

Banff, Alberta.  
Mon. Jan 3, 1948. 9

Dearest Mother,

This is a terrible season for writing letters, we are having six days holiday out of the last ten and it is just too much. Three days over the Christmas weekend and now another three over New Years and but 4 days to catch up in between. We have had so many visitors, a few each day and can't seem to get caught up.

I really should have written last night but we had thought of going over to the Moores and when we decided not to as it got to be 25 below and we got lazy, it was too late for letter writing. This morning we were to go to the train to see Merrill and Elaine Cruikshank go through, but when Pete went to start the Ford the battery wouldn't kick over, had it not been for the holidays we would have had it recharged. So then he tried the Jeep but that too was conjealed. so I went to call Bill Bunn to give us a tow to get one car started but he was at Rotary lunch and the other lad couldn't leave right then, until 1.30. So then I called a taxi. So down to the station we drove in style. The train was late and they weren't on the first one, Allan McLeod drove us back in a taxi and said he would give us a tow to get our car started. But as he turned in at Mom's driveway something happened to the fluid drive on his car and it stopped. we couldn't get it to go, though Pete and I got out and pushed. So then I had to call his brother at Rocky Mt. Tour to come and get the taxi going. He came quickly, pushed Allan in his car and next thing we knew they had locked bumpers as they went out our driveway and it took all of them about 15 minutes to get unhooked! They were very good about it and pulled our car out of the garage and down the road <sup>to start it.</sup> before pushing the taxi back to the garage. Then Pete had to go and tell the Bunn's not to come and we are just through lunch at 2 o'clock.

This won't be much of a letter but just to let you know we haven't forgotten you and will write a real letter all about our doings soon.

It was quite exciting New Years Eve for a-bout quarter to six, just before the Post Office closed we went up on a chance there was mail and there was a wonderful parcel from you of nuts and candy. Just as if you had planned it that way. Mom came to supper that night and we had a roast turkey and it turned out just right. I am getting better at such things, but only practise once a year. The lovely book of Norman Rockwell's came after Christmas and it is a wonderful book to have. We both admire his work so much and you can look and look at it. Thanks for both.

Lots of nice letters from you and lots to answer but goodness knows when I will get down to clearing the desk.

Must go soon to the next train so all for now.

Loads of love. Catharine

Banff, Alberta.  
Tues. Jan. 4, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

I wrote a hurried Air Mail yesterday, and such a time as we had seeing Elaine and Merrill Cruikshank go through on the train. Think I told you our battery was down and we couldn't start the car. got a taxi to the station and they weren't on the first train, but when we came back something on the taxi broke coming in the driveway and had to get another taxi to push the first one, but in going out the drive way they locked bumpers and it took the two drivers and Pete about 15 or 20 minutes to get them apart. Then one taxi pulled Pete out of the Garage and he got started and the two taxis went off together. Pete went round to the Service station to leave the battery but the head man was at Rotary lunch and the boy couldn't find it. They both thought the old battery would do for the rest of the day. We had a late lunch and I wrote the hurried letter to you to mail at the station and we thought the train probably would be even later than they said so didn't hurry. Tried to start the car and again it wouldn't go! Rushed up to Mom's and found that the train was coming in any moment so had to call the taxi again and got to the station just as the train did. Admee gave us a lift home and Pete had to get Bill Bunn to bring a brand new battery up. We figured then that the battery was new when we went to Torino 4 years ago and their life is supposed to be 2 years so I suppose it wasn't doing too badly! But Pete always likes to keep the car in such good shape and prides himself on how well and easily it starts in cold weather, so it was a joke on us. We saw Merrill and Elaine and the McQueens were on the same train. Old Calgary people living in Vancouver. Elaine and Merrill are the ones going to Fiji on the same boat as the Moores. Now we are all talking of going down while they are there for 3 years before they get leave. Their son is at school in England but will join them in the summer. and then go to school in New Zealand or Australia.

Guess I will just have to repeat myself for I can't remember what I told you about over Christmas and New Years. This is the great season for visiting and wherever you go they offer wine or something stronger and Christmas cake and shortbread, so there is a limit on the amount of visiting one can do in a day, or else it is like taking the parcels to the Italians used to be!

Christmas day besides going to Barbaras and Moms in the morning, we had Mario Trono and Young Cliff down, the latter stayed to a warmed up Christmas dinner of duck. Then the Simpsons made us a long call in the afternoon and Cyril Paris came too. We went and made rather a long call on Mrs Paris and home to supper and at 10.30 The Wally Kellys came and stayed until midnight.

Sunday, We went over to call on Mrs Jennie Edwards in the morning and to see Jackie too, lunch here and then a nice call from Dr Mackenzie, with their 4 children she couldn't come.

Then we went out to see Mrs Oakander but noticed there were several cars there so decided to wait until later and came back to find Edmee coming, Charlie came later and then Ken and Hope Thompson ( the doctor who called on you in Concord several years ago, they are from Edmonton ) They left about 6.30 or quarter to seven. Had supper and were wondering whether to go to the Thompsons or not when Allan, Grace, Lila her sister and the neice and friend came and they made quite a call too. *most of the evening.*

Monday was a holiday too. Boxing day. We called on the Iversons in the forenoon, then Dr Riley and his little boy with a wonderful steak and mushrooms came about lunch time ( think I told you this ) and Mrs Arnie Rogers and her little boy and a friend ( she was a great friend of Frances Hiams. They stayed until about 1.30. Then Barbara and Jonny with Rretzel the dog before we had washed up the lunch dishes and before supper Ted and Mrs Evans. The butcher and his wife. We expected Mrs Rogers in the evening but she couldn't come.

Tuesday. Allan and Sam Ward were both down in the morning so we didn't get much done but talked a lot. Then Davy came over after lunch and that was the day the National Geographic came and Pete wanted to read the article by Johnson and everytime he picked the magazine up someone would come. Davy got it first and read it here! That was the afternoon we heard Mom had been ill ( she is off curling to-night ) and we stopped in to see her, then after we got home Mary Lee Mather came to see us and was so cunning about everything. Pete really entertained her. He is so good with the kids and explains everything to them so nicely and quietly, they just ask questions one after another. That evening we didn't know whether or not Mrs Rogers would come and she did for a minute about 8 but had to go some where else first but hoped to get back here but she didn't. However we waited up until after ten.

Wednesday, Sam appeared again to fix our linoleum which had started to spread and rise near the joins and he brought some sticky stuff to glue it down to some old strips of curtain he also brought with him. It was a very messy job and he and Pete was in the midst of it while I darned stockings hoping to have a pair without holes to wear and Allan Mather came to get Pete to go with him to see Mr Vallance about evicting some new tenants who were very noisy in one of the suites. So off they went and I helped Sam and then Ruth McBride came to thank us for helping her with a course she is taking to be a teacher. We gave her a little at Christmas. That was the day the Chair Lift opened but we didn't go. Can't remember what we did do exactly *later on.*

Thursday. Steam Watt appeared to start installing the Bendix or was it to finish installing it? anyway he was here in the morning and then in the afternoon came to tell us his father had been called to Temple as they had frozen up the plumbing system there. Maybe they will begin to appreciate what Cliff did and again maybe not. Pete couldn't leave and I did the errands and then in the afternoon Irene Rogers came to tea and made a nice call and in the evening the Skating Club put on a party at the rink with a few races and fancy skating and a broom ball game. a good show on the whole.

Friday was the day before New Years Day, guess that was the day Steam Watt didn't come. Mrs Simpson was over to tell us that the

Grahams wanted us to go to their New Years party but we knew it would be a big affair and we didn't really want to go at all. It would only involve us in a lot of seeing extra people or having them down. So instead we decided to go to the Wards if we went anywhere. Jimmie Simpson also came over and they made us quite a call in the morning, then we went out over town and right back and met Elaine and Merrill Cruikshank who had driven up for the day from Calgary with the sister and brother-in-law, the Freddy McCalls ( he was the 2nd Canadian Ace in the First War) They had been to our house while we were out and so came back down for a nice call before going to lunch over at the Mt Royal. It was good to see Elaine and Merrill again. they were the ones who were so good to us in Nassau when we were there and going to Fiji as chief medical Officer I expect. he is in the Colonial Service. In the afternoon I stuffed the turkey and got it ready to cook, saw Mrs Jennings for a few minutes as Ted Paris had asked me to tell her we were doing all we could to get the people in the next apartment out and then came back and took a shower and washed my hair. The first chance I had had since before Christmas. We also made a trip to the Post Office and got the candy you sent, all very nice. Mom came to supper and we had a real meal, the turkey being very good. a 6 pound one. Then we got dressed up about nine and went to the Wards for a while, about an hour or more. They had quite a few people in and there was lots of smoke so when they started playing games we decided it was a good chance to break away for if we stayed until midnight it mean't a big supper and we couldn't leave until after that. So we saw the New Year in in bed.

Saturday ,New Years Day. we tidied up a bit not having had a chance before to get the house in order. then after lunch Jackie came down and made us a nice call, first time he has done that for a long time, was very amiable. As he left Cyril Paris and Mary brought the Ted Garrements down. Ted is an engineer, did a lot of the work on the Jasper Highway and has been in Yellowknife and now Lethbridge working on Air Ports and they are now moving to Edmonton. Pete knew him well as a boy in Banff. He has a wife and very nice daughter. They made us a real call until about six and then as we had been invited to the Oakanders anytime after 4 to drop in we went there. Carl and his wife are in the Permanent Air force and just moved back to Calgary, we hadn't seen them before and the Jim Crosses came in and there were about 14 of us all in a living room not much bigger than Jean's room, though of course there was no bed ! Stayed about an hour there, much smoke and talk. That night we got to bed at nine.

Sunday. We drove up to the Upper Hot Springs after seeing if one could get mail, but we couldn't, so looked over the snow conditions for future skiing. Then after lunch made a nice call on the Simpsons and while there the Jack Brewsters and Fred Brewster from Jasper called and as we all left together they came back with us for a while to see the pictures etc. After they left here we made a return and promised call on the Dr Macenzies and by the time we got back it was supper time. They have 4 very cunning children and one grandmother and grandfather were there too. We had been asked to the Moores that night but it was 25 below zero and we didn't feel much like going out. so again got to bed early.

Monday. a holiday here, we spent a good part of the day trying to see the Cruikshanks go through on the train, and then in the evening Fred Brewster and Fern came down and spent the whole evening talking.

Yesterday .Tuesday we had several things to do over town, to see to and then were working on the cards in the afternoon when Tom Kaquits the Indian called, stayed quite a while. I thought it might be Mario with the mail and so answered his knock. In the evening Ed and Mrs Steel and their two little girls dropped in and it was 9.30 when they left.

To-day Wednesday I was catbbing up on the laundry when Lael MacDougall called. She is the little girl who used to come down last winter with Susan and they were very interested in the Indians and a Cree Hymm book we have. copied out the alphabet etc. Now she has a notebook with all sorts of symbols etc in it. Knows far more than any of us. Then soon after Mrs Ernie Rogers came with her little boy and it ended by our getting out all the Indian things. We had had them out for the Garrets on Sunday too. They didn't leave until 1 o'clock. and so now the washing is just put out and it is three and time to go for the mail as it is too dark to-day to do the rest of the cards.

I counted up and since the 21st of Dec up to now, about 15 days, we have had 75 people come to see us, staying from about half an hour to several. and we have made calls on 21 people in that time, gone to a hockey game one evening and skating another. So no wonder we are busy. But it should quieten down now.

Time I stopped so will have to save the rest for my next but thought you would be interested to know what we have been doing

Loads of love

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.  
Fri. Jan. 8, 1948.

Dearest Mother,

Your wire came yesterday afternoon about Uncle Marshall, we weren't surprised in a way for he must have been awfully sick by the news in Cousin Janes letters to you and to us. This morning we got two letters from you ( the trains were all late yesterday or they might have come then ) written Dec. 31st and Jan 1st. and in those evidently Uncle Marshall had been much better and may even have gone home. But at his age anything like that must be pretty serious. We feel very sad from the selfish point of view that we won't see him again, but when he has been so sick so many times you can't wish an older person more suffering.

We wired Florence right away but hadn't enough money with us at the time to wire you about flowers, so have just sent you one and hope it won't be too much bother to either send some flowers with yours or seperately. ~~to~~ Hope the wire doesn't scare you. (I guess I might have charged the wire yesterday)! We also wrote to Florence last night, she has been so very good and kind to Uncle Marshall, and made his last few years very pleasant ones. I do hope she won't be too lonely now and that she will have many years to enjoy life. She is such a nice person.

As usual we are in a bit of a hurry or I would write more but after that long letter a few days ago you may not be ready yet for another big one ! What a shame that Russ and family had such poor luck on their ski trip when it could have been just right. We had two very mild days with a terrific wind. Yesterday it was a real chinook and the wind howled and the snow just started to disappear. Then a cool air from the north came in the night and hit the warm moist air so this morning we woke to find it snowing and we must have about 6 inches. We are so glad for it did look so dirty from the melting.

Will just send this along now so you will know we have heard and all. It was good of you to wire for it gave us a chance to wire back and write soon.

Loads of love

Catharine .

P.S. Tell Jean I will be writing her soon.

Banff, Alberta.  
Sun. Jan. 9, 1948

Dearest Mother,

I wonder will I ever catch up with letters etc. When one comes from you I usually am reminded of something to tell you about and so save it, and now I have such a pile it will be ~~xxx~~ quite a letter when I do get around to answering them all. Some evening I will take the whole lot and sit down and have a nice " chat " with you.

Its to-morrow that Cousin Jane goes to Cochrane for her visit and I am glad that she can be with you through the worst part of the winter, where the days are short and the weather apt to be cold. It is too bad that you are to lose your cook but perhaps you will get a person that fits in nicely. How Lucky Aunt Julie was to get such a nice person that wants a home and nice for the person too. In her note to you she spoke of a book you had given her about Boston and that it had a chapter about Philip Hale who was her teacher. He was our teacher too and I wonder would Pete like the book? Sounded interesting. The Proper Bostonian is wonderful in so many ways, but in talking with Col Moore we both wondered if he didn't make too much of the old family's all having started from Merchants. but of course I don't know much about it. Have read Stanley Woodward's too and found that very interesting too. Also part of the other book about Painters or Artists. The only time I ever read is after we go to bed at night. but ordinarily we do that early in winter. but if we read too late it is hard to get up next morning.

When did she get to school?

X Think I told you about things in general up to Tuesday January 4th. That was the day that Tom Kaquits called and for a time I was thinking that it was sort of extra time spent, and when we got talked into buying some mocasins it hardly seemed worth it. However in the end it was worth the time and money spent. Especially for one good story.

We were talking about the old Indians and how few there were left and Tom said that after his generation was gone, ( he must be about 50) there would be hardly any Indians left who did things in the old way. He said that the young people didn't live like Indians any more and ~~he said~~ added " Now that the Indians get White Man's education when they go to the ~~dance~~ dance they wear boots and spit on the floor, bad for them, bad for the children." Somehow we had hoped the white man's education had taught them more that spitting on the floor !

X The next morning, Wednesday, Lael MacDougall came down to see us. She is a very bright little girl and the one who last year copied the Cree Alphabet out of an old hymn book we have. and so she brought us a " taxi mans " notebook filled with that and all sorts of sign language she had copied out of other books and

on the back pages a bit of Chinese. She was explaining it all to Pete when Irene Rogers and her little boy stopped in, wanted us for supper at the hotel but we won't go as it involves us in too many other things. Between Lael and Teddy we had all the Indian Costumes out of the chest and Mrs Rogers has an idea that sometime we should have an exhibiton at the Gallery in Vancouver and she wondered how it would work to have pictures of the Indians and at the same time exhibit some of their costumes. I think it is quite an idea. So we talked of that and other things. She is one of those people that is so interested in so many things we are that you never can speak about them all. It was one, and the stores closed by the time they left.

We had quite a strong wind that day and all night and then the next morning a real Chinook when it got up to forty and the snow melted a good deal. The wind Thursday night was terrific and even blew in a plate glass window over town but for a wonder no trees blew over here and only two on any wires. We figured that they were frozen in the ground and so weren't up rooted and being mild they weren't frosty enough to break off or snap off but they certainly waved about.

Thursday morning Pete had trouble with his sinus and felt miserable until afternoon. I took the painting that Mrs Rogers wanted, an enlarged one of the Tofino village Pete painted up there, (we still have the original sketch.) She saw the sketch in Vancouver when we were still in the Air force and asked for it then and has wanted it ever since. So I took it over to the hotel which took longer than I mean't to be, for the trains were late and instead of going at noon it was five when we saw them off. Had a nice talk up in her room. She and Frances Hiam both lost their husbands about the same time and each was left to bring up five little children and so they compared notes and helped each other a lot. Her oldest boy is married and the youngest is about 7 I guess. She is one of the loveliest people I ever met. That was the same day Uncle Marshall died for it was when I came home that the wire was here. I really should have charged the wire and sent it that day about the flowers, so just hope it didn't cause you a lot of trouble when I sent it the next day. Don't expect that you went to Portland but I imagine Russell may have if he were home. Do hope you tell us what happened for in your letter that came the following day ( we got 3 on Friday from you which was very nice as no mail came the day before due to the late trains ) Cousin Vanes letter to you said Uncle Marshall might go home, so we are wondering if he did get back home and perhaps had another hemorage later on.

Thursday afternoon Pete felt better by five and so we went to see the Rogers off on the train. Had given Lael one of the pairs of mocassins that Tom Kaquits sold us as we found they were small sizes. and she was tickled to pieces, but we didn't like to give Teddy a pair that same day as it might sort of take away from Laels pleasure and there wasn't as much reason to give a pair to Teddy than So as a parting gift we took another pair down to the train to him and as they are new ones he could smell them right through the paper. He was very pleased. I was pleased too not to have any more to put away!

Teddy reminded me a bit of Rusty when he came out west that summer. He had a tremendous old fur hat that must have belonged to

his father, for the only reason it didn't fall over his face completely was that one ear was bent over which kept it up a little, but with the ear flaps flapping it looked pretty big. His arms were full of things that kept slipping and he wanted more comic books, which Mrs Rogers said she was going to have to do something about when she got home as they are such easy reading the children just love them. Then as we were waiting in the station he was sure he needed some games to play on the journey. " After all Mummy, when I have finished the Comic books all I will do is sit and eat candy unless I have a game to play ! " Luckily the train came in before he thought up any more good reasons and he gathered up his armful of things, dropping all the comic books on the wet and dirty platform. We all had to pitch in to retrieve them! However we saw them on and one daughter joined them having been in Calgary and missed the bus that should have brought her home the day before.

X We saw Nick Morant on the platform, He is the C.P.R. photographer who is always saying funny things and making jokes. Most years they send him to make Ski Pictures in April and we have an early spring and or bad weather and he gets little. so this year he came in January ( had just arrived ) and we had a chinook and it was raining as the train pulled out. So Pete asked him what he was doing and he said " I have come to take Ski Pictures and look at it ! What I need is a B..... Umbrella." ( He has a home at the coast where it rains so much.) So with that he dashed for the bus to the Mt Royal. We came home and put the car away and then Pete thought as Nick plays so many jokes on us it would be fun to take an umbrella over to the hotel and leave it for him. So we got the broken one that Mildred left when you were here and which is never used anyway, put it in a box that flowers came in and then as Nick is always joking about bombs and Russia etc. We put a cheap Alarm clock we had to buy one time, in too. Wound it up so it would tick loudly and Pete set it for midnight. Then we went over to the Hotel thinking he might even be in the lobby. We had a note in the box saying " Here is your B..... Umbrella, now take your Ski Pictures " and a little sketch of him with the snow coming down and holding the umbrella. Well he wasn't in the hotel so we got the boy we know quite well to put it in his room. Then we wondered if we had been wise for he might play a worse joke on us. However nothing has happened and he has been trying to find out who left it. Funny part is he evidently forgot having said anything about the umbrella at the station and so is very mystified. This we hear from Pat Brewster and the boy at the desk.

Later. It is Sunday afternoon and we are supposed to go up to the Valances to tea but right now Lael and Susan rather have come in and are discussing Indian Languages with Pete while I finish this so don't know if we will go out later or not. It was 30 below this morning. just a bit chilly.

Loads of love to all.

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.  
Mon. Jan. 10, 1949

Dearest Mother,

That is some start but the paper moved. Please excuse.

We have had quite an afternoon, I didn't tell you but Saturday morning Mr Lou Luxton came around to tell us that Norman had just heard that Mrs George McLean had died that morning or rather in the night. She is the one in the View Master Reel, was 71 years old. Of course we felt very badly as she was one of the finest Indians on the Reserve and a great friend of ours. Said Pete was her ~~sister~~ because her father called Pete his son. Her father was Chief Hector Crawler. Norman thought the funeral would be that same afternoon as usually the Indians don't wait a day, so as it had snowed the day before and blown we didn't think we wanted to risk the trip down to Morley by car, so wired George we couldn't go. Then on the radio in the news it said the funeral would be on Monday at 2 o'clock, so we decided to wait and see what the weather was like, but as Pete hasn't been over the road for a year or more and in the winter we are always a little afraid of getting stuck miles from anywhere we weren't very anxious to make the trip.

This morning it was 25° below zero and again clear and very cold. We had to go to the bank after getting the mail and met Dr Atkin. He said he had told Norman Luxton he shouldn't go to the funeral as he wasn't well and it would be very foolish and Pete thought we wouldn't go either. Then as we were sitting eating lunch he suddenly made up his mind that we had better go to Morley even if we were a little late for the actual funeral. It was a bit of a rush but I found old woolen stockings and woolen panties and a sweater under my suit as I couldn't very well ski clothes, made 2 thermos of tea and we were off. Had to get gas and asked about the road at the filling station, they thought it was probably bare most of the way so we took the chains off. In one way it made it easier riding but the road was covered with snow most all the way and so we couldn't make fast time. Pete decided he wasn't going to hurry and land in the ditch and so we were late getting there.

It was a most beautiful afternoon, clear and cold and snow on the ground even near Morley. ~~Was just~~ As we reached Exshaw the wind began and all the way to Morley it got stronger and the fine snow was drifting along and sometimes across the road. The funeral was at the church down in the valley near the Morley Indian school and as we went along the road we could see the horses and wagons and sleighs tied up to the fence in a row. As we turned off the main highway we had to run into quite a drift and through it and wondered how we would make it coming back up hill. The snow was drifting quite badly then. As we went down the hill the people started coming out of the church, so we had missed the service. It was a wonderful sight, a strong wind was blowing at the time and the snow was blowing all about, the sun behind it made it show up

more perhaps. The Indians were all rushing for their horses and turning the teams or sleighs in all directions while the blowing snow swirled around them, the squaws running to get into the back of the sleighs, other younger Indians jumping on their horses and riding off. We hoped to just speak to George so he would know we had come, and as we jumped out of the car the wind nearly blew my hat off and the snow was all about us. It was quite a scene and cold as could be, probably about zero at the time. We spoke to Mr Laurie who had come up from Calgary and explained that we had been slower coming than we had expected and then they said George was in the car by the church, an old Indian Squaw came up and shook hands with us and said " My heart is broke. " We got over to the car in time to speak to George, all the time being buffeted by the wind and snow. Mary and another Indian were in the front seat with the driver and in back was George with a papoose in his arms, his son and sons wife beside him. We just shook hands and said " bostitch " and then they started off. a red truck behind had the plain wooden coffin on it covered with a canvas. We watched them going up the hill towards the station and the cemetery on a hill way beyond. By this time all the Indians had left and there was a long line of wagons and sleighs streaming up the hill. We noticed that the car got stuck in the middle of the hill and a group of Indians on Horseback rallied around and either pulled or pushed it up, for next time we looked they had all disappeared. *It was all very dramatic.*

We didn't dare go any further without chains and really were anxious to start right back. Tom Snow a fine looking Indian came over to tell us a lady, most likely the ministers wife, wanted us to come in and get warm, which was nice of her, but we didn't stop, we were thinking of that drift up the hill. Instead we gave Tom a lift two miles west on the road back. We made the main road all right but the snow was drifting harder than when we went down. It was 5 when we got back, just as the last light was shining on the mountains. It wasn't really a bad trip and the sight at the church with the drifting snow and the snow coming through it and all the horses with their manes and tails flying out and the Indians running about was really worth it. We were glad too that George knew we had made the effort to go down. We were very fond of Mrs McLean.

Your Air Mail came this afternoon about Uncle Marshall's funeral etc. Somehow I had forgotten that of course the burial would be in Concord, nice that Cousin Jane could be with Florence for she would be such a help in so many ways.

It is now Tuesday and not as cold, there is another Hockey game to-night, a benefit game I think for one of the boys had his jaw broken or fractured in two places in the game the other night. Actually he got mad first and we think one of the other team must have clipped him in the jaw. It took Pat Costigan, Dr MacKenzie and the young dentist in Canmore three hours to get it fixed up. I guess that was one reason that Banff lost the game for Pat had to leave at the end of the 2nd period and the boy that was hurt was of course out too.

There is quite a bit to tell you but I will have to leave it until later. We are so sorry about Mrs Sohler, too bad she couldn't go South with the Bartletts for a little holiday and she & Mrs Bartlett could stretch together - Loads of love to all  
*Caltharine*

Banff, Alberta.

Fri. Jan, 14, 1948

Dearest Mother,

Should have written you yesterday but spent the evening copying out information from the Bendix Service book which wasn't in our book of instructions. We have had a busy two days and seems to me everything happens at once with us.

Pete had been asked to curl in the Rotarians one day Bonspiel on Wednesday and luckily got out of it the night before ( they won two matches so curled three times and that mean't quite a bit in one day ) Early Wednesday morning Bob Watt arrived to finish installing the Bendix and it took him two full days to make the water connections and to bolt the thing down firmly, so that kept us pretty busy both Wednesday and Thursday. Pete helped a bit getting tools and nuts and bolts etc. and I tried to get some letters written in between and also did the errands.

Finally yesterday afternoon it was all ready to try, the water turned on, so we flicked the switch and nothing happened. out came the book of instructions and we read various parts. Bob said that when installing the Brewsters Bendix that for the longest time they couldn't make the thing run and finally he went and got Bob Bryant and he just " flicked the switch " and away it went making the rest of them look silly. I should explain that Bob is just our plumber but not the Bendix man only he did install the Brewsters and knows a bit about the machines and otherwise one has to wait for a man to come from Calgary. Then Pete said " well maybe if we connected the electric plug that would help." We all laughed at how stupid we were and he plugged it into the stove. There was a slight movement of the cylinder and nothing more, so again we " flicked the switch " about and looked at the book. Maybe it had blown a fuse! But neither of them could find a way to get to the fuses on the stove so I monkeyed around having seen the electrician get at them and sure enough the panel dropped off and there were the fuses in a row, one blown out. Why it had blown they couldn't figure, but in the book I had found a part about the overload on one line and suggested that maybe the hot water heater having been off most of the afternoon now that it was on it was working full tilt and using a lot of electricity on that line. This I guess was so. Then we decided to plug the thing into an ordinary socket, but it wouldn't reach, so got an extension and that didn't work, so again I suggested that perhaps the extensions wasn't the good one and got the lamp and at last when we plugged the thing in it started. They laughed to think it was me who got the thing going and as Bob Watt said, he was just on the verge of trying to get Bob Bryant over and we would have looked foolish had we gotten him and then found it only needed being plugged in right.

we tried it out but not with wash in it and now as soon as I get some softener will really give it a try. Think it is going to save a lot of time and work.

To-day came all sorts of letter, one rfrom Russ, I think the first except the Christmas card since last fall, He is still anxious to have me either go east or meet him in Minneapolis, but I shall just have to try and figure what is best to do. Then one from the American Consul wanting some pictures of me to put on a registration paper etc. and then one from Marion In Toronto. Cam Stockand has at last gotten a job. in Owen Sound on the lake nobth of Toronto. ~~Like~~ ~~Supex~~ Georgian Bay really, have forgotten if Lake Superior or not. He will have charge of the Editoraal Page on quite a good sized paper, so it will be work he likes and Marion thinks they will do better in a smaller place, about 12000. We will all be thank ful here if they get settled anywhere. for all dyring the holidays, ever since November they havebeen writing us or Mom and we just had to help them a bit and it has been very worrying. So we hope and pray this will work out.

Heard from Cliff too and he is having his teeth out and no more of those spells which is something. Mildred is working in the Grace Maternity Hospital. Cliff hopes to get a job as soon as he feels able to but has had a rather hard time with some of the teeth.

Will write Russ to-morrow and in the mean time send this.

Loads of love to you all

Catharine -

Banff, Alberta.  
Sun. Jan 16, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

This has been rather a quiet day, cloudy this morning and we were tired enough to sleep late so there wasn't much to do but write one letter before lunch. Then in the afternoon I made a short call, (I guess you would call it) on Barbara. Principally to find out if Donny had cleaned some of his things out of the tent house that Mr Scott wants to rent. Barbara had a few things to tell me and I also had to admire the woodpile in the basement that the boys had cut by combined work. Yesterday when we drove in Donny and Davy were cutting the wood, Harold sitting on one end of the log to hold it steady and Johnny on another part. They told us Johnny was being paid 5¢ of a penny for each log cut. not exactly high pay in these days! Barbara also told me that a salesman had been there trying to sell them a Junior Encyclopedia, she told him they had one they borrowed ( which is ours ) but he thought it was too old for the youngest children, and went on talking about the merits of his. then he evidently turned to Bubby and asked her if she didn't think in the school work it would be a great help to have the Junior one. and Bubby answered right back. " If there is anything we want to know we just ask Mother." That sort of floored him and he left !

We also made a Christmas call on the Greenhams who used to run the private Mountain School here. They were quite pleased even if we said we couldn't stay long, we didn't want to make a whole afternoon of it. Also Pete had to go to the bathroom, so before going to the Wards we came back to the house for a minute. The joke was on us for at the Greenhams we had been telling stories of the wild animals and then gave them the card with the Moose stopping the Jeep. To be quicker coming home we drove down through Mom's yard, at least we tried to, but there were two deer right in her driveway, one walked over and began eating the shrubs by her door but the other wouldn't budge. He stood right in the middle of the driveway and Pete drove right up to him, he only lowered his head a bit and I was sure would charge the car. Pete stopped and tried to persuade the buck to move to one side, but not on your life, he never moved a step. So again Pete slowly moved ahead until we were almost touching him, but still he stood his ground, so in the end we had to back out the driveway and go around the block !

We made a short call on the Wards too, the first time we had been there since New Years. and then back here to supper. Thought I would answer some of your more recent letters but at this rate won't do very well.

Started with the letter from Miss Cooke which at first I couldn't decipher. Imagine looking after her house and self at the age of 87, she must be mighty smart. Poor soul worrying about living so long and using money that you might need..

The letters you enclose we always enjoy. Nice ones from the Shorts.

We had such a nice letter from Miss Garland of the Art Centre. Sent her a card and thanks for what she did during the show there.

You spoke of the Opera at New Years being put off. we heard it and thought it the best we have heard over the radio. It was "Lucia de Lamamoor " with Lily Pons and am so glad you didn't miss it. The lighter operas sound better than the ones like yesterday " Love of the three Kings " maybe it isn't fair to wash dishes while it is going on but we enjoy the ones with real "ariass " best.

What a time Russ and family had on their ski trip , too bad for I think they had the same sort of thing happen last spring. We had another nice letter from Russ, a proper thank you one. and he spoke of how much the people are losing who wount on the ski business each winter.

The book " Clearing in the West " is by quite a well known Canadian author and I have another book about the rest of her life to send you. I was going to read it first, read part of yours and liked it very much.

We are so sorry that George is having such a time with his back. you spoke of his using the Anaggesic Balm that we recommended. Does he rub it on, then cover it with a soft cloth and let the electric heater shine on it ? The warmth glowing ( can't think of the right word ) on the cloth helps a lot. It would be more difficult on his back to do this, but if he sat facing the back of a chair, set an electric heater on a table nearby where it would send the heat onto his back. about 2 feet or so from it, to give a nice warmth, it might help a lot.

Saw in the paper at the time of the eruption of Mauna Loa in Havaii that they had heavy rain. At Hilo they had 9.93 inches of rain in 24 hours and more on the sides of the mountian, imagine a foot of rain ?

That sunset you drew a picture of before Christmas must have been really remarkable, we have very few sunsets that amount to much, I think it is the lack of moisture in the air and also the fact that we see so little of the sky near the horizon as the mountains hide the lower sky. Did I tell you we had a real Alpine glow the other evening. The sun had set and we had the usual strong colored light on the tips of the mountains, and then there were clouds in the west and these were later being colored, a really bright sky at least the clouds were bright and then there was a lovely rose colored light on the tops of the mountains a second time, the reflection from the colored clouds. yet it was nearly dark.

I was interested to have you say that Mrs Edwin Brooks' slides were so gray in color compared to ours. Poor Mrs Brooks I guess she had gray skys every day last summer when they were here!

Did you ever find out who "A.W.Shaw " was who sent you a birthday card. We got a Christmas card from "the Woods " and mailed in Edmonton, even a picture of their barn and cows but we have no idea who it might be.

You know the old house that the Kussins made over in to the new Children's shop is where we went to school for a year with Miss Stanford, and Mrs Walcott taught there too.

We had such a bright letter from Cousin Harriet , she really is remarkable. too bad in a way that she didn't live in the country where people are more interested in one if you know what I mean seems to me the city is a lonely place for old people. Banff is a good place for them even if it is cold, for people always have time to stop and chat to one when you meet on the street, at the post office or anywhere else.

How does the Television work ? It will be ages before we get it for it doesn't carry far I believe but of course in time they may correct that. I should think it would be fun at first but later if the programs aren't any better than what they give now it will not be worth looking at often. If they look as bad as they sound!

How are the Agges ? Must be funny feeling to look back 80 years ago ! I thought that a nice little note about your 4th birthday party that Miss Annie remembers.

Loads of love  
Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.  
Tues. Jan. 18, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

We are having almost a blizzard to-night, It was zero this morning but ten above <sup>at noon</sup> and quite pleasant though rather dark. We saw the Moores off on the noon train yesterday for Fiji and all their family were down, so as Dell Brewster was going to California with Mrs Wellman to-day we thought we better just see them off too. And as we were on the platform Mr Crosby said "10° above is just the right temperature for Banff." The train looked as if it had come through cold and snowy weather but there was no wind here at the time. We had had our lunch at noon as their train was late coming in about 12.30. We came home and as we had seen Tom Kaquits and another Indian, John Hunter getting off the train we thought we would put the car away and work upstairs. Then no one would think we were home. Pete is making a ski figure jumping, out of plasticine and I decided to get busy on the Store Property books for Pete's Income Tax. We were there until nearly four and then heard a car. It was Allan Mather, so we both came down as I wanted to ask him a few things anyway. It was then that we first noticed the wind blowing and the snow drifting off the shed roof in a fine stream. It was then zero and when we went out later for the mail it was about the coldest and windiest day of the year. The kind where the wind sort of howls but there doesn't seem to be much snow with it. The Moores were lucky to have left when they did.

I was going to try the Bendix this morning but have decided to wait until to-morrow as this morning was a bit interrupted. We were lucky and Cecil Philpott came yesterday morning to put the electric connection in, so that is done now.

Will try to answer some more of your letters to-night. Had to get a picture "took" of me for my registration card as a U.S. citizen which one does periodically so will send one to you and one to Jean. Not that they are so handsome, they always look worse than one hopes one looks. If I remember, will also send you a couple of postcards of the new Ski Lift on Norquay. Every picture I see scares me more than ever at the thought of the thing. It looks so far off the ground, and so little to hang onto, you must just be suspended in the air, I guess the first trip is the worst. Show them to Russ and I guess Cousin Bert will be interested.

What a shame about Uncle John breaking his wrist, one thing it will do is relieve his conscience about doing things he doesn't really want to do. The chores for instance and writing letters etc. But I hope it doesn't get painful, maybe having it set before it had time to swell much helped. I didn't know that Mr Dee was still alive!

That was a long letter from Mildred when she went back after her visit with Cousin Harried. Poor Mildred, we knew just how she felt for that is very much the way we feel sometimes when we have gone to see Jackie out of "the kindness of our hearts" so to speak only to have him light into someone we like or go on about

the roof or the heat or anything he can find fault with. You wish you had never gone, and yet its worse if you don't go. It always upsets us when it happens so now we just avoid such times if we possibly can. Poor Cousin Harriet maybe she wasn't feeling well when Mildred arrived and so gave vent to her feelings that way. But it was hard for Mildred when she isn't too chipper herself.

How wonderful Miss Annie Agge is, so bright and you never would think she had been sick at all. Hard for Miss Chatarina being almost blind. I feel sorry for her anyway. Miss Emily seemed so stern and somehow when Miss Chatarina was young I don't believe she was allowed to do much and by the time she was free to do as she liked she was too old and then lost her sight. Miss Annie had her painting to sort of relieve the sternness and then she has such a nice sense of humor.

Thank you and Cousin Jane for getting flowers for us and will have to pay you when next east, We are now allowed to send but \$10.00 a month to the states and with subscriptions and dues etc. it doesn't go far.

Am so sorry to hear about Mrs Sohler, can't imagine her being so nervous. Do you suppose its because she is tired of living the way they do and doing the same things over and over when maybe subconsciously she would like to be painting, and yet can't get doing it, as she doesn't feel well enough. Too bad they couldn't go somewhere for a real change where there would be no housekeeping etc. They could take pictures in color, for that always makes travelling that much more worthwhile. You never did get south to see the wonderful azalea gardens , why not get them to go down and take color pictures for you and then you would see what the gardens are like! To Williamsburg and places like that. or Florida and the Cypress Gardens. Do you suppose a well placed little bomb would budge Mr Sohler? I am a great one to advise others to go away and can't get ourselves very far. However we do mean to get going one day, Pete just has a feeling he shouldn't leave right now, and I know I shouldn't leave him, so there we are!

Pete was very pleased with your letter to him and especially as it was signed " Mother orse " he thought that rather nice. He said he was going to write you but I haven't seen him get down to it yet.

I don't think I have told you that Cameron Stockand has got what sounds like a good job, He has charge of the Editorial page of the newspaper at Owen Sound , Ontario. It is a place of about 12,000. people but the paper serves a wider community, so they write. It is quite an important place though it doesn't sound very big. It is on Georgian Bay and north west of Toronto, about 4 or 5 hours by train. Such a worrying time as we have had over them. Cam had a chance of a job in Montreal before Christmas but had to go and be interviewed, Marlon telephoned Mom and upset her for Mom naturally thought a telephoned call from Toronto mean't some one had died or something. but they hadn't enough money for him to make the trip, so we all had to send it down. Then thought it sounded promising and he would get the job if a man who was by-lingual didn't turn up. They never heard definitely which is hard when you expect to hear one way or the other any day.

Cam gets very dipondent very easily these days and that keeps the others wondering if he will do anything drastic as he thinks he is no good etc. etc. Marion was working and then caught fly which cut down her earnings and altogether they were in a bad way. Then he got this chance at Owen Sound, and again she telephoned (this provokes Pete, as she telephoned to Mom collect and of course when they ask Mom if she will accept the call she doesn't dare say anything but yes, for she would only worry otherwise.) So Cam went up on a trial basis to Owen Sound and then telephoned them last monday he had the job. They always do everything the most expensive way when they can't afford it ! and yet it is hard not to help, for Mom feels she must, and she can't really afford to. Anyway we hope now that they are all up in Owen Sound and have an apartment and it is a smaller place they may get along alright. The other three children who went to the coast all have jobs and David is working for Canadian Press and writes the news broadcasts that come over the radio on coast stations. Was even left in charge during Christmas and New Years. So if they only get along well that will be a great relief.

No we don't hear much about the Kings illness and never did hear just what it was. but the strain of one of those royal tours must be terrific., so I guess they didn't <sup>even</sup> have him dare attempt it. Lady Jean Rankin was to have gone on it as one of the Queen's ladies in waiting and wasn't particully looking forward to it, the formality must be pretty tiring.

I keep forgetting to ask " Did you ever get that hearing aid ? and if you did, how does it work ?

Have you read the Sitwell books ? they sound good.

I have finished the " Family Circle " by Connelia Ottis Skinner and liked it so much. Think I saw him act once. Did you read the book on Art ? The first part I thought awfully good but now it seems to go on and on and I can't make much out of it ? and did you or Kitty send us the catalogue of the Berlin Pictures ? we aren't sure if it came in one of the boxes or not as the kids took the outside wrappings off when they were over.

In "Green Fields Afar" I gathered in the foreword that as she sat in front of their fire place with her second husband and spoke about the old days, he would later write it all down as she had told it. For it was actually written by him, a journalist I think. That was why she said it wasn't often that you spoke of your ~~second~~ first husband to your second. Perhaps the first died in the flu epidemic as so many did in the west. during the 1st. War.

I am sure by now I have told you that we did receive the lovely Swiss Alpine calenders and were so glad to get them, they came before Christmas. Thanks so much. Now that I am at the end of that letter find you did hear they had arrived!

I ought to make you a little address book with the names of our friends so when I mention them and you forget who they are you could just look them up in the book. If I ever have time I will copy some of Gray Campbell's letters from the ranch. they are well worth reading.

I finished the Art Book. Painting in Public & the last  
2 chapters were better. only in the middle did it drag.  
-20° this morning but clear -

Loads of love

Catherine .

Can find only one of these perfectly lovely pictures of me. Did I already  
enclose 2. one from 1 one for Jean?

Banff, Alberta.  
January 20, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Will just write a bit to you to-night as I find I can't hit the right keys or spell words correctly enough to write anyone else. Am trying hard to get caught up on letters I owe and every mail brings more, used your little notes and they help a lot. Think from now on I will try to write less, am too long winded somehow. Grand-pa had the right idea, a few lines written so badly that you could barely get the meaning but it took so long ~~to read~~ to decipher what there was, that no one wanted it to be much longer !.

Did I tell you that we had good news from the Eastern Stockands. They are now living in Owen Sound, Ontario a place of 12,000 and Cam writes the Editorials for the daily paper. They have a small apartment, and right near where he works so we hope it all works out well. It is a relief to have them more or less settled and Mom already feels better.

To-day we had a nice letter from Mildred at the coast but unfortunately Cliff had had another of those attacks of his but was better. I do hope he doesn't start in having them again. But otherwise things seemed to be going well.

X We are having a bit of chilly weather. 35° below zero this morning. We have to look at the thermometer to see how cold it really is. A wind from the West this afternoon made it feel much worse than when it was still earlier. At ten below with a gust of wind whirling up the fine snow we saw Jim Simpson coming down from the post office, his hands in his pockets which held his suit coat open, (he never had been known to wear an overcoat no matter how frigid the weather) However he did have a necktie which shows it was a little colder this morning, otherwise his short would have been opened at the neck. With his big hat it X looked like a mild summer day!

Have used the Bendix twice now and it seems to work fine and one saves such a lot of time and effort and the clothes I am sure get cleaner. We now have to figure how to hide it for it looks pretty big and white in our kitchen.

Made me mad the other day to be all ready to put the pictures in your letter and then seal it before I realized but I knew if I unsealed it again I would have to hunt up the tape and all and so just didn't. Will try to remember this time.

We have had quite a stretch of cold weather lately 30 and 35 below and never up much above zero and this morning it was warmer, just 10 below. We have a bit of very dry dehydrated snow well packed from drifting.

Will send this along and in my next one will answer some more letters. I wrote nine notes the other evening. pretty good

Lots of love  
Catherine

Banff, Alberta.  
January 21, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Here I go again for a nice chat with you about all sorts of things in your letters. First I will answer the question underlined in red about the money for the books Jean gave us for Christmas. You can send an ordinary check and it will be quite allright.

Your AirMail sent from Boston came very quick, It was marked Boston Jan. 19th. 6.30 P.M. and reached here on what would have been the noon mail to-day the 21st. less than 48 hours. If you are off the main Air lines it always takes longer, as from Concord or Banff. Canadian letters all go by Air now for the regular postage if it makes them quicker. like those to Toronto or any place on the Air line, but the ones to the U.S. go by train. Otherwise mine to you would take just two days. The ones we get by Air from England or Scotland come quicker than from Concord.

You suggest that we set a date like April first to go east and that it would suit Russ you think. We haven't talked it over yet but I think it sounds the best plan. I have told Russ that I would have to think it all over and let him know in a few days. I think it would be mean of me to go to the middle west and not go on to Concord, after ~~xxxxif~~ I get that far east. and I know you don't want us in winter but when the garden starts to be pretty. Maybe I could settle some of the matters he has in mind by mail. Of course too it would be mean to make Russ and some other person come such a long way when they are so awfully busy. Will let you know as soon as I can.

Am awfully glad you mentioned Pete's birthday for I very nearly forgot. However would have remembered as Mom brought the cake she made down this noon as she is going to Canmore to an all day bonspiel to-morrow, not to play but to watch the curling. She also gave him a record of Harry Lauders, " the end of the road" on one side and another very Scotch one on the other. Did I tell you we had our 18 year old combination radio phonograph repaired and it seems to work very well and has lovely tone. Of course it doesn't change the records but we are still capable of doing that! What is the television like? or haven't you looked.

Tell Jean it was not the old <sup>Indian</sup> lady who gave her the bag who died, but Mrs McLean the wife of George MacLean who speaks English so well. (They are the couple in the View Master.) I think it is old Mrs Jonie who Jean is thinking of for she has the son who also speaks good English. I think the Service is like any funeral service for it was conducted by the minister on the reserve. I don't know if they have any other service but don't think so for George and his wife are Christian and very religious. Sang lots of hymns. I have never been to one as they usually busy the person right away and we don't hear about it in time.

Am so glad that Mrs Sohier is feeling better in her mind and maybe she will be feeling herself again soon. Nothing worse than being afraid you have something you haven't. They seem to say more about "emotional Disturbances" causing all sorts of symptoms. I guess it is the new word for "Nerves."

I remember you mentioned Longstreth being in Concord and having him to the house with the Chambers. Am anxious to see his book. *They should arrive to morrow -*

Which is John Buttricks pond? by the Emersons? Nice that Russ and the kids can skate on theirs, how father would have enjoyed that, remember how we used to skate on the tennis court?

How nice that Sam is at last out of that big cast, though the others sound almost as bad. Must write him again.

Haven't read "Bite the Bullet" as yet but how nice that Mrs Waymans book about Grandpa is to be translated.

Remember Claire Boisvert the little French-Canadian Girl from Ottawa? We had a card from her and she wanted to be remembered to you. She is attached to the Canadian Embassy in Mexico City for three years. has one more to go and was on leave in Ottawa for a month. She said Pat Cowley-Brown (who was a R.C.A.F. War Artist with Pete) had been studying in Mexico for a year and is back in Victoria, she plans to come back that way next year. Don't know if they are just friends or engaged. She works translating I think.

Did I ever thank you for the Christmas card of the Skiers? We thought it the best watercolor of skiing we have seen. it was by Paul Sample who does such good things, and did I thank you for the little skiers.

Thank you for sending Uncle Marshall's Will, the wording always interests me. How nice that he left Cousin Jane some money for am sure she can make good use of it. I had forgotten that the pictures I made were on loan. Aunt Needa always liked that portrait. let me know if I am supposed to do anything about it, but it could wait until we go east.

The Norman Rockwell book is really wonderful and we can get so much enjoyment out of it, there is so much in it. I think his things are wonderful, at least most of them. Don't you think in a few years (probably long after he dies) they will be considered some of the best work of this age, as they depict our life so well. So many are real portraits.

Did I ask you if you ever got that hearing thing? Mrs Simpson should get one. Does yours work well?

How nice of you to think of the ironer. They have them here all kinds but as yet I don't really iron enough to use one. Cis has one and I can investigate hers. I think I am becoming quite proficient ironing the other way the little I do. But will let you know later.

Nice you saw Mrs Neville, too bad in a way that they didn't settle in Concord long ago for she would have liked Concord now as there would have been so many congenial people. Does she still live in that wonderful house in Wellesley hills or Farms?

*Roads of Love Catherine*

Banff, Alberta.  
Sun. Jan. 23, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Think I will just type a bit to you to-night for there may not be time in the morning. Have been working on all sorts of "facts and figures" to send Miss Publicover for Income Tax but don't dare type it out in final form to-night as I would make too many mistakes I am sure. Most likely will make enough of them to you!

We are having what might be called a "cold Spell" It was -40° below this morning a little after 8 o'clock when we first looked and got up to about -18° Below during the day. is now -30° below at 8.45 P.M. so goodness knows what it will reach by tomorrow morning, for last night at this time it was about -20° below. and Charile Reid said it was -32° below when he went home at 2 A.M. from the store last night. Anyway it is quite chilly! It has been -25° or -30° below 2 or 3 morning this week but lovely clear days and the bright sun makes it seem a little warmer. Funny we haven't had the blizzards they have had in other parts of the west, just colder than normal for this time of year.

Monday afternoon- I didn't do very well last night and when Pete suggested we go up and read in bed the temptation to continue Ethridge's book on Greece was too great. I like it even better than the first one, though that was perhaps more amusing, this Greek one is more timely and interesting. her discriptions are good too and I bet you enjoyed her food!

It didn't go so low after all, just -30° below zero this morning and by noon it was up to almost zero, so perhaps this cold spell is moderating. I hope so for it is really a little too chilly to be outside much.

This weekend Tom Link of Chicago arrives on Sunday for one night ~~in~~ at the Mt Royal Hotel. He is the one who goes to O'Hara every year and his wife died a few years ago. He has never seen the mountains in winter before and will go from here to Lake Louise to stay with the guides.

Then on February 3rd. Frances James and her husband Murray Adaskin the violinist are giving a concert in Banff. She is the one who used to sing at the Banff Springs and is a well known soprano. It should be a lovely concert. Don't know if they will be here long or not. Then that same weekend will be a big University Ski Meet, and a special train with 400 people from Edmonton. They are to run 3 trains this year. Then the Carnival around the 10th I think it is. So there is always something on though we don't really enter in to any of it if we can help.

That sounds mean but one could spend all ones time on things like that and there is enough to do as it is.

Mom got back from her day at the Bonspiel in Canmore, it was -17' on the curling rink so pretty cold for the players. It is in a building but of course no heat or the ice would melt. The waiting rooms are heated though.

We had rather a quiet day yesterday, hooked up a radio for Mom in the morning and then we had Davy over for a short time and Mary Lee Mather for quite a long time in the afternoon. She is about 8 or 9 and very much a little lady. For some reason, I guess it was a piece of Pete's birthday cake that started it, we spoke of age. and he said " how old do you think I am ? " and Mary Lee was very kind and said, " you don't look very old." so foölishly we told her to guess how old Pete was, she thought for a few minutes with her head on one side and said, " Are you in your sixties ? " She was much surprised to find that her father was older than Pete. Allan it tunned out is just a few days younger than Russ, born in November 1900.

Mary Lee says she likes to come and see us because we have so many interesting things to look at. She notices them all and the children love to hear stories about them.

The trains have been late for a week or more and so to-days noon train is just in and it is 4.30. Will mail this at the station I guess. The parcels haven't come yet, I thought they would have been here by now but may have been delayed in the states due to storms in the middle west.

Am sure You and Cousin Jane are having a nice time to-gether and don't be so gay you tire yourself out!

Loads of love from us to all.

Catharine

How is Uncle John?

Banff, Alberta.  
Thurs. Jan. 27, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Here it is nearly the end of January already, I can hardly believe it. We haven't been doing too well the last couple of days. We both seemed to get some sort of bug, not very serious but it gave us a headache and sick to the tummy feeling. Pete felt real sick Monday morning but was O.K. by afternoon, that day between running up and down stairs, did my income tax things. Then Tuesday morning I felt sick, but not as sick as Pete, by the afternoon was O.K. so we don't know what it was. But didn't feel like doing very much. Pete is working on a ski jumper in plasticine and has been doing that quite a bit, then we had gas from the furnace and after so much cold weather knew the ~~air~~ furnace needed cleaning, so yesterday afternoon when it at last got a little milder cleaned that.

You can't seem to get anyone to do such jobs as cleaning furnaces and if we do get a man Pete has to show him just what parts have to be cleaned and how to reach them etc. so it is really quicker to do them himself. However it is so hot in the cellar working around the furnace that it is bad carting the buckets of black soot outdoors into the cold, so that is my job. They are very light, nothing to them, and I try to dump them so they don't go towards the neighbors washing. Pete gets so hot the soot in the air sticks to him pretty well and he never fails to wear a clean shirt and usually his best pants for the job! However we did it very quickly this time and didn't attempt to take the stove pipe down, he will get the man who put it up to help him do that if he can. We got 7 bucket fulls of soot out of the big air spaces around the furnace so it needed it. I was just getting all cleaned up when two men, Bob Bryant and Albert Keyath came collecting for funds to run the carnival. They made quite a call never having been here before and got talking about skiing and in the end Pete felt we ought to give them quite a bit as we would be asking them for donations next Indian Days. Edmee came as they were here but didn't stay.

Then we went to the mail, by the way did I tell you the books came Tuesday, I think they got stuck in the customs in Calgary over the weekend. They look awfully good and I am glad you sent us the Boston one and also Longstreths. Pete was very pleased.

We met Donny on the way home and spoke to him, he had just had a birthday card from his father and mother and then we realized it was his 18th birthday, so asked him to come down to the house in half an hour. Went back over town and got a box of candy then put a little money in an envelope and had it all done up when he came just after his supper but as we were starting ours.

He had just eaten a big supper and birthday cake

Barbara had made for him, but he thought the spare ribs we were having looked pretty good so joined us and ate a good helping of them, some yellow beans a bowl of apple sauce and a glass of milk but didn't think he could eat any more cake. He is developing very well, was so terribly shy before but we think being with Barbara and the kids has helped a lot for he talks so much more than he did before. Says too he isn't scared anymore the first period in a hockey game. Told us Johnny had given him 25 cents for a birthday present from his piggy bank, which was pretty cunning.

After Donny left to do his homework, Jonny appeared to see what we were giving Donny, so as we were at the desert stage then, he had some of Pete's birthday cake after two pieces of Donny's ( I hope neither of them were sick last night ) I stuck a nickle in when I cut it and Johnnie was very pleased to find it in his piece.

After he had gone and the dishes done we thought of Edmee who said she might come down but had a lot to do as they are going to Arizona for two months if they can. She is a bit touchy and when she found the two men here in the afternoon wouldn't stay, thinking they were here on business, so after in the evening Pete went up to bring her down for a little while, she said she would come down in her own car which she did a little later and it was after eleven when she went home, a late night for us and we find it hard enough to wake up as it is these days.

The Moores should be in Honolulu to-day while the boat stops a few hours and I guess in a way Edmee would love to be with them, but she and Charlie are planning to drive to Arizona to visit friends ( because of the money exchange restrictions you still can't take much with you ) and then just yesterday there is some mix up about the store Charlie is renting, and it was left in a will to three in a family and one of them wants to sell and they will ~~decide~~ decide the end of March so naturally Charlie wants to be here then, so it may cut their trip short or it might prevent their going, and Edmee was feeling very blue about it all, or else fed up as it is the first time she has gotten Charlie to leave the store for so long. So I think we cheered her up quite a bit and she told us all about it which helped too.

To-day Pete felt terribly sleepy this morning, he says it is like the deer who invariably lie down the day before very cold weather or a bad storm, as if they sensed it coming and were saving up strength for it. and sure enough at noon just when I was going to get lunch in came Ted Paris with his troubles. He is the one who's wife is very narotic and he mother keeps her so ( I think ) They went to the coast to see a doctor and Ted hoped to have Kay go into some hospital or place like Mildred, but after getting there the same old thing happened and Kay either didn't like the doctors ( they saw two ) or wouldn't go to the hospital.

The people who took the apartment next door <sup>to them above the store</sup> happen to be foreigners but the only ones that seemed to want to go in and sounded all right, however they work all afternoon and evening and stay up all night and have so upset Kay and Mrs Jennings her mother, that they won't sleep there and have caused no end of fuss. True enough the " neighbors " have had a house warming and celebrated over Christmas and New Years, but Ted and the others take

it out on Allan. Its a long story but just one of those things that can't be helped. Allan asked Mr Vallances advice and has given the people notice to leave, but you have to give them a month. which brings it to February 15th. Ted and the two ladies were to be at the coast sometime so we thought and kept their apartment on. Suddenly returned Sunday and last night there was a great racket next door and they got all excited and finally called the police who could do nothing when they arrived as it had all quietened down, then called Allen at two in the morning, which made him provoked as it ruined his sleep and there was not much he could do. Ted is getting so upset himself that he will soon be narotic too and such a time as we all had. We were all friendly enough but it takes such a lot of time to talk it all over. Ted was here until one and Allan came for a short time while he was here, then we had to have our lunch and had a talk with Casey Oliver who lives in the apartments too but never complains and heard his story and then talked to Allan again. But it took us all our afternoon just because of two narotic women who have Ted scared to death too and he does just what they tell him to. I didn't mean to tell you all this but it is just one of those things that happens.

Mom asked us up there to supper and we had a nice time. A letter from Marian from Ooen Sound and they seem to like it all so much and Cam is doing well etc. so Mom feels better and was off to the choir practise at 7.30. She sang two solos last night at the Burns dinner, and to-morrow she spends at the curling rink as it is the ladies bonspiel.

Better call this a letter, I didn't tell you yet where the paintings are for we haven't heard, but will let you know when we do.

Loads of love,

Catharine

P.S. Did you get the Magazine 'Arizona Highways' this month? I don't remember subscribing again for you, so if you haven't had the January copy please let us know?

Banff, Alberta.  
Sun. Jan 30, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

It is mild for a change, about 20° above and we are just waiting until it is time to meet Tom Link on the train. Luckily for us it is late so we don't have to think about lunch, not that we wouldn't like to have him for lunch but we will be cooking a steak supper and one big meal a day is enough. My repertoire doesn't last many meals. He should arrive about 2, instead of 11.30 or noon and we aren't sure what we will do this afternoon, he may want to go up and see the skiing at Norquay and again he may not be interested in that, then to-morrow he will go on to Lake Louise and stay with the Swiss Guides and then to Golden for a day. The weather is dull which is a shame but a little weak sunshine to help.

Yesterday was rather busy, Ted Paris was down for a few minutes about the next door neighbors above the store and we spoke to Syd Vallance to ask his advice and then to Allan again. As Allan says he doesn't mind looking after the property but it is the time one spends unnecessarily because of the "narotic" tenants. We will just hope we can get some steady person in there soon that the Jennings outfit will like!

We went to the Hockey game last night, the Juveniles with Donny playing, it was a good game and quite warm being ten above. Mom was too busy with the ladies bonspiel to come to supper and then Jackie fell again and hurt his knee and by the sound of things is in bed but doesn't want a doctor. We aren't entering into it at all. *Sounds like water on the knee*

Had a nice letter from Dorothy Whyte in Vancouver, she is Matron or hostess in a brand new place for training paraplegics ( people paralysed from the waist down due to a spinal injury ) It is being run as a school and they are called students and go to classes etc. There is a boarding part with 6 double rooms and bath between <sup>each</sup> and one private room. Then they have a dining room for 24 and a lounge and Dorothy has her room and bath too in that part. Then for the ones who come by the day there is a large gymnasium where the training goes on and a place to fit braces etc. The idea is to teach the "students" how to get along in spite of being in a wheel chair, how to dress themselves etc, to use crutches and how to negotiate steps and curbs etc. Also to help the mental attitude. They have a cook and her husband is the orderly and a "cleaner" or janitor who is orderly one the other mans day off. Dorothy ~~over~~ <sup>prepares</sup> the food and looks after that part of running the place, is hostess and I guess sees about entertainment etc. Then the manager is a paraplegic too and quite wonderful, he runs the whole thing, and has a secretary. there is also a trainer and a medical adviser. They hope to build a swimming pool and later a

vocational training room. It is all very modern and built on one floor for the purpose and is the only such place in Canada. Dorothy is so pleased to be doing something so worthwhile and not just running a womens club as she was before. She wrote us and sent folders etc. Her sister is to be here for a month for a rest in Banff.

Don't know that there is much news right now and we must go soon, Am glad that Russ is satisfied if we can come east in the spring and now I shall have to work hard towards that end.

Hope you and Cousin Jane are enjoying the winter and lack of snow, it won't seem so long until spring starts coming.

Loads of love,

*Catherine*

Banff, Alberta.  
Mon. Jan 31, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

This has been quite a day and if I can keep awake long enough will just give you an idea of what I call a busy day with lots to think of.

First of all yesterday was Sunday and we expected Tom Link on the noon train, it was late and must have been about 2.30 when the train came in. We had had lunch so it worked just right, took him to the hotel first, then down here for a few minutes but thought we better take him around town a bit while it was still light. Went to the skating rink and watched the skaters a bit, then to the curling rink and saw one end of a game being played, then we said "well there isn't much else to show you but swimming", and he said "I didn't know you had an indoor swimming pool." So we never said a word just drove up to the Upper Hot Springs and let him look over the wall and through the steam rising and he was awfully surprised to see about 30 people all ages and sizes in swimming! We didn't try to take him up to Norquay as Pete hates to drive with Sunday drivers on that road and he didn't seem to mind not going. Then we left him at the hotel and he came over here a little after six for supper. Steaks, mushrooms, mashed potatoes string beans, strawberries and ice cream. The meal made him pretty sleepy but we had a nice evening talking until he went home about ten.

This morning we were pretty sleepy but got up about 8.30. had the last night's dishes to do and then went looking for Tom. he had just gone out so we got the mail and then noticed him looking in a store window. brought him over here for a bit, lent him some sheepskin shoes and a warm undershirt etc to take to Lake Louise for he was to leave on the noon train to go up and stay with the Swiss Guides for a day or two and then on to the coast. The train was a little late and we got a few things like tobacco for him to take to the guides and then saw him on the train west. It was after 12 when we got home for lunch and was in the midst of it when Lorne Orr called to ask us about getting an icehouse that belongs to the store and has to be torn down. We told him it didn't belong to us, but he wanted us to ask Jackie about it. He stayed quite a while talking about one thing or another and after he had left and we had finished the luncheon dishes we went for the mail, ~~skxxx~~ spoke to Joe Woodworth about whether or not Mr Vallance had spoken to him, then to the store to ask Jackie about the ice house. Did I tell you he had been complaining about his knee on Saturday and Mom thought they should get a doctor; well to-day she was just telephoning Alec Robinson when we went in. Seems they tried to get Pat but he was busy and Mom thought they shouldn't wait as Jackie was so bad. (We didn't see him at all) We had just seen Pat, Pete having left the folders on the Paralegics for him to look at and he was just going over to a trail as some man had been killed in an accident for the Power Development, so we knew he was busy.

We told Florence about the ice house and then got out of the road as we didn't want to hear all about how Jackie had no use for Dr Mackensie and Pat wouldn't come to see him etc. etc.

So after that we went over to see Allan to hear if he had seen Mr Vallance, he hadn't, so we didn't stay very long but are still wondering what to do about new tenants for the suite which we hope the present occupants will vacate without any trouble! So Ted Paris and his wife and mother and law can feel free to go back into their suite without having the narotic daughte disturbed by the noisys tenants next door. Then we started home and thought of Lily Disher, Dorothy Whyte's sister who has just arrived at the Mt. Royal, so thought we would just run around there and see if she came and would like to come here for tea. I found her and had a little chat for she has had an infected foot and it had flared up again on the train so she didn't think she better go out.

Oh yes, then we also ran up to Jean Robinsons to tell her that when Frances James comes to sing on Thursday that it will be on her birthday, for we knew they would give her a reception of some sort and they will maybe make a cake. All these calls took time and they were mostly on different subjects. We got back at about 3.30 and I said to Pete + thought I would make myself a cup of tea as I felt the need of one. when Mom came down. She wanted to tell us all about Jackie. The Dr Alec Robinson ( he is the one who looked after her ankle ) came and looked at Jackie and took him off to have an x-ray of the knee. Mom said it was so swollen and painful and was badly infected and that Jackie had a high temperature and she was very worried as he has no feeling in his feet ( due to goodness knows what ) and so she was afraid of what would happen for with no circulation and an infection it would be very serious. Also that Jackie had been taken right to the hospital, Bill Ridgeway and Alec having to carry him downstairs. This didn't sound very good and she was pretty worried so we did our best to cheer her up. She had Mariens last letter with her to read us which was cheerful thank goodness and we talked about an old couple over 80 who live down the road, both come near dieing about once a week it seems and have been failing steadily according to Mom for a couple of years!

After she had gone it was about quarter to five, We rather wanted to see Mr Vallance to ask about the evicting the tenants and knew he would be going on the train at five or 5.45. So went to the station but he wasn't at the first train, then Pete tried to find Alec Robinson to ask what was really wrong with Jackie, but he was at the hospital, went there and found he was in the operating room putting on a splint, which sounded funny, but any way we decided not to wait and went to the 2nd train. Syd Vallance was just buying his ticket and so until the train came in we had a nice talk with him. He was meeting an old friend he hadn't seen for 20 years who was on the train and then they would go to Calgary to-gether. Pete knew the conductor and so Syd went right into the friends compartment instead of sitting in the day coach as he intended to, so that worked well.

The day isn't over yet , We came home ( I forgot in between somewhere we had a chat with Cyril to see how Ted Paris and wife were ) but anyway about six we got home and Pete was too tired to eat right away. looked out the window and who should be coming along but Enos Hunter from Morley ! Well in he came and we had a long talk until nearly seven. It was very interesting actually had we not been so tired. He wanted to " bum some money for his bus ticket " so we gave him that and enough for supper too. But then he asked Pete if he thought the Indians should get the vote, he was afraid if they did it would mean paying taxes too and he didn't want to pay taxes. He also didn't want the young Indians to be allowed to buy liquor etc. and then he said how the white man when he made the treaty he had promised the Indians they could hunt and all and then they took the Indians land and now if the Indians want land they have to buy it back. He also gave us the names of the old Indians at Morley.

After he left we decided to just have some soup for supper as our heads were tired. Then after supper Pete thought maybe we had better see about Jackie as Mom said she was going to take a walk up to the hospital after supper. She had gone so we drove on up. Asked how he was and the nurse said she thought Mrs White and Florence were there so we said we wouldn't go in unless he wanted us too. He wanted to see us so in we went. He has his leg in a cast to keep it from twisting, has a bit of water on the knee too, but didn't mention infection. Mom had said he had a high fever this afternoon but that was <sup>not</sup> mentioned this evening either. He was sitting up in bed and except for wanting to tell all about it I didn't think he seemed too sick. We only stayed a few minutes but we never know if " this time " it is something really serious or not. and it is rather worrying to say the least.

Now we are back home. have read the paper and Pete has slept in his chair a good hour or more while I wrote this, he is fixing the furnace now and then we will go to bed. But don't you think thats quite a day !

It was fun seeing Tom Link and each year he is so much better about things. It was very hard for him to adjust himself to the loss of his wife but now he can talk about her quite naturally and is very philisophical about everything. His brother is a well known geologist and for 20 years was the chief one for Imperial Oil in Canada. he is the one who discovered the new Leduc Oil Field I think and knows more about the oil possibilities in Alberta than anyone, having been exploring etc for 20 years.

Ted Link is now working on his own, he left Imperial Oil because they wouldn't take his advise. they offered to make him a director but he wasn't interested in that unless they would do as he wanted them to, and he wanted them to lease I don't know how many acres of land to drill for oil. They wouldn't so he left them and now some other people have become interested and they have already spent 5 million dollars, imagine it, just on leaseing the land and don't know yet if there is oil under it or not, but it is quite a thing. Tom was very amusing telling about it. It was all in Time Magazine, this big deal.

It is Tuesday and I am finishing this while the clothes are going around in the Bendix. They are spinning now so will have to hang them up ~~down~~ -

We are having a quiet morning and it is snowing a very fine snow. Frances and Murray Adaskin come on Thursday so we aren't going to try to do much until after their visit, they are staying over Friday to see us.

We hope that Jackie will come along allright. We still have a feeling that subconsciously he wants attention and he naturally isn't very well and sits up in their apartment over the store and just feels sorry for himself. When he is feeling badly of course Mom is much concerned and we have a sneaking suspicion that he isn't really as sick as he makes out. It is sort of "Wolf Wolf" some of the time, but the doctors like Pat and Dr Mackenzie have told Pete that if he goes on the way he has that they don't give him very long to live, so when Mom says he is really sick, we wonder if this bout will finish him. Maybe he too is narotic for he always wants to tell one all the aches and pains he has, We always go and speak to the doctor himself and ask what the trouble is but Mom and Florence are apt to listen to what Jackie says that the doctor says, and he just tells them the parts he wants to. Anyway it is rather disturbing though we try not to let it bother us.

Had better stop now. Really the Bendix is wonderful. One shirt I washed this morning was just black in spots where Pete had got the soot on from cleaning the furnace and I couldn't see a sign of it afterwards. Haven't decided about the iron for there is so little to do but will think about it. Thanks just the same. As far as a radio goes, we are quite pleased about the old one we had fixed, for the tone is so lovely compared with the newer models, and then we have a fine ordinary radio for the kitchen and a portable one for the bedside, so are well fixed.

Must stop this time. Loads of love

Catharine -

Banff, Alberta.  
Fri. Feb. 4, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

This will be as quick a letter as I can make it for this week has been the busiest one we have had for ages. My desk is now so covered with unanswered letters, bills to be paid and goodness knows what that there isn't even room to push them back and set this typewriter down!

I think I told you all about Monday and what a busy day it was for us, well Pete was so tired Tuesday that he lay down after breakfast and slept until we went over town on an errand. I think I did some laundry in the Bendix that morning. At lunch time Sam came down to borrow a plane and seemed to want to talk while we ate. Hadn't seen him lately so it was nice to have him, then Goon Wing called before Sam left. He is the Chinese boy that Pete went to school with as a little boy years ago and they were great friends. Hadn't seen him for a couple of years and he made us a long call, finally Pete looked at his watch and Goon realized we had to go out but wanted Pete to speak to Elmer Charlton about leasing a place at Lake Louise to run as a restaurant in the summer, so we went there first, Elmer was out. So took Goon to see Jackie at the hospital, after leaving him there we found Elmer, so back to the hospital to get Goon and down again to Elmer's. Had gotten the mail etc. in between. Back to the house and had barely sat down when Tully Montgomery the Canon of the English Church came down to call. He hasn't been here for a year or two and though he doesn't know it, he is our minister. We like him very much as a man and he has a good sense of humor so we got telling stories and he enjoyed himself so much that he stayed over an hour, we enjoyed it too. It was five when he left so we gave him a lift home hoping to see Alec Robinson and to ask about Jackie's condition, but missed him as it was after 5. by then, and the Clinic closed and came home to find the other BR Robinson driving out of the yard. However he came back and with him was Mr Roberts the school teacher, they had come to invite us to the reception after Frances James and Murray Adaskins concert last night, also to ask a few other questions. Neither of them had been here before and were interested in all sorts of things, pictures, cameras etc. It was after six when they left and we were pretty tired in the head. Pete is fine if there are only one or two things to think of in an afternoon but when it is all so diversified it becomes tiring to him. I guess he hasn't built up enough resistance. I forgot Mrs Painter came while Goon Wing was here to return the Japanese Homes that Mr Painter had read through and was so interested in. They are leaving soon for Washington. I forgot that evening we went to a hockey game, a special one. (Wednesday That evening we meant to go to bed real early but got interested in listening to a two hour program on Samuel Johnson and his times, including the Vicar of Wakefield, well done from Toronto.)

Wednesday we felt real weary. and I can't even remember just what we did, except that being Wednesday we did the errands in the morning. Had to look for Harry Hazeldean as the dumb waiter we

ordered last fall for the Groseery Dep't has come. or rather is on its way. We also saw Ted Paris and I have forgotten what else. After a late lunnh and going for the mail we came home, put the car away, locked the door and retired upstairs. I had the clothes to dampen and iron and did my hair and then what I rarely ever do sat down for a while and read a book in the day time. Goodness I made a mistake. Tuesday evening after all the callers we went to a hockey game, a benifet one for the boy who had his jaw broken in a prezious game. It was a nice night, about 10 above and a good crowd and we enjoyed the game. Saw Earl Pletch the boy who lost his arm and he told Pete at the end of the game he and Maxine (who used to be the girl at the Atkin Clinic ) were coming down to see us on the way home, Pete put them off saying we had to see Allan first, but that would have been the finishing touch to our two hectic days. As it was the hockey game was tiring enough ! It was Wednesday night we listened to the radio program and I didn't even try to write letters.

Then yesterday was Thursday and we were to meet the train and Frances and Murray. Luckily for us the trains were late and so it wasn't until 2.30 until they came in. I sort of cleaned the house a little and we had slept late, saw Edmee and Charlie just before they left, saying goodbye to them etc. Then had lunch and went to the station. Oh yes, when I went up to telephine about the trains in the morning Mom told me all about Jackie, being alone so much and no one to talk to she gets going sometimes and it is hard to get away. Anyway Dr Robinson says he is in a very nervous state and he thinks he can cure Jackie, so that is something.

We met the train and Frances and Murray and the accompanist and drove them to the Mt Royal, they wanted us to wait and go to the Auditorium with them to practise etc. and while we were waiting in the lobby, John Momod the skier came up and introduced Major Kenneth Hadow and his very attractive wife. He is the one from Kashmir who married Peggy Gowans. They are living in Victoria now and have been skiing at Temple and Sunshine. (I of course didn't mention Peggy ) They wanted to see our pictures as the Simpsons had told them about us. We had a nice little chat and as they are leaving we will see them next time they come.

Took Frances etc to the Robinsons first for Harold was to help them at the Auditorium, met Mr Walker on the street and talked to him while the others were shown over the new clinic, and the Robinsons, built last year, then to the Auditorium and we left them there to practise but it was five when we got home. Then it was quite a sturggle to get Pete ready for the concert ! But we went, taking Mrs Brown and Mrs Case, ( two elderly widows ) with us. Mrs Case went on her own but we picked up Mrs Brown and took her home later. She did enjoy it and never would have gone otherwise. Her family can't get her to go out much and she couldn't very well get out of going with us. Frances and Murray wanted to come down here afterwards as they get all keyed up over the concert, There was the reception first, but we didn't go, and then they came down here a little before midnight and stayed until 1.30. Quite late house for us but it seemed to mean so much to them.

Now to-day Pete is trying to sleep enough this morning to get energy for the rest of the day. We are to drive them around this afternoon as the pianist has never been in the mountains before, and then we are invited to tea at Jean Robinsons, which I doubt if Pete will want to go to, and then they want to come here for supper and

the evening. So it will be quite a day. to-morrow they go west, on the noon train. They are to sing etc on the radio in Vancouver, give a concert there too, and the symphony is to play a suite that Murray has composed. the first performance. Last night he played one of his compositions(?) a Sonata, but it was a little too deep for me. It was a lovely concert and rather nice having them do it to-gether. Frances would sing a group of songs then Murray would play on the violin and then Frances again, and more violin. At the end the three of them did a group of things together, Ave Maria was one and it was really lovely. They had a good audience and even the children seemed to enjoy it. Mrs Asling and her daughter came down from Lake Louise for it too. The Jaysees ( Junior Chamber of Commerce ) who put it on were pleased as any extra money is to go towards a library. The first beginnings will be in the ~~at~~ basement of the Robinson Clinic.

It is lunch time and so all for now, didn't expect to write this much.

Thats a joke about the card I sent to Uncle John, I wondered where it was and couldn't remember mailing it as I didn't know how much it needed in stamps!

Loads of love,

Catharine .

Banff Alberta.  
Mon. Feb. 7, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

We are more or less back to normal after a week of visitors, and it is still cold. I don't think it has been above freezing for at least a month and most every morning way below zero. We are getting used to it but one isn't tempted to go out much to ski etc. not that we have had time to do it anyway.

I think I told you that the concert was lovely and we all enjoyed it, about 300 there which was quite a lot for Banff as there is so much going on most of the time. That evening Murray and Frances came down afterwards and we talked until about 1.30. They are old friends as Pete knew Frances when she came to make a course to work as a girl of 18 and then she sang at the hotels for many years and Murray played in the trio at the Banff Springs. It was his trio. Now he still plays the dinner music at the Royal York in Toronto and does some composing as well. Frances sings quite often on the radio and they make a tour each winter to bring music to the small places across Canada, they don't do more than make their expenses but figure it is worth while. They have built a cottage up in the Algonquin Park north of Toronto, 180 miles by road and it is on a lake. This last year they built a tiny cabin so Murray can work up there as he found even if they were far away they had lots of company and no chance to work! They know all the artists we do in Toronto and brought messages from those here last summer. Frances' singing teacher may come to the summer school this year.

Friday they stayed over a day to see us and other Banff friends and also because the young lad who accompanies them is just 3 years out from Boston, England, and has never been in the mountains. We slept rather late Friday and then went over and picked them up about two and took them up to Norguay. it was a lovely day though cold but they didn't dare go up the Lift in case they caught cold or something that might interfere with their concerts at the coast. Earl Petch the ski Jumper who lost his arm almost had Murray up the Lift. they got along well together. Earl had been practising jumping with his one arm, which he waves in front for balance so Dr Macenzie told us. He is quite a wonderful lad for courage. Murray envied him for he said as a child he was never allowed to skate or ski or any of those things in case he injured his hands and couldn't play the violin, having come from a very musical family. and Earl isn't afraid of anything. Murray is the most likable person, very kind and so eager about everything

We left them at Jean Robinsons for tea and then they came over here about 8.30 I guess and stayed until midnight. Seems to me I had told you this. It was -22 below when they went home. Pete guided them up the hill with the flash light and then as he came back the biggest buck deer followed him right to the back door and would have come in had we encouraged him, why is it the visitors always miss things like that.

Saturday the trains were all late and so we drove them all up to the Upper Hot Springs and to the Banff Springs Hotel, for though it was Saturday afternoon the Rankellors gave us the keys and we went all through the hotel, that is downstairs. It is heated partially and didn't seem cold. The train kept being later and later and it was 6.30 when they finally left. They just hoped they would reach Vancouver in time to hear Murrays suite played by the Vancouver symphony Sunday Afternoon. It was to be its first performance I guess anywhere. We listened on the radio but the part they broadcast didn't include it much to our disappointment.

We went to bed early Saturday night and read and it was 10 when we got up Sunday. I had cheques to do and didn't even write a letter, pretty lazy of me. But we were both tired. We did go up to the hospital to see Jackie having been only once in the week. Mom and Florence were there but he was pleased we came. He seemed a bit dopy from Pills I guess and was having treatments on his knee which still seems to trouble him. We don't know just what the matter is.

There are two clinics in Banff, the Atkin Clinic with Dr Mackenzie. Pat Costigan and Dr Atkin and then the Robinson Clinic with Dr Dean R. and his two sons Alec and Harold both doctors too. Evelyn Atkin was very amusing to-day for she said they were up at the University Ski Meet and there was a big crowd up the hill. The Robinsons are anxious to get in on some of the broken bones and of course nearly everyone goes to the Atkin Clinic as they have been the ones to go to for so long. Evelyn said that the boys of the Ski Patrol always get Dr Mackenzie or Rat and that now there is a regular race for the casualties, they are on a stretcher in no time and whisked to a doctor! She was really funny about it.

To-day we had a wonderful long letter from Gray Campbell like a chapter in a book. took me nearly half an hour to read it. All about two brothers who live on a nearby ranch and are real characters.

This afternoon we got ready to start painting again and hope nothing comes up to-morrow to stop us. About 4 when it was too dark to do more we went for the mail and to see Mrs Disher, Dorothy Whyte's sister who is at the Mt Royal. she was out so will try again later. This week is the bonspiel and then the Carnival but we aren't very interested.

Must be writing some others so all for now.

Loads of love

Catharine.

P.S. They had a regular blizzard in Vancouver & Victoria 7 inches of snow & a 35 a mile an hour wind. With storm over I guess. They have had lots of snow this year.

Bamff, Alberta.  
Thurs. Feb. 10, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

I was going to write you last night but we had company. This has been a less strenuous week than last and we are getting caught up a little. It was so cold and we were so busy all last week that I never got any laundry done and so both Tuesday and Wednesday I used the Bendix and really it is the most wonderful saving of time and energy. I don't really think an ironer would help me very much for we have little flat work and shirts and blouses seem easier by hand. I put the sheets right out on the kitchen table and it is no trick at all to do them.

We have been trying to paint each afternoon and lock the door so as not to be disturbed and so far it has worked well. Yesterday after finishing we went out about 4 o'clock and up to the Post Office, gave Enos Hunter (from Morley) a ride down and he said that several of the Indians were up and he is among the 15 going to Hollywood to be in the movie they took last summer, in the interior shots, quite a trip for them. We got home safely and retired upstairs in case any of those in town came to call, for as Pete says, it takes a lot of time.

About 5.30 we came back down and I was making some custards and thinking of muffins for supper when there was a loud knock on the door and of course I knew it was Indians. However when I opened the door there stood the Graysons from Morley. I was so surprised I didn't know what to say. I had been so sure it was going to be Indians and then Mom had been telling us for the last month or so how Uncle Charlie had failed so, and she wanted to go to Cochrane soon to see him as she had heard how he had nearly lost the use of his feet they were troubling him so and she was afraid he was pretty feeble etc. We didn't think he could be that bad but still it was a surprise to see him at the back door looking very well, though maybe a little thinner. They had come up on the bus to visit Mom for a few days and she wasn't home. They were coming Tuesday but it was too cold and didn't let her know that they would come the next day.

We knew Mom would be at the Bonspiel if she wasn't home so made the Graysons a cup of tea and then a little later supper. I didn't have anything very exciting but the tin of tongue we opened happened to be extra good, and so did the string beans. Then we had bread and some of the extra good apricot jam Grace gave us Christmas and they really enjoyed it all. The custards even turned out well though I didn't attempt the muffins. The Graysons are a wonderful couple, they are the ones who were here when Marion Hudson came. Aunt Maggie is 82 and hears and sees as well as ever, is the thin wiry type. After supper and the dishes were washed up we went in search of Mom. To the hospital in case she was seeing Jackie and to the Curling rink, luckily Cyril was there and knew that Eastern Star was on that night, so we took the Graysons

to Moms as we have a key to the house and left word at the Eastern Star that they were there in case Mom got a start when she saw her lights on. It was nine when we got back and the sheets and pillow cases etc were on the line and about dry enough for ironing. Luckily I brought them in and did them before turning in, for this morning it is snowing hard and they would have been all wet again.

This is the first day of the carnival, a parade and grand opening this afternoon. We are glad to see the snow as the streets were getting so dirty looking and now it will be really pretty with snow on the trees as well. This is the first snow for ages, except for the dry kind.

We have at last heard about the sketches, they have been shown " in Tillsonburg, Ontario, for a couple of weeks at the beginning of January and now they will go to Kitchener and Brantford. Following their showing there, they will be shipped to Hart House and the Wakunda Art Centre in Toronto during March," So they have done a bit of traveling !

Jackie has a cracked knee cap so Dr Robinson told Allan and there is blood and fluid on the knee or a congestion of some sort, so he is still in the hospital.

Better get on with my letter writing, I will have to sort out the piles of it first, our desk closely resembles Grandpas at the present moment.

Loads of love,

Catharine .

Banff, Alberta.  
Sat. Feb. 12, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

After our two days of fairly mild weather then it almost got up to 30° above it is now back to below zero. I was really lucky to do the laundry from last week and this on the warmest days for even the sheets blew dry enough to iron.

Thursday was the opening of the Carnival, a very good parade consisting mostly of floats at 1.30. It was snowing all day but seemed warm and in the middle of the afternoon the snow even got sticky, but not for long. All the opening ceremonies over and some of the novelty events on the main street finished a cold north wind blew up, the snow had stopped, about 4 or 5 inches making the trees and town look far nicer and more wintry, and the temperature dropped steadily. By supper time it was blowing and snowing from the north like a regular blizzard and you could see a very short distance. The evening events were called off and then an hour or two later it cleared into a lovely frosty night with a moon. All yesterday it was very frosty and cold, got up to zero and this morning it was 30 below again but lovely and clear and sunny out now and no wind.

The floats in the parade were rather good, each organization having one. Like the Ski Runners with a truck and a wintry scene and then a lot of skiers being towed behind. The Skating club a big skate and boot being pulled by little kids. The Legion and Kinsmen . I.O.D.E etc. Quite a long parade and even three Indians on horseback. Mrs Fulbrook playing the bagpipes at the head of the parade and the local dance orchestra making music as a band. They came from the station, up the main street and to the hospital and back to the Ice Palace in front of the bank. There the Queen opened the Carnival and the Superintendent and spoke etc. Quite a crowd for Banff turned out, don't know where they all came from but being mild for a change they all turned out. The Maze behind the Ice Palace was very popular and Harold guided Mr Paris and me through to the centre but then climbed up on the ice block and left us to find our own way out! They have a wonderful ice harvest this year and the blocks are about 30 inches thick, weight 900 pounds each and are clear as crystal and a beautiful aquamarine color. The Palace is about 4 blocks high and the maze behind and to the side is two blocks high, about six feet I guess or maybe seven. It is a very good maze, a bit chilly to get caught in!

We had asked Dorothy Whyte's sister Mrs Disher down for tea as so far we have been able to do little for her. and she arrived about 3.30. It was nice when she came but by the time we drove her back it was a regular blizzard. We met young Cliff over town and brought him around to see a picture of Mildred she had sent us and then drove him home, where he has a room with another boy.

That evening we were here until about nine and then went up to Moms to see the Graysons. Aunt Maggie had gone to bed but we got up later on. Mom had started out for choir practice as a son of Mrs Burnham had come in their car for her. However he got stuck in a drift in her yard and she was too late to sing by the time they got out! She was also much upset over Jackie as he doesn't seem to be well at all, and they have had to give him so much ~~expensive~~ medicine that he is very dopy and his mind wanders. They took some fluid off his knee and sent it to Edmonton to be analysed but it didn't look very good.

We want the Graysons to come back from Cochrane and stay for a few weeks in the empty apartment until we have a chance to pick new tenants, It would be a nice change for them as in Cochrane they just have a pump and no running water and there are ashes to carry etc. The daughter and her husband live in part of the house, but he just sprained his ankle, so they aren't sure if they can leave. It would be nice for Mom too to have them up while she is so worried over Jackie.

Yesterday was awfully cold, we went up to see the boys ski jumping but everyone was nearly frozen for some reason and it wasn't very good any way. They boys don't enjoy it enough to practice as they should to be good jumpers and here are so many other things for them to do all the time. Last night we went to the Junior Hockey game and they beat Canmore in a very good game but very few there it was so cold.

To day there are model T automobile races which we don't think at all appropriate to a carnival and would much rather see the fancy skating, though they say there were not enough good skaters to put on a show. To-morrow there is Ski Jumping up at Norquay and if as nice as to-day will be a fine ending to this years carnival.

Bubby jumped yesterday though I think she fell each time but it is plucky to go over the thing at all.

It is lunch time now and I have done the weekly cleaning but thought I would just send this along when we go for the mail this afternoon.

Cousin Jane has left and I guess you are being extra quiet. Guess it is a temptation to go to bridge parties and what not when you have someone to go with, but all the talking does get tiring.

Loads of love,

Catharine

P.S. Don't that hard luck Sam Manierre having pleurisy  
he has had so much to contend with

Banff, Alberta.  
Mon. Feb. 14, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

I really should be writing you more and oftener for I know this is sort of a bad time of the year for you but you know we are thinking of you. I don't wonder you think that it is only Russell who is getting us to go east, but that really isn't so, for naturally it is you we want to see most of all. It just seems to be the way things have happened lately that has prevented us from going. Had Pete not been under the weather last fall we might have made the trip then, but with Allan Mather away for 6 weeks and Jackie too and Jock McCowan going into the Grocery dep't. all at once we really had to be around. Then it would be nice to see Concord at the best time of year when the garden is starting to bloom. Remember in the pre war days we used to stop off in Concord on our various trips, but now it seems to get more and more difficult to leave home. I guess we are what they call "bushed" !

Edmee and Charlie Reid went to Arizona on the 3rd of February and we were all supposed to envy them the trip but Pete claims that it is a bad time of year to drive south as there are lots of bad passes to cross etc. This winter has been a terror in the western states and we hear that it was 25 below zero in Bryces Canyon, not far from the Grand Canyon and the last letter they had ten feet of snow in one place and the cars had to go in convoy behind the snow plow and be pulled through some places. so guess they have had bad weather all the way. The Moores on their trip to Honolulu had it so rough that none of us had letters from them, so maybe we aren't so badly off right here in Banff.

The Carnival wasn't too great a success for the weather was really too cold for people to stand around and watch what events there were. We did go up to see the boys Ski jumping but they don't practise enough to make it a good performance and also are afraid of breaking their ordinary skis as none of them have jumping skis. Bubby went over the jump in the morning and then jumped in the afternoon, the only girl, and got 3rd prize. She jumped 53 feet but I think fell. So you see it wasn't very good really, when she had never jumped before, yet won a prize ! It was so cold that hardly anyone stayed through it all. In the evening we went over to see the Junior Hockey game and it was awfully good. Donny played and they beat Canmore. However there were very few there, I guess most people were getting ready for the masguarade Ball held that same evening.

Saturday was a perfect day but 30 below in the morning. Davy said it was awfully cold in the speed skating for it was - 30 when he left the house for the rink. It did warm up during the day but there was no wind. The Model T Ford races were on in the afternoon but we didn't go. Did errands etc. Got a wire from Gray Campbell and they have a third son, arrived the

day before and he wired " wonderful Jeep saved the day " I guess it did, for the baby must have come a bit too early and the roads down there are all drifted. We will have to hear all the details!

Saturday night there was another hockey game and we went as we knew there would be few there as it was about 10 below still. It wasn't an awfully good game and it would have been easier to stay home but we thought the fresh air would help. Also Mom was down as we were finishing supper ( hadn't asked her as we thought the Gaaysons still here but they left the night before ) She was very worried about Jackie as he seems to be getting worse instead of better and they have had to have three special nurses, 8 hours each, as they don't dare leave him alone. He has fallen out of bed once and tries to leave the hospital, his mind wanders and naturally she is much concerned. We think perhaps it is the medicine they are giving him. Of course we wish they had stuck to Dr MacKenzie and Pat Costigan for having treated Jackie before they know how he reacts, but though the Robinsons are all good doctors they have never had Jackie as a patient and I guess would have to learn how different medicines work. It is really more than we can figure out but rather worrying and upsetting.

Yesterday we stayed home all day. had some business letters to write in regards to Pete's Income Tax, a darn nuisance . and then have the books to bring up to date on the store account. I used to do it each month but Allen has been keeping them this last year, only I have to refigure in order to get the stuff we need for the Income Tax. so worked on that. Then Pat Brewster came down in the evening wanting to buy the stage coach for some one in Winnepeg and so it goes.

Had better get busy now. It was zero again this morning, I don't think it has been really warm since Jan 7th. It is 11 now and only 10° above so don't think I will do any washing until perhaps tomorrow.

Will get around to answering your nice letters some evening soon.

Loads of love,

Catharine

P.S. Am going to send you Macleans Magazine with Gray Campbell's article in it about the ranch - We are the ones who sent him the book "The Complete Rancher".

Also will enclose a paper explaining a part we need for the little Pressure cooker you sent. Think I will try in Calgary first. I can't get it here but might there.

Banff, Alberta.  
Feb. 15, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Thought I would just start a letter to you in case there wasn't a good chance to-morrow. We are having what seems quite mild weather, 20° above, and so right after lunch I got busy and did the washing. It was -10° below this morning and I didn't think it would warm up so quickly or I could have done it earlier.

Have been working on the <sup>Stone Property</sup> books and did them all last evening. Pete doesn't like that sort of thing and I rather do, so don't mind doing it except that it takes a lot of time. Allan was over this morning with the bills paid etc for me to check but as there is a good hockey game to-night I think we most likely will go to that. There wasn't be very many more this winter.

Spent the whole afternoon running round as Harry Hazeldean wanted Pete to tell them just where the dumb waiter he is to put in at the store should go, then we got a letter from the Graysons saying they would like very much to come up and stay in the empty suite until the other ~~xxx~~ tenants move in, so saw Allan at the rink, had to check with the man sanding the floors to see when he would be finished and then telephoned the Graysons and they will be up next Monday. Then back to tell Allan and then we remembered Harry and so went to the store and found him, and asked about Jackie who evidently is much better, or at least not as sick, and heard all about a ski meet at Rossland B.C. from Jim Morrison who had been over there. By then the afternoon was about over, have maple custards in the oven and so thought I would write to you.

By the way I mailed the MacLeans magazine to you to-day. It has the article by Gray Campbell about the ranch, and is called "Happy Landing at Squaw Butte" Page 12. Gray is the one who used to be in the mounties here, was nearly shot by the Doukaboors, worked his way to England to get into the R.A.F. was there all through the war except for the time spent back in Canada instructing. But he returned to England and flew a tour of operations over Berlin. They are the ones who came to see us last fall and who write such wonderful letters and who sent us the Christmas tree and geese ( maybe one of those in the picture Dane is chasing ) and the T.bone steaks. The pictures are very good of them and now they have a third boy born last week.

Your letters seem fine to us and I don't believe you make as many mistakes as I do in mine. in fact - - -

Thursday, Feb. 17th. I never got this finished in time to mail yesterday. We went to the hockey game Tuesday night and it proved to be the most exciting of the winter. It was a play off game against the Calgary Hustlers and total goals in the 2 games count. The Calgary team won the first game 5-3 and so Banff had to work hard. They just couldn't seem to score and when they did Calgary got two goals too and so were way ahead. Finally Banff tied the score 7-7 and they had to play overtime, first goal scored would win the game. Pat Costigan got the goal and such excitement as there was. *It was a perfect evening 10° above, now would*

Yesterday it snowed steadily all day long from the west, was still mild about 20 above all day though they warned us there would be a north wind and blizzard at night. It came in the middle of the night, we could hear the wind and it was very strong in gusts. This morning it is zero and we are completely snowed in with huge drifts. We haven't tried to dig out as it is still blowing and would only fill in again. There is a 4 foot cornice off the garage roof and the walls are all plastered with snow. The drifts are the biggest we have ever had I think.

Didn't do much Wednesday but a little more laundry and the books on the store property. checking bills etc. It takes time as I am pretty slow at it and also the first year changing over made it more confusing. Another year shouldn't be as bad.

Have finished Nellie McClung's 2nd book and will send it to you first chance I get. I didn't like it as well as the part of the first one I read but it is interesting to know what she did later.

This isn't much of a letter but will have it ready to mail in case we do get out to-day. We will have to wade through pretty heavy snow this time.

Loads of love and tell Jean I will try and drop her a line soon.

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.  
Sun. Feb. 20, 1949

Dearest Mother,

Haven't had time to write the last couple of days as we have been so interested in a train wreck that occurred Friday afternoon east of Banff. No one was badly hurt and they all had a miraculous escape for I think nine of the thirteen cars went off the track on a curve 3 miles east, a quarter of a mile down the track from the crossing on the road to Minnewanka, right on a very sharp curve. The two engines weren't derailed but the baggage car behind them was half on and half off, the next car was 100 feet or so beyond completely off the track and on its side. The mail car beyond that and also tipped over. Then the next baggage car was down in a sort of ravine facing the other way. The two day coaches followed by the tourist cars and diner and a couple of sleepers all headed down this sort of ravine, not at right angles to the main line but at an angle like a V, and the last two cars were still on the main line. Whether it was the deep snow that kept them all upright or not we don't know but there they are the day coach about 150 feet from the track and the others in a line behind, all a little telescoped into each other.  
*It happened about 2 P.M.*

Of course we were slow in finding out that the thing had happened at all, it was in the post office when someone said the mail hadn't come and it was still down at Anthracite on the train as there had been a wreck. So then we decided after hearing somewhere else that some cars had gone off that we would go down and see. It was about the coldest feeling day of the winter, frosty and 10° or 20° below and a cold North wind. We took the Jeep and thinking it was at Anthracite went there only to find it was really out near the Airport. But by the time we went out the road was closed and people had to walk out to the crossing. Luckily for us one of the police said he would drive us out as Al Gaetz who lives at the Airport wanted to go out too. So we got out to the crossing and down to see the wreck, and nearly froze doing it. They were still bringing hand luggage out by toboggan and weren't so well organized that the police stopped you from going near. So we had a good look. Walter Peyto brought us back down to where we were parked.

After supper Pete thought it would be fun to go out again and just see if they were working with search lights or not. In the afternoon when we got there a taxi drove up and with a load of section men with pick and shovel to repair the line, and by the time we went out at 8 in the evening the work train with a big crane had arrived from Field and was already getting the first car (partly off) back on the track. It was 20° below then and such a miserable job for the men working with lanterns underneath the car for the snow made it hard getting the wheels back on. There wasn't much to see so we offered a man there a ride in and it turned out he had been in the front day coach so told us what it felt like. He said it really was terrific as they first bumped over the railroad ties and then lurched from side to side. The suitcases falling from the racks over their heads and some windows breaking and everything flying about. He said

the only thing he could compare it with was in the movies when they blow up a log jam and everything flies through the air. His wife got pretty excited as the seats moved and she got one foot caught underneath. Her haddbag was found at the other end of the car and another ladies bag was in her lap. Some people were cut and one little old lady who was traveling alone from Winnepeg was the most hurt and also by shock more than anything. She was 71. They carried her on a stretcher the quarter mile, through deep snow too, to the road and it took 8 of them to do it he said. Luckily there was a doctor on the train and two Salvation army men who gave first aid and that helped a lot. He had left his wife in town and walked out <sup>the 3 miles</sup> to see the wreck again. We took him to the station where he and his wife were going to go back to Calgary. *The old lady is still in hospital but no one else.*

We also gave Charlie H arbidge a ride to the station as he had had to help watch the mail car until the inspector or a man to take charge arrived on the scene. There was also a car from Calgary who were braodcasting at the crossing that night, what we don't know for we didn't hear it. ~~By~~ In the afternoon when we were there a plane flew over several times and took pictures.

We kept hearing little bits about it from various people/ At the station were lots of people wandering around for it was 5 A.M. Before they got the line repaired. It was supposed to have been caused by a split rail on the curve and when we saw the track it was all twisted in an s shape.

At the station that night about nine we saw the nicest little old porter sitting on the bench and guarding all the other porters coats and paper bags of belongings etc. He seemed glad to talk to us and we had quite a chat. shaking hands all round when we left. He said that they had sent as many of the through passengers as they could back to the following train which was stopped at Canmore. and he spoke of the loveliest Scotch girl who was so badly shocked and really suffering from it.

Saturday we went out about 10 to see if they were lifting any of the cars back on. It had been 34° below zero that morning and how the men ever repaired the track as well as they did I don't know on a cold night like that. It was a perfect day and about 20° below by the time we got out, the sun making it seem warmer. There was a young lad on a bycycle, his face all frosty by the time he got there. We gave him some hot tea to warm him up and then the three of us went along the track to see what was happening, but the C.P.R. police were there and they stopped us from going near. They have full jurisdiction over the right-of-way and were stopping everyone. We stayed a while but there wasn't much to see.

Later we heard that Mr Vallance had been on the day coach so went up and saw him at tea time. He evidently was sitting in the smoking part of the day coach and he Scotch girl had come from the tourist car to have a smoke and was sitting beside him. He said he never had experienced anything like it, She threw herself on the floor but he grabed the seat in front of where she had been sitting and hung on for dear life. You know the seats have individual backs. He thinks he must have been trying to get away from the glass. The mirrors on the walls all fell off and broke and the glass partition broke but few seemed to be cut by glass. Syd couldn't get over how

how wonderful the C.P.R. crew were. He said the Conductor ( who after everything was over turned out to be about the most seriously hurt of all having back strains ) just stepped off the train, threw a line over the wire and telephoned presumably to the station saying " Freddie ( or something like that ) number three has gone off the track near the Bankhead crossing, send out busses, doctors and nurses as soon as possible " and out a dozen busses came as well as all the doctors and nurses in town. Sid said that the Scotch girl sitting next to him started to get up and couldn't make her feet work from shock and two porters outside made a chair with their hands and carried her through the snow to the back of the train. He said the snow was terribly deep which made it hard too. *We wondered if she had been through bombing etc during the war & maybe was upset.*

There were three men in the mail car, none hurt though one was buried in mail bags and the man in the baggage car must have had quite a trip as I think his car rolled completely over and he couldn't even see out, not that that would help much. They had to take all the trunks and such like out down there before righting the cars. Men came from Calgary to take charge and it is really quite wonderful to see how everthing is done.

Murray and Frances came through on the evening train <sup>last night</sup> which was late but we saw them for a few minutes. Murrays piece wasn't played after all at the Symphonie in Vancouver and they had a very sad time in Victoria for they stayed with Mary Campbell who is an old friend and now hostess at Lake Louise every summer. She and her mother were very nice to me when I was in Victoria waiting to go to Tofino. They had a wonderful time the evening they arrived so Frances said and the next day Mrs Campbell had a stroke and died within ten minutes. So you can imagine it was a terrible shock for all and the funeral was the same day as the concert which made it hard.

It is Sunday. We saw the Ski train come in this morning and now it is three and Mary Lee has just come to call. I have some ice box cookies to make so will call this a letter.

*The radio people went up & interviewed Sid Vallance & it was broadcast on the radio yesterday noon. we didn't hear it. he was much surprised to find his voice had an English accent!*

*Loads of love  
Catharine.*

*In a letter 5 days later  
just finished cleaning the wreck to day.  
One storie - a young lad was in the day coach  
& ran for a first aid kit in the car behind. done*

would not open, called to a Salvation  
Army man to bring a kit - Man a short  
fellow, grabbed the kit handed to him, jumped  
down into the snow - so deep they could  
only see the top of his head, but he held  
the kit up above his head.  
It registered 42° below where the men  
were working - E. says it was 35 in Banff.

Banff, Alberta.  
Thurs. Feb. 24, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

It really is better when I write every other day for now I can't remember when I last wrote or what I told you. Could it have been Sunday, think it must have been, the time slips by so fast.

Sunday was a quiet day, Mary Lee came over in the afternoon and Harold and Davy later on, then in the evening Norah Cornawll of Victoria came down and stayed until after 11 o'clock. She was going to Sunshine to ski next day. Its two years since she has been here and we had lots to catch up on as she knows lots of people we do and is interested in many things.

Monday was the day the Graysons arrived on the noon train from Cochrane to stay in the now vacant suite at the store until we get new tenants who are quiet enough to suit the Paris and Jennings outfit. Mrs. Oberge was cleaning the suite in the morning and said that she couldn't find enough sheets that were whole to make the bed. We were kept busy what with running over to Allan's and asking him, getting sheets here and then finding that the Loeppk's laundry came back and there was enough bedding to do. The train was late and we got Mom to give the Graysons lunch so we would have time to see that the apartment was ready. The Graysons are a wonderful couple. Aunt Maggie is 82 and her eyes and ears as good as ever. In Cochrane their pump ( there is no town water yet ) broke and they had to carry water from the neighbors. Aunt Maggie did the carrying as Uncle Charlie wasn't well enough to do it, his legs being bad. He is about 78. They are very happy to be here as it is like a holiday for them. Aunt Maggie's first husband was Pete's father's oldest brother who died years ago about the same time as Uncle Charlie's first wife. They were neighbors for many years before they got married.

It was a lot of running around for us that afternoon sort of getting them settled etc. and we were pretty tired when six o'clock came. Remembered one last thing and had gone over to take it to them leaving our garage door open which we really never do. When we came back ( just to show how stupid I can be ) Pete stopped the car just in front of the garage and I got out, went and started closing the garage doors, couldn't figure why Pete was blowing the horn at me, and kept right on closing them, then it dawned on me that he wanted to get the car inside the garage first ! I guess I am so used to doing something with the doors that I just automatically moved them. but absent minded professors have nothing on me! We spent a quiet evening and I worked on the books.

Tuesday was a nice mild day for a change, seemed awfully warm for it got up to 40° for the first time this year I guess! Did some laundry after lunch when I realized how warm it was. and we

had to shovel the piles of snow near the house where we had pulled it off the roof but it felt good to be outside. Jackie came home Monday and I saw him Tuesday. He seems to be much better though don't know how long he has to be quiet.

That night we went to a play off hockey game and it was the best night to sit out we have had, quite a crowd and a good game, at least very exciting. but long. There are two more games this week, Pete likes them and it is a good way to take his mind off things he might worry about. Donny's team, the Juniors won their game in Calgary Monday and play the 2nd game to-night and then Canmore plays a game on Friday. I figured we would have last evening to either do the books or write letters and was just debating which I would do when Aunt Maggie and Uncle Charlie called and made us a nice visit, stayed until 11 too.

We talked of the old days for Aunt Maggie came out as a bride to Banff in 1889 and never went back to New Brunswick afterwards. Her family got burnt out and moved away eventually from where Pete's father was born, but she said she would love to smell the Atlantic ocean again. Uncle Charlie came out to Rainy River and Fort Francis as a boy of 16 or 17 and worked on the log drives. He was telling us about catching the fish sturgeon last night. How they went in the water and fought with them, caught them by hand so to speak though some weighed as much a 100 or 150 pounds. long fairly thin fish and not a bone in their body but in the head, the rest is gristle. The camp cook parboiled them first and then baked them. He told of one man having his arm broken when the fish flipped around in the water the man having hold of it by the gills. He also said that in one log jam they had, a lot of the fish got caught and died and the smell was so terrific that it made them sick every time they went near. He also told of how the route was marked that the early fur traders used, for it went through the the Rainy River region and Rainy river lake. MacKenzie the Explorer blazed the way by having tall trees on the little islands in the lake and along the river, They cut all the branches off them to near the very top and you could see them long distances ahead. would reach one and then spot the next and they were still there when Uncle Charlie was there.

Yesterday we got the kitchen floor done in the morning and a number of other things too, now it will soon be time to go over town so all for this letter.

Loads of love,

Calbarine.

P.S. This is Cis Ward's birthday & also Mrs Mae Aulys  
so we ordered some flowers to divide up & take them.

Banff, Alberta.  
Fri. Feb. 25, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Will just start a letter to you as we have half an hour before it is time to go to the hockey game. three in a week has kept us busy but it won't be long now before the ice is too soft to play. As it is Allan Mather has to scrap all the loose snow he has available onto the rink during the day to keep the sun and mild weather from melting it and then scrapes it off again at night, in that way it has kept well during this mild spell when it gets up into the forties in the shade and much much warmer in the sun. I don't think he could do it if he didn't have the Jeep with a plow.

The game last night was the Juniors, under 18 and it was a pretty good game only the boy playing goal for Banff wasn't too good and let Calgary get a lot of goals. They actually won the game but it is the total goals in two games which counts in the series and Banff had beaten them 10-4 in Calgary at the beginning of the week so had a good lead. Donny got a couple of goals, one a beauty where he skated the length of the ice to get it in by himself.

It has been lovely weather all week, so mild for this time of year but expect we will get more winter soon. It is rather disappointing when we had perfect snow for skiing to have it now crusty when it freezes so, until we get more snow here it won't be very good, that is for skiing. How nice that Frances and Gil are going to Sun Valley and will meet Sophie out there. What fun they will have.

Mr and Mrs Phillips and their daughter Margaret and her little girl, aged four or five, came to tea yesterday and we had a nice time with them. The little girl was very cunning and well behaved. At supper time Mom came in for she had just heard on the radio that another of the Indians at Morley had died. Enos Hunter who was only in his sixties, about 66 or 68. Died within an hour of a heart attack. He was here just a short time ago at the house and was planning to go to Hollywood with the others when they go. We knew him well but he wasn't one of our very special friends so we decided not to go to the funeral to-day.

Your letter came telling of the Ice Frolics, they must be great fun to see. one comes to Calgary each year but I never think of planning to go down. It was last week I think.

They just finished cleaning up the train wreck to-day, it was quite a job laying a track down into the gully where the cars went and pulling them back up, because they have to always get out of the way of the through trains. One story we heard about the wreck. a young lad Jimmy Hutchins was in the day

coach and ran for a first aid kit in the car behind, but as the doors wouldn't open (as it had sort of telescoped into the car ahead) he called to the Salvation Army man to bring one. The man was a little short fellow but grabbed the first aid kit and then jumped down into the snow (not being able to get through from one car to the other) Jimmy said the snow was so deep that all you could see was the top of his head and the First Aid Kit held high above his head, the rest of him just disappeared. Alec Robinson told Jackie that one man helping to carry a stretcher up froze both ears, which shows how cold it was. and a man working on the line that night told someone it registered 42 below. We had it 35 here. It could have been a very serious wreck but only the little old lady who got cut by a broken mirror and suffered from shock is still in the hospital. I believe she is from Dundee.

Do you know Loring W. Coleman Jr who is having a water color Exhibit at the Guild? We thought the pictures on the folder rather good. I notice he lives in Sudbury & teaches at Middlesex.

Loads of love  
Catharine ~

Banff, Alberta.  
Mon. Feb. 28, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

March 1st to-morrow and your wedding anniversary. It is hard to realize that the winter is almost over and I have\* not done most of the things I had planned, like sorting things out and looking things over, maybe I will have to wait until I break a bone and supposedly have lots of time!

Last week we never had a free evening what with all the hockey games and people dropping in. even Saturday night when Mom came for supper, the first time for several weeks, we were just talking afterwards at the table when Russell Bennett called to see us. He was the first real skier to come out to Skoki as a guest in 1932 I guess it was. Is a mining engineer in Minneapolis and when they had a lot of kidnaping there he and his wife bought a ranch near Pincher Creek and moved there with their five or six children ( they now have 7 I think ) but later went back to spend the winters in Minneapolis because of schools and come up to Canada every summer. It was his book the 'Complete Rancher' that we sent to Gray and Eleanor Campbell which helped them so much in their start ranching. He said he wrote it because so many young men had written him asking for advise and he thought it would save him writing letters, however he has twice as much correspondence since writing the book and it is coming out in a 2nd edition soon. We had a nice talk about all sorts of things and mutual friends. He is up at Sunshine skiing and came in to do some business on the telephone.

Sunday we never went off the place. I wrote several letters in the morning to try to catch up and then it was so nice out we took stools and sat in a snow bank in front of the house f for the reflection of the sun made it seem warmer. Norman Tabuteau came to see us to show us the figures on the operation of his cabin camp , we helped him get statted and he felt we should know how they are getting on. So we went over the figures. Then before he left. Susan and Mary Lee Mather brought Lael MacDougall down to see us. They are the brightest youngsters and more fun. They told us that this house is just like a museum but much better than a museum for they can take things down and handle them and we tell them about what the things are, " and they don't do that in a real museum." They are very keen on Indians and Lael is really interested Her mother came down here first with Frances Hiam as Mr Macdougall was drowned and left the wife with two boys older than Lael who was about 3 or 4 then. They lived here while the kids went to school and the last few years stayed in one of the apartments. Then they bought a ranch near Calgary and Lael goes to a boarding school, St. Hildas in Calgary. A very good school but Lael says she would much rather go to school in Morley. Her mother is in Bermuda for a couple of months so Lael comes to visit Susan when she gets a weekend.

I had made some Meringues with left over egg whites and we had ice cream too so that pleased them, then they looked at some of my little things which are still wrapped up in boxes and ended by playing bucking horses on the rug. They wanted to get Pete to buck them off but it looked a bit too strenuous. By the time they left we felt we had had quite a lively time as it was.

Lael told us quite a bit about school. She sleeps in a room with five others and she says she doesn't mind throwing a glass of water at another girl, but they are scared to do it. When the teacher comes in she just tells her that the girl upset the glass of water and the girl doesn't dare say Lael threw it at her for then the others would know she was a tattler and wouldn't speak to her! Lael has lots of Indian things with her, finds that when her cupboard is in a mess if she puts a few Indian Moccasins etc in front the smell of them keeps anyone from looking further. She is quite a girl, bright as a button, and knows how to write some Cree from the hymn book we have and which she has copied out. It will be interesting to know what she does when she grows up.

We are still having mild weather like spring and the streets are awful with melting snow and ice. To-day we had some business things to attend to, the bank etc. and so by the time we could go out the sky had all gotten murky. Lily Disher came to return a book so we drove her out the west road, having done little for her, and saw three lovely elk, a muskrat and some sheep and deer so she was quite delighted. Had Chinese supper to-night and Johnnie was over as we were still eating, decided if he goes to China he will take a knife and fork with him as chop sticks are too difficult to eat with. We had gotten some out to show him as he was interested in the Chinese food,

A nice letter from you to-day and about your not going to Caracas with the family on the cruise. It would have been a lovely trip but we think perhaps you were very wise not to attempt it, as you say had it gone from Boston and you could have driven right to the boat it might have been different but had the water on the boat not agreed with you or had it been too hot down there or anything else you might have not felt so good. (Remember that play where the girl was always saying "my stomach don't feel so good!" I don't know why I thought of that) The nicest part of all was that they wanted you to go. After they have seen what it is like maybe you could go another year.

It will be better for us to come east a little later and see Concord and the garden at its best, and if they are to be away for the first part of April it will work just right.

Tuesday, another nice day, I am afraid with March coming in this way we are sure to have it go out with a roar.

Loads of love to all,

*Catharine*  
P.S. The notice just came about the Guild picture. perhaps you could pick up mine when you get yours.

Banff, Alberta.  
Fri. March 4, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

We are still having wonderful weather though tonight for the first time in nearly two weeks it looked as if there might be a change, even rain. It has been mild for nearly two weeks now and feels just like spring. To-day we were down by the Spray River bridge where one crosses to the Golf Course and saw some tiny pussy willows, that seems very early to us, the 1st week in March. Yet the Bow falls are still frozen over, not a sign of water except at the foot where it is always open and a few ducks swimming around. Part of the Spray is open and the rest looks as if it would break any day.

Pete was looking at the old bridge which was built years ago by the Fear Brothers who had the first store I guess in Banff. and he found a whole lot of initials carved in some of the timbers, some with dates like 1909 and 1910. The chief game warden came along to measure the height of the water and said he never noticed them before and didn't think anyone else had, he was quite interested. Then we saw a couple taking pictures and offered them a ride back, they were from Tennessee and ordinarily we would have brought them around to the house but thought it was just one more thing to do. A very nice couple.

Tom Kaquits, one of the Indians, dropped in as it was and stayed until we said we had to go over town, took books to Jackie and Uncle Charlie who is a great reader. Jackie was in the store and seems quite well, uses a cane for his knee is not completely recovered. Thinks now he will take a trip of three weeks to Harrison Hot springs where he can go swimming to exercise it. I suggested he try the hot springs here but he is afraid he will catch cold it is so hot and coming out into the cold. Said that Dr Robinson thought it a good idea for him to get away from the store etc. Well maybe it is. When we got back found a note from Dorothy Whyte's sister, Lily Disher, asking us to come out to Vancouver and stay with her as all her family are away. a very nice invitation. She goes back to-morrow and we thought we would ask her down this evening. So went over and she is coming at 8 pretty soon now. Have ironed a couple of shirts and cooked supper and written this much and have about ten minutes before we go and pick her up the walking is very bad right now.

Last night about 7.30 the Graysons came down to call, we told them we were going to the game at nine o'clock and they thought they would be ready to go home about then. We showed them some of the sketches which they had never seen before and were interested in and then when it was time to go to the Hockey game they thought they would like to go too for a little while, so we drove over. They had it late as the ice was soft and it was just about 30 I guess and remarkably good considering the weather.

They stayed where it was warm in Allan's office

The Park Superintendent was there and Pete started to introduce him to the Graysons and right away the Super said, " why Charlie Grayson ,haven't seen you for years " they had first known each other in 1910, The new Super is so nice that way, very hearty.

It was rather a one sided game but good, Banff has a new goal tender and he is remarkable so that helps a lot , there was a good crowd. 275 I think , and as a lot of the ones are those that went with us during all the below zero weather we all joke a lot, some never miss a game, but they are too few to make the thing pay much. That is one reason we go to support the thing. We left just before the end so the Graysons wouldn't get caught in the rush.

Pete thinks you will be interested in the enclosed clipping. ( if I can remember to put it in ) Haven't mailed the other Nellie McClung book yet and am going to send one on Mr Phillips the Artist , we went up to his house for tea two days ago to see his recent water colors before they go east. It is the first time we have gone up to really call. I wish you could see them some time, especially the ones of water falls. Maybe sometime he will exhibit in Boston.

It is now 10.30 and we had a very pleasant evening. Got Lily at the hotel and Dorothy Cranston who is sort of house-keeper there and who we have been meaning to have over for ages. Pete told stories, we looked at the Indian things and some of the sketches as Lily had been in Honolulu in 1918 and 1929.

I have at last gotten the store building accounts to balance for me so that is something.

Loads of love,

Catharine  
Can't remember if I read this over or not no time to now.

Banff, Alberta.  
Mon. March 7, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

I should have written you yesterday but worked most of the time on the books. I am so stupid about them but they are quite a chore to figure out. Think I have about licked them at last. If I had a better memory too I would do better for I forget what I did the day previously. Allam was over on Saturday morning with the check books and bank book but even he couldn't get them to come out to the right cent. We are about 3 dollars out. He doesn't think it will matter on the Income Tax for we know how much was paid out and taken in. it is just trying to make the books balance. So many accounts seemed to be paid partly by ~~Pent~~ or something like that. Anyway it takes a lot of time but another year we will do it a little differently.

Our wonderful spring weather left to-day. We had exactly two weeks of it and everyone enjoyed it. It got up to 50 several times and in the sun was even lovelier. This morning it was clear when we woke but soon clouds gathered and on the radio it said there would be a north wind and we wondered if it wouldn't snow with cold air hitting the moist warm air. About 4.30 there were a few snow flakes and at 5 o'clock it was 35 and snowing and the wind coming up. We had a question to ask Mr Vallance so went to the station to see him, it was really miserable with a cold wind and lots of snow. Then we stopped in to see the Graysons for a minute and by the time we got home about 5.45 it was 28. The paper came and we felt glad we had the Jeep put away and didn't have to go out. We had no sooner thought how nice and cosy it was inside than <sup>our friend</sup> Deets brought a message from Barbara saying to call Winnipeg, Operator 26. We couldn't think who would be telephoning from there and yet didn't dare not call back in case it was something important. So we got all our things on again, stopped getting supper and got the Jeep out and went over to the telephone office. By then it was 24 and blowing and snowing hard. you could just see about a block it was so thick. Pete did the telephoning and was pretty mad when he found it was someone in Winnipeg wanting the stage coach for some show they are putting on! Mr Larson the Barber came along as we started for home, no hat or coat for it had been another mild day when People started out in the morning and then to walk home into a cold wind and driving snow and freezing temperature was something. We offered to take him home and he was very grateful. Then in going around the block passed a young kid with no hat or gloves and his head bent down facing the wind. So we turned round and offered him a ride, but he was almost home by then. Then we met three boys delivering papers and took 2 of them back home. After that met a lady in high heels and no hat having quite a time so went out of our way again to get her home. Met another lady with arms full of bundles and took her home too which was only a few blocks out of our way, but by the time we got back ourselves it was nearly 7 o'clock!

Yesterday we had rather a quiet time except for Mary Lee and another little girl named Pat Lambert who came to see us. Mary Lee showed off all the things she knew about in the house explaining everything to her friend. Pete had to do a bit too but they are so interested it seems a shame not to encourage them. I had saved some ice cream and of course they like that too.

Tues. The storm didn't amount to much after all. 3 or 4 inches of fresh snow & this morning lovely & sparkling. It is afterno lunch & 20° out now. We are going to take a few Kodachrome pictures & then back. Allan was over this morning again & I found where the \$3.18 was in the books so they figure out all right.

Loads of love  
Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.  
Tues, March 7, 1949

Dearest Mother,

At last I have decided to answer some of your letters, it may be hit or miss and mostly miss but it will be a start anyway.

Am glad you told us about Miss Lil Herds birthday and I have marked it on the calender, if I can remember to look at it!

We were rather relieved to hear where our pictures were too. Tonight we were reading in the paper that at a small place called Cardston south of Calgary I think, where the Mormans are, they had an Art Exhibition over the weekend, some sketch clubs and other pictures on loan from Calgary and they had 1000 people go to see it. That is a good many for a small place and shows the interest.

I was very interested in what you told about Mrs Pepper, imagine staying in your bed all those years, I would think she would get sores and that it wouldn't be at all healthy. and awfully boring. Did Mr Pepper die? Aunt Mary Hoar must be lonely these days, it was really an awful change in her life to lose three in her family in such a short time and all of them suddenly too. Its too bad she can't get out more for that cheers anyone up a lot.

I don't think we have the Grosbeak you speak of ours is more red or rust, if it is a grosbeek. I am reading "Drift wood Valley" which you sent last year and like it very much, where the wife goes with her ex-mountie husband to watch the habits of the animals in the wilderness, Her remarks about the birds etc is very interesting. I would think in a way that they could have observed more animals in a National Park where they are protected and not so wary of white people. Some sections of this park between here and Jasper are far enough away to suit anyone.

How nice that you have found a place to get hangings without having to go to Boston. Seems to me the last time you had your room done you thought you wouldn't need to do it again! I hope you still have to do it in another ten years, that is that you will be around to have it done again!

No. we don't have hardly any appeals sent to us. The only ones are like the Northfield one which I used to send to but with the restrictions on sending dollars out of Canada I don't bother any more, figure there must be enough people in the states to support things there. We have a number of things like the Cancer Society and Red Cross but not even the Calgary places send appeals up here.

In Miss Annie Agge's letter I always forget who Franklin in Buffaloe is. ~~Maxix~~ I s he Marion's father and what relation to the Agges? He has been ill so long.

What a shame Kitty and Rusty have both had colds and bad ones. we seem rather fortunate, though lots of people have had a form of flu, niether of us so far have had even a sniffly cold. I think it is partly not getting into crowds or going to movies so we don't come into contact with many germs. That isn't the reason we don't go of course.

We are sorry you have times of not feeling well, but it does seem as if you were remarkably well compared with all your friends. By the way how is Mrs Motte, I don't expect any better. Spring is the time of year that makes people feel better, Am so gla d your eyes are good.

Speaking of Arizona Highways, we too are going to have ours bound, but if I can get an extra March one will send it to you, or you would send for one. We wrote sometime ago for a new subscription for you, has it started to come yet? We never got a notice last December and someone sent us a gift subscription so we didn't realize yours had run out.

Wasn't it nice that Frances and Gil could go and see Sam. I didn't think my letter about the wreck was really so very good but glad you enjoyed it.

I agree with you that it is best to keep going. Pete's Aunt Maggie is really wonderful for 82 and loves to go, she seems to drag Uncle Charlie around a bit but though he gets more tired than she does I believe it keeps him more chipper than he would be otherwise. They have enjoyed their stay and will go back at the end of the week.

I still haven't mailed that book to you, it has sat on the dining table so long (half done up in the cardboard part) that I don't notice it any more, like cobwebs. Will send you a little one about Mr Phillips too.

Isn't it nice that Miss Briggs is so happy in the place she is now. I remember what a lot of trouble you went to to move her and wondered if it was worth it, it certainly was and I guess you and whoever else it was who helped are glad you took the trouble after all. Those other places must have been awful. When we sent our Christmas card to Betty Dumaine I told her where Miss Briggs was thinking when she was in Groton she might stop in, she sent us a card from Ireland saying she would send Miss B. one and I notice that in Miss B's letter to you she mentions a letter from Betty. Nice of her to write.

It was so long ago when we were last in Conrod in the Spring that I can hardly remember when it was. Think it must have been 1940 when we picked up the car in Windsor and drove east and were there for Helen Curtis wedding. It was when the Germans were going across Europe. Rather a worrying time as I remember it. It would be nice to hit spring just right and as soon as we can make any plans will let you know. I know you like to look forward to things like a visit.

Why don't you think we will like the Murphy painting you bought? I used to think her flower pictures very artistic. Wonder if Helen Vandyke wouldn't like to buy some if there are still some of hers or Mr Murphy's left, for she went to Porto Rico with him once and Uncle Sted too I think, if I remember correctly. Are you going to get one of Laura Hills this year? Remember you have often spoken of it. Did you notice that in the last New Yorker Herbert Barnet is having an exhibition in New York. The one who did the houses and wharf in Russell's old room.

I was interested in the Guptil man in Gorham being the one who got the Norman Rockwell book out, I too remember the name and the house but not the man.

Frances, who came to sing a few weeks ago, sings under the name of Frances James and her husband is Murray Adaskin. I don't wonder you were confused. I should make you a little card index for you to look up our friends in for they are naturally just names to you. Am glad you liked the article by Gray Campbell, he was very disappointed because they changed certain things and added bits here and there and he thought it gave a wrong impression. It sounded O.K. to us. Aren't the boys cunning, they have just had a third, hoping for a girl. I thought Cousin Jane Barry might enjoy reading it as it is the same part of Alberta her friend lives in. near Pincher Creek. The one who was a Pickering.

Speaking of the Walter Phillips (artist and his wife who built a house next to the Valances on Tunnel Mt) They had six children, one son was killed in the War, a fine looking lad by his photographs, the rest of their children are all married and live right across Canada. One daughter in the Fraser Valley near Vancouver. the other son in Winnipeg where they brought up their family, a daughter in Ottawa just about to have a baby, her first, a daughter in Kitchener Ontario and another daughter in Caagary. Wherever they go they are bound to see some child.

Wasn't that interesting in one of Miss Annie Agge's letters about white birch wood being burnt in a fireplace gives off fumes or gas or substances that is harmful to the bricks, whereas the gray birch doesn't! I never heard that before.

I have found an old letter about Elizabeth Darling coming to see you and she mentioend the Peppers so guess he is still alive. Wonder if Eunice is just the same.

Will send this day. lovely weather the last few days in spite of sudden storm. below zero in the A.M. -

Loads of love  
Catharine

Banff, Alberta.  
Sun. March 13, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

We are still having nice weather though yesterday was our first snowy day for the last three weeks, but this morning it cleared again, was well below zero and is but 15' above now.

Friday I got talked into going to Mary Tees school program, she came over the afternoon before to ask us both, though her mother said probably Pete wouldn't want to go, and Pete agreed, saying that he was sure I would like to. So go I did. The Graysons left for their home on the ten o'clock train and we drove them down and put them aboard. Mom too was there to see them off. They couldn't thank us enough and I think they really enjoyed their holiday. After getting the errands done and doing the washing during lunch I had a hustle to get it hung up and changed for the program at two o'clock. Grace met me there and it was really a *(about wood)* very good little affair. some singing, reciting, reading and a play by different groups in the class. It is fun to watch the children and how the little boys got giggling and couldn't whistle when supposed to. one group of little boys recited one after the other, the last one in the row stole the show for he had the most wonderful Scotch Accent, having been over from Scotland just a month or two. After that was over and we had admired the school work of various kinds we walked up town and had a cup of coffee to-gether with Betty Painter. so it was five when I got home. Oh yes before lunch we had met Syd Vallance at the train and driven him home as Aunt Maggie wants to ask his advice and we wanted to tell him a little about her so he would know the relationship and all. It was a bit of a rush that morning. That evening I got six notes written, on cards. pretty good for me. One to Miss Hurd and one to Miss Feedham. She wrote the one I enclose and sent a little needle case I expect she made. Flannel in the shape of a heart. It was awfully nice of her I thought.

Yesterday was Saturday and windy and snowy from the east, I cleaned all morning and picked up and put away things, then after lunch we did the errands, taking magazines back to the Phillips etc. He lent us three copies of AMERICAN ARTIST which seems to us the best American Art Magazine we have seen. With very good articles and more conservative than the usual things. Have you ever seen it? Think you might like it too. It predicts a turn to more conservative things again. There are articles by Dorothy Grafly who's father for years came from Philadelphia every so often to teach sculpture ~~from~~ at the Museum School. when Aunt Alice was there I think. Taubes also has a page each month, he is one of the teachers at the summer school here in Banff. I will enclose a card with the information on it and if you want to subscribe to it you could and then send it on to us.

On the radio just now it says it is 3 above in

Calgary and it three o'clock too.

Hutchinson

Sat. We asked the Superintendent ~~Hutchinson~~ (Hutch" most people call him) and his wife who was Dorothy Louheed, over for tea of a drink. She leaves to-day for the coast for a week and wasn't sure if they could come but they said they would be down between five and five-thirty for a few minutes. We have asked them once before but they had colds and it is hard to find a good time. A little before five yesterday they came and were going to stay just a few minutes. it was quarter to seven when they left, so we think they must have enjoyed it. We had asked Mom to supper, but when she saw the car she waited until they had gone. Luckily Harold brought the paper at 6.15 and I noticed the time so turned the oven on, had put the meat in beforehand and also the potatoes on in cold water so it was all coked a little after 7. Had we not asked Mom first we wouldn't have bothered last night. But it worked out alright. the "Super" as some call him is very popular, he has the knack of getting on well with everyone, so does Dorothy. They are about fifty I guess and he was a Group Captain in the R.C.A.F.

Washed my hair this morning, Sunday is about the only day we are pretty sure not to be disturbed in the morning. We listened to a lovely Symphony program, too nice to ~~next~~ type through. We used to have good concerts Sunday night but now it is mostly plays, all right if you have lots of mending.

Will get this in this afternoons mail and we might go up and see Sam and Cis. Poor Sam is still working on Dr Skinner's house. He is from Calgary and all the time Sam was building the Vallance ~~house~~ he used to come up Sundays and talk over plans, now he drives up and brings friends and Sam has to go up to the house with them, so he never has even Sunday to himself.

Loads of love,

Catharine

P.S. Friday morning we were woken by a coughing sound under the window. He got up & talked me. A lovely Coy Moose & calf right by the little trees not 30 feet from the house. They ambled across the lawn & towards the Simpsons & later at noon saw them lying in the willows between my Barbara's tree land.

Banff, Alberta.  
March 15, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Another nice letter from you this afternoon, the one of the 11th. I can't remember that there were any mistakes in your last letter, to tell the truth I bet I make more than you do. One thing you did write which we wondered a little about at the time, was when you wrote that you and Jean had new "toilet seats" in your bathrooms, "the silent kind." I had visions of seats of plush or foam rubber, but then realized that it must be the toilet itself, to make the rush of water less. But I won't tease you for we need silent toilets ourselves for this house.

What a shame it would be if the family couldn't get on the boat going south, I expect it is at the very last minute that rooms are given up and not until then, but rather trying for you wouldn't know until so late, ~~that~~ you would have to be all ready, packed and all. Maybe if they couldn't get on that boat they could get on another, or go to Bermuda or Nassau instead. But one has to book so far ahead these days I expect. I do hope they make it allright.

I can imagine Rusty telling a story and making it vivid with his hands, Seems to me when he was out here he was quite a talker when he got started.

Pete is reading Holiday Magazine about New York and is quite shocked to read that at a place called Chambords where you can get magnificently cooked French cooking. you can get "a not overly extravagant dinner" for a little over \$50. ( fifty dollars ! ) for two people. Wonder what an extravagant dinner would cost !

Last evening I was reading the new copy of Homes & Gardens which has wonderful recipes and all sorts of house plans, garden hints and household shortcuts and how to housekeep. It told how different ones planned their days to make housekeeping more interesting and less tiresome. one lady did a shelf in the kitchen each day, took her about 5 minutes and she never had to spend any time really cleaning the kitchen. Not a bad idea. another had a blackboard and made notes of just what she would do when the next day. This made me laugh for I never know from one hour to the next what we may do or be called upon to do.

This morning I had visions and plans in the back of my head to maybe start cleaning one end of the big room up stairs. At present in looking over magazines for articles on Fiji we got them all mixed up and piles of them on the floor, this was before the Moores went away and naturally it looks a bit messy. I meant to do it Monday morning but it was 22 below zero and as we sleep in that room it was too cold. So instead did odd things and also we had to see Allan go to the bank etc. yesterday morning.

This morning we slept a little late, had trouble with a bad clinker last night which fused onto the stoker thing and Pete had quite a time getting it off, then it made horrid gas and we kept waking up and smelling all night, to see if it was worse etc. Anyway we didn't do the dishes last night so had those to do, a sweater to wash out and then I started to tidy up our old bedroom and took more time than I mean't too and then Steam Watt came. He wanted to get some Ski Jumping pictures as the Hudson Bay store in Calgary have given them a window to display in, as advertising for a wonderful Ski Jumping meet they are going to have here on Sunday. So the rest of the morning and the afternoon until three when he came back to get them, we hunted up pictures and mounted them and Pete wrote on them etc. So away went the day!

We are having wintry weather again, cold and even to-day a few snowflakes in the air. Allan had given up trying to save the ice at the rink but with this cold weather he has started in again. seems funny after the real spring like days we had.

X I forgot to tell you that I have a new electric sewing machine, just like the one Frances has and a table too like hers. I put my name in at least two years ago and thought they must have forgotten by now, but they let me know when they reached my name on the list and so I ordered the machine and it came right away. It is so handy, I think weighs about 7 pounds. and you can set it up so easily to do even a little mending.

I started this thinking that I would answer some more of your old letters but will leave it to another day.

Loads of love,

Catharine

P.S. I forgot. made some baking powder biscuits last night & they turned out perfectly much to my surprise & I guess to Peter's! It sounded so easy in the recipe & it was.

I forgot to tell you. We had a letter from Dorothy White in Vancouver & when Mrs Roosevelt was there on a lecture trip she was taken to the new Rehabilitation Centre where Dorothy is matron & hostess. & Dorothy showed her around. Mrs R. mentioned it in "My Day"

Banff, Alberta.  
Sat. March 19, 1940

Dearest Mother,

This may not be much of a letter for we are having a very busy time this weekend. They suddenly decided to have a big Ski Jumping tournament as there were a number of top jumpers in the west who would come, so ever since Wednesday when Steam Watt came over in the morning and asked for some of Pete's jumping pictures to borrow to put in a window in Calgary as advertising, we have been rather busy.

I will enclose a list of the Jumpers and you will see they come from all over, mostly Norwegians.

Thursday afternoon Barbara Whyte (no relation but a very nice girl who is quite a skier and works in the Post Office) came to borrow some of our latest Ski annuals for information. Then later we met Earl Pletch and Carl Oakander and they were looking for a Norwegian and Swedish flag for the take off on the Jumping hill, Barbara and I had made some for the Dominions about ten years ago so Pete was sure I could just "run them up" which of course I have tried to do. (Think I got all the days wrong. It was Tuesday Steam came, Wed. Barbara and Thursday Carl and Laura his wife dropped down in the afternoon to tell us who was coming and how things were being organized etc.) I was just lucky and got some nice red material for a Norwegian flag the first they have had in the store for ages, and blue for the Swedish (though after I had made it they found the boy wasn't really a Swede at all!) Thursday was a bad day for me and I had a nice headache so didn't even attempt to make any flags.

Friday before starting we decided to go for the mail first. met Mr Phillips, took him home, they were going east that afternoon. had a quick look at his last few watercolors and liked one so much that we got it for you! Then I found out the correct proportions to make the Norwegian flag's striped or cross and after lunch started first on the Swedish one, as it was easier, just a yellow cross. Used the new Sewing machine and that took a little while to get used to but worked well. It took me all afternoon to finish the Swedish flag, it is about 2 yards long, over a yard wide. Started on the Norwegian and worked until 11 at night.

To-day instead of cleaning I worked some more, Carl and Laura dropping in on their way up the hill to Norquay We went up ourselves after an early lunch and saw some of the practising and met a lot of the jumpers. It is always fun to meet them. Tom Mobraten who we knew before and who represented

Canada at the Olympics was there, and then we met Peter Hugsted who won the Olympic Jumping last year. ( He came to the house later with Tom and Eyell Stordalen ) and a very nice young lad Gustav Raaum who is one of the Exchange Students studying accountancy and a business course at the Univ. of Washington. He won the Holmenkolen meet at Oslo last winter, and that is the biggest meet in the world I guess. He looked so young too and had no accent at all except when he said "two" He ~~found~~ would have come to the house too but we could only get three in the car and their skis and so he laddered at the hotel instead of here.

We had a glass of beer and they looked at the pictures and what not and best of all a lovely buck deer came to the back door and they fed it, which pleased them more than anything. As soon as they left I started to finish the flag and then Carl and Aura Oakander came back and stayed until it was all done. They thought they might come over again with some of the boys this evening but haven't shown up as yet and it must be nearly ten. We rushed over at six and did a bit of shopping at the only store still open and then I had put a roast in so had that for supper.

Harold appeared as we were finishing, and had some meat then helped us wash all the dishes from last night's supper on. He wants to go up with us to-morrow, he was very helpful, also interested in looking at all sorts of things so kept one of us busy most of the time answering questions, finally as I started this he was sitting beside Pete watching to see how a trick box was opened. Pete is awfully patient with the kids in showing them anything and as he was working away, Harold suddenly said " Pete know what? You would make an awfully good Santa Claus. " We ~~thought~~ thought that was pretty ~~cute~~ touching.

Guess as it will be a busy day to-morrow we had better go to bed now so will send this along if I remember to mail it to-morrow. The Jumping will be Sunday afternoon.

Loads of love,

Catherine .

P.S. Carl Oakander told us that some of the boys decided to quit practicing - have something to eat but Art Devlin was enjoying it all so much he said "gee you <sup>have plenty of time to eat</sup> ~~can eat~~ after dark but you can only jump when its daylight" showing how enthusiastic he is.

Banff, Alberta.  
Mon. March 21, 1949

Dearest Mother,

Such a lot of nice letters from you and no time to answer them this weekend, we have been very busy over the Ski Jumping meet and really neglected all else. It was a most successful meet and really lots of fun.

I think I told you a little about it in my last hurried letter, and of course now I have forgotten which parts I told you and so may repeat my self.

We told you last spring about the friend Eral Pletch who lost an arm in an accident and within a week was out of the hospital riding a bicycle! Well he was one of Canada's best Ski Jumpers and though this winter he has again jumped on the Norquay Hill, it was really because he has so much courage but he knows he can't really compete anymore with just one arm. They had a big Ski Meet in Revelstoke, B.C. ( which used to be the great ski jumping place in the west ) two weeks ago and some of the men from here went over, Carl Oakander wanted Pete to go but he didn't really have time to think about it and get ready and so of course didn't go. Dr MacKenzie went and the Super and Earl was there too. They had a lot of the best jumpers but poor conditions. I guess that is where they cooked up the Ski meet here, for it was all arranged in such a short time, really ten days. Earl knows all the jumpers in the west personally having jumped with them in various competitions and it was evidently between tournaments and he found a good many of the boys could come from a big meet they had near Seattle. So when they all got back from Revelstoke they figured how they could put the meet on. They got various people to guarantee so much, as you do the opera, and then if they didn't take in enough to pay expenses they would each pay a proportionate share.

They flew the boys from the coast to Calgary, some came Friday night and others Saturday night. Those coming the first night were met in Calgary by Skiers there and even the Superintendent drove down for some. Then they were interviewed at the hotel and brought up here, so they were able to practise on Saturday, the other poor fellows were delayed by storms or fog and didn't reach Calgary until 6 A.M. <sup>Sunday</sup> so I don't know how they jumped so well.

Carl Oakander who has been in the R.C.A.F. since before the war and is on the permanent force had leave and he and his wife spent their time helping to organize the meet, Earl has a pass on the C.P.R. ( because it was while working for them he lost his arm ) so he traveled up and down from Calgary and Edmonton and I guess to Revelstoke working the thing up. they had lots in the paper so as to get a good crowd up from Calgary and there was to be a special train from Edmonton that weekend too. They had a corner window in the Hudson's Bay in Calgary

where Pete's pictures were and of course there was lots to do. But they did it awfully well and everything was very well organized.

Think I told you that we went up to see them practise on Saturday, it was mild and dull so no good for pictures. We met several of the skiers and Tom Mobraaten who represented Canada at the Olympics last year was there, good to see him again. He is really from Kongsburg in Norway where all the best jumpers come from. We gave him and Peter Hugsted ( who won the Special Ski Jumping at the Olympics last year) and a student named Kyell Stordalen , a ride down in the car, bringing them to the house for a few minutes. They were so pleased, especially Stordalen who was very interested in the paintings. They had a glass of beer and stayed about half an hour. While they were here Pete noticed a buck deer at the back door and they thought it wonderful to feed him, couldn't believe it was so tame. Carl and Laura Oakander came later and waited until I had finished the last seam on the flags. *which they hung on the teleoff*

Sunday, we went up the hill pretty early knowing that later on there would be a big crowd, especially cars from Calgary. I mailed your letter on the way and ~~as we rounded the Mt. Royal~~ ~~XXXXXX~~ thought we better pick up some gas, saw Bill Bunn's wife and offered her a ride up in the Jeep, she had to get a loaf of bread first so we drove her to the bake shop and as we went round the corner to pick her up at the filling station again, Earl Pletch hailed us and wondered had we room for two Ski Jumpers. We did and piled them in the back. They were Jack White and Tyke Durand from Revelstoke, then before we had gone beyond the intersection Earl Hailed us again, could we take Art Devlin up? Of course we could get him in front with me and the Skis through the back curtain , but the Jeep was well loaded, so we had to stop and tell Mrs Bunn that we couldn't take her up after all ! It was rather fun talking to Devlin for he is one of the best U.S. Jumpers and from Lake Placid. Was on the Olympic team but his knee cartledge went out of place or something so he couldn't jump and had it taken out after he got home and its O.K. now. Carl Oakander told us that on Saturday he heard him tell another boy who wanted to go and eat. " Gee you can eat in the dark but you can't Jump then ! " or something like that. They just love to jump evidently. He came second in the tournament. Peter Hugsted came first, Tom MoBratten 3rd and Stordalen 4th. so all the ones we met and saw the most of got the top places. which was rather funny.

It was too bad but the day was not too good. mild and then sudden snow squalls, We knew there would be no pictures and so didn't go to the top of the hill but watched from below. Pete saw lots of old friends, one Malan from Camrose was the first one to jump in Banff, nearly 30 years ago. 1927 I think it was. Such a crowd, they said 2000 and some 4000, and finally they didn't have room in the parking spaces for any more cars and lots of people never got up. The Jumping was really wonderful and they all made 3 jumps. It was bad during the first two for most of them as it was snowing a bit but cleared for the last jump and Hugsted broke the hill record jumping 222 feet. Devlin equaled the hill record set by Engen at the first

Dominions before the war. But seldom does one see as many top jumpers in one tournament. It ran off perfectly, in little over an hour. The Moores got back just in time and we saw them just for a minute.

We came down right afterwards and hadn't been home long when the Oakanders came with the flags. Dr Riley coming at the same time but he only stopped to speak to Fete a minute. The Oakanders wanted us to go to a sort of cocktail party they were having in the Annex of the 4th Royal. Also they had gotten into sort of a spot over the prize of a coat which we had given. Birks donated a silver cigarette case for 1st prize and I guess a watch for 2nd which was very nice and we had given a coat, one of those red blanket coats which all the men in Banff wear in the winter, actually they asked if they could get one at the store and we offered to give it. Well it seems that 3rd prize was very close and after giving it to Stordalen who was very pleased with it as he had always wanted one, they found that Tom Mobraatten had really gotten 3rd by 9/10ths of a point, so we said we would get another coat for 4th prize as we liked the boy who won it so much.

Anyway we looked for Mackie and couldn't find him so got Mario to unlock the door and got the coat and took it to the party. The boy was awfully pleased and said he would have bought one before had he been able to afford it. The Super had invited some to go to supper at the Dominion (the hotels were too busy to put on a banquet at short notice) but Fete thought it would be too much. The noise and smoke and by that time everyone talking at once, so we came home about 7 I guess. It had been fun meeting more of the lads and hearing what they thought of the Meet and all. They told us they had never been to a place where all the people were so friendly and it was the best one they had been to in America, which was nice. They hope to have another meet next year and now this one went well it will be easier to get good jumpers.

That evening about ten we were just going to bed when a car drove in and it was Carl with Tom Mobraaten, Stordalen and Billy Copley. They wanted to thank us and say good-bye too for they were all leaving to fly back to the coast at 6 next morning. They had left a rather noisy party to come down here. We had a nice time, they looked at pictures and funnily enough Stordalen mentioned that he had parachuted into Norway on Secret Service missions five times (when Fete asked him where he was during the war) and Carl said, "where from?" and it turned out that they were on practically the same station near John O Groats in Scotland. Carl was looking after the planes and Stordalen doing some of the jumping. He also said he had never been so scared in his life for they never had any training before they jumped as parachutists do.

Yesterday was a snowy wet day so they just got the jumping over in time. I better send this along its getting pretty long and the washing is now ready to hang out. I finished this while it was doing.

I am afraid we don't know yet about going east so will have to tell you later, though I know you like looking forward to an exact date and planning ahead.

Lots of love. Catharine.

7.5. 94 was with making the flags. As the people came up the Pull at Norway one lady who reminded me of Fete, who looked up at the jumping with quite an accent & very pleased she said "There's the Norwegian Flag!"

Banff, Alberta.  
March 25, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

This may be just a short letter for I was going to write you last night and then we got doing something else and the evening was soon gone, so now I will just take a half hour this morning as it is very dark, looks like rain, and I haven't decided just what to do except for washing out a few silk stockings etc. What I have been trying to do if nothing else interferes is to housekeep in the morning and gradually get the rooms cleaned and tidied up and then paint each afternoon. but it doesn't always work out that way as this seems to be a hard place to plan ahead. However a couple of hours cleaning does quite a bit. I did almost half of the little old bedroom we use as a dressing room one day and yesterday got the magazines sorted out and dusted which have collected in piles at one end of the big front bedroom. Some day when we get around to having the house insulated, the ceilings up stairs really, we may partition off one end of the front bedroom and use it as a store room, it would make a dandy, but we thought we would try to do it all at once some spring when we can get Sam and someone to help him. My idea would be to just empty one room at a time ( no small job in itself ) and then finish it right up, insulate the ceiling and cover it with a nice veneer of wood which would be easy to keep clean and to have the log ends of the room washed and waxed so the dust won't stick and the floor sanded and finished and any cupboards made that we need, all before we move the furniture back in. We have plans but goodness knows when we will get around to doing it!

I think I told you that the Moores are back and day before yesterday we went around in the afternoon and had a really nice visit. the Moores to ourselves and they told us all we wanted to know about the trip. They were wondering as we were about Honolulu and as Pearl said she hoped that one of their Hawaiian friends would take them around as she wanted Elaine and Merrill to get the right first impression. There are a couple who came from Banff, living and working there, and not great friends or especially exciting people, so she was thrilled when she got off the boat and they all had breakfast together, the ex-Banffites and all, that Mrs Treadwell, a real Hawaiian and one of the Womens Glee Club singers who came here once, had her car and offered to drive them all around. which they did, even stopping at the houses of other Hawaiians they used to know. so they saw it all under the best possible circumstances. What we were glad to hear is that the spirit of the place hasn't changed a bit. It has grown up and built up but they felt you could live as you did before in a quiet simple way and it was just as nice as ever. They also said that there aren't so many army and Service men as they had expected and there is talk of their moving further out in the Pacific to have their bases, most likely to Guam or some island in the Pacific nearer the East.

Col Moore asked the price at the Royal Hawaiian which was always the most expensive. It is \$25. a day including meals but before it was \$22.00 a day for the same thing, so he doesn't feel prices have advanced so terribly, not that any of us stayed at the Royal Hawaiian ! But there are lots more little places where one can stay.

Fiji they found interesting though they were there in the rainy season, Had an amusing time getting Elaine settled and all. Found things in the country part very primitive but we think it sounds very lovely and nice.

Yesterday late afternoon we also went calling, to see Mrs Oakander, as Carl and Laura left for the east on Monday and we knew she would be missing them as she lives all alone. She is a very hearty soul, kindness itself, and when the Super ( that's what we call Hutchison the Park Superintendent ) took a sweater down that Laura left in his car, she gave him a wonderful pineapple pie with whip cream on top, ( I can imagine how good it was ) and she knew he was batching as his wife is away. You never leave with out a batch of scones or something.

Just before supper last night Harold came over with the little girl Bubby's age who boards with Barbara while she goes to school. Actually they were trying to play baseball on the one bare bit of ground between the trees and Pete asked them in. It was funny for Harold showed off everything in the front room to her. starting with the cross bow we got in China and ending up with a trick Japanese box. All the knives and the tiles off the temples crystals etc. We now have a new attraction, a sort of 4 pronged fork the Moores brought Pete, made of wood and used to eat " long pig " or as Pete says " Missionarys " As they were Canibals in Fiji. I have a comb made of wood to add to our collection.

Better get on with the house cleaning so all for now. We were awfully sorry to hear that Jean isn't feeling well, Hope it is just Spring fever, but don't let her clean out the medicine closet as she did once, eating the odd pills etc left in the bottles! Too bad the family couldn't get on the boat but the drive to Washington would be nice and keep the memories of the time the kids spent there fresh in their minds. Also it is a lovely time of year to go there.

Loads of love and will try to do better next letter.

Catharine -

Banff, Alberta.  
Sun. March, 27, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

This is a quiet Sunday for us, and especially so after last weekend. The weather is about 30 and overcast, a typical Spring or fall sort of Sunday. Just went over to the Mt Royal to see if the Morant~~s~~ were there, but they had gone out an hour before.

Yesterday Mrs Simpson came around in the afternoon and we had a nice talk about Indians etc. She hasn't been over here for a long time. We might have had Mom down to supper but the furnace sort of backfired soot out the back cleanouts. What they call fly ash. Scared us at first for it made a noise when it blew out. We have expected the men with the vacuum for cleaning all this month but there has been no sign of them as yet, so looks as if we might have to do it ourselves. The coal we used to get was so easy to handle but one can't get it now and we have to use Canmore and it takes lots more handling. Guess we are lucky to have it at all.

Friday afternoon John Ness came to call. He is an old man who was originally Norwegian and the first president of the Banff Ski Club. He is a fine sort and wanted to hear all about the Ski Jumping which he missed as he was away. We got some photos *for him to* from Lloyd Harmon of the Ski terrain, but neglected to have Lloyd write what they were on the back, and have been meaning to have it done. Funnily enough Lloyd came while Mr Ness was here, about another matter, but marked the pictures too, so it worked just right.

*send to Norway*  
Now I think I will have a read of some of your old letters, but first of all was so glad to get your card yesterday afternoon that Russ and family got the staterooms after all for the boat trip. It will be fun for them all and the children can do as they like on the boat while the parents rest or snooze, and they stop at enough places to make it interesting.

Did you ever go anything with the Japanese lamp that used to be in the library? Think you better put it in the Attic, it really is quite stunning and just the right person may come along yet for it. Edith might like it or John Edward.

You know I don't think Pete ever wrote that letter he was going to to thank you for the birthday books. We have just lent the little Boston one to Col. Moore.

The "Cache Lake Country" book was one Dan McCowan lent us and we asked you to get for us to give Rusty for Christmas.

Have you looked at the Television thing lately, it must be quite wonderful, especially if the shows are good.

I stopped right here and went in the other room and wrote a card to the Agges, one to each. Have been meaning to and if I were only more efficient like you would get such things done

I agree that the Studio isn't as interesting as it used to be but I think there is a change coming in what people will like and that they will get back to the more conservative things, but perhaps more dramatic. In another hundred years they will probably say that the cubist and abstract art was a result of photography. When you were very young if anyone wanted a portrait or a landscape it was a realistic thing people liked, so they could remember the person or the place. but when photography came in that sort of took the place of a picture of a certain person or place and there wasn't such a demand for the much more expensive painting, and without the demand the artists who did that sort of work didn't prosper and they began experimenting and crazy things became the style. and because anyone could paint them without much practise in drawing, the pictures flooded the market. But in that magazine Mr Phillips lent us we noticed there was a change in the trend. I think it is fun to get the Studio so do keep on.

I forgot to tell you that our larkspur has started to come up. That was interesting about the pinks in the Greenhouses near Bedford I think you said. and that Mass and Colorado are the only states they grow them / Remember the ones Mrs Hutchins used to grow in their greenhouse when I was a little girl. George Noble grows a few, very few in a tiny greenhouse he has back of his store. He has double glass on it and can keep it 70 even in December.

Am so sorry to hear that Aunt Mary Hoar is so ill. It is hard to imagine as active a person, an old lady. but how nice Ellen could come on. Does Tippy every get on, and do they still live in California? Madges tea for Miss Hurd must have been a rather noisy one with so many deaf ! I bet you were the smartest there and with more "faculties" than any, in good shape ! Glad she got the card, thanks to you !

Funny you should have had a snow storm as you did and cold but guess it is winter's last fling.

Shall I tell you the last nice mistake you made ? They are I imagine caused by the telephone wringing. You were speaking of needlepoint as the one thing you could do without using a thimble and you wrote -"I can use a very large needle I can take hold of her ." It sounded like the Indians in "Driftwood Valley" but rather nice.

I have forgotten how to make Corn Beef Loaf, though I think you told me once. Just found the above receipe. *for Corn beef -*

We get very nice letters from Marion Stockard. a little discouraging to me, for she is so anxious to hear Banff news and to get mail that she has taken to answer mine the day she receives them, so I always owe the letters ! Cam is doing very well as an editorial writer for the daily Owen Sound paper, and has had several of his editorials copied in other Ontario papers. he also does other work of the paper. They live in an apartment house where the people are very friendly which is nice for Lila. and Bette the youngest girl is doing well at school. Mom is thinking of going down to see them as it is some time since she has.

Monday, You will think I am always doing laundry, but the Bendix does it, and as I like to be near in case it vibrates too much it is a good time to finish a letter to you. I only do it once a week or maybe twice, every other week.

The Canadian Art magazine came to-day. I haven't had a chance to do more than glance at it, but note there is an article on Abstract Art by a great friend of ours Lauren Harris of Vancouver. The portrait of Will Ogilvie on page 124 is painted by Charles Comfort who was here last summer. he was also a War Artist, they both were here teaching in the Summer School and came to the house a couple of times and are grand people. They or rather Charles Comfort is at present responsible for the exhibition at the Hart House. Univ. of Toronto *the teacher here.*

We had such a nice letter from Kay Pepper about the exhibit, Maybe I should quote it to you, she wrote.-

March 15th. " Your exhibition at Hart House was a howling success and afforded us all a whole - wide - West full of pleasure on Sunday. The Sketches really looked magnificent in that quiet coveted Gallery - and we got our innings at last !

It was good of Mr Igratieff to declare an " open Sunday " & to give us the privilege of inviting 50 artists, students and Banff enthusiasts there - and to our studio afterwards for tea, where there was a great tizzy about them - and you.

George has been asked to give a talk on the pictures to the University Students at Wednesday luncheon.

I believe many have made enquiries about the purchase of pictures, Miss Kidd ( Secty.) advised them to get in touch with you direct. That is the way Lauren Harris ' exhibit is being handled through the Galleries.

Miss Ferguson ( Dean of Women ) wishes to have your sketches at the University Women's residence ( drawing room ) if it can be arranged through Clare ( who is now in Nova Scotia ) More about this later. Wakunda House wants them too. I think you won't get them back in a hurry ! Will you want them for the usual Summer influx of Banff Visitors ?

The next important event in our lives will be the Phillips' Springtime visit ( to become more Grandparents ! ) when they stop in Toronto. Then on March 26th. about 70 Zonita Club members are coming to the studio to see our Western film ( 8Mm ) which turned out rather well.

Quebec possibly Labrador may be out sketching ground this year - Coming ? If you are East we should certainly love to see you.

Happy sketching days in those glorious mountains ( we envy you ) & may you produce more and more of these wonderful things.

Affectionately

( signed ) George & Kay.

P.S. Painted my first abstraction in a whirlwind for the O.S.A. Thought it better upside down - submitted it upside down - it was hung upside down & printed in the catalogue right side up !

K.

A nice letter wasn't it ?

Pete has just shown me the last New Yorker with Hokinson's pictures of the Flower Show. We think the best she has done for ages.

Just heard from Mildred at the coast and Cliff has been offered a caretaker job for Irene Rogers ( who was here at Christmas time and great friend of the Hiams in Vancouver , a wonderful person ) He would look after her summer house and her mothers on Bowen Island, a boat trip from Vancouver of a n hour or so I think but a popular spot. They have several cabins too, which they rent and there would be a job for one of the boys as well, so they are to ask Peter what he thinks of joining his father. Mildred would stay on where they are in Vancouver and continue nursing but could got to Bowen Island on ~~the~~ their day off. Sounds wonderful to us.

Must send this along, Loads of love,

Catharine .

Banff, Alberta.  
Wed, Mar. 30, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Your letter came yesterday telling about Rusty. I think that is about the most disappointing thing I ever heard and we both feel so badly about it. To be almost on the boat and then have tonsillitis and a high temperature. Do you think it was a return of the flu he had before, with the excitement of going on such a trip? It's just a shame, but one thing about Rusty, "he can take it" so to speak, but it will be just as much a disappointment all the same. Russ will have to take him on some trip later on, just men, where the two of them will go and it will be very special. I do hope he isn't awfully sick and perhaps he can have a good time in New York, or will he come home right away. He and Hanne might go somewhere.

Did I tell you about Jonny and his scrap book? My memory is poor I guess. We are to have the last 8 years of the National Geographic bound and when getting them ready I noticed the Travelers Insurance ads. They have pictures of birds, fish or animals or something interesting each month. You look at the last copy, it is about Canada geese. So I cut them out and when Jonny was over on Sunday we asked if he would like to make a scrap book of them/ He was so enthusiastic that Monday he came right after school and we had to get a scrap book at Harmons and special rubber cement at Nobles and he started that night after supper. Was back yesterday at noon, between his dinner and time to get back to school and again at four and in the evening. He finished last night and took the book home and to school to-day. He wanted it to be a 'Sprise to everyone and he said they all thought it "good." The teacher showed it to the principal and they now have it up in the class and will turn a page each day so the kids can have time to see each picture. There is one to a page. He marked each section "Part 1 " "Part 2 " etc. Writing the headings, "birds " " animals " " swimming animals " spelling it without asking us. Then he came to the miscellaneous things and decided to head it " Nature made by man and men." and on the last page wrote " The end." Now he is making one for Davy for his birthday. This will be of the I.C.I ads in the Studios a whole series of Chemical and scientific instruments and machines and also a number about Scientists. He was over again tonight w working until 8.15 when he had to go home to go to bed. He doesn't seem to mind the dark and went off singing. I think it is pretty good for 2nd grade.

I think I told you we were having trouble with the coal and furnace as it needs cleaning so badly. the men who came last spring and fall said they would be here in March but we began to think we couldn't wait and to-day Pete made up his mind to try and get Bill Ridgeway to help him take the smoke pipe down. The worst of it was that it is in one section and would be very awkward to get up the stairs and outside full of soot, and if you dumped it out into buckets in the basement

it would make an awful mess. We didn't dare do it alone in case we couldn't get the pipe back in as they are a tight fit as a rule and we used to have trouble years ago. To-day the men came and were we glad to see them. They are coming at ten in the morning to do ours and then there are the other houses and store to be done. they have a special vacuum and brushes etc.

Yesterday afternoon the Bendix man came, as no one has been to see how our machine was installed and to tell me things. He was a very nice sort. had been in the R.A.F. all through the War came over for a short time to # 37 in Calgary and married a Canadian girl and now is head of the Bendix distributors in Calgary I guess. While he was showing me about the machine the man with him who was also English and in the R.A.F. looked at the pictures which he was very interested in. They were both such nice lads and so different from the usual salesman.

Jimmy Simpson ( that is Big Jim ) was over Tuesday in the afternoon to show us the plans Mr Painter has drawn up for the addition to the place at Bow lakes. and after discussing that we looked at pictures and later he brought over one of his latest watercolors to show us. Also told us about a man named Carleton Smith I think it was, who is interested in bringing *from England* the Glynbourne singers ( ? ) over to this country and to Banff and perhaps connect up with the summer school. Has lots of money, and his wife is also a singer. someone Davis I think. Funny part is that Mildmay, who with her British husband started the Glyndburne theater on their own place before the war, was here during the war, sang at the Banff Springs and was with the Moores and came here to tea. Jim didn't know we knew her, But they made a great success at the Edinburgh Musical Festival last summer. She was Canadian, a singer and married a very wealthy Englishman and they built a little theater on their own land in England somewhere.

This started out to be an answer to some of your letters and here I have run on so. I know you are anxious to know our plans and I wish so I could tell you anything definite, Pete has had quite a bit of trouble lately with his sinus, I guess you would call it, and until that clears up we can't do very much. He feels alright some days and then others is miserable and doesn't want to do anything. and like most men hates to go see a doctor, can think of more excuses not to, and when he does go and makes a long call I think, " Now at last we are getting somewhere, " only to find they were talking skiing or hockey or someone elses troubles. Actually there isn't a great deal they can do for sinus except nose drops etc. to give relief and we forget to put them in when we should! Pete hates to have anyone mention that he doesn't feel up to scratch but maybe come spring and we get out more, it will be better. We have been lucky so far not to have had a cold all winter, about the worst I get is a nice headache once a month.

I was interested in Mildred's news about Wadsworth Owen being promoted but having to move north. What a hard decision to make in a way when they liked it so much in Florida, but Connecticut is pretty nice and he could sail there and be nearer Maine too. Nicer in a way for Mildred to have <sup>her</sup> closer. Too bad she is not to keep on as librarian as I think her heart is at Waynfleete, she has been there so long. But no doubt it will be better for her not to have so much to do, and nothing she has to do at a certain time., though being herself, she will keep mighty busy.

Am glad you went to the opera, and if you don't feel like going, there are always lots you can give your tickets away too, I am trying to think how many years it is that you have said it is the last time you are going to get tickets for the opera ! Its at least five. You better just keep right on as long as you enjoy it, you know you could even go for just half an opera if a whole one is too long. maybe arrange to meet someone and give them your stub.

Yes. we let the apartment the Graysons were in to some nurses at the hospital, by four of them sharing expenses it is cheaper than a room each and far nicer. The Jennings next door haven't complained yet. maybe feel a nurse might be useful.'

We liked the Hibbard you sent us a clipping of so much,

The last book I sent about Nellie McLung will answer the questions about her as it brings her up to the present. I haven't read of her having died. Pete used to know one son when he drove for Brewsters one summer, but he wasn't very popular at the time!

Thurs. The furnace cleaning men came allright and it is good to have that job done. Will send some clippings that may amuse Rusty if he is back with you. I guess you and he are in the same boat so to speak for you would have liked to have gone on the trip too.

It is a lovely spring day and our snow is going gradually which is good for it doesn't make such a mess that way.

Johnny told us a story about Dr MacKenzie's boy, Billy, who is in Jonny's class, grade two at school. The teacher was telling them that ~~because of~~ the Law of Gravity <sup>with a push</sup> they could stand up on the earth. Billy wanted to know what happened before the Law was made ! That's a poser.

Better mail this long rant. Will let you know whenever we can plan ahead, and how things go with us.

Loads of love,

Catherine

75. At noon the men have gone - worked for over 2 hours & cleaned the basement as well which was nice.

Banff, Alberta.  
Sun. April 3, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

We are still having lovely spring weather though to-day there is a high wind and it is not so pleasant to be out. We saw a robin day before yesterday, and Davy says he has seen several and a bluebird. The crows too are back and the geese go over in the early morning for we can hear them "Honking". The snow has gone fast this last week, just a few patches left in drifts and in the shade, and the river in front of the house will soon be open, the green spot too is bare as it gets the full force of the sun.

Edmeé and Charlie Reid are back. We have seen Charlie who looks very brown, he told us how they met Louise Thayer of Boston, who was married before we were and lives on Long Island, she and her husband were staying at some Dude Ranch, when she heard the Reids were from Banff, she said she knew someone who had gone there to live but couldn't remember my married name, but Charlie of course knew the Robb part, funny wasn't it? Then the man who ran the ranch was a great Western Character named Miller and he said he too used to know someone in Banff years ago. ~~Philip~~ Wondered if Charlie knew him, his name Philip Moore. Its a small world I guess. *They liked Arizona.*

Guess by the time you get this Russ and family will be back from their trip of ten days. Do hope Rusty has some fun during his vacation, but it will be hard making up for what he missed on that trip.

Sam Ward was down yesterday morning about ten said he wanted to talk to someone who could smile a bit. Seems he was a bit discouraged because the painter working at the new house he is building could have finished up on Saturday and instead went and started work on a new job, and so delaying Sam who is anxious to get through, also the canaries were fighting and Cis had to ship a pair to Calgary and I guess got upset about it. Actually he didn't tell us what was troubling him for we talked about all sorts of people and things and teased each other and away he went. Then I had to hurry to get all my weekly vacuuming and dusting done, we shopped at noon, seeing the first daffodils to come in this spring and so took some to Mrs Paris to cheer her up, and ended by going and getting milk for her that George (her husband) had forgotten. So it was about one when we got back and then we listened to a rebroadcast of Churchill's speech in Boston. We had heard it the night before but Jonny was here and though he kept quiet, he did interrupt a couple of times and also the reception wasn't too good so we were glad to hear it again. I don't think there is anyone who speaks as well or ~~gives the~~ uses words in such a wonderful way.

This is rather a quiet Sunday, we rather expected Dr Riley of Calgary to drop in and see us but as he hasn't come as yet he most likely didn't come up for the weekend. I wrote a difficult letter to write this morning and now it is so nice out instead of doing Income Tax think I will see if any part of the yard can be raked. Now the snow has gone it has left the papers and bits of garbage strewn all over the lawn at the back, an awful mess.

This isn't much of a letter but will be writing soon. Sent notes and cards to all those I thought would like the new stamp celebrating the entry of Newfoundland into Canada. Will send you some too. We listened to several special programs and the ceremony itself on Friday. It makes Canada as a country larger in area than Europe and the population is now over 13 million.

Loads of love,

*Catharine*

Banff, Alberta.  
Tues. April 5, 1949.

Dearest, Mother,

For someone who feels like the dickens we think you do an awful lot and are wonderful to do all you do. How nice you could go to the Operas that you did and Carmen must have been fine. But I do think you have had a lot of things to think of and plan. How nice that Rusty could come and be with you for I am sure he enjoys that and it is sort of a treat.

This letter I was planning to write last evening but we had rather a busy time. Just at supper Davy came over to borrow a wrench to change a bicycle seat. He came and went a few times and we admired a new bike he got for his birthday from Jackie, though why Jackie gave him a new one just now when he had an old one almost identical we don't know. However when Jonny gets old enough he gets the old one to ride. Davy also wanted us to go to "shop" this afternoon to see the things of wood that they have made in school. (which we have done right after lunch) Davy hadn't gone very long when Jonny came to finish the scrap book he is making for Davy's birthday, we got that out and Jonny started pasting when Davy came back and I had to dash into the front room and hide the book for fear Davy would see the "surprise." Davy soon went again and Jonny set to work when another knock on the door and again I hid the book, It was Harold to see where Jonny was. Seems it was the boys turn to do the dishes and Donny was doing them all alone and Jonny must go back and dry. Harold had done them alone the night before and didn't think he should touch them last night, and we suspected Davy had gotten out of it by riding around on the new bike. Jonny was very good and ran home, said he would hustle right back and sure enough ten or fifteen minutes later he was back to work until 8.15 when as good as gold he goes back to bed. But it kept us hopping. *Jonny said Davy was dry up too*

Barbara was given a trip to Calgary this week for an I.O.D.E Convention, with all her expenses paid and she went off Monday night and won't be back until to-morrow. Bubby and the other little girl (both 16 I guess) are looking after the cooking etc. They do the morning and noon dishes, the boys take turns on the evening dishes, but Barbara had it all planned out, a big roast cooked. Beans to warm up and Macaroni and cheese and I have forgotten what else. Then there is Art Douby who still has a room in the house and downstairs the Reids who are the nice Scotch couple from Dundee. So they seem to be getting on fine. and it is a nice change for Barbara, she hoped to see her aunt who lives in Calgary who she hasn't seen for 5 years!

I finally got the Income Tax information all figured out and typed in a 5 page letter for the Chartered accountant who makes out the forms for Pete, and sent that away. So we are getting on. That little sewing machine is so handy for mending as you can take it out as easily as a typewriter and set it up and start working.

Yesterday we went and saw the new house that Sam is building and delayed him a lot, but as he is working to help the tiler at night he didn't mind being held up.

Must get this off with some other letters to go,  
Loads of love,

Catharine .

Banff, Alberta.  
Sun. April 10, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

I haven't done very well lately in writing to you, I did start one yesterday but it was so poor and we didn't go to the mail so I tore it up, seemed to be worded so badly. You say you make mistakes but you really make very few and when you do miss up on something they are good ones. Think you enjoy some of Gertrude Stein's writings, Just read her book on P~~e~~ Picasso and though I still don't like the man or his works any better I was sort of fascinated by the way she wrote and so was Edmee. Well last week you started a letter ~~I~~ I was I was - - " and it sounded just like her style.

What a shame about poor old Port, and wouldn't you know it would happen just when the family were away so that you would have to decide what to do. I think you did just right to have him kept alive without suffering until Russ returned. What a nice card from Gale, will return it for you to keep.

Y We have had a couple of calls from Indians lately and before I forget will have to tell you the new stories, we nearly always get a good one each visit. It was Friday just as we were doing the luncheon dishes that old Paul Francis called, he is a very fine and religious Cree Indian who likes to live with the Stonies. He used to have a big mop of black hair and Pete made a portrait of him once, next time he came his hair was pure white, Et had turned all of a sudden when he received a shock about something I think. Some member of his family is always sick, a boy went blind and a couple died, Now his wife has heart trouble and the doctor said there was nothing could be done for her, she would just die some day, but Paul said he told the nurse there was one ~~XXXXXX~~ who could help her and that was God and if he didn't want her to die, she would live. I wish you could have seen him describe her heart trouble, He did it so graphically in sign language, the way her heart pounded irregularly, by pounding his fists to-gether, then a pain in the center of her chest going to the back, and a feeling evidently right up through her body to her head, described with both arms, and then she goes a little out of her mind evidently, and they rub her all over and she comes back but this sort of attack happens each night at 2 A.M. But from the way he told us any doctor could tell exactly what it was.

The first time she ever had it was in Calgary and they had gone down on the bus and were walking along the street and she just fell, " some white girls, they thought she was dead, but some white ladies helped, and one man, he knew what to do and sort of rubbed her,"and she evidently gradually came to and they helped her into a store. Samson and Mea I think it is called where they sell their hides etc. The man there called a doctor he knew well, and he gave her something, and they rested there for over an hour and went back on the next bus, but I was glad

the people on the sidewalk were so kind to them. Poor old couple.

Paul then told us about Enos Hunter who died so suddenly. Paul said he figured it was too many aspirins and 222 's and 217's ( Pete said he knew more about such things than we did ) He said Enos would "take 2 aspirin and then go outside , take 2 more when he went to bed, too much that stuff." Then he added ( and this isn't so nice if you are having this letter with your lunch ) "when Enos died, he swelled up this high - " and he showed us the height about two feet off the floor with his hand, (Enos was a very large Indian in any case and one of the few really fat ones) then he continued " Joe Kaquits got him in the box ~~at~~ right away, was afraid they couldn't get the top down quick enough and nailed it strong, so he wouldn't burst out." or words to that effect. Pete says he knows hosses swell up but we are going to ask Dr MacKenzie about it sometime. I wish you could have heard Paul . tell about it, in his kindly quiet way. *he swelled up by say up: "I figure too many aspirins maybe make him swell up that way. what do you think, Pete?"*

Paul was also very much interested in the picture of the Indian camp in the kitchen. the one we used once on a Christmas card, He picked out several Indians he knew. Mark Pocette, Job Stevens. said one with a big hat was a Sarcee and an old woman with a pipe was a " cree Woman " then he told Pete that the teepees looked like oldtime teepees, "all smoked", and he told Pete they used to make their teepees out of skin and smoked them a special way so that the rain wouldn't effect them. We really had quite a visit and also showed him how to use beef extract to make soup for his wife and then got a whole lot of groceries for him to take to Morely.

Yesterday Tom Kaquits called in the morning, wanted to borrow five dollars in the end, and would pay us back when he got his check ( just hope he remembers. ) Anyway we talked about all sorts of things and got on the subject of teepees, and I asked how much it cost now to make a big teepee. He figured quite slowly and said " about \$ 45.00 for the canvas," and - " cost \$35.00 to make em up", than he thought some more and figured about \$2.00 for the thread used. Then he said " we maybe sell em to the tourists for one hundred and a quarter - - \$45.00 profit, thats all ! " We thought that was pretty good, spending \$80. or \$82. in the first place and then selling the teepee for \$125. in the end. ~~xx~~ I guess it would be nearly a 50% profit." thats all!

Jonny also made a good remark the other day. Said he could remember "long ago , when I was young." Seeing that he is now 8 years old it sounded rather funny.

I hear Donny outside, come to shovel away our winter's pile of ashes so think as it is nice and sunny though awful windy I will go out and rake. *o him too*

Lots of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.  
April 11, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Just as well I wrote you when I did yesterday morning, for Sunday after typing to you I went out to do a bit of raking, (just a month ahead of last year. at this time in 1948 there was still snow) Donny came over to level some more of our winter pile of ashes. We decided this year it would be best to put the ashes in the low spots on the driveway, and Donny made a good job of it.

Well as I was raking the lawn Mrs ~~Simpson~~ Simpson came over to borrow a book, we chatted a while outside and then she came in and Pete joined us talking and we got telling stories and discussing things and I knew all we had for lunch was chicken which we were to fry in the pressure cooker and then cook 20 minutes, so it would take quite a while and so I left it to Pete to suggest lunch. Most people on Sundays have just two meals, a big late breakfast and an early supper which is like Sunday dinner, so I guess Mrs Simpson didn't think, (I really should have just made some soup and been done with it.) Actually she started to go several times and then Pete would have one more story! We also wanted to ask her if she would like Donny up at Bow Lakes this summer for he wants a job and they would be good to him. Just as she was leaving about quarter to two the Vic Balls from Fernie called, They are here just a couple of days and wanted to see us as we helped them when they were burned out some years ago. So it was 3 o'clock when we had our lunch, then as we were finishing Mary Lee came to return a book and helped do the dishes which was nice. At last about 4 o'clock I returned to my raking and about half an hour later the Wards drove by, saw me and came in for half an hour or so. We sat outside then. It was a lovely day but a high wind. about 55° here, but 80° in Medicine Hat.

At supper time Jonny came along and somehow we got started playing that game of seeing how many words we can make out of one. He chose the word Christmas and then we all tried to think of words to-gether to give him the idea. I was surprised how quickly he caught on and he thought of lots of words. He is just 8 and in Grade 2, but when Pete said "how about wrist?" Donny said quick as a flash, "there isn't a W in Christmas." At 8.30 we went to bed!

We were glad to hear to-day that Port was feeling better and hope he comes through O.K. also how awfully well Rusty did in school, I didn't realize he was such a scolar. That is spelt wrong, will try again, Scholar. maybe that is right.

Today was over cast but still mild. We were up early as Pete had a bit of trouble with his nose, then Cecil Philpott came about what to do for Mom's furnace, it leaks oil in the stoker, most annoying that she has trouble with it. We also expected Bob Wyanard as he had said he was coming to see us to-day. but he didn't come.

Saw him/ later on this afternoon. At noon Mom came down with a letter from Mildred, and Cliff has the job of caretaker for Mrs Ernie Rogers on an island about an hour by boat from Vancouver. must be a lovely spot. So that is good news. They hope Donny will go out there and I expect that Mildred is anxious to see him.

We also had a letter from Kathy at the coast and they are having quite a time I guess, the three kids live in two bedrooms Mavis & Kathy in one, David in the other. But they can't cook their meals and it takes all they earn I guess for food and car tickets. We didn't tell Mom about it to-day as she was so discouraged over so many things. How she was to get things done, the tress clipped the lawn raked etc. We think she is too discouraging to work for and so it is hard for her to get anyone to help ! We suggested Donny but she didn't think he would like doing that sort of work, yet he seems glad to come over and help us. well anyway she wasn't too discouraging, then we had errands to do and business papers to look over etc. Jonny was back at noon to see if we had thought of any new words, He was going to take the list to school.

I agree with you about Nellie McClung's last book it sort of dragged in the end but maybe her other was written in her prime and the last when she was an old lady.

I guess I will always have a good New England accent, every once in a while Jonny catches me up. The other day wanted to know why I always put an " r " on the end of "idea " ?

What is to happen to the house Ebbs and Anne are in now when they move to their new one ? Will Frances and Gil maybe take it or how about the Miss Morrisons ?

Our front bedroom is 20 by 30 in size as we put a ceiling over the whole of the big room downstairs. Some of the bedroom is under the eaves but it is pretty large, the dormer window is in the center looking west and getting the afternoon sun, but there would still be room to cut off about 10 feet at the north end for a store room, if and when we ever get around to it.

Miss Annie Agge certainly has a quaint way of writing, but how remarkable she is to write as she does. Am so sorry about Aunt Mary Hoar being so ill.

Do you have the December 1947 copy of Arizona Highways ? we have an extra one I find and could send it to you. Also sent you back the copy of "cleans with Gray's article. keep it and I can get it sometime after Cousin "ane and "able Brown have read it. Did I tell you Gray has sent us a new story to read and comment on about the arrival of his new baby.

Loads of love  
Catharine

Banff, Alberta.  
Thurs. April 14, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

To-morrow is a holiday, Good Friday, banks, stores etc closed. but I expect we will be doing much as usual. When Sunday is Easter, looks as if we might have a mild one this year. Last night it did manage to snow an inch but it went by this afternoon and was a lovely day.

Pete finally got to the doctors about his sinus trouble. He has been before and they found the passages to his ear was infected one summer and then they gave him nose drops saying there is not much one can really do for such trouble. But seeing that it acts up as it does every so often he decided to see Pat or Dr Mackenzie. The latter being out of town at some Doctors thing in Edmonton, Pete saw Pat and he sent him up to the hospital to be exrayed yesterday, then saw Pat today between babies. I never saw such a place for baby carriages being parked outside, there were four at once and more coming and going, for check ups etc. Pat said the exray showed a definite sinus condition and he gave Pete a shot of something in his arm which he thinks will help clear it up. He is to go for another ~~inxxxxxxx~~ Monday. Pete swore he could taste it afterwards, but seeing it was in his arm I don't see how he could really. Anyway I hope it helps. Pat thinks it should clear it up in about ten days time. It really is a most miserable thing to have, besides the sudden sharp pains in his forehead at times, during the night when he is asleep it sometimes drains down the back of his throat and then when he gets up makes him sick to his stomach until he gets rid of what went down his throat. and he never knows when to expect it which is hard.

We have been meeting trains lately, partly to mail a letter or express a parcel at the same time but we knew that Goon the chinaman who has been at Brewsters for years and went to China a year ago, was due back. (He used to work for Erling Strom and we came in from Assinaboine with him that trip in the snow on horse-back years ago) So we thought it would be fun to meet him, of course he came on the one train we didn't meet and we didn't know he was here, So this afternoon between boiling and baking a ham we went down to the station, also saw lots of Indians there, and on the way back met Goon. He came round to the house to see us and had brought us a present. a lovely white and another colored handkie for me and then a sample of all the various kinds of paper Chinese money, one bill was for \$10,000.00. It is interesting to have, all denominations from 10¢ up. a \$1,000. bill is worth 10¢ in money.

Nick Morant was down the other evening and stayed until after midnight, He is about the best photographer in Canada and has a wonderful sence of humor, but can be quite serious too. Told us all about Temple and Skoki as he has just been out there, and we were rather interested to hear his ideas about it.

I think I am too sleepy to write much of a letter to-night.  
so will try to finish this to-morrow.

Friday - no chance to write more after all. As we had  
a late breakfast Jimmy appeared to help make. So instead  
of doing anything inside went out doors to work. We  
did a little, then Harold appeared & we started off  
cross cutting. But Jimmy had left before doing his  
share of ~~the~~ <sup>his</sup> yard so had to finish that. At 3:00 now  
it is nearly 3 o'clock & we are just finishing lunch.  
Dr Riley of Calgary came about 11:30 & we talked  
about so many things that it was 2 o'clock when  
he left. Told us all about Hart House where our  
paintings are being shown in Toronto. Said they only  
have open house there 4 times a year. so it was  
really something to have it when ours were shown  
in the Sketch Room. Its part of the Univ of Toronto, the  
mens part.

Must go & mail this as an away

Goods of love.

Catherine

got a wonderful long letter from Mildred & a nice  
one from Cousin Jane too. M. will be with you  
Monday. Can't tell just yet our plans will have  
to see how these shots work on Pete.

Banff, Alberta.  
Easter Sunday.  
April 17, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

I am so sorry I got your hopes all up by the Air Mail letter, but until it was mailed I never thought what you would naturally think. It had been several days since I had written you and so thought by sending a letter Air Mail it would catch up, I shan't do that again! and I am afraid we still can't be definite about our plans, it will be at least a week until we know whether these shots will clear up the sinus infection Pete has and he can't make up his mind at all what is best for him to do. I suppose it sounds funny to all of you down east that we can't plan ahead better than we do, but that is the way it is with us right now.

We had quite an interesting time yesterday, on the 8 A.M. news broadcast it said that the Prime Minister, Louis St. Laurent, would arrive in Calgary from the West at 11.35 that morning and we knew that he must be going through on the train around ten. but thought he might have a special train as he has been making a trip through the west with his wife and married daughter. So on the chance we might catch a glimpse of them we went to the station about 9.30 and asked. Mr Gainer the station agent said their cars would be on #2 which goes east about ten o'clock so we went for the mail and then drove back down to the station. We rather expected that the staunch Liberals of Banff would all be on hand but there didn't seem to be anybody much except Tully Montgomery the English church minister. We parked out of the way to watch and Susan Mather, Allan's oldest girl who is about 11 or 12, came along on her bike. She had come to get the Prime minister's autograph, and expected some of her school friends to be there too but none showed up, so she stayed with us. There was one car of very well dressed people and two children who had very obviously come to meet the train but otherwise no one special.

The train was on time and we could see the 3 green Canadian National coaches on the end, we got out of the car to go onto the platform to have a better look and still there seemed to be few there, though Tully Montgomery the minister came along and Mr and Mrs Rankeilor, who are very Scotch, he is the chief Engineer at the Banff Springs Hotel. They had come down much as we had having guessed from the news broadcast that the Prime Minister of Canada and party would be going through.

Susan was a little timid, but as soon as the Prime Minister stepped off the end of the train Pete knew who it was and we told Susan to go along and ask him for his autograph, not to be afraid, so along she went and he was very nice, said "Hello" and then wrote in her book "Happy Easter to Susan Mather," signed Louis St Laurent and the date. Then he came along the platform and the well dressed people went up and spoke to them, talking mostly to

the wife and daughter, <sup>them</sup> He came by and Tully by this time had come up and greeted him and then as we were near by we went along as well as the Rankeilors and Tully introduced us all, Pete as the son of one of the founders of Banff, for as he said later he tried to think of something that would mean something to St. Laurent. Then he also introduced Susan and the Prime Minister said, "Susan was the first to greet me as I stepped off the train." He said it in such a nice friendly way. Harold Waterhouse also came along and Ed Thomson who was very grimy having been driving the oil truck, and Mrs Iverson drove near in the mail truck but wouldn't get out as she said her hands were to dirty <sup>from shaking the mail bag</sup> to shake hands. It was all so unexpected and informal and St Laurent was very gracious and easy. He really is a statesman and not a politician type. In fact was taken into the cabinet of Mackenzie King as Minister of Justice during the war, had been president of the Canadian Bar association before that, was a well known lawyer. Then he was Foreign Minister and did a great deal in the formation of the United Nations and was highly thought of for his work in that line. When Mackenzie King retired he was about the best choice for Prime Minister, for in Canada the head of the party in power is Prime Minister, he is not elected as the President of the U.S. is. W

We didn't stay to talk but merely shook hands and said a few words and then went back to the car, when the train left we gave Tully ~~up town~~ a lift up town and he was quite funny for he too was surprised to find himself the chief welcoming committee so to speak for we had all expected the good party men to be on hand and very important, It was a wonder I didn't have my apron on for I was dressed to clean house Saturday morning not to meet the Prime Minister <sup>could</sup> and Mrs Rankeilor too was just wearing a tweed coat and no hat. Pete his old work pants and a cap. but Tully said "do you know Pete, I think you were the only man who had shaved this morning!" He added, "a clerical ~~collar~~ collar covers a great deal."

Susan really stole the show and her father is a very strong Progressive Conservative so we teased Allan about his daughter being a Liberal. If we had only thought we could have taken Jonny down with us and some of the crocuses we picked the day before for him to give to Mrs St. Laurent, for he would have done it so nicely. Harold and Davy too would have been good about it, but it never occurred to us we would meet the man!

During the War when Pete was in the R.C.A.F in Ottawa and I was in Concord, he went up to the Parliament Buildings to hear a debate one evening in the House. There is a main entrance which you have seen pictures of, under the Peace Tower and a sort of portico, where the King and Queen stood etc. and as Pete reached for to open the big door, a gentleman pulled it open from inside as he was just coming out. Pete stood back but the Man ~~said~~ held the door open and said "Come in Sergeant" or words to that effect and so Pete ended by walking in and saying "thank you sir" Then he noticed as the gentleman in the black homburg hat went down the steps the mounted police saluted him, As there was no debate on after all Pete went right out again and so asked the Mountie who the gentleman was and he said "that is Mr St. Laurent, the Minister of Justice" Pete had thought it might be McNaughton. but he never has forgotten how polite and all the man was. that was one reason we went to the station for me to see him too. He is a fine looking man and very gracious and kindly in a natural way. It was quite an experience.

It is so nice out to-day that I think I must go and trim trees, it will be too late in the year if I wait much longer. Every Sunday and holiday someone comes to see us and I miss the best part of the day if I am not careful.

Loads of love,

Catharine .

Banff, Alberta.  
April 20, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

It was just lucky that I wrote you Easter morning early for there wouldn't have been another chance in the day. It was the most perfect Easter day you ever saw, mild and sunny and no wind. After mailing your letter and taking easter eggs to the kids and Susan and Mary Lee we came home and I started to finish pruning the spruce trees. Had been working only a very short time, must have been about 11.30 when the Morrants came along.

Nick and his wife Willi we are very fond of, he is the best photographer I guess in Canada and a real artist and very amusing but also can be serious too. He came in and talked to Pete and Willi and I sat outside for a time before coming in. Then when it got near one I made some ham sandwiches, with milk and ice cream and cake (made out of cake mix) and we all ate that very informally in the kitchen. We kept on talking and then before they left about three, Mary Lee came over to borrow a book, we all had a look at the stage coach etc and fooled around a bit and then Lilla, (Mary Lees aunt) came along for a few minutes for both Mary Lee and Susan (who had arrived too) wanted to show her the things in the house, even the dolls teaset had to be set out. All this was a bit confusing. Pat Lambert a friend of Mary Lees came for her and the Morrants having left, and Lilla too to see some other friends, Susan was the only one left and she gave us a hand with the dishes. Then knowing Pete would be tired and maybe want to snooze, Susan and I went out and pruned trees, by this time it was nearly 4 and again the best part of Sunday gone.

Susan left about 4.30 and Mrs Simpson saw me working and being along (the men folks have gone up to the lake) she came over, we talked outside and she showed me the best way to prune, and then we came in and it was 6.30 when she went home. I think we went to bed at 8.30! Trouble is that both with the Morrants and Mrs Simpson there is so much of interest to discuss but it does seem to tire Pete more than me.

Monday was another lovely day, again I thought, will clean a bit (that spring cleaning of mine) upstairs and then rake all afternoon. But first Mom came down as her furance had gone out and she also returned our long clippers. and before she left Sid Vallance came to see how we were as he hadn't seen us for some time, he was very amusing, said his wife just loves to clean and reminds him of the little woman in the Dutch Cleaner add. What amuses him is that she wants so many jobs done and she always says "Don't you think we should dig a ditch for the concrete, or we should paint the basement floor etc" the "We" when they both know perfectly well he is the only one who can do it. He was after some one to dig the ditch, and I think may have been stalling for time when he came to see us.

By the time he had hurried off, an hour and a half later - and Mom had gone, so had my morning. We went for the mail and a few errands I guess, for though it was Easter Monday, the stores here were open. In the afternoon I raked a little, about an hour I guess and then again we went for the afternoon mail and Pete stopped in for his 2nd shot for the sinus trouble. It must have been stronger than the first for it made him feel rather funny when he got home and I didn't dare leave to rake outside in case he felt queerer. It passed off by supper time though. Then I had a letter to write making suggestions to the Campbells on their 2nd story, and tried to do that but first Mr Scott came about a garden this year and then Mario about the trouble in Mom's furnace so then we went to bed.

Tuesday was yesterday, I managed to do the wash in the morning and also clean the last end of the big bedroom, all but a table full of things which I got at this morning. Then it being a lovely day I was bound I would get out in the sun to work and if it didn't cloud up and rain! not very hard but hard enough to stop one raking, we took the Jeep for a run instead and Jonny with us to find a few crocus. and I wrote to the Campbells last night instead, still have a bit more to do.

To-day it was dark and miserable this morning but is trying to clear now so may get out to-day.

Must go now so lots of love,

Catherine

P.S You told me to send back the copy of McLean's magazine with Gray Campbell's article in it to show Cousin Jane Barry & Mrs Mable Brown as that cousin Pickering lives in that part of the world - Save it or send it back again later on

Banff, Alberta.  
Friday, April 22, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Am not doing very well on my letters, but this being the kids holiday at school they have been around each evening at least Jonny has. He loves to read out loud and especially "Winnie the Pooh" and "The House at Pooh Corner" He reads very well and with so much expression that he even sings the poems making up a tune to go with them, and when there is something that strikes him as especially funny he enjoys it so, stopping to laugh. Even when he reads to himself if he comes to something real funny he laughs out loud and then has to read it to us.

Saturday, This is as far as I got last night and then soon after nine Pete was so sleepy from the 3rd shot he had yesterday afternoon that we went to bed. Now this morning we were up early and I did my weekly tidying up of the house, got the shopping done before 11 including the chat with the various people who we ran into, and I even raked an hour. Pete has gone over to have something fixed on the car and so will try and get this written before he comes back for lunch. This afternoon there is a church tea and as one gets good cakes and cookies etc. think I will go.

We are doing better lately and this week I actually got quite a bit spring cleaned, not scrubbed for I haven't time for that this year, but the cobwebs and dust in the corners removed. have the upstairs done except for the cupboards and the hallway and even most of the kitchen done, except for the cupboards too. and the front room isn't so hard to do, just a matter of vacuuming and dusting. The weather has been mild and yet not so sunny you couldn't bare to stay in.

Pete went to the doctors on Monday and again yesterday. The shot yesterday made him very drowsy but not as dizzy as the last one and then he had to go back later to see Pat who had been operating in Canmore. Pat says this thing is fairly new for sinus and they haven't used it before but are trying it out on a couple of people besides Pete and he is anxious to know how it works. Wants Pete to see him in two weeks time. They give three shots now but might repeat it then. He said that the xray showed a cloudy part especially over one eye which means it is a sinus infection I guess you would call it, or "condition" It is partly because of the structure of Pete's nose that it doesn't drain as it should but lots of people I guess have it. I wonder too if being tired or upset about things may not aggravate it. Actually he has seemed better this last week so we are hoping it will help. I don't think Pete is going to want to go east and we have to figure what is best for him to do. Will wait a week anyway to see how this treatment works. I am awfully sorry not to be able to give you any thing definite to go on, but it just can't be helped.

Mom has been talking of making her spring trip to the coast and as Jackie and Florence too are going out for a couple of weeks they are all going to-gether to-morrow noon. Jackie has seemed much better and more amiable lately, and except for the one day when he wanted this and that done to the back hallway at the apartment and we never did anything and he did so much, etc. etc. (He is just impossible to talk to when he is like that.) he has been very pleasant. butter wouldn't melt in his mouth so to speak. He always reminds me of the little girl with the curl in the middle of her forehead " when she is good she is very very good but when she is bad she is horrid! " Actually we don't have to be around when he is away as we used to now that Pete has no connection with the store business, and Allan is supposed to be looking after the buildings. Of course there are always a few questions but otherwise he can handle it for us.

Jonny is really awfully bright and loves the jokes Pete makes up and even makes a few up himself. The last one " you aren't my Auntie Catharine, you are anti-aircraft." or something like that. He was cutting figures out of paper the other night and I tried to show him how to make a string of men or women, wasn't very good at it, and he made one of two horses facing each other, they were quite good. Then he put them against the lamp shade, and then he held them inside the shade with the light shining through, it looked awfully well, so now he wants Pete to make him a lamp shade to put the horses on, and each day he talks of it, he doesn't forget. Also wants to make May baskets as he saw one on a magazine cover and I told him about them, they don't have them here. But I think maybe Barbara will help him with that.

Pete is back and lunch is cooked so will send this along.

Loads of love.

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.  
Mon. April 25th. 1949

Dearest Mother,

I never had a chance to write you yesterday for we had a busy weekend. Saturday I went to the tea at St Georges church which I like to do and got good cake, cookies and buns, also some flowers to take to Mrs Oliver who has been sick ever since she came back from a two months vacation at the coast, so has her husband, Funny but most of those who took a real holiday this winter have come down with flu or something since they got back, even the Moores. Had tea at the Fair with Edmee and Pearl and also went to see Mrs Oliver for a few minutes. Then had no sooner gotten home than Mom appeared with "bad news." We didn't know if Jackie was sick again or what had happened, but it seems it was her step - sister Aunt Susan Baptie who has diabetis very badly and Mom had just been told she was in the Canmore hospital and they didn't expect her to live more than a few hours.

Poor Mom the last few times she has been going away someone in the family has always been unexpectedly and seriously ill just the day before she planned to go. Mildred the first time when she had her gall bladder operation and Dr Mackenzie didn't know if she would pull through or not, then Pete last fall and this time Aunt Susan. Mom of course wanted to go down and see her and wondered if we would drive her down. It is about 20 miles to Canmore and the roads were rather slipery as we had a rain storm on the way, but we drove her down and she got there just the right time really as most of Aunt Susan's ten children were there too. Three sons and three daughters, one son hadn't arrived and I think the others have died long ago. She evidently had rallied a bit and may live several days now, Mom said she was very bright and joking, but as she is 82 and has had this serious diabetis for so long they don't hold out any hope. Mom was very fond of this particular Step sister as she was the kindest to her, as a child, in the family. We didn't get back home until about 6.30. It was too late to cook the roast but we cut off some steaks and as Mom was leaving the next morning we asked her down to supper knowing she would have little to eat in her house.

Sunday wasn't too nice a day with occasional snow flurries and looked stormy, lots of wind. We were up fairly early and Mom came down about ten to see if we would like to drive her to the station. also to tell us that Auntie Susan was a little better. Then we went over to Allan's but he was still sleeping so Mary Lee said, (she was on her way to church.) and then soon after 11 took Mom to the station, first putting the roast on with some ~~pan~~ potatoes to roast. That's one beauty about an electric stove you can leave things cooking.

We saw Mom off with Jackie and Florence for the coast at 11.40. Pete didn't like it all very well as Jackie does this every spring and fall and usually says it is "Doctor's orders" *~ having spoken to the doctors we know it isn't*

I guess they will be gone a couple of weeks or so and we are looking forward to a quiet time here!

We hadn't been back long when Harold and Davy arrived and of course the roast smelt good and they have a big breakfast late and an early supper which is like a Sunday dinner, so they were hungry and we asked them to eat with us, before we had sat down Jonny appeared so all three had a big dinner with us, but they were very good. Then we left Pete to rest and snooze and Jonny and I did a bit of raking. Davy slipped away not caring much for work of that sort and Harold ran off, came back later as he had to get a magazine that comes in on Sundays. he and Jonny did a lot and Barbara came over later on and raked too and then Mary Lee and Pat Lambert appeared on their bikes and they helped finish up. So we had a pretty lively time of it, but did get a lot done. Then they all came in for gingerale and the church fair cookies and cake and it was after five when they left. Davy having appeared to rake just as we were finishing!

After supper we had promised to go over to Mrs Simpson's to see Jim's stamps and found Mary had just arrived with her uncle Bill Stewart, two days ahead of time so we had a nice visit there.

Now to-day it has been either <sup>very</sup> stormy or the sun shining, regular spring weather, I have cleaned the cooler and cupboard under it in the back hall besides having Dave Prosser come about a bank loan he has for a new truck, and Mario with the mail, and written a letter to the Chartered accountants about Pete's Income Tax form and also washed out things that are too fragile to go in the Bendix. Now the dishes, then the mail and depending on the weather I will either prune spruce trees or write letters, and so it goes.

Loads of love,

Catharine .

Banff, Alberta.  
Fri. April 29, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Was in Calgary all day yesterday shopping and no chance to write, this morning Pearl came down, wants to bring a New Zealand Artist here to see us maybe this afternoon. So now I have just time to write a short note before we go out.

It really looks now as if you were definitely going to see me. The Simpsons were awfully nice and said that Pete could go up and stay with them while I was away and he thinks that wouldn't be too bad, but just when I thought he had pretty well decided to do that, he began wondering if maybe he would go east ~~with~~ with me. He says he feels ~~is~~ "torn" between the two. I am sorry to miss those lovely peach trees and the early flowers but as you say it is lovely a little later too. Anyway I shall do the very best I can, but the way Pete feels it is hard for him to make up his mind. Perhaps by the next letter I can give you an approximate date to work on. I got a new coat in Calgary so that is one step. Lots to write you about but no time now, So will send this along.

Loads of love,

Banff, Alberta.  
Sun. May 1, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Again I won't be writing much of a letter as we are going to take some books and crocuses up to Mrs Oliver who we hear is in the hospital, Jonny is here "champing at the bit" and I am rather anxious to keep him around to help when I do a bit of raking. The dust from the dry grass and leaves rather bothers Pete's sinus.

This morning both Jonny and Harold were over early to go crocus hunting. There was a picture of a May basket on one of the magazines we got and directions inside as to how it was made, they don't make them here but of course Barbara knew what they were, and so in the last week Jonny has made two and very pretty ones. So this morning he wanted to get the flowers for them, and Harold said he hadn't been crocus hunting with us as yet this spring and so off we went in the Jeep, down by the Golf Course, got some lovely ones, then back to get the two finished baskets, Harold stayed home but Jonny went first to "Bobbie's" house, she used to live at Barbara's before they built their new house. I wish you could have seen him running up and banging it on the door ~~xxxx~~ after wringing the bell and then dashing back to the car. Out Bobbie came, quite surprised and very pleased. The other was for Cis and she was just as surprised and pleased, as Jonny said afterward, "it sure made a lot of talk about them." We stayed a while at the Wards and I saw a new Frig while Pete talked to Sam, when we got back there was just time to speak to Mr Scott about a new garden he is making. We had gotten Ules Le-Casse and his son to put up a fence this week. Then lunch of friend chicken and I hope to do a bit more raking before we have any callers.

Pete says he feels like the Pied Piper of Hamlen for yesterday morning there was a knock on the door (It was snowing) and Lona Becker had come to return a book she had borrowed when here with Mary Lee the other day. she brought another little girl Margo Whyte, who was so interested in the pictures, she just stood and looked at one after the other, oblivious to everything else. They must have been here an hour, rather interrupted my Sat-cleaning, but when it seems to mean so much to them we hate not to have them look around. Lona pointed out the various things we had shown her and we had to get out the chop sticks too and some cake for them to try them on. They have been studying China at school.

There was a funeral to go to and a busy afternoon then ~~xxxx~~ Harold came over as we finished supper, wanted to learn to draw. We had two scrap books for the purpose so we set him to drawing a wooden bird and that little dog on skis you sent up last Christmas, he did very well and then wanted to do the pack horse

on the mantle, which meant shifting lights and furniture all around. Davy came in and said " taking drawing lessons, huh " in a most disparaging way but when Jonny came over he wanted to try too and both he and Harold did very well. But I never got far with my letter writing during all the excitement, and we went to bed early.

I don't seem to be any further ahead on plans, it seemed to upset Pete trying to make up his mind so I haven't mentioned it the last two days. I don't know why he gets sort of worked up over things. The last two days wasn't so good, to-day seems much more settled. I think it is just the sort of aftermath of two years of worry-ing too much.

Will have to send this along like this. so heaps of love and hope soon to be able to tell you more.

Calharnie ~

Banff, Alberta.  
Mon. May 2. 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Do you believe in fortune tellers ? Jonny came over tonight after supper with a home made fortune telling devise. first you choose a color, he spells it out and then there is a number to choose from, he wiggles his fingers that many times and there is another group of numbers to choose from ( don't ask me how it works but he made it himself ) then he unrolls the fortune and guess what mine was ? " you are going on a long journey." We got Pete to try but his turned out to be " you are going to get a farm!" However I think mine was most encouraging!

Jonny really is at an awfully amusing age and says such funny things. He looked at Pete tonight after reading the fortune about getting a farm, and said very seriously " Pete don't you think you are too old to start farming ? " then he said " well you couldn't be a farmer without any hair." He and Pete have a great time writing poetry, one will start it and the other add a line here and there, they turn out some rather strange sounding poems but Jonny loves the sound of the words and lines, and is really pretty good at it. As he said " Pete and I are good authors and Catharine isgthe writer." for it seems to be my job to write the verses down.

Last night he was here for a while and drawing pictures from his imagination with our colored pencils. He drew 2 masks, then he drew and " everorange tree "(not ever green ) then a stall and a man selling lemonade. behind that was a string of bill boards, showing half a sign on either side of the stall for the other halves would naturally be behind. On one bill board he drew a " sticky man." we didn't know what that was, but he insisted we must know what a sticky man was, Pete thought maybe he was one, but Jonny said " no, " it was the kind of man you draw with just lines. Then he made half a cowboy, next a " high top man "(one with a top hat) and after that the fat lady " who's stomach was so large it was <sup>on</sup> the ground." and then another sign saying " come to it" that was to the circus. You can imagine how amused we get listening to it all, but a bit hard to concentrate on much else.

We had rather a quiet Sunday or did we ? I think I wrote you before we went to the hospital to take some crocus to Mrs Oliver, then I raked a bit when we got home and Mary Lee came along and helped, dumped all the barrowfuls I raked which was a great help. We came in about 5 O'clock for cake and gingerale and she went home at six. Later the Simpsons told us that they saw a yearling grizzly bear walk through the yard about 5.30 in the afternoon and wondered if we had seen it. ( we found his droppings by the garbage this morning ) They were very surprised as you never see them in Banff. Said it went towards a little dog barking by the river bank, but there was the ditch being dug in between and they don't think the people who were on the other side of the piles of dirt saw the bear.

~~even saw the bear.~~ Jimmy was all ready to run out and scare it if it ran towards the people but something made it run in the other direction anyway.

Tuesday- We had Jimmy and Mary Simpson down on Sunday night with the new plans they have for the place they are building at Bow Lake to adjoin the present building. We talked about that and other things and it was nearly one A.M. when they left. We were a bit yawny by then.

Then yesterday after lunch Mrs MacDonald came to see us, She is newly back from the east and found her house had been broken into just recently and she lost her movie projector and radio. We keep her silver for her. She looks so much better after her operation last winter and is so pleased that Mary ( her daughter ) and Cordie have been moved to Vancouver. He is still in the R.C.A.F. and is stationed at the coast. His family even bought them a house right next the station so they are very happy and near a beach for the children. She was here quite a while then we went for the mail and were just reading a letter from Gray Campbell when the Vallances came and they stayed to tea. We had great fun with them and after they left went to the train to see Mrs Vane, (the lady from New Zealand who Earl Moore brought down Saturday or Friday.) off, but she must have gone earlier for there was no sign of her.

To-day we had mail to send to Mom so met the Phillips just back from the east and took them and their baggage up to their house, which they appreciated very much. We got a nice letter from you to-day about Madge having to give up her house and Mary going back into the little one back of the Volkman's. Wouldn't it be wonderful if Frances and Gil could take it as they love the hill so much and it would be so nice for you to have them near by.

The weather has been colder lately and lots of snow flurries but we expected this month to be cold as otherwise things would get too far ahead.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Received your letter too about Aunt Julie's anniversary  
I will see what we can do

Banff, Alberta.  
May 5, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Yours and Jean's letters came to-day and both told how lovely the garden is right now, or was last week, and it makes me wish so we were there right now, I can remember how it looks at this time of year and I just hope the weather isn't too warm to make it too early. though I am afraid you may have gotten the heat they had in Eastern Canada.

Remember how when we were playing games we used to talk about being in a "quandary" ? Well that is just what Pete is in right now and he can't seem to make up his mind what is best for him to do and I don't know if I can either. There are pros and cons, so many advantages and disadvantages both ways. He would like very much to see you and Jean, Russ and family and the Morses but feeling as he does these days, he hates to go to Concord and not be at his best, so he says. I tell him that you all will understand but he seems too weary to spruce up enough. He is to see the doctor at the end of this week, which will be the time set after the last "shot". I think they have helped quite a lot. He doesn't seem to want to sleep so much in the day time and they say sleep comes from infection sometimes. Well maybe to-morrow he can decide, that's what I think each night.

Yesterday we had a nice call from George and Tibby Browne. He is the son of Belmore Browne and such a fine lad. He is 31 and his wife just 21 but she doesn't seem so much younger somehow. They have been spending their first winter living in a log cabin near Seebe and I guess were snowed in most of the time. He paints duck pictures mostly and in oil and feels about painting much as we do. We had such a nice talk about all sorts of things. We lend them books and I had lent her "Driftwood Valley" that you sent me last year and it seems that George worked under the man Stanell-Fletcher when doing research work in the American Army. So he was quite anxious to read the book too.

The aunt of Pete's died early this morning, a most remarkable old lady of 87 and though she had diabetis and acute gall bladder trouble over a week ago, (nearly 10 days ago) she rallied enough to sit up in a chair and walk to the bathroom, then relapsed again and rallied once more day before yesterday. The doctors couldn't understand it. And she had ten children I think I told you. the funeral will be Sunday.

Friday morning. It looked last night as if Pete might come after all, he says he hates to be away from me and yet in one way I know he wants to start painting and getting things done. We have been so undecided about plans that he hasn't been able to settle down to do anything all spring. Maybe if when in Concord we just stay with you and don't go around seeing any one or going to any functions it will be alright. After all the chief reason for going east at this time is just to be with you.

I am sure too that the change will do us both good. a change is important to everyone I believe, the atmosphere and the altitude for those living here and the different things to think of and see and then when one does return they are so glad to be back that they see things here with a fresh eye. It looks as if the family affairs here are pretty well straightened out and we feel we have done our part and it is up to the others to get along now on their own. Anyway we are trying our best under the circumstances to get east to see you. Had it not been for one incident which I didn't write you about this spring as it was too long a story at the time, we might have made it a month earlier. but thank goodness what we were told might happen didn't, which was a great relief.

I am slowly trying to gather my things together for the trip so when we can start I will be ready.

Must send this along now. loads of love and if we should miss those tulips this year we will just have to see the early spring garden another time. Lilac time is pretty nice too.

More love.

Catherine .

P.S. Hope to have word before you get this. but if not will try to get to Concord by the 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup>.

Banff, Alberta.  
Tues. May 10, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

I would have written you over the weekend but at least once a month I usually have a headache and besides it being the time for that we had a real heat wave and were unexpectedly busy, so my usual letter didn't get written. Then yesterday morning came yours and Russell's Airmail and I don't know what to write, I will either say the wrong thing or do something else wrong and so I didn't even write yesterday.

I can just imagine Russell going up and having a talk with you and you feeling blamed because we haven't said when we were coming. Of course he has no way of realizing how we are or what we are doing and from where he is he naturally would see no reason why we couldn't just pack up and leave one time as well as another. All the letters of urging only tend to slow us down more than ever but he would never realize that. Believe me when I say that for over a year I have tried to get things so arranged that I could leave Pete and go east or that he could come too, and just when it seemed possible something unforeseen would crop up and again the trip would have to be put off.

Pete hates to have me discuss how he feels but the worry and strain of the last few years since he left the AirForce has taken an awful lot out of him, and everytime he gets feeling a bit better and maybe a picture out he wants to paint on, he gets slapped down again. I know we should have gone maybe to the coast for a couple of weeks but we neither of us felt we could take a trip away and not go and see you, and he hasn't felt up to a long trip east. Some people might have ended up by having a nervous breakdown under the circumstances but luckily it hasn't been that. but worry is bound to tell on a person some way, and perhaps if you ~~have~~ are sensitive enough to be an artist you take things differently than a business man would. I can tell you more when I see you, things I wouldn't want to write about, but little by little Pete has been feeling better, only he has had more setbacks than we bargained for.

I don't know how you feel but when a girl marries I think their first consideration should be for their husband, don't you? and its not easy to do the thing that you know isn't going to be good for them. In my case and yours, the hard part is that we live so far apart, and ~~taxes~~ for me to see you is a major undertaking. If we lived in New York or Maine or even Montreal it would seem near and no trick to motor to see each other. I wonder how many nights, for instance, Edith or John Edward have spent with the Morses since they were married. I believe Aunt Julie sees Edith about once a week which makes up for no real visits and of course Aunt Julie has Uncle John which makes all the difference.

I have been trying to get things more or less manded up and together, only yesterday I took 4 skirts over to the dressmaker to alter the length of skirt and they will be ready I hope on Thursday morning, she couldn't do them before and is the only dressmaker in town. So maybe I could get away by next week, that is if Pete decided to go to Bow Lake while I am away. He is to see Pat Costigan again to-day, he has been away a week so Pete couldn't see him last Friday, which was the 2 weeks after the last shot for the sinus trouble. I think the shots have helped a bit on the whole. Each letter I wrote I hoped to give you a definite date but haven't been able to yet.

The weekend was a hot one. We are having a drought, really hot weather and the fire hazard is getting serious. Our next door neighbor has scared us several times this spring by lighting fires next door and we have had to watch in case they spread and caught our little trees, and then our house. Last Saturday night he burned a pile of brush and the spooks went way up in the air but luckily didn't land on any dry grass or trees.

Friday I can't remember what we did in the morning, maybe the washing and then in the afternoon a very crippled lady (Arthritis) started selling tulips in the meat market, they are to be shipped in each week from the Okanagan Valley. the flowers in season, so got 2 bunches to help her, took one to Mrs Cooper and it happened to be her 87th birthday, her husband is bed ridden and she is pretty weak but the couple backing after them had left for the day and they were all alone and I couldn't get away from there until I had done one or two things, fixing the flowers etc. Some other ladies arrived as we left so that helped. Then to the hospital to take the others to Mrs Oliver. Can't remember the rest of the day. Thought that night after midnight we were wakened by the fire alarm and got up and went for we always think it might be the store. It was out, someones back shed, but we saw two big elk asleep in our yard.

Saturday was real hot and very smoky from distant forest fires. Cleaned as usual in the A.M. then the errands and in the afternoon a church tea, had mine with Admée and Pearl. then met Mrs Simpsons and asked her to supper with Muriel, the young wife of the boy who works for Jimmy. She is expecting a baby any minute and staying at the Simpsons here until it arrives. They stayed until after 9 and we had a lively time talking about everything. Roast beef that night, ice cream and lots of cake etc from the church tea. That night we were woken at 1.10 A.M. by car lights coming in the yard. Thought it was people on a party but it turned out to be Ted and Kay Paris to try and get Pete to come over and stop the people next door making such a noise. Mrs Jennings was here too. They are all neurotic and shouldn't be in an apartment where they mind any noise and I told them as much. Pete is more polite than me, but I advised them to move. It was a bit upsetting all the same and of course we didn't go to sleep again for an hour or so. Luckily Pete had gone and spoken to their doctor last week and he told us that there was nothing we could do as they have gotten sensitive to the least little noise. It is quite a problem all the same.

Sunday was hot again and smoker still, We ~~did~~ all the supper dishes from the night before and I had a bit of a headache. We thought we would just take a run in the Jeep first to see the ice that came out of the Moores basement. There was a big pile. When they started to open the house last week they found 21 inches of ice on the floor of their basement. The top of the Jacket heater was just sticking out, and even the inside of their furnace was full of ice, they had to set up another stove to thaw that out. It just shows what can happen.

From there we went by the Vallances, saw Sid working and stopped to ask him what we could do about the ~~Karis-Jennings~~ problem of noise in the apartment next to them, and while with him the fire alarm went so off we went to that. It was someone burning brush which got away from them. Back to tell Sid what it was, then we saw the Robinsons coming back from church and wanted to ask about a picture they have painted by George Thomson of Owen Sound, a man Cam has written an article about in his newspaper and that mean't about half an hour call there, back for lunch at one and then got ready for the funeral at two of Aunt Susan Baptie which took an hour or more. When we came home it was so warm indoors I stayed outside and watered the lawn etc and then Mary Lee came to return a book as well as Jonny and we were just having a cold drink and cake when who should arrive but Mrs Ernie Rogers and her daughter of Vancouver, the ones Cliff is working for, they daughter is a technician at the Blood donors clinic in Calgary and Mrs Rogers had flown there to see her for the weekend and then they came up here. She wanted to tell us all about Cliff, how well he looked and seemed and what they planned to do and we got Donny over so she could meet him etc. It was nearly 7 when they left and by then I had to lie down, which is unusual for me and we went to bed by nine! Quite a lot to think of.

Yesterday as I said I went to the dressmaker and then we spent the rest of the morning trying to decide what was best to do. I forgot to say that Pete has an awful feeling about flying and so I can't go that way. Seems silly but so many times in the Airforce he was going up in a plane only to have some reason for him to do something else and each time something happened to the plane, so I guess he has gotten superstitious about it.

What a letter, but I have been writing while the wash was doing and Pete is till trying to make up his mind, and its so hot I can hardly think myself. Will hope to have wired our plans before you get this.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.  
Thurs. May 12, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

We are still having clear sunny hot weather, so unusual for us even in the middle of summer and now when we rather expect the odd snow flurry it is so unseasonable that it makes one feel like doing nothing. The leaves are all coming out fast now but it is so dry that the grass hasn't gotten green except in spots.

I have been busy trying to get ready to go east. Got the last lower on the train for leaving here Tuesday the 17th. and that will get me to Montreal on Friday and to Lowell, on the 21st. Saturday morning at 6.25 Standard time, that is 7.25 Daylight saving time I think. You had better check on that. Hope you didn't get mixed on the wire and think I was coming this Saturday, for if I remember correctly you got mixed up once before. but you asked me to wire so I did.

Am really sorry I couldn't get away sooner and that it has upset you so and kept you from sleeping and eating. but honestly I couldn't help it and it is lucky that I can go at all. Pete is to go up to Bow Lakes when I leave and the Simpsons have promised to look after him if he doesn't feel well or gets upset. I wouldn't have dared leave him alone here for last time he got sick when I was away and he has never been as well since. I can't fly, not this time anyway.

The first we heard that Russ was going away was in Aunt Julie's letter but surely there will be time enough to do what he wants if we start in talking the very first weekend.

They are getting on with the new sewer and we just hope they don't break our present one when they dig around it. The river goes up about a foot each day with this hot weather and soon will be at the flood stage.

I will send that page for the book direct to Marion Morhouse, Pete squeezed his hand raising a bad blood blister on his right palm so hasn't been able to make a drawing as yet, also I shall have to find a piece of paper the right size. We might even send the thing later and let them stick it on. Its a nice idea.

This isn't much of a letter I am afraid but we haven't much to write I guess. There has been a lot of little things to attend to and we think now the Faris and Jennings are to move out of the suite, on the strength of what I said the other night!

Loads of love and this time I can say "will see you soon."

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.  
Sun. May 13, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

I expect this will be the last letter I write before seeing you, sounds good doesn't it? I have just written to Marion Cole Morhouse telling her that we are to have a small pencil sketch for the book and suggesting that she put in an empty page to which the sketch can be pasted after the book is bound. Pete was going to make a sketch of us and then a week ago he raised a big blood blister right in the crease of his right hand and can't bend it yet. pinched it locking the bolt on the door. But it is a nuisance and he had to have the blood drained out about 4 times last week. Pat is to take the skin off to-morrow. *Nothing serious. just big enough for a good excuse.*

Well we still don't know if Pete will be on the train with me or not. Some times I think he will and other times it looks like Bow takes for him. This morning I started to gather things to-gether and tried on dresses that might be long enough and petticoats too long or too short etc. So guess I can get all packed maybe to-morrow as I am sure Pete will have me hunting thin things at the last moment for him whatever we do. I had planned to wear a suit but now it seems too hot for that type of thing so am just bringing the summer dresses I have. Having had hot dry weather for over a week it seems damp today and looks like rain. We need it so badly as we have had only one shower since the snow left. Have been busy trying to water Mom's lawn as well, it was getting so burnt up. No word when they will be back.

I don't think I have said enough about what Pete feels about coming. He is very fond of you and says he would like to go east for that reason and because he appreciates so much how good you have always been to him. but he feels he isn't quite himself ~~or~~ and he would like to be in better shape before visiting Concord. He realizes you don't mind but all the same he is afraid he will get one of his upsetting times and then it would make him feel worse to have others see him that way. So he says. Another time when he feels better he would really enjoy going, but right now he is anxious to get started painting for we have had to put it off so long. I really think if he got sketching again steadily he would soon feel alright. I can explain it better when I see you.

Must look out some papers to take with me etc. and so will send this along. We are so glad to hear that Gil and Frances are to buy Madges House. They both love the hill so much and it is the loveliest site and house too and it will be nice for you to have young and well people as neighbors.

You remember the time is standard that I arrive so it may be 7.25 your time, I always get Daylight Saving mixed up

*Lots of love  
Catharine.*

Dorval Airport  
Montreal  
May 25 1949.

Dearest Mother.

Such a time as we had doing the business part. I felt rather guilty having Russ. Guido Perera several secretaries etc running about, all of us reading & re-reading pages of typed stuff & we finished at last after much beginning etc.

It was lucky George & I started when we did & the lights were with us all the way so we made good time. Were in about 2.30 I think. It was 4 o'clock when we finished, everyone working like mad but me. Even Miss Burdett came over from the office to help type which was good of her. But I had a feeling when I left the front office the various girls were all wondering who the person was causing the fuss.

Russ will have told you the plane was late leaving.  $3/4$  of an hour. While we were standing waiting a very pretty young girl kept looking hard at me & then she came & spoke. It was Virginia Cole & she was going on the same plane as I. to Burlington, VT. Wasn't that wonderful for me? Seeing it was my first flight & she knew all the ropes.

We sat together & she told me the best place was over a wing so you couldn't see directly under you. Also when it was bumpy to keep looking at the horizon & you wouldn't feel sick. She was a bit squeamish but I didn't seem to be & even ate a sandwich & had coffee.

It was beautiful all the way & we flew low enough to see all the rivers & little lakes & farms etc. It was clear to

a little bumpy once in a while but as I wrote Russ it felt like being in a bus & the motion like a boat sailing before the wind with a little chop at sea.

We could see the White Mountains & the Adirondacks was wonderful especially after we left Burlington when the sun shone on Lake Champlain, shining on the water - storms ahead. (It rained hard when we landed here) but the sun shining thru in wonderful effects.

Virginia recognized when we crossed the Conn. River. & saw VT with its Granite Quarries & Montpelier with its Capital & even Fairlee VT & Lake Morey. She was very excited at that. Said she never had flown as low, only 1200 feet above the ground. (This was the official report) We could see the lovely

fields bordered by little trees.  
 the tiny farms. many woods  
 even the cows in the pastures.  
 You would have loved it. When  
 we crossed the border the way  
 the farms were laid out was  
 quite different. in lay narrow  
 fields.

Virginia was good company.  
 I told her she was too pretty  
 to be working with blind people.  
 She is a beauty. She showed  
 me the nieces & nephews. 10.  
 I think all under 10. They will  
 be worth going to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
 to see.

I got thru the customs & all  
 with no difficulty. washed up.  
 had more to eat. Wrote Russ.  
 am writing you & its now  
 nearly nine. So won't write  
 much more. We leave at 9.45  
 I think.

You were all so good & what  
 a nuisance I've been. First with  
 a cold & then all this rush.  
 But we did have two lovely  
 afternoons together didn't we  
 & some evenings.

If we aren't late I'll write  
 from Calgary & write after I  
 get home & see how Pete is.  
 Thanks for everything & lots  
 of love & do say good bye  
 to all the ones I didn't have  
 a chance to phone -

Mae Love

Catharine

P.S. Tell Kitty I return to the  
 Ladies room to apply the drops.  
 They may have done the trick  
 for only coming down did I  
 seem deaf - especially at  
 Burlington.

May 26 1949

Dearest Mother,

We must be over Saskatoon about now and should reach Calgary in a couple of hours. We seem to be all here late so hope I can make the train connection.

Right now having had the prairie quite clear tiny fluffy clouds seemed to be spreading over them like smoke & now we are above them & the higher cloud masses cast beautiful soft blue shadows on the lower fluffy layer & there are occasional glimpses of land thru them.

I have just finished a delicious breakfast. Must have been sound asleep (most likely with my mouth wide open) & you know what to like to wake up after sleeping with one head on the side. The Stewards brought such a clever tray. All white plastic of some sort. half had a raised part like this. from left to right on top. Orange juice  

○	○	○	○
○	○	○	○
○	○	○	○
○	○	○	○

 jam & <sup>cream</sup> ~~sugar~~ in tiny cups. Corn flakes with a packet of granulated sugar. cream for cereal. coffee & below salt & pepper. Then flour  
 on main part, butter, 2 muffins. & scrambled

eggs + sausage in the main dish. a  
short knife + fork. So appetizing too. not  
the fork. the food.

Last night we had snow up high  
having noticed. ran into a storm. These are  
North Stars & the same planes that fly non-  
stop to England. Bermuda or Nassau.  
Carry 40 passengers. fly high. You notice  
nothing going up so little stuffy in one's  
ears coming down. We are now about 6000  
ft + go 32 miles per hour (?) They just  
passed the paper which tells things around.  
The plane was full up at Toronto & that's  
where we were delayed as they had to stow  
away baggage in here & tie it down.  
R.T.C.A. Radio man sat next me until  
Winnipeg. said I had the best seat, again  
over the wing.

Didn't sleep very much. mostly dozed  
in the reclining chair with little pillows &  
nice blanket. Everything well done. a new  
Steward + Stewards get on each stop. There  
is a Pilot + Co. Pilot. Only stops Toronto.  
Winnipeg, Calgary + Vancouver. When I got  
off for a walk at Winnipeg found Mrs  
Hammard & her grandson aboard from Toronto.  
Had flown from Nassau the day before.

We each have an one spot light for  
reading & fresh air blast. I like. The  
cabin is pressurized. Sunrise was lovely.  
am out of paper so will send this from  
Calgary. I remember.

lots of love

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.  
Fri. May 27, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

I haven't time to write more than a quick note but knew you wanted to know how I found Pete. He is perfectly alright now that he is back in our house and we both slept from nine last night until eight this morning so feel better for that.

Pete wants me to tell you that he had no knowledge of his mother and Jackie having wired me to come back until several days later and that he feels terribly sorry my visit was cut short for he had wanted me to make the visit and said he would have been alright without me if the others hadn't interfered. However it is darn lucky I did come back or they would have had him so upset and confused he wouldn't have known whether he was coming or going.

We have been trying to piece the whole thing together, because of the road ban Pete didn't go out to Bow Lakes on Wednesday but had every intention of going the next day or soon. He had made his supper Wednesday night and lain down on the couch in the front room. He usually sleeps there when I am away, but neglected to snib the door. Mom and the others came home that night, had some supper at Jackies and then in the evening, about nine or nine thirty I guess, she came down to the house, knocked but no answer, so came in. Pete was woken out of a sound sleep to see this figure standing in the room and must have gotten quite a start for he didn't know they were even coming back. He evidently trembled or was shaky or something and Mom (thinking of the last time I was away when he had been sick down here) insisted that he come up to her house to sleep. He finally went up but hates her house and the tiny room filled with bric-a-brac etc. and so in the middle of the night got up and walked back here to sleep.

From there on I haven't figured just what happened but I expect she lit into him about drinking too much, being of a mind with Nellie McLung and got him all upset. She wouldn't let him sleep alone here and he couldn't sleep up there and I guess he sort of went to pieces. Anyway he didn't know they had wired and Dr Mackenzie said they never should have done it. He gave Pete something to quieten him and that set him off until he was so confused he didn't know what was real and what wasn't. There were some amusing bits where he heard a car while he was sleeping up there, woke with a start and tried to look out the window thinking he was here, Mom has an awful embroidered white swan, a foot across in size, and sort of raised on a black satin cloth and hung on the wall as a picture, Pete tried to push it aside to see out and tore the lining off! It must have been funny, and trying to go to the bathroom he landed in a clothes closet. But it really was too bad.

Mom is so critical of all our friends, the ones we know in Banff and that upsets Pete too. She goes on and on talking when one would rather be quiet and they wouldn't leave Pete alone and I guess he got so upset and confused he was all mixed up.

Dr Mackenzie met me at the train which I thought awfully nice of him and explained a little of it, and when I reached the house they were pretty surprised to see me, right away Pete began to get clearer in his mind and he is fine to-day, We have decided to take a trip to the coast for a couple of weeks anyway, maybe more and see a doctor we know there and get a breather. Pete will be glad to go too and get away for a time. He really feels badly about my coming back so soon, but perhaps it is as well it turned out as it did, You and I did have a nice few days, the business got done, and Pete realizes that he must get away from Banff for a time. Perhaps if we can make a real break now and have a good summer then by fall or next winter we will be ourselves again.

I will write more later. Jackie has been very good about doing errands and things but it is almost as if he rather liked the idea of Pete being sick as it is the only time he can sort of dominate him or maybe I should say have the upper hand.

Never got any further for Eibby and George Browne came in to see us, he paints bird pictures and likes to talk to Pete so we had a nice visit from them. Pete also saw Dr Mackenzie this afternoon for a short time but he wants to see him again before we go away. Thinks that a good idea. Dr Mackenzie told me very confidentially yesterday that he thinks it was the way Mom brought up the family so strictly that has resulted in the three boys having the difficulties adjusting themselves now. She was so strict about Sundays they couldn't even whistle in the old days unless it was a hymn, and she wouldn't go on a picnic or to ride in the car on Sunday etc. It was a Sin to dance or be seen in a beer parlor etc. Good old Scotch Presbyterian. and she would spank them for a lot of things. He thinks that it kept their personalities from developing normally and they had no outlets. I can't explain it as well as he did, but I think he is right. She still tries to handle Pete as if he were a little boy and he resented being treated that way. Anyway it was lucky I came home before it went on too long. She mean't it kindly you know, she doesn't understand that's all.

Must mail this to-night and you may get it Monday. One nice thing, it will be nothing now to fly places, I really loved it and Pete was so glad to see me he didn't mind my doing it. Thinks now it is different in big planes, and may do it himself!

Thanks again and again for being so good about every thing and it was lovely being with you even that short time.

Loads of love to all.

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.  
May 29, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

To-morrow or the next day is Memorial Day and of course I expected to be in Concord with you, well perhaps another spring we will be, let us hope so.

The weather is lovely to-day, warm and sunny, a few clouds and nice fresh breeze. We slept fairly late and then wrote two letters this morning together and this afternoon tied up the larkspur etc. and sat in the sun. then went to the station to mail the letters and watched the train come in with the passengers, its always fun watching the people. Now we have had supper, Jonnie has been here for a little while to tell us about a boat ride he took on the river and soon it will be bedtime. Pete has certainly slept well but he claims he didn't sleep well at all up at his mothers, because of the room full of bric-a-brac. He was always afraid if he had to get up in the night he would knock over a china cabinet or a lamp or something.

I think I told you that we have decided to go to the coast for at least a couple of weeks, Pete seems to think it a good idea to get away and Dr Mackenzie has another doctor he would like to have Pete see, and then there is our real dentist we should go to, and Pete would rather like to see his old friend Bobby Hunter, who is one of the finest doctors in Victoria. Am not sure just which day we will go, but will let you know when we have our reservations. Am sure the change will do us both good. (I had too much change I guess going east!) and it will get Pete away from the petty annoyances.

Saturday we had just finished breakfast when Mario came with the mail, then Mom dropped in with a letter she had just gotten from Marian and I think also she wanted to see how Pete was. Funny part is that instead of saying something like, "Its nice to see you yourself again," or "looking well" etc. She makes a remark like, "Are you feeling any better?" as if Pete couldn't possibly be any better, or if <sup>as</sup> were very doubtful if he were! I got her on the subject of the letter so she read that and then talked about her trip to the coast and the family out there. I imagine she is pretty tired from being up nights with Pete but she is the most discouraging person and always seems to take the gloomy view or as we say the "dim view" of things. She talked quite a while and luckily Jonnie came in for that sort of broke the conversation and soon she left and we told Jonnie to go, as it was lunch time. But I could see it had tired Pete and ~~rather~~ made him sort of tense. We had our lunch quietly and then later in the afternoon Sam came in to see if Pete was lonely, never expecting to see me. We had a good chat with him and usually we find we cheer each other up. We used to always go to see Sam if we were upset about anything and we think he comes here when he is a little discouraged. Cis' Canaries had 5 babies that morning!

Sam was quite funny about it. Said when he got up he heard a great twittering going on in the sun room so looked in, Saw that there were some new ones hatched out and also that Cis had left the door of the cage open and the birds were all over the room. so he never said a word and just slipped out. I guess Cis had to spend a good part of the morning getting them in again !

Last evening Pete slept for 2 hours in his chair, It had been raining and was fairly dark when he woke up, like early morning light, he came into the kitchen and I was over by the stove getting gingerale and Pete still half awake said, " You get yourself an egg but I think I will just have the chocolate drink." Having spoken of an egg nog <sup>egg nog</sup> I thought he was refering to that, and having gotten some chocolate milk thought maybe he meant that. but then he said looking at his watch again, "its nine o'clock, is it breakfast ? " then of course he got more awake and realized it was 9 at night. We had to laugh but I expect Mom would have taken the dim view and thought he didn't know what he was talking about. We went to bed by ten and slept until 8.

Pete still feels badly about my being sent for, he said he missed me terribly but he wanted me to go as he didn't think it fair that I shouldn't, and he hopes you understand. He didn't know they had wired me and said if they had only let him alone he thinks he would have been allright. He is still kicking himself for not locking the back door when he took a nap after supper last Wednesday night. Well may be it all has happened for the best as he realizes now he should get away for a bit and I hope we can do something to get him feeling less tired in mind and body. One thing he isn't discouraged and wants to go things, he just doesn't feel like doing them when the time comes.

I didn't write you about the interesting coincidence that happened on the train from Calgary to Banff. When I went east my reservation was from Calgary but I got on the same car 127 and sat in an empty seat until we reached Calgary. Opposite me was a most attractive Chinese girl and I wondered at the time if she were just out from China as she had on a bright green Jersey dress with the high collar and slit skirt, on top of which she wore an equally brilliant red coat. I didn't speak to her at first but after dinner which I had on the train, we smiled a couple of times and got off the train to-gether when we reached Calgary and walked along the platform. She went for a bite to eat and I to mail a letter and I didn't see her again. She was to get off at two in the morning at Maple Creek, Sask. When I got on the train later I went to my new berth and so didn't see her at the other end of the car.

Thursday when we landed in Calgary ,after waiting for the baggage I came down to the station by the T.C.A.bus, just had time to get a ticket and check my two bags and board the train for Banff. I took a seat so that if by any chance Pete met me at the station he would think that I had come by train, in case the thought of flying would upset him. Decided as we left Calgary to get washed up and as I came back from the washroom who should be in the first seat but the same Chinese girl. She seemed so glad to see me and was on her way back to the coast from Maple Creek.

We talked all the way to Banff, about 2 hours and it was most interesting for she had flown back from China just a couple of weeks ago. Was Canadian born and went to China about 17 years ago, they lived in HongKong and were quite well to do for none of them had to work. When the Japanese took Hong Kong no more money came from Canada and (her father is dead but she didn't say when he died ) They had to find work but food was so scarce and no money to buy it with so finally she and her mother and brothers and sisters escaped from HongKong and managed to go to their " Ancestral Home " in the back country. At first it wasn't very pleasant for the family there rather resented the fact that when they were well off they hadn't visited them but now they had nothing they had come back.

She managed to get a job working for a Canadian Missionary who was doing relief work and was with him for a year until he could no longer get money or supplies from Canada, after that she worked until the end of the war with the British Aid group. mostly people who had escaped from HongKong and they tried to get information out of occupied China and also to help others escape. She has worked for the Canadian Embassy and before she left China was working for a Uranium Co. connected with Jardine & Masterson in Shanghai. It was most inetersting and we became good friends. Her name is Ethel Wong.

Monday. It is raining to-day, dull and cool. will soon be going over town. I have never thanked you for being so awfully good about everything. We realize what a great disappointment it must have been for you to have me there such a short time, and how upsetting it all was, for which I am really sorry. One nice thing is that while I was there we did have a good time to-gether and that was something. Also many thanks for all the money you showered upon me, what with spending money and buying tickets etc. I seemed to walk off with an awful lot. Then when I was in Boston that last afternoon I needed cash right then and there and though they wouldn't take what I had with me and wanted to give them, they gave me more from you. So really you gave me a good deal in the end.

Time to go so will send this along and you will then have an idea how we are making out.

Loads of love and do tell everyone how awfully sorry I was not to see them again, especially Sted and the Newburys.

More love.

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.  
Wed. June 1, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Your first letter since I left Concord came today, What a shame I missed Florence and Cousin Emma and I do feel badly all the people I missed seeing. Well perhaps if it all works out right and Pete gets feeling really good we can make a real visit and do it up Brown.

We leave to-morrow at noon, if nothing happens to prevent, on the train for Vancouver and from there hope to connect with the boat to Victoria. We have made reservations at the Empress Hotel in Victoria, and if you send mail there Air mail it should reach us pretty quick. Just Empress Hotel, Victoria. British Columbia. ( B.C.is enough if you put Canada)

It has kept us busy getting ready, Pete figures he has bought only one new suit since the War and that was when he got out of the R.C.A.F Any clothes he had previously are too small. but as long as we get there respectably we can get better and more suitable things there than here. We even had to get the suitcases mended, one of my handles was loose and Pete's bag was torn. If I see a big suitcase at the coast I am going to buy it from you, with some of the money you gave me, then we can bring back any new purchases in it.

We are having rain too and still need it. To-day was the funeral of Norman Sanson, a wonderful old man 87, but who climbed Sulphur Mt. last year. He used to have the job of taking the weather observations from the little house on top and went up and down every day or two. We went out and gathered ~~from~~ some Juniper and other green stuff from Sulphur and then last night I made a wreath. It came out very well and I had just the right amount, it was very pretty with the berries and different shades of green. We took it to the church this morning and there was just one other wreath made of heather and the little orchids, just the same size as ours. Funny two of us should think of doing the same thing, but as <sup>Norman</sup> he had no family we didn't think it as nice to send flowers. The other was a friend of his neices. on the card was Commander so and so. Navy I think. This afternoon they had his wreath on the front of the top of the coffin and then some lovely sprays of white flowers and on the back was our wreath. We thought that rather nice. It was Pete's idea to do it as we did it once before for a great friend.

Dr Mackenzie came round for half an hour yesterday for a nice talk, he isn't at all discouraged about Pete but thinks he should see a doctor he recommends at the coast. He says there is nothing mentally wrong, that he thinks Pete has just lost a bit of confidence in himself and if the doctor can put his finger on the trouble he will soon be alright. Anyway the change will be good.

Must do a number of things, Got Jean's letter too  
Loads of love to you all,

Catherine

CANADIAN PACIFIC HOTELS



EMPRESS HOTEL  
VICTORIA, B. C.

June 3, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

We arrived in Victoria this afternoon, a perfect day & the mountains are so clear. Mt Baker near Seattle rises up above the hills like Fujiama, a really wonderful sight as it has so much snow.

The trip on the whole went well. We were up at seven yesterday and

did all sorts of last minute errands and little messages. Left over food to Mom. Asks Barbara to have Steve or the boys do the lawn. a check to go to the bank. Asks the next door neighbors to keep an eye on the house etc. We were already a good half hour before Jackie came to take us to the train & then the train was late another 20 minutes.

Jackie can't seem to do enough for us which is funny. Butter wouldn't melt - no I'm not sure if that's the right expression or not, but he

seems so anxious to please,  
 no one could be more anxious.  
 Rather a change over the last  
 few years. We don't know  
 whether he is feeling better (he  
 seems to be) or what, but is  
 a little hard being natural.

We sat in the summer  
 observation car most of the  
 afternoon, the one with the high  
 windows. Then had a really  
 good dinner & went to bed  
 fairly early, but neither of  
 us slept very well & didn't  
 feel too good this morning.  
 Took a cabin on the boat  
 coming across & even I

slept quite a bit. It may be  
 the sudden drop to sea level.  
 But we have a really prize  
 room in the hotel overlooking  
 the harbor. Have been out for  
 a short walk & when we get  
 cooled off will go out for  
 supper at some little place.

Jackie told us Bobby Hunter  
 (Peter's doctor friend) was in  
 Europe & he still isn't back  
 but we will enquire how  
 soon he is expected to return.

It seems so funny  
 being off on a real holiday.  
 We brought the camera.  
 First time we have had it



EMPRESS HOTEL  
VICTORIA, B. C.

here as during the war years  
one wasn't allowed to take  
pictures. Don't know what we  
will get but we aren't used  
to being any where without  
some object! if you know what  
I mean!

Don't know how long we  
will be here but you can  
write to us here until we let  
you know. Write air-mail.

Loads of love

Catharine.

The Hawthorne trees are just going  
lovely rose trees coming out.



EMPEROR HOTEL  
VICTORIA, B.C.

## Canadian Pacific Hotels

Victoria B.C.  
Sun. June 5, 1949.

Dearest Mother, if I don't get too sleepy to write, you may get a letter. We have just consumed a good sized turkey dinner. Walked back under a hot sun & now I'm almost asleep. Pete was napping until the Vancouver boat blew its starting whistle & that woke us both up - a fit anyway. We have had a very quiet time so far. Yesterday Pete didn't feel very good in the morning & we had our breakfast in our room. It was noon when we went out. To Bobby Hunter's office first, where the secretary very diplomatically said he was arriving home today from London England. Later we went to see Dr. Kimball who was our pre-war dentist. He was in & very glad to see us which was nice. Wants us to go out to

his house one evening. He specializes in straightening children's teeth but will recommend another dentist & ask to have him make a special effort to do our teeth right away. When we mentioned Bobby, he said he thought he was home for he had been working on the son's teeth the day before. So we decided Bobby had come home alright but didn't want to be disturbed by patients. But it is nice his back for Pete can see him & have a talk. He flew back. Cynthia too.

It was about two when we had lunch & have had a late breakfast & then we walked down to the pier where the Princess Maguina docked at noon. She is the boat which used to come in to Tojino every ten days & bring bread & fresh meat etc. She looked smaller than we thought she would. We even thought we might take a trip on her of six days up beyond Tojino & back (she used to go to Vancouver each trip which took longer) but will see how we feel in another week. If we get our teeth done etc. The ship calls at 28 ports on the West coast of Vancouver Island.

We had a late supper too. trying various eating places. They all seem equally good.



EMPEROR HOTEL  
VICTORIA, B.C.

## Canadian Pacific Hotels

and the sea food is excellent.  
 X I find Pete is eating much more than he did in Bauff which is encouraging. The change

of air & all does anyone good, but I really think the long trip east might have been too much right now. Whether it is because we haven't been anywhere for so long or what, I don't know but at first he was very tense & sort of nervous but is gradually so much better.

Last night we went to the Crystal Gardens where they have a big enclosed swimming pool & the spectators sit around the edge at little tables & eat or have soft drinks. To right back of the hotel. It was fun watching but there weren't any good divers or swimmers. We decided they were like "weekend drivers." Then we watched some lawn bowling at the back & out doors. & that was fun, especially the people. Then back to bed fairly early.

To-day - Sunday. we were up around eight & had breakfast downstairs. It really

is a hotel with a wonderful atmosphere, real Victorian, like the old hotels the Touraine in Boston or the Hotel Belmont. The Waitress said 90% of the people coming here are Americans. I guess most Canadians couldn't afford it. We thought we would stay here partly so Pete can have meals in the room if he likes, its quiet too. But it is nice to look out on the harbor & see the boats come & go.

This morning at ten the "Princess Patricia" which just made the trip from Glasgow in 21 or 23 days, a record I guess, came into the wharf here. She is going into the service between here & Vancouver, a new & faster boat, & she was to be welcomed by a group of the P.P.C.I. (that's ex-service men of the Princess Patricia Light Infantry of the 1st Great War.) We went down to see the groups on. Not too exciting but the Navy Band played as the ship came in & then 2 Pipers played on the bow or bridge of the boat.

It was funny but we stopped to ask a Taii man about where it was going to be & he was talking to one of the Veterans. We some how said something about not living here but being from Banff & the Veteran asked if we knew Fred Arubister at Lake Louise & told about



EMPEROR HOTEL  
VICTORIA, B.C.

## Canadian Pacific Hotels

climbing Mt. Sepray with a Swiss guide. The taxi man had worked on the dam at Munnivauha during the war so altogether we became quite friendly.

Pete developed a bit of a blister on one toe so as it was such a lovely morning we thought we might get the taxi man to take us for a drive & then we remembered Mrs Paris was staying at the Strathcona so thought we'd see if she were there as she is so very crippled with Arthritis & we knew we'd enjoy a drive. When Pete went looking for her he discovered an old friend Dick White who's brother lives in Bayuff & who we last saw some 18 or 19 years ago in Montreal. He is now a room clerk or something at the desk. So talked to him until Mrs Paris came down. He has been ill for years.

Then we went on a lovely 2 hour drive with our taxi friend from Alberta. He had his own car & proved very nice & showed us every lovely garden he could think of. Taking us along the waterfront & then in & out of the

residential districts, we went nice & slowly all the way & practically stopped to see the prettiest rose gardens & special places. Mrs Paris enjoyed it as much as we did & the further we went (18 miles I think he said it would be but we think he may have gone further) we wondered how much it would cost. It came to \$4.50 which we thought very reasonable.

Now as I say we are back in the room & I am getting sleepier by the minute. Got the book by Marguerite to finish. The one I started in Caracas.

By rights I should be leaving the east about now. Well maybe it is as well it has worked out this way for I'm sure this trip will benefit us both. It's the first real holiday of this sort we have had since before the war. Don't know how long we will stay here but will let you know -

Loads of love  
Catherine.



EMPRESS HOTEL  
VICTORIA, B.C.

Canadian Pacific Hotels

Tues. June 7, 1949.

Dearest Mother.

The weather continues to be warm & lovely. The first couple of days we got very moist with the least exertion. It's not as bad now. We are being very lazy & luxurious & am sure it is good for a change.

Yesterday noon we saw the Dentist Dr Gill, who seems very nice. He examined my teeth but Pete was having trouble with the thing in his throat so will see him later. Will have an appointment to-morrow & Friday any way & he will do what he can. Then after we got back here Bobby Hunter telephoned asking us out to their place for tea. Pete said he hadn't felt very well in the morning & Bobby was quick enough to realize we wanted to see him professionally as well as in a friendly way. So he told us to come to

the office at 2.30 which we did. He was a bit late getting there but we must have had a good 2 hours with him. It was darn nice of him on his holiday. We talked about all sorts of things & Pete told him quite a bit of what had happened the last 2 or 3 years. Bobby could see how nervously tense Pete was most of the time & he advised exactly what Dr Mackenzie had to go & see this Dr Davidson in Vancouver. Bobby knows him well & says he is awfully nice to talk with & this morning has made an appointment for a week from today. So we will go to Vancouver next Monday & if we haven't finished having our teeth done here can have them done over there.

I think you better address our mail to Bayly as the girl is forwarding it to us from there & it takes just a day extra.

Bobby also gave Pete a physical check & said he was O.K. in every respect, just a bit over weight. It is a nervous condition really brought on by strain & disappointments - & it will take <sup>a little</sup> some time to really get into shape again & his confidence back. but this morning Bobby said this Dr Davidson thought from what he told him it wouldn't take very long. Anyway after another week here we will go over there. Probably leave here Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> my birthday -



EMPERESS HOTEL  
VICTORIA, B.C.

### Canadian Pacific Hotels

one thing Bobby said too was not to take on any more obligations. & not to try to look people up etc while we are here. just do as we feel like. sleep late etc.

Last night having missed an hour between the dentist, coming back here for a time & going out again. we decided to have a big dinner downstairs. Had a good one & then Pete spotted the McQueens. old friends from Calgary & now West Vancouver. Pete as a little boy used to go on trips with Mr MacQueen who was a well known business man in Calgary. now this is his 2nd wife the age of his daughters but a very cheery person & fun. We sat with them a while until they finished & then went into the room where a concert was going on. In some we upset the Empress repose. for we were joking & laughing & the old ladies looked pretty grim & a good many a bit envious. While we were talking Fay Beecher of Bayliff came along. & more joking. It was quite an evening.

To-day we were in until noon. & then had lunch up town. a few errands. dropped in on Bobby. We have a room right in front overlooking the harbor & Pete gets a great kick out of the boats coming in & out.

I wish you could see the wonderful roses they have here. as ramblers, trees & bushes. such big blooms. No mosquitoes either so you can sit in the garden & always a fresh breeze off the water. Its really a lovely time of year. They have just put the baskets of flowers (2 on each lamp post) up & they are very attractive. Not all in bloom yet but in sort of balls of moss, petunias, geraniums etc. All thru the city & along the Water front. A nice idea but a lot of work.

Will write <sup>as</sup> often as I can - & let you know how we are getting on. It was awfully hard getting Pete to start. He says no himself, but now hes here he knows it was a good idea.

Loads of love & tell Russ Ill answer his letter

soon.

Catharine.



EMPEROR HOTEL  
VICTORIA, B.C.

## Canadian Pacific Hotels

Wed. June 8, 1949.

Dearest Mother. It's raining to-night. They need it very badly as everything that isn't steadily watered is burnt up around Victoria. We stayed in after a busy day at the dentist.

Monday we went to a Dr Gill, who an old dentist recommended & he checked over my teeth and Pete had the thing in his throat & was afraid the mirror in his mouth would make him sick & his tummy. So it was arranged if he felt like it he would have the first appointment. The Dentist found 3 holes in mine so we wondered if we could get it all done. The joke was on me for to-day when we went. Pete saw him first & in no time was through his teeth all cleaned. No holes! Then in I went. He drilled 2 holes sent me out. Took some ones tooth out. Called me in & filled those holes. One

temporarily for it has to have a gold filling being in a bad spot. Told me to wait & he'd try to take me in between others. So we had lunch & went back & Dr Gill took an impression for the gold part. Then I went back at 4 o'clock & he had time to fill another tooth & even put the gold filling in. & he hopes to fill the last one & clean them Friday. But it was quite a day - It will be good to have over with as it's always hard planning ahead to go to Calgary. The hole where the gold had to go - the filling fell out just yesterday. lucky for me.

We expect to go to Vancouver Monday, <sup>my birthday</sup> & will let you know as soon as we receive word we have accommodations. Don't know how long we will be there.

Your letters come so quick Air Mail. One post marked Concord the 6<sup>th</sup> 4.30 P.M. arrived here this morning the 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 A.M.

Thurs. This picture of the flower baskets was in the morning paper. They really are awfully pretty & such bright gay flowers. I see on all the lamp posts through the shopping area too.

It is very muggy this morning. The Hodges asked us to lunch today. Kirk Hodges is manager of the hotel & Pete has known him for years. We saw him the other evening. However we told them we were so busy we couldn't come etc. Bobby told us the other day that we shouldn't feel obligated to anyone & not to let ourselves get into things. especially while here. so we aren't looking up anyone.



EMPEROR HOTEL  
VICTORIA, B.C.

### Canadian Pacific Hotels

It has been nice to get your letters. we were amused about your experiences getting the picture framed at Doll & Richards.

told Mr Phillips what you had thought of the gallery & he was going to try Vose & see if they would be interested in an exhibition of his for naturally he would like to sell some things. & wants a place where they try to do that

What is the date of that 50th Wedding Anniversary as we would like to send a wire? The real date & the date of the celebration.

Wish you could see the gardens here in peoples yards. just a mass of color in some. especially a lovely purple rock plant. should find what it is for it is such a spot of color. like ellyseum only a bright lavender. Then the roses are wonderful on the sides of houses & on little trees.

Must have been fun all Ebb's & Paul Reardon's children in swimming. Thanks for paying our dues at the Guild & Art Centre. & to such a nuisance not being able to write checks for things like that & only being allowed to send \$10.00 out of Canada a month.

4

Too bad about Miss Everett. Will have to send her a card -

Your letters aren't full of mistakes at all & every one has a hard time remembering names, even young people.

About the portrait that Florence brought back. I think I would like it simply as one I did in art school. It probably was one of the best I did do there. But don't bother sending it now unless you want to get rid of it. Am glad you gave those figures to Frances. I think its nice if anyone likes things like that for them to have them.

Was so glad Erling Strom called on you, showed he really appreciated your helping him that time.

Pete still feels badly to think my visit was cut short with you. He had made up his mind that I would be away no matter how much he would miss me. But we think the shock of his mother surprising him when he was asleep & then both she & Jackie insisting he stay with her, he must have sort of gone to pieces. Got him all confused. If I hadn't gone back when I did it would have been even worse. He was so tense & shaky. Yet when he got back with me he soon calmed down & was all right. Also if he hadn't been sick that way he might not have been as willing to see a doctor about it.

Yesterday he said that if we can have a good summer & get out painting & not be upset or disturbed that in the fall or winter he would like to be able to make a real visit to Concord. So maybe we will get there yet. Just keep your fingers crossed as we say, only don't



EMPERESS HOTEL  
VICTORIA, B.C.

### Canadian Pacific Hotels

could on it too much or tell anyone we might come until we can really say we are coming. It might take longer than Pete thinks to get him

straightened around. Only I don't want you to think it is because we don't want to come that we can't make a visit.

Night before last we took a walk & looked for "The House of All Sorts" & found it. It wasn't just as I imagined it but has been repainted. The trim etc. The yard & all ~~things~~ like the book. We also have seen an exhibition of her work, which covers her life time & that was very interesting. a private collection.

Time we went out for lunch. It's not a bad idea having to walk a few blocks. gives us a little exercise & we don't sit too much.

Goods of love & to all.

Catherine.

CANADIAN PACIFIC HOTELS



EMPRESS HOTEL  
VICTORIA, B.C.

June 10, 1949,

Dearest Mother,

Just a note to tell  
you that if you like you can write  
to us Air Mail - to Hotel

Georgia, Vancouver, B.C.

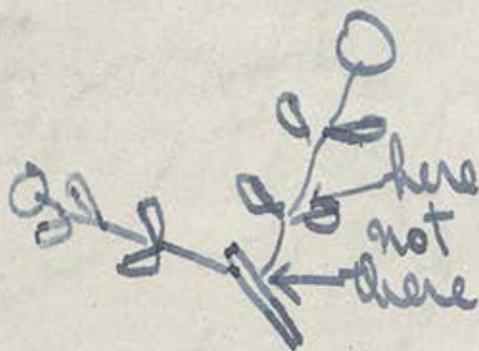
Am not sure how long we will  
be there but I should think  
at least a week or ten days.

and could you please tell  
Russ where we are - just

Hotel Georgia  
Vancouver  
B.C.

Last night we went out to the Arnustrops for the evening & came back with a large bouquet of roses. Filled all the glasses in our room. Peter's Aunt Margaret (his father's sister) doesn't know what a rose bug is! They evidently don't have them here. Also her roses bloom, then sort of die down & later go through a second period of blooming in the fall or late summer. When cutting them she always cuts just above a leaf, & not at the actual joint.

at least I think that's what she said. It makes a lot of difference evidently how they are picked.



Uncle Sam told us quite a story -  
an Englishman died in Victoria  
during the war I guess & his last  
wish was to be buried in the old  
country. However the family  
weren't very well off so it was  
going to be difficult for them to  
afford getting his body shipped  
& all. (I think it has to be  
accompanied by someone) so  
they had him cremated which  
left a small box of ashes.  
One of them had the bright  
idea of putting the box in one  
of the parcels they were sending  
to the family in the Old Country  
for Christmas thinking it the  
easiest way to get the ashes  
over there without any fuss & bother.

They were sending Christmas goodies + ingredients for a cake and one thing or another. However the letter they wrote of explanation was delayed on the way, and soon after New Years had come a very enthusiastic letter from the family in the Old Country. They had used all the ingredients for a wonderful Christmas cake, and the special seasonings, & it had turned out to be the best cake & most delicious flavored they had ever tasted! It is a true story but it doesn't say how the family felt in England when they found the delicious seasonings were really their Uncle's ashes from Canada!

Have just had another session  
 at the dentist, & am through I hope.  
 He did 3 fillings today & cleaned  
 them.

We have been Monday after-  
 noon but will be writing again  
 before then.

Had a nice letter from  
 Russ this morning & will answer  
 soon.

Loads of love  
 Catherine -



EMPEROR HOTEL  
VICTORIA, B.C.

## Canadian Pacific Hotels

Sunday, June 12, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

We leave tomorrow afternoon for Vancouver. I decided to take the day trip as it is a lovely one if a nice day. Pete has an appointment with the doctor on Tuesday morning & we thought we'd feel fresher if we were already there & not from the night boat.

Friday I had my last session with the dentist. was there at 12.30. he saw me about one & I wasn't through until 2.15. He found two more holes so filled them both, & one other & cleaned my teeth. I may have to go for a few minutes to-morrow as one filling still feels a little high but it was good of him to fit me in, a perfect stranger, when he is so busy. 6 holes in all for me!

We ran into the Goddards that evening on our way to supper. Mr Goddard used to be the bank manager in Sauff for years, & we like him very much.

Then yesterday Bobby Hunter telephoned us from the hospital when he was through & he picked us up at one. We had lunch together & then drove out to his house & were there until nearly six. In between times he had to treat one patient & sprayed several trees for bugs & we had tea etc. but it was a nice afternoon & we had a chance to see Cynthia & the boys. Their garden was lovely & I thought they had a wonderful old Country Gardener (reminded me of Patrick) working around. I took some Kodachromes & if they only come out will show you what it was like. I even took the names of some of the rock plants you might like if you haven't them - have you ever had blue poppies? Several blossoms like giant-stocks & a heavenly blue.

We had dinner here last night. It's a bit expensive but I figure that it is good for us to eat in a big dining room for its so long since we have eaten in such places. Funny part is that this hotel is really one of the few luxurious ones left & yet in the dining room one feels perfectly at home wearing any kind of clothes. even a suit at night seems alright & no one but a few <sup>clothes</sup> elderly ladies & one man has been dressed in evening. The hats are really wonderful - we sat afterwards & got talking to 2 American ladies. rather Jewish but very nice from Atlantic City.

Have run out of large paper so will  
finish on this.

Today we were lazy in the morning. I  
wrote letters. Then lunch & a set in the  
garden in the sun & after that we found  
an nice taxi man & he drove us out to  
Pat Bay where Pete was stationed &  
we watched the planes come in & out.  
It was a lovely afternoon & he took us  
out one way, back another.

Had supper out & then I finished  
letters to Russ & now its nearly bed  
time.

Nice letters have come from you  
& a birthday present. To-morrows my  
birthday. seems funny. Remember  
our new address.

HOTEL GEORGIA  
VANCOUVER, B.C.

Bobbie thinks we should be there at least  
a week. By now you will know we  
didn't go on the Magnum up the coast.  
It seemed more important to see Bobby  
& have our teeth fixed etc. but some  
day we will do it; if not now.

Will write from Vancouver.

Loads of love

Catharine

HOTEL  
*Georgia*

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E. W. HUDSON,  
GENERAL MANAGERTELEPHONE-MARINE-1182  
VANCOUVER, B. C.Wednesday  
June 15, 1949.

Dearest Mother.

A nice letter from you this morning via Dauff. After writing you about the dates of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary I found an old letter of Aunt Julie's which gave them. But thanks all the same. We wanted to write a note or something.

Haven't written since we left Victoria but have had a busy two days. Can't remember just when I wrote last but think it might have been Sunday morning. We had lunch in the hotel & then as it cleared off into a lovely sunny afternoon we sat in the garden in the sun for a time until it was too strong. Were amused at the honey moovers walking thru the grounds holding hands, one

couple were middle aged. She a very  
 plain school teacher or missionary type.  
 He very serious & also like a teacher  
 or preacher. They had the <sup>usual</sup> new clothes  
 & camera too. & then walked holding  
 hands. It was really amusing.

Later we found our taxi driver and  
 he took us a loop drive to Sydney &  
 back to the Airport. Think I did tell  
 you this. We watched planes in & out.

One thing I didn't tell you about  
 was last Friday evening when we  
 noticed boys & girls doing tumbling  
 etc in one of the halls at the Crystal  
 Gardens. Watched them for an hour.  
 It was on one side of where the pool  
 is. Two men instructing a class.  
 Some men, a few girls & several  
 children. They were really good  
 turning hand springs etc. We spoke  
 to the elder trainer later & he had  
 a milk shake with us. He is 71 or 72  
 but has done these balancing acts  
 & training all his life. In the  
 summer he spends his time in  
 Beacon Hill Park giving free instruction

HOTEL  
*Georgia*

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E. W. HUDSON,  
GENERAL MANAGERTELEPHONE-MARINE-1182  
VANCOUVER, B. C.

to the children. It is a program to keep them out of mischief & healthy. The other trainer is 52 & a wonderful athlete for his age. After the tumbling he & his young men all went for a swim & put on a wonderful show of diving. We were glad to see there were such fine divers in Victoria! quite different from the 1st night we were there.

Monday morning we packed up & I saw the dentist for a minute to have one filling ground down, & we said good bye to May Anderson at her shop. Had an early lunch & then we saw a girl who reminded us of Pat Crowley-Brown who was the boy who worked with Pete in Ottawa. Claire's friend. So we thought we'd just telephone to see if he were still in Mexico. Found he was in Victoria & lived near the pier so, we came to the boat

+ saw us for about half an hour. He is moving over to Vancouver soon as he says Victoria is a lovely place to live + paint in but nothing doing in the art world. He + one other man are the only ones there who paint all the time. He liked ~~we had~~ Marie + Claire is still there working at the Consulate or Embassy. Will finish her 3 years this Christmas. She is coming up here for her 3 weeks vacation in September. No word if they are engaged or not. She is the French Canadian girl who came to Concord. Pat is as shy as ever.

Monday was my birthday + we started out all right with your very nice present. Seems to me I've even forgotten to thank you for that. + the cards from Jean and Aunt Julie + Cousin Alma. + then we both forgot all about it until today! However it was a very happy day. We had a lovely trip across <sup>of the Princess Marguerite</sup> it was exceptionally clear + fun to follow the shore line + go through the little passages between the islands. It was one of the new boats + we had a tiny cabin but with our own toilet which was nice. A very good supper on board. More room outside than most boats for sitting.

HOTEL  
*Georgia*

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E. W. HUDSON,  
GENERAL MANAGERTELEPHONE-MARINE-1182  
VANCOUVER, B. C.

I haven't time this letter to write more. Pete & I both saw Dr Davidson yesterday & are to see him again tomorrow. Then we may have an idea how much longer we will be here. He is awfully nice & explained what causes Pete's tenseness. I wish I could say it as clearly as he described it. Seems that a "very imaginative & intelligent person" (Pete says he has imagination but is not so sure about the intelligence) often gets this way, especially if he is a "perfectionist". In doing anything he is anxious to do it right & in some way his body & muscles react in the <sup>natural</sup> way (as say an animal does) & becomes alert & tense. and being imaginative you anticipate or imagine what is going to happen instead of just waiting & seeing & naturally you become overly tense. (This doesn't sound very clear I'm afraid) After all the things that have happened & because of the family problems it has sort of brought back his childhood a bit.

anyway he says - its quite a common thing to have happen & what Pete has to learn to do is to "relax". Exercise is the best method & then one can also learn to "relax" just sitting & both will help him from becoming so very tense. I can't write it all, but it sounds logical & he says it is nothing that can't be cured but will take time.

Must mail this. Many thanks ~~about~~ the lovely present. Think we will use it towards this trip.

about the Art Centre thing - I didn't really think much about it until we were on the way from Perera's office to the plane. So Russ only figured how it could be done by telephoning Ltd. I had thought of leaving something in my will to the Art Centre in memory of Mr Keyes & then Russ & I both figured the Art Centre might not be going by that time & it would mean me to do something now. So Russ is going to have \$500. a year given the Art Centre for me, in memory of Mr Keyes. for them to use as they like but if possible for exhibitions. It is really supposed to be an anonymous gift, so the public won't know who gives it.

Loads of love

Catherine

P.S. It was only decided in a letter June 12<sup>th</sup>.



June 16, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Just a hurried note to give you our newest address. We moved this afternoon into an apartment here. 3 blocks from the other hotel & 2 blocks from the doctor's office. Light near stores & not so near the noise of the demolition of the old Hotel Vancouver. We even have a view of the harbor. a big living room, bedroom, bath & kitchenette. a little old fashioned but very nice & roomy.

Pete saw Dr Davidson again this morning & he felt he couldn't help him enough in a short time & we should stay longer. He says it's a matter of training him to be leisurely & not so tense & wants him to drop in for a few minutes each day. So Pete says hell try. So you can send letters to us here & I'll write all I can how things go. So you won't have to ask too many questions. If you know what I mean. Are going out shopping now.

Loads of love -

Catharine

Got such a nice letter from Cal today.



# THE RITZ

1040 GEORGIA STREET WEST  
AT VANCOUVER  
CANADA



June 17, 1949.

Dearest Mother.

Pete lay down for a bit & went to sleep on me so will write a while until he wakes up. Its good for him to relax so the Doctor says! It is so much nicer here than where we were at first. Not only do we have a nice view of the harbor & mountains but there is more room & its so much quieter.

Did I tell you they are tearing down the old Hotel Vancouver? It seems a crime for it was well built & they need more hotels. but the C.P.R. & C.N.R. combined forces before the war & opened the new Hotel Vancouver which had stood unfinished since the depression. Then during the war the army moved into the old Vancouver & after that Vets & their families moved in so it would all have needed doing over - but just the same it would seem better to re-do the whole interest than tear it down to make way for a big department store. We feel badly as Mr Painter designed it & there were so many associations. In a way it was fascinating to watch the men working on the top floor. They had a big crane up there (goodness knows how they got it there, maybe assembled it on top) & a heavy weight hung on a long cable & the crane sort of swung it against the walls of brick & cement knocking it to pieces. Then a small ball dzer would push the debris over the edge of the floor & it

would drop on a pile of rubble 10 or 12 stories. They have streams of water playing on it all the time to try & keep the dust down as the stuff falls. Sometimes it's like a rock fall on a scree slope in the mountains. Other men use drills that make an awful racket to get the girders cut. It's a terrific job & so very noisy. In the evening a scoop shovel worked until 9 P.M. filling trucks ~~with~~ from the pile of rubble. It was such a noise one had to shut the window when talking & then the traffic is bad too.

Monday I think I told you we had a lovely trip across on the new Princess Marguerite. It was such a lovely afternoon we sat in the stern for a long way & picked out bays & places on shore we knew from driving. Then when we went through Active Pass where you go very close to 2 islands we stood in the bow which was fun. Had a nice cabin to sit in where we felt like it for its a 5 hour trip & you get tired looking too hard. Had a good dinner on board. Then as we walked off the boat who should be at the foot of the gang plank but Willi & Jack Morant. They were going aboard to take pictures all night of the interior, for the C.P.R. We had a short visit & they wanted us to go to Alaska with them on a cruise Wednesday if there had been room. It was funny seeing them.

After we got into the room Pete thought it would be fun to phone Dorothy White & of course she wanted us to go up & see her & the Rehabilitation Center which we did. Only it made a late evening much as we enjoyed it. Met Tommy Forrest & his wife. He is a paraplegic (paralysed from the waist down) & also Mr Bellman who's sister-in-law & family live in Bayff. Rather funny how we keep running into people we know.

Tuesday was the appointment with Dr Davidson. He spoke to Pete a while then both of us together & thinks he can help Pete. I think I told you this part. Pete was pretty tense anticipating the visit to the doctor but afterwards seemed fine & of course we should have gone



## THE RITZ

1040 GEORGIA STREET WEST  
AT VANCOUVER  
CANADA

have been quiet, instead after a late lunch we thought we would just say "hello" to Mavis. Dorothy White was having her day off & wanted to take us on a bus drive. We thought maybe just supper together would be enough. Any way as we went out the hotel door ran into Billie Morant again (Niel was still asleep) talked a bit in spite of the noise then walked together to the Hudson's Bay. ran plunk into Dorothy & of course she wanted us to do something. We saw Mavis (haven't seen her since) having to wait until she finished waiting on a slow customer who couldn't decide which bed spread to buy!

Back down to meet Dorothy. She was so anxious to do something for us that finally I went on a bus ride & Pete back to rest an hour at the hotel. When we returned we talked a bit & then all went to the dining room on the top floor of the Sylvia Hotel, now operated by a friend Willard Lyle who used to manage the Banff Springs. It is a lovely spot, newly decorated & so quiet with a really lovely view of the coast line & sunset. Had a nice dinner & then Dorothy wanted us to just run up to her sisters & we could leave any time, just stay a few minutes. So we went up in a bus & Lilli Fisher was very glad to see us. (she was in Banff this spring for a rest) her husband is very much a business man; outspoken & evidently doesn't do anything he doesn't want to. We met him once before & thought him rather rude. This time

we had just shaken hands & Lilli wanted to take us for a drive while she got some strawberries. He right away said he felt a cold coming on & didn't think he'd go. Then we spoke a few minutes asking about a certain kind of machinery he is agent for in the west & he got interested & decided to go with us. He & Pete sat in the back seat & gradually talked more & more ending up with stories of Japan where he had spent some time on business. We three sat in front. Lilli drove. It was a lovely evening & the most beautiful sunset coming home. We had quite a time finding where the strawberries were sold as it is a flat island in the mouth of the Fraser river & it all looks so much alike. Then on the way home Lily decided to stop for ice cream or coffee brought to one in the car. I had eaten so many strawberries by this time I wondered if I could eat more. It was after tea when we got back but I think on top of the strain & all of the day it was a bit too much for Pete. He was enjoying it all but next morning felt sick.

Sat. - That was Wednesday & he had an appointment at the doctor at 1.30 in the afternoon. He had the thing that hangs in the back of his throat. Says it feels as if someone were sticking their finger down your throat & so it kept making him sick to his tummy. & he was terribly restless & wet at times. I suppose it was a case of the terrific tension. Anyway he couldn't go to the doctor so we telephoned & saw him the following morning. but were inside all Wednesday, didn't get out until supper time. I didn't even write letters.

Thursday Pete felt better but not quite himself however we did make the doctor. He would like to have us stay a long time as he is afraid it will all take time & of course Pete is anxious to get back home soon. So what will happen I don't know. Yesterday the doctor thought he seemed so much better & was more encouraging. The hard part is that the thing goes



## THE RITZ

1040 GEORGIA STREET WEST  
AT VANCOUVER  
CANADA

on in ups & downs. One day Pete feels fine & we are very encouraged & the next things go wrong again. I guess one first has to be patient. Pete is to go again on Monday & in the meantime we are to take a long walk each day - a leisurely walk of an hour - we aren't far from Stanley Park & there are lovely woods & those enormous trees there. Also trails along the shore & beaches -

Pete doesn't want me to go out without him & that makes it awkward shopping but one has to just be patient & make the best of it.

Thursday afternoon we walked up to the Art Gallery & saw a most interesting exhibition always others by a Finnish lady, now dead. They are the most elusive & lovely things. Different from anything I have ever seen before & most of them on exhibition were painted after she was 80. She died at 85. Lived away of somewhere for 40 years, far from exhibitions etc. There was also an exhibition of Saturday Evening Post covers & illustrations - 2 by Norman Rockwell. The cleaning woman in the theater a large canvas about 25 x 30 & the other the one of the portraits on the wall of the veterans of all the wars & to my surprise it is painted the size of the cover. The portraits are like miniatures, quite wonderful.

We met a very nice lady in the office there & she asked our name in talkup & when Pete told her, she said why I have one of your paintings. She is a niece of Mrs Mae's

is keeping one sketch until they are more settled.  
Funny how we keep running into people we know or  
who know friends of ours.

That was the same afternoon we came here & saw  
John Crane who I had known years ago at Lake House.  
That is how we got this apartment & moved that  
very afternoon. That evening we took a taxi ride round  
the park. Hard to believe it is 6 or 7 miles around.  
Saw the place where lots of people were bowling on a  
green. Tennis courts full of players. an outside dance  
platform where old time dancing was in progress &  
golf course & putting greens. Also archery & a soccer game.  
Will go down one evening & watch.

Yesterday, Friday we didn't do much. to the Gallery again  
& Peter slept a lot. He hasn't woken yet but this isn't  
when I started the letter. In first finishing this morning. Saturday.

Loads of love

Catherine

Box 379  
Edgartown



# THE RITZ

1040 GEORGIA STREET WEST  
AT VANCOUVER

CANADA



Monday -  
June 20, 1949.

Dearest Mother.

At last the great day has dawned, the 50<sup>th</sup> Hope Aunt Julie got over her cold alright. It was almost like mine coming when she least wanted it.

We are going on much as usual. Friday we were at the Art Gallery again I think & had been to see Dr D. in the afternoon. & then Pete went again this A.M. Saturday we did a bit of shopping in the morning. Saw Mavis in the Day & by luck Kathy was there too on her way home. It's 5 years since we had seen her. They go to the beach on Sunday & we were going to see them there but it rained. Anyway we said we would try to get in touch with them.

Saturday afternoon it turned warty & sultry but we managed to get to Stanley Park. The D. wants Pete to walk on his hands every day - however we made it so leisurely that we spent most of the time watching the boating which was great fun. All sizes & shapes from row boats up. Even boys learning to skiff. 3 girls started out in a row boat with an outboard motor & after being stalled for some

miss in the center called for help & a man went out to start their engine & off they dragged. sail boats too. This must be an ideal city to live in, especially in summer. The entrance to Stanley Park has a bathing beach on one side "English Bay" & on the harbor side are many little floats where the yachts & motor boats & fishing boats tie up. Some house boats too. It is about as wide as the Charles River. Guess the boat house & shells reminded me of that. But all of it is within half a mile of the main business & shopping district - C.R.R. Station. yet is as countryfied as Marblehead. After that we walked back part way until it was too hot & we came to a hill & so took a street car.

Saturday night Mildred came to dinner with us. She looks fine & seems well. Cheerful. likes her work & is full of confidence. looking forward to Tommy coming out. Cliff she says is very cheery & happy but has changed jobs on Bowen Island. Mrs Rogers really needed a couple, one there all the time to answer the phone & do a bit of cooking for the members of the family who go over for a few days at a time. I don't know how it happened but there was nothing un- friendly about it. I guess Cliff just figured he couldn't do the job. He is now staying with a person he used to know in Bay St & is night clerk at the Bowen Island Hotel. Mildred said she could have given up her job & gone over & cooked but even then it might not have worked. Cliff is getting the same wage & can come over on Wednesday his day off.

We took Mildred home in a taxi. She is on night duty & on the way stopped in to call on Allan Mather's sister Jenny, thinking we might not get back again. & as Mildred was with us we couldn't stay long. They were in the process of repainting their flat so



# THE RITZ

1040 GEORGIA STREET WEST  
AT VANCOUVER  
CANADA



all was in a mess & after a short visit Jim saw they were glad to have us leave & get on with their work. We went by where the Stockhams lived after I saw Middled's room, but they were all out. However it gave us an idea where they were living.

Sunday was rainy & we were quiet. Writing letters while Pete slept after lunch. The Fishers wanted us to go up there but we weren't anxious to & had it been nice were going to the beach where the Stockhams go. Beekley Marie telephoned & we met the 2 girls for supper - giving them a really good dinner at the Georgia Hotel dining room. The head waitress recognized us as she used to be at the Mt Royal in Banff. They came back here after supper & we talked all evening hearing about the various day friends. Kathy had just received a promotion to be head girl in the Policy Dept at the Insurance Office where she works. David had gone out with friends.

Tuesday morning. It looks like rain again today. Yesterday was nice & after seeing the doctor in the morning we went out to English Bay in the afternoon & spoke to Hilda & Lyle at the Sylvia Hotel before coming back. Dorothy had her day off & came in

about supper time. I went next door to a "Drive In"  
where you take your car & supper is brought to you on  
a tray. I picked up fried chicken in the straw &  
we ate it up here. Later took a bus out to the  
airport & as it was sunset time it was really  
lovely.

Now this morning we have seen Dr Davidson again  
& think we are as well to go back to Bauff & get  
painting. He doesn't think he can help Pete much more  
as things are & we both feel we are just making time  
here. We neither of us like cities & to be sitting around.  
& if we can get out in the mountains without too many  
disturbances think we will be alright. The change  
has done more good than anything.

✓ You better start writing to Bauff again as we will  
leave here within the next days two.

Lots of love  
Catharine



# THE RITZ

1040 GEORGIA STREET WEST  
AT VANCOUVER  
CANADA



Wednesday -  
June 22, 1949.

Dearest Mother

I have a letter started Monday still un-  
mailed, forgot yesterday & haven't been out yet this  
morning. Think I mentioned that we will be going  
back to Bauff this weekend. The Doctor felt he couldn't  
do more unless we stayed a month or two and really  
it isn't helping Pete sitting in an apartment & going to  
a Doctor's office every day. So it looks as if it would be  
better to try to get out to a place like Saw Lake where we  
will be accomplishing something as well as getting  
exercise, fresh air & good food.

Your letter of the 20th came this morning &  
so glad you mentioned Cousin Harriet's birthday. I would  
have forgotten & now can send a night letter to-night  
& mention we're going home as well. So she is sure to  
show it to you. Hope you have a nice time & glad that  
Mildred made the mistake & will be there too & try to make  
the 50th Reunion Anniversary as well. I think you will  
enjoy it & you know enough of the family to be interested  
in their children. It will be nice to see John & his family  
too. Virginia Cole showed me a picture of her nieces &  
nephews & they are a wonderful group - 10 or more, all small.

wonder how many baby sitters will be necessary?

What a shame more didn't go to the open gardens.

Don't you suppose the people may be getting a little tired of visiting gardens of places they don't know well of course 50 are a good deal. On re-reading it must have been the best.

It would have surprised us had you flown out! Hope you don't start before warning us or we might not be here. Actually you might enjoy flying. Lots of older people do.

I don't wonder that plane flying so low scared you. They really shouldn't be allowed to do that. Suppose one had a weak heart or something - not the plane, the person in the house.

Wasn't it nice that the wedding Jean went to was so nice & she enjoyed it all. I don't know how many times she mentioned how nice it was you were having George drive her. It must have made all the difference in her getting there feeling fresh & clean etc. Wonder does she go to the 50th too. We forgotten.

I remember when we used to go away for the summer & had lots of trunks but seems to me Russell's family sound like a pioneer family starting out in covered wagons for the west! Of course six people or five need a lot of things & bedding & linen & silver too she has to take. Glad they made it alright.

Speaking of boats. I forgot to mention that on the little boats we watched the other day instead of brass they had silver colored chromium. Just have to wipe it off with a dry cloth. What a saving. All the cleats etc were made of it, where brass would have been used before.

Thanks about the Vase Gallery. but I really think it better to let Mr Phillips do it all himself. He said he was going to write them & he is well known because of his wood blocks - in London. Exp. about the Churchill book. I wrote to Jasper to try to get some but in a letter from him he said it was out of print the same day it came out & he saved one



## THE RITZ

1040 GEORGIA STREET WEST  
AT VANCOUVER  
CANADA

for us, which is the one I had with me. but they are talking of bringing out another edition. He is in a book store.

Hope Aunt Julie got over her cold alright.

You asked in a letter to Mildred evidently what the meaning of "Point of No Return" as a title was. I noticed a review in a magazine that I thought explained it very well. It said "By the time Charlie Gray is ready to hear the president's decision. he has made the bitter journey into his past, he no longer cares about the outcome of his fortunes. He knows now that he has followed the wrong course but it is too late for him to start again. He must go on the way he has begun, for like the flier who has used up more than half his fuel, he has reached the Point of No Return."

The underlining is mine. I shall look in the New Yorker for the article on the bank.

Haven't had a chance to look for a suitcase yet. I may not. Pete hates shopping & invariably wants me to go with him. We can always get one in Calgary.

"Painting as a Pastime" is the name of Churchill's book.

New England weather certainly varies from year to year. Did I thank you for the lovely cards you sent my birthday - The Swiss flower ones.

Haven't done much today. We should have gone to the Doctor about 9 but overslept & telephoned & he said to come about 2. So went back to bed & Pete slept almost till noon. He got a bit upset you might say, trying to decide whether to stay here or go home & work things out there. So today we told Dr David's on we were going home - he is very understanding. Says the world now-a-days is full of tensions & one must learn to take things as they come & then relax afterwards. He never mentions the word "worry" or "nerves" I guess the problems are the same but the words different. I really think Pete will be better if we are in the mountains where there is more he has to do & can do. This walking on has every day hasn't worked out, as either his too sleepy or his leg bothers him. We did try the other day.

This noon Cliff & Mildred came to see us. It was fine to see Cliff like himself again even without teeth as yet. He had left Mrs Rogers. Found they expected him to do more than he could. He likes working for the Union Steamship Co at the Bowen Island run & I was interested how he was sure it was going to lead to big things if he stuck with the company. He is a real optimist or dreamer I guess. Sees such a wonderful future in things.

We just heard a really lovely Suite for Orchestra which Murray Adaskin composed & played over the radio. ~~He~~ ~~was~~ on the radio & Louis Klearer on the piano played his Sonata first. It was a nice program. It also said he had won a scholarship to study composition under a French teacher in Santa Barbara this summer.

Don't know which day we will go home but I rather think on Sunday. We would like - guess I never finished this.

A nice letter from Russ this morning. Do hope you can go & make them a visit in Edgarton. Remember how good a change is for anyone. I'm sending this ordinary mail as I wrote air mail just yesterday.

Loads of love  
Catherine.



## THE RITZ

1040 GEORGIA STREET WEST  
AT VANCOUVER

CANADA



Thursday - Will add a bit more as otherwise you can read through the envelope.

Russ wrote not to worry about the time element in regards to Pete & I am quite willing to stay if he would, but it doesn't seem to be working out too well here in Vancouver. Pete isn't a city person & he doesn't like going to doctor's offices anyway & that rather bothers him. Also being in an apartment is a bit too easy & he doesn't have to make the effort to go out to eat & so doesn't eat as well as we did in Victoria. We have learnt a lot from Dr Davidson? I really believe Pete will be better off in Baff especially if we can get painting. Had it been fall or winter here wouldn't have been the feeling of wanting to get back to the mountains & the summer. I rather think the doctor is more used to city types, though he is very understanding.

We had a pleasant time last evening. Miss Williams of the Art Gallery who is a niece of Gen. Mac Donnell & who Mrs Mac loaned one of Pete's sketches, invited us up to the Georgian Club, about 10 o'clock she played down & we talked about many things until midnight. Her aunt who brought her up, was a sister of Gen. Mac Donnell's & studied Art at the Museum School in Boston. Don't that Jerry? She is unfortunately dead now. Was there at the time of Maria Boyd Allen, but Miss Williams can't remember any others. Her aunt's name was

Noah Mac Donald & she came from ~~Fort Qu'Appelle~~  
~~Manitoba~~ Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan  
(Can't seem to spell to-day) wonder would Mrs Sohier  
remember her. It must have been between 1902-1907  
she was in Boston. Maybe before Mrs Sohier's time. She  
lived at the Steward Club & studied with Walker -  
all for now. Cliff may be in after lunch on his  
way back to Bowen Island -

Loads of love

Catharine.

The Georgian Club is the Ladies Club Dorothy White used to  
be Secretary of. now is on the top floor of this building.

Vancouver  
June 26, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Wonder if you are all  
in Vermont celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup>. It  
is nine o'clock here so should be  
about noon there. It will be fun  
seeing all the relatives & their  
families.

We leave for Banff  
this morning, 11.30, A.M.  
Thought it was 10.30 but forgot  
we are on Daylight Saving time  
so gives us an extra hour. Pete  
is still asleep but will have  
to wake him soon. I'm all  
packed anyway.

The last couple of  
days we have done quite a  
bit. Yesterday we slept until  
10.20 because of being up

until after midnight the evening before. We expected Earl Spencer & his wife in at 11 o'clock but they were a wee bit late which was just as well. Earl is the one who built our house & the most honest person you ever met. We talked here a while & then took them to lunch at the Georgia Hotel as that dining room is nice and quiet. It was after two or maybe nearly three before they left & we got back here.

It was good to see them again & Earl is just the same as ever.

Dorothy came in then for a last visit & it was after five when she left. Pete had a sleep & then we went

to China town for Chinese supper.  
 It was a wonderful place to  
 see Chinese, where they eat  
 themselves. The taxi driver  
 took us.

The day before we were out  
 in the morning mailing some  
 things home etc. Then tonight  
 we better telephone Irene  
 Rogers. She was out but  
 would be in at one for  
 lunch. When she didn't  
 phone we called again about  
 2 o'clock & she asked if  
 she could call back in 20  
 minutes as the household  
 was so hectic. That stretched  
 out more & we nearly lost  
 the afternoon. However she  
 did want to see us & said

4

she would pick us up between  
7 + 7.30 after taking some  
guests to the boat. She came  
about 7.40 & we had a very  
poor supper at the Hotel  
Vancouver. She thought it  
awful & I didn't think it  
very good either. Then up  
to her house by about ten  
& her little boy had dis-  
appeared so she spent nearly  
half an hour phoning every  
one she could think of.  
He came back alright  
having gone out with his  
sister.

They were a hectic household.  
Tish the 2<sup>nd</sup> girl in the  
family is just announcing  
her engagement. To be married  
end of July. Laili the older

girl had flown back from Calgary for the weekend, dress fittings etc. Then an English couple had arrived for a visit. They were the ones she sent off to Bowen Island on the boat. Her mother's housekeeper cook was leaving & her night leave any minute. Margaret another daughter was out riding polo & had to be called for. Teddy the boy lost & we arrived.

They all had gathered by the time we left & she insisted on driving us home. She is a wonderful person. was Frances Bean's great friend.

Pete is up & breakfast time. So will send this

clay with a clipping of a  
person staying here might  
interest you -

Did you see the Chinese  
paintings at the Art Centre.  
Sounded interesting.

May not get a chance  
to write from Bauff right  
away -  
Roads of love  
Catherine.