras and lovely bit of Christmas cake, and Harold some hankies from Switzerland. Then to Pete, Davy gave him 3 linen handkies and Harold gave him a White silk scarf ! It is a very nice one but somehow to Pete who dresses up never, it did seem funny ! But the thought was certainly nice. They buy their own presents with their savings.

After that we had to finish the present for Rretzel their dog (Dachund (?) Pete made a little ski to go under his body with sponge rubber on a raised center part, and straps to tie it around his middle,

so he can get along in the deep snow! It was still drying and Pete couldn't remember where he had put it, but luckily I found it upstairs. We took that over and the kids were very pleased and amused and so was Barbara. Found that Harold had gone back to bed after being up early opening presents and the others were pretty sleepy. Saw all their presents which took some time and then we went to Mom's just before she went to church. She was going to Jackie's for dinner so we didn't see her again.

Then we came back here and started opening our things, and such a nice lot of things we had, mostly from you and everyone we can use. Thank you so much for everything, the lovely slip, and that unusually pretty silk scarf with all the pretty designs, the other scarf too of wool, just right with my coat I wear all the time, and the many lovely books, and calenders. That Swiss one of watercolors is a beauty and we are awfully pleased with Stanley Woodward's book and the other one about painting looks good. Thanks too for the "Proper Bostonian" and the "Family Circle" and "Bite the Bullet" all of which we were anxious to have. I am not sure which is the one you sent at the last moment, Think it must be "the Little Pig Stayed Home" or Willa Catha's. The pretty little box with the tiny figures and the dog on skis I love, and the plastic bowls and covers are most useful, also the mitts. My what a lot there was. And the pretty little cards for notes too, They were all so prettily done up (even though I sometimes wish you didn't use the sticky stuff so I can use them ^{again} another year!) But I am glad this year we got them out of the box and under the tree so we could admire the papers and ribbons for a few days before opening them. Wah What pretty stuff that silky looking ribbon is?

It is time to go out and mail this, maybe see a couple of people before lunch and so I will just run through the rest of our day and start a second letter when we come back. Mario Trone came as we were in the midst of undoing, then before he left, Young Cliff appeared and stayed to lunch, duck and potatoes and gravy etc. Then The Simpsons came and stayed quite a while and when they left Pete was sleepy again. No. I am wrong, Cyril Paris came before the Simpsons left, and before the Simpsons came was when Pete was so sleepy and had a nap while I got cleaned up and tidied a bit. Then when Cyril left we went over to see his Mother which we always do on Christmas day and we were there until our supper time. After supper we didn't go out but had a quiet evening and about 10 Wally Kelly and his wife Jean called. Guess it was 10.30 for I know we would have been in bed if Pete hadn't been snoozing in his chair, and they stayed until about mid-night.

So you see it was quite a day. Will write more later when I get a chance.

Loads of love to you all and many thanks for everything and especially the thought that came with all the presents.

Catherine -

Banff, Alberta.
Mon. Dec. 27th. 1948.

Dearest Mother,

We have just gotten the mail for the first time since Thursday as far as the mail from the east is concerned for the trains were too late to get any on Friday and Christmas there was none and yesterday was Sunday, so your letter just came asking whether we could come east soon or not.

Of course as you know we have been meaning to come as soon as it would work well but I don't think it would be before spring. Right now we are in the midst of Christmas and New Years and not even a chance to write a good letter, It will take us a time to recover from the holidays I expect with so many people about and so much going on, then in order for Pete to get really back on his feet he must have a chance to finish some of the paintings he has already started which I hope he can get at in January even if the days aren't very long they will be long enough for his work. So it would be later in the year before we can think of leaving Banff. I know that it is very important that I go east about the Will but it seems more important just now that Pete gets feeling really stronger etc. Every time I leave him something has happened and he isn't well when I get back and it takes so long to get back again to the way things were before. It is hard to explain but I think doing something like painting or writing or creating anything of that sort one can be so easily put off, especially if you have an emotional makeup. It doesn't bother me as much as it does Pete. But I think if we can have a little more time now we will both feel much better for it.

In your letter you speak of Uncle Marshall as if he were very ill and we expect one of your letters has been delayed in the Christmas mail, it may come this afternoon. I do hope it isn't anything serious, he wrote us such a nice long letter at Christmas time, a dictated one.

You invite Cousin Jane for the time most convenient to you both and I am so glad that she will keep you company during the cold weather. Am sorry not to write more now but we have already had 7 visitors since noon and it is now after 4 o'clock and we are having more this evening. Dr Riley and his son (the one who was going to Boston but never got there as an aunt died in New Bedford and he got involved in that) and Mrs Ernie Rogers (Frances Hiam's great friend) her 10 year old son and a friend and then after we had eaten our lunch at 2 Barbara and Jonny came. so you see we have been busy.

Am awfully sorry if we are disappointing you again for I don't think I said we could come east in January or February and Chicago would be as bad as even Calgary. I just can't leave Pete and he doesn't feel like going away.

Loads of love to you all and a Very Happy New Year
Mother and I do hope it brings you a visit from us ; I forgot to
thank you for the lovely hangers. ?More love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. Dec. 29, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

My last letter was written in such a hurry I only hope it sounded alright when it reached Concord, We have been so busy all the holiday season with people dropping in and lots to see to as well and little time for letter writing. When you wrote to answer by wire or Air Mail, I chose the latter. We don't blame you for being anxious to know when we can visit you and I do wish we had any idea but we just can't seem to plan ahead. Pete is feeling so much better than he has the last two winters and summer and I am hoping once New Years is over we can really settle down to things in a more regular way, and after a few weeks of that we can tell better.

Right now the radio man is here trying to make our old combination radio work, It has a lovely tone but has been out of order for years and we suddenly thought we would see if the new man in town could fix it. He sent it to Calgary and sure enough back it came. We listened for about three hours to fine music and suddenly it stopped short, so back to Calgary it had to go, some old connection had melted, Again he brought it back and we thought it was fine until we found the record player wouldn't play, so here he is this afternoon monkeying with it, so if this letter is a bit dis-jointed you will know it is listening to boomings and squawks.

Think I got just part way through out Christmas. We went to Barbaras right after our breakfast and then up to Moms and were busy opening our parcels when Mario Trono came in, he is the Italian Janitor at the store and a wonderful old gentleman. While he was still here Young Cliff dropped in. We hadn't seen him since last fall when he came with Cliff who was sick. Young Cliff is now working at the Brewster Garage and lives with another boy in a sort of cabin where they can cook their own meals. He hadn't had his breakfast and as it was our lunch time we warmed up the duck, had mashed potatoes and string beans and Mom's Christmas present of mince pie. When he left for another friends, Pete had a snooze and before I got my dress changed the Simpsons arrived. Jim and Mrs S. They always enjoy looking at the books and such like. (By the way thanks for the Alpine Calender, the ~~books~~ others came in plenty of time for Christmas, must have come right through, Maybe I wrote the wrong thing or something, but they came very quick) They made us quite a visit and as Jim said when he was leaving " I always feel perfectly at home in your house." He smoked a big cigar and after he left I kept smelling it, the stump that was dead and you know that smell. Emptied the waste basket where the smell seemed to be coming from and still when I sat by the radio late in the evening I could still smell that stale odor, suddenly I happened to look in the little bowl of matches on the mantle piece and there it was. Had been there all afternoon.

While the Simpsons were leaving Cyril Paris came in to see us, Mary has gone to her family and I think Cyril was a little lonely. After that we made our usual call on his mother, we always go over there on Christmas day and her daughter was up from Calgary so we waited for her to come back, she was out, and it was six by the time we got home for our supper.

That evening we decided not to go on any more calls, though some people can go all day long but Pete gets tired of it. So we spent a quiet evening at home. and Pete snoozed a bit so we didn't go to bed as early as we might of had he been awake at ten, At nearly ten thirty Wally Kelly and Jean his wife came to see us. and stayed until nearly midnight though they had just dropped in on their way to the dance, I guess they never did get to it for it was so near 12 when they left. It made another late night for us.

Sunday was a lovely day, we slept a little late and then after breakfast went to see Mrs Edwards, another mother of one of Pete's boyhood friends, Rupe, the son, used to be out at Skoki with us and was killed over Burma in the war. She was very pleased and had looked for us on Christmas day. Then we went to see Jackie, for we hadn't seen him either on Christmas day. He seemed very amiable and didn't complain of anything so we thought it a very successful call. Back here to lunch. Then Dr MacKenzie had promised to come and see us in the afternoon if he could, and he kept his word, and we had a nice visit with him and talked about ski trips etc. After he left about three we thought we would call on Mrs Vakander but when we got to her house saw two other cars so thought we would wait until later when she would be alone, and a visit mean more. Came back and thought of the Iversons. Blondie Iverson was in the 1st War and has a bad leg, was in the Reserve Army in this last war with Pete, then he had T.B. and has been in a sanatorium over a year, his wife had to have a very serious operation at the same time and they have two little boys, so they had a pretty hard time. We helped with her hospital bill and then we try to send them a hamper at Christmas and a turkey and a couple of days before Christmas someone delivered a box to Mrs Scott, we were out at the time. and on Christmas day we found it was a lovely black alligator leather haddbag he had made in the hospital. It really was awfully good of him to make it for me, it is so well made, very plain and good looking, the envelope type but with a strap across the top so you can hang on to it. *We were very touched -*

Well on Sunday afternoon we had just put our coats on to go there and just shut the door when Edmee came along with a present for me. a lovely copper bowl made in Banff. (Wish I had thought of that for presents to give) So naturally she came in and soon after Charlie arrived. and before they left Ken and Hope Thompson from Edmonton. The Dr and his wife who went to Concord to see you a year or so ago and who George drove back in by all the famous houses etc. They asked for you and I couldn't at first figure how they had ever had met you, until she told me they had been in Boston on a course. Dr MacKenzie says he is going to Boston sometime too!

By the time they left it was nearly seven o'clock, they wanted us to go down to their house in the evening but too much visiting can be very tiring. We seem to do it so hard and Pete tells stories and we show them things and it is a lot of concentrated thought

and each one seems to require different subjects.

In the evening after supper we wondered if we would go out or not but before we had really decided, Allan and Grace Mather, her sister Lila who is a nurse and the two neices, Barbara Percy and Eileen Moyle (?) came to see us. The girls had never seen the house and so had a look at most everything and the pictures and they stayed until nearly 11 I think. So still another late evening.

Monday for some reason was a holiday with the stores closed. (Monday after New Years is too) so in the morning we went down to the Iversons and thanked them for the bag, then for the mail as the Post Office was open, Mario had gotten it so back to the front of the store and Pete went looking for him while Ted and Kay Jennings came along. They can't sleep in their apartment on account of the noisy tenants next door. Kay is in a terrible state of nerves and Ted is hoping to take her to the coast to a physciatrist. The Mother is as bad we think and sort of keeps the daughter sick. Any way she sat in the car with me while Ted spoke to Pete about the other tenants. and then Mackie came along and feeling better.

It was noon by then so we came home to have Dr Riley drop in before lunch with a great big steak and a box of mushrooms. The steak was about 2 inches thick and large and we have had about 4 meals off it already. I don't know how we deserve such nice presents. His little boy was with him and they made quite a call. The boy so good and he spent most of the time braiding Christmas string through the wicker ~~the~~ settee, in and out very neatly. Dr Riley told us all about his trip east, and why he never got to Boston. took a course in New York which he said was like a League of nations, with a Greek Doctor, a chinese women doctor, a South Carolina Doctor trying to cultivate a New England accent and I have forgotten how many other nationalities. When he went to New Bedford to see an Aunt and she died of a stroke the night before and he had to help settle up her estate and arrange for the uncle etc. and so never got any further. But he has a young girl who has just graduated or will graduate next spring going to the Mass. Gen. Hospital in June. but I will tell you more about her later.

Dr Riley was still here when Mrs Ernie Rogers came with her youngest child Teddy, ages about 9 or 10 and a friend of the same age. named Foley, from Foley Florida but is going to live in Vancouver from now on/ I think. The Rileys left and the Little boys had to see everything, but were very cunning about it. I would explain some things while Pete spoke to Mrs Rogers, and then I would talk to her and Pete would tell about all the knives. They were here until about 1.30 and Mrs Rogers asked if she could come down that same evening and bring Mr and Mrs Jow Foley, the parents of the little boy. so we said we would be home.

We had lunch and were doing the dishes when Barbara, Jonny and Pretzel the Dachshund came to see us and thank us for the goose we had given them. They helped with the dishes and looked at all the presents and Pretzel disappeared and we found he had rolled down the back stairs into the cellar! After they left we hadn't been quiet very long when Ted and Mrs Evans came. He is the butcher in the corner property and usually we try to get up to see them.

We had a late supper, changed our clothes and then waited all evening but no Mrs Rogers. Having no phone we knew they couldn't let us know if they couldn't come but didn't dare turn in in case they arrived late. So it was another late night for us as we didn't go to bed until 11.

Then yesterday both Sam and Allan came down in the morning. Sam as he hadn't seen us since Christmas eve and Allan about the tenants who are noisy and what to do etc. That took a good part of the morning though I managed to get the back hall washed and some laundry done. Then after lunch Davy came and made quite a call. We had just gotten the "ational Geographic and Pete was anxious to read the Irving Johnson story as we met him in Nassau years ago. But all day as soon as he started to look at it someone would come, and Davy got it first and read it while here !

Then we went for the mail, met Jackie in the Bank and I asked if Mom had gone to Cochrane as we hadn't seen her, she never came down to our house at all. and he said she had been very ill over Christmas, from after lunch on. Had been in bed all Sunday and no one had said a thing to us. So we went right over there to see her and she was feeling better but hadn't been out except to Church on Sunday night. Back here and Mary Lee Mather came to return a duffle bag, seems that her sister and the two neices had " run out on her " and so she came to see us and made us a very nice call. She is a dear little girl about 8 and so interested in everything. Then I remembered we were out of bread so we just had time to get that before the stores closed. Again last night we did a bit of waiting. Mrs Rogers came down to apologize about not getting here the evening before, was on her way to the Andersons but was only planning to stay half an hour there and would come here later if she could get away. We said we understood, which we did, and in the end she couldn't come. So another night we were up until after 11.

We get sleepier every morning. This morning after breakfast there was a fire alarm, just a chimney fire, and then Sam came down to fix our linoleum in the kitchen which was rising up a bit. He had just started when Allan appeared to get Pete to go with him to see Mr Vallance about what could be done to get the noisy tenants out and there had been a leak in the plumbing and quite a time this morning at the store. While Pete was away Sam finished the floor and Ruth McBride called, she is taking a course as a teacher in Calgary.

So you see we are rather busy. Have been for the mail and then after getting back the Radio man came. fixed the thing which we hope will work this time.

What a letter and still more to tell you about. Hope Uncle Marshall is allright and expect we will hear soon.

Loads of love and tell Mildred if she is still with you how much we have enjoyed her caramels.

More love,

Catherine .