



Banff, Alberta

Tues. June 28, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

I feel as if we had been home for several days already but it was just yesterday morning that we got back. Did I write that we had Chinese supper the last evening and it was real fun, a place where the Chinese eat themselves and such characters as there were around, the food awfully good too.

Sunday we didn't have to hurry at all as the two times meant our train left at 11.30. It was dull but the sun shone once in a while and the cloud effects were lovely. We sat out on the open air observation car the first part along the harbor and then after lunch and we started up the Fraser Canyon we went out again. In this way the trip gets nicely broken and there is lots of scenery as you may remember.

It was dull and cold when we got in yesterday at 10. A.M. the clouds way down on the mountains and they evidently have had lots of cold weather so we haven't missed much (except for a fire in the Masonic Hall which caused great excitement and is near us.) Pete didn't feel too good, was sort of car sick. the engineer went too fast on twisty parts and then slowed way down coming into Banff. But again it seemed to be that tension that made Pete uncertain. The fact we were arriving and he wanted to feel good and of course he didn't. We spotted a taxi man we know well and he brought us right home but it didn't help much to find a car in our yard and Jean and Bill Gill had come to see us, were leaving a note on the door when Mom saw their car and came down, so she was here too. Jean and Bill didn't come in seeing that Pete didn't feel well, he was awfully dizzy and had to go to the bathroom quick like you. But Mom came in for a bit and of course to her it looked as if Pete were no better than when he went away. It was too bad it all had to happen just like that.

The house didn't smell of the basement after all, just of logs and there wasn't much water in it either. However Pete didn't feel up to starting the furnace and didn't want me to either so we just had a fire in the stove and fireplace and electric heaters upstairs and it soon dried out and warmed up. but was 44 out in the afternoon. Mom didn't stay long but soon Jackie was down with Davy to see if we wanted anything. We can't make out whether he has had a change of heart or what but he couldn't seem to do enough for us. He got milk and cold meat etc for lunch. It was Election day so they wanted Pete to vote but we were pretty sure that St Laurent would get in and Pete didn't really feel up to it. We had lunch and then I think Mom came down (Jackie had been here twice in the morning) Then as Donny was to leave the next day for the coast to be with Cliff and Mildred Jackie brought him down to say goodbye. They stayed quite a while and if Jackie told us about the Masonic fire once he told us the same part four times. He also was quite sure that Drew would get in, especially in Quebec and we talked of that.

Finally they left but Mom stayed wanting to hear about the family at the coast. etc. While she was talking to Pete in the front room Jonnie came, followed by Barbara, Harold, Mary Lee and Lona Becker, all was noise and confusion for a short time and as Mom won't speak to Barbara or visa versa (we don't know which) I just told Barbara that Mom was in the front room and she stayed in the kitchen. Finally they all left and for about the first time we were left in quiet. It was supper time by then. I think after lunch we had a quiet period when no one was here but it did seem awfully busy somehow.

Last evening we listened to the election returns but it was all decided in the first few minutes as the Liberals had a land slide, 193, the Progressive Conservatives 42 of 43. The biggest majority ever. It was fun just the same. Pete seemed to have calmed down and we went to bed about ten. However he seemed restless in the night and this morning was quite sick. It is all that nervous tension but now that we know what it is it isn't so bad, only he had a miserable time and it makes him wobbly on his legs. and the sinus thing made him sick to his stomach and altogether he didn't feel so good. By noon he was better and after lunch he was able to direct me how to start the furnace in the right way. We

Mario brought the mail, lots of it and your letter about Cousin Harriet's birthday party. also one from Marion telling of a Mrs Pierce who works on the same newspaper as Cam and who has been on a convention was to be in Banff the end of the month and might look us up or we might get in touch with her. We decided that for once we would just not bother. So we sat down and wrote a letter to Norman Luxton to say that for " certain reasons " we wouldn't be able to help with Indian Days this year. Was just finishing when we saw two ladies approaching, I thought to collect money for some thing but Pete hoped just walking through the yard. Went to the door and of course it was the lady reporter from Owen Sound and another lady (a hunch back) from Stratford Ont. So we asked them in and had a very nice visit and talked of Cam and the election and painting. They liked the pictures and were very nice and we were actually glad they had made their visit. It started to thunder a bit and they left. So we got the car out and I did the shopping and got the mail in a thunder storm and nice heavy rain. I had hardly gotten back when Sam Ward came to see how we were after the coast and while he was still here, Mom came down. Had been here before but we evidently were in the basement with the door locked. She had two letters from Marion ~~for~~ to read us, but as Sam had left and it was getting near supper Pete was getting tired so he did what Dr Davidson told him to do, be frank and tell people to go. He didn't do it that way but asked Mom if she minded not reading the letters but leaving them if she wished for us to read. She seemed disappointed and went right off. (I expect to have a good cry with her feelings hurt) but they don't seem to realize we have anything much to do ourselves. We had a really good supper. Beef tenderloins, new and very sweet peas and new potatoes. Pete eats far better with no one else here. But it was quite an afternoon for anyone as sick as he felt in the morning. This evening only Jonnie has been in !

Time we went to bed so all for to-night.

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
July 1, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

This is the Dominion Day Holiday and luckily a lovely day, cool and just enough clouds to make it nice. There is the Morley Stampede and other things going on but like the fourth of July in the states not a day one wants to be out on the roads.

We haven't done a great deal the last few days but seen to a number of little things, the bank and bills etc. The kids have all been over to see us, Susan Mather coming last evening as we were having supper, their school is just out and they have all brought us their report cards to see.

Yesterday was our 19th Wedding anniversary, Jean's card came right on the day. We didn't do anything very special. Did one batch of laundry in the morning for it has piled up being away and all, and then errands and Tully Montgomery wanted to bring his neice down if the Phillipses weren't home but he never did appear. Got my hair washed and Pete had the Ford oiled and greased and I got some of the larkspurs tied up as they are tall and apt to blow over in the wind.

We won't be going out until the beginning of the week as this is such a holiday weekend and aren't sure just where we will head for first. It is always hard getting started.

Will be interested to hear how the 50th went, it was too bad you had such very hot weather to go in but it may have been cooler there, I hope so. I forgot one is supposed to send a present and we never did.

There are a few books that we would like to get if you can through the Concord Book store and I will enclose a letter I started with a list of them. The first one "Rrarie Wings" has the most wonderful photographs of birds stopped in flight, Bobby Hunter had it and we want it for George Browne if we can get it. The other two Dr Davidson recommended as being interesting.

Pete seems much better now we are back and there are things to be done and seen to and I am hoping if we can just get out painting and he feels well that gradually he will build himself up. We are trying not to see too many people, I am afraid we scared Mom off the other night when Pete asked her not to read Marians letters. She is very touchy and probably thought we didn't want her or something. It is hard to know just what to say for if we tell her that Pete shouldn't have company she would probably still think family didn't count and would think he was sicker than we let on and tell everyone he isn't well, as she does look on the dark side of things. Both she and Jackie love to have the family sit with them when they don't feel up to scratch. Actually she does the best she can and is very kind hearted really, the trouble is she doesn't always do what Pete likes.

*Loads of love
Catherine*

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. July 3, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Your letter from Bradford came yesterday and I am so glad that you made the trip in spite of the great heat. Don't really know how you stood it so well for 80° seems plenty hot for me. One nice thing with the Palmers there you had a doctor and nurse in attendance!

We really would love to hear more about it all even the little things that happened, am glad the children were all so well behaved. It seems such a shame that Mrs Cole couldn't have lived to enjoy them all. Virginia showed me a snapshot of ten of the nephews and neices and they did look awfully cunning. They are a goodlooking family with such clean-cut strong faces. I wish we might have been there too and seen all the family again.

Well yesterday Dr MacKenzie took off my Wen on my head. Jean will be glad to know it is no more, unless of course it should grow back again! He told me to come Friday morning to the hospital forgetting it was July 1st. and a Dominion Day holiday so we got up early anyway and then found he would rather do it Saturday. So yesterday Pete took me up at 9.30. as usual they were very busy at the hospital and even after I was sitting waiting in the ante room to the operating room a young cowboy came in with a cut hand and Dr MacKenzie fixed that first. I was glad mine was on my head and he could freeze it, for the stitches in the cut, he didn't want to freeze the lads hand because of infection.

My turn came eventually and the little nun helped, I don't know how they work with flowing robes but she is very quick and full of fun. The idea of the thing was the only bad part for it really didn't hurt at all. He stuck a needle in about five times to freeze it all around, I hate the idea of being stuck. Then he carefully explained all he was doing which I wasn't too anxious to hear but I guess it keeps you from imagining worse things. He evidently cut a wedge and then sort of scooped the thing out. It felt a bit like pulling a tooth and the roots coming out but it all came out in one piece. I thought it was watery inside and would have to be punctured but it was sort of like a piece of dough, white and about this size, sort of spongy all through. I sat in a chair and in the end felt a bit faint but a glass of water and later putting my head between my knees revived me. Then he had me lie down five or ten minutes when the room sort of spun around a bit but after that I was allright. He suggested that I lie down when I got home and if it was very painful to take a 222. He put in a stitch or two and a round bit of gauze with collodion on top to stick it down.

When we got home (poor Pete was more anxious than I sitting in the car waiting and wondering his hands got all wet.)

I took a little bit of brandy and then lay down. while Pete went over town and got some 222s for me, as we had nothing stronger than aspirin, I lay down for 20 minutes or so. Then at noon we started to get lunch, was just making the salad when Marian Crosby from next door came to ask us how the roads were from the coast, not realizing we had returned by train. She is a married daughter and here on a visit and had never been in the house before. She stayed until one and we had a nice visit. Then lunch and we went for the mail. My head didn't ache, the place just sort of pulled a bit as if there were a safety pin stuck through my scalp. I thought I would wait until the freezing came out before taking the 222 but I never did know when that happened for it never really felt sore all the rest of the day.

At the postoffice we ran into Casey Oliver who had to tell us all about the nurses and the noise in the suites. he has ^{an apartment} ~~one~~ in front and also did a bit of kidding too, then we saw Pearl Moore and Dave Prosser so were there quite a while. I forgot when we came back from the hospital we found a note on a bit of cardboard from Norman Luxton saying " Dear P. & C. Can I see you- I need you both so much. N.K. Luxton " So we knew we would have to speak to him about not helping Indian Days. However didn't see his car ^{at the store} there all day. We made a couple of trips to the Banff Springs to see if we could make reservations at Moraine Lake for a week but haven't heard yet if they are booked up or not. We also did a few errands, I sitting in the car while Pete did the shopping for my head looks a bit gorey where he put mecurichrome around the spot and then a patch of gauze the size of a fifty cent piece. We had a good supper last night and Pete a bit of a nap and then after another trip to the hotel we went by the Vallances to see if Jean and Bill Gill were still there. They were going on the train that night or rather 2 A. M. and so we stayed until after ten and had a nice visit with them.

This morning we had just woken up a little after nine when we heard a car come in the yard and peeked out to see it was Norman Luxton. He came back again about 10.30 just as we had finished breakfast and we had a nice chat. Did our best to get out of helping but he said all he would ask was to have us look after the money. Send out the receipts and keep track of things. so we said we would do that as long as we don't have to do anything else. and we are still going out for a week and just do the things all at once when we come in. He said he just couldn't keep track of money and that the account had grown since we had done it. Now it is noon and looks like rain, Pete is snoozing again.

Seems to me I have done nothing special but wash since getting back as it naturally all piled up as there wasn't time to send out laundry and get it back the last week at the coast. and there was a little here. The Bendix is wonderful though and such a help.

Had a letter from Harriet Gilbert from Hartford Conn. The girl who visited once at Seal Harbor with very light hair. She met an aunt of another girl who went to Wheelers, Meta Bunce, and the Aunt is from England, was visiting Mrs Cochrane in Concord, saw your garden and thought it was the loveliest one she has seen since she arrived in this country.

Loads of love, Catherine

Moraine Lake Lodge

In Valley of Ten Peaks

Lake Louise, Alberta

MAIL AND TELEGRAMS:
CARE OF CHATEAU LAKE LOUISE

Wednesday July 6 1949

Dearest Mother.

It seems good to be writing on this kind of paper again. It's the same they used to have at O'Hara only the different heading. We finally got up here last night though we almost didn't make it. This is the sort of place we seem to like best and already Pete seems more relaxed. It's so quiet the scenery lovely & the atmosphere informal. We can stay until Saturday when they are to be full up & I have to return to have the stitches out of my head! That is if I don't comb them out first. It's the hardest thing to remember when combing my hair & last night the comb almost caught! Upset my turning the idea of it!

Saturday we tried to make reservations here. Pete still gets sick to his stomach if the serious thing catches in his throat, I suppose its partly tension too. But he was afraid if we went to Bow Lake & were far from a bathroom which you can't always get into, he might feel that way. Actually I don't think he will once we

are out like this, but it might make him that way first because he doesn't want to be. We knew they had cabins with a bath here so asked for one, that was Saturday. We had to do it through the Bauff Springs Hotel & it wasn't until Monday morning about ten we got the message. Barbara brought it over & they stayed some time talking. I had to go to the Doctor & he was so busy it wasn't until four thirty he could see me! (I went back to him then) & so we decided not to come until Tuesday.

I got pretty well organized Monday but it seems to be hard for Pete to get started & I don't want to keep pressing him. I think that has been one of the troubles. I'm a bit like you wanting to get things done on time & for so many years now there has always been something we should do or see too right away. & usually to do with some one else. Letters to answer or something, or some one in Bauff for the day to meet etc. This is the first summer almost since the first one 19 years ago where we haven't had to plan so as to be back to see this person or that. It seems funny but it is so. It gives one a much freer feeling not to have things they have to see to or people they have to arrange for.

At the doctor's office I met Mrs. Benny Woodworth & her husband (who is a real old timer & was very good about digging our water line for us the summer it broke) is seriously ill

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in the hospital. Was rushed from Lake Louise & operated on just in time Saturday & not till yesterday morning did they think he would be alright. So Monday after supper we went up to the wards & picked flowers. Then Sam wrote the note & we took them up to the hospital that evening.

Yesterday we were up early, got things together did the last minute packing. Post office & errands had lunch before noon. Told Mom where we were off to. Gave messages to several people we saw & were off by one-thirty. It was a lovely afternoon. Beautiful clouds, a real summer's day. Sometimes it has seemed the last few years that whenever we start to paint something happens to prevent. Well yesterday we had gone about 5 miles & the engine sort of choked up (we had the Ford so as to be able to lock it up) I could feel it too though Pete was driving, as if there was water in the gas, or dirt. We went on a bit further but as it still did it & seemed to be getting worse we decided to turn round ^{go back to Banff} & ask Bill Bern. the mechanic who we think best in the west, to have a look at it. He took it out for a run up Tunnel Mt. but it was perfect. never choked at all or had the feeling we had

noticed. He figured it must have been a speck of dirt in the fuel line & it had worked through. So off we started & spoke of how free the engine ran, & it wasn't as warm the Dicks having plain heaven. Just past Castle Mt. Pete began to think the left front wheel steered queerly & thought it was getting flat. I said to myself "Pete is just over anxious about things. being the first long drive for some time". but anyway we pulled up & had a look. sure enough we had a flat tire. The first one for 3 years on a trip. We luckily pulled off the road into the little road to the Mt Eisenhower Lookout. the place we took the Waltruis for a picnic supper. We were a bit slow changing the tire as it was hot. but did have a shady spot & good drinking water. Then we were off again. only after a first start the engine wouldn't catch or go. We managed to start it down the little incline & I pushed & pushed until it went along faster than I did but it wouldn't start. Scrambled sort of loose inside. Pete thought perhaps he had flooded it, so we waited before trying again. No luck it just wouldn't go.

Cars were flying by. but all tourists. no local cars. Finally an Oregon car stopped. the man to take a picture & he offered to push us back towards Dauff the 3 miles to the Eisenhower junction, rather than give the message to the filling station that we were stuck. & maybe if he pushed we would get started. He was a fine driver & managed to push us across the road & in the

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opposite direction & fortunately there was no traffic
either way just then. Sure enough the engine started
& away we went, not daring to turn until we got to
the Service Station ^{at the junction} it must have been about 3.30
by then. As luck would have it the Service man &
truck were in Calgary so without stopping the motor
we turned & headed for Andy Smyth's at Lake Louise
figuring he could fix the tire. We could telephone Moraine
& say we wouldn't come if the engine stalled again
& go back to Banff & start all again next day.

I kept my fingers crossed all the way to Louise.
We almost ran into trouble going up the hill having to
slow down for the Grader & a truck at a little bridge.
We just made it & reached Andy's filling station at
that junction. He was expected back only minutes though
he didn't come for over an hour. They were terribly busy
filling cars with gas but the oldest boy fixed the tire
for us & we set off once more, this time to Lake Louise
themselves to telephone to be sure they were still holding
our accommodation. We first got part way up the
hill & again the engine stalled! so we backed
downhill into the Service Station again. Mrs Smyth
was sure it was the fuel pump, saying they had
fixed 4 other Fords within the last couple of days.
Their pumps all quitting as they went up the last
hill. She & the youngest boy tried priming it

but it didn't work too well so we waited for Andy. One time Pete looked at me & said "You know I really can't help this," as if I thought it was his fault! but it didn't seem as if there was just one thing after another to prevent us reaching here.

Andy finally came about. See & Luchile had a new fuel pump which he installed. They were awfully good about it, all of them doing what they could to help. They knew Mrs Shaw who runs the place here, said she was awfully nice & would see we got something to eat if we were late & we were able to telephone from there to her to confirm our reservation.

It was 6.30 when we left there & 7 when we finally reached Moraine Lake having left Banff at 1.30. Should have taken us only 2 hours at the most. Supper was on until 7.30 so we had time to wash up etc. Have a nice cabin with a bath & fine place, all very roomy & comfortable. Last evening we sat in the main lounge-dining room combined. Talked with Mrs Shaw who is awfully nice. Has been here 3 years or more. Then later to Mr Drew who is accountant for the camp & then 2 honeymoon couples. Had such a good conversation that it was nearly 11 when we all hurried off to bed before the power was turned off.

The honeymoon couples are wonderful. Holding hands in public and all. One couple from Denver Colorado. & the other the girl is from Ketchikan Alaska & the boy has just gotten his Ph D from Harvard.

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It is now after lunch. We ate too much so can't move for a bit. Full of sausages & baked beans. Pete is sitting on our porch watching the tourists come & go. Just now four young boys dashed in, jumped out of their car, took one look at the mountains & said "Gee I wouldn't want to stay in a place like this!"

It's one of those days when first it's sunny, then cloudy, as showers go over. We took a walk to the top of the big pile of rocks this morning. It was lovely up there. We didn't try to sketch but I may have a try this afternoon. Just now a family drove in. Quite young. The father, mother & tiny child all had red plaid identical shirts on & then put on bright green identical sweaters. Any sense the mother must have made them. The sweaters had white designs.

We can stay here until Saturday, then you get accommodation again next Wednesday until that Sunday so may come back then. Will give us time to do the Indian trips in between & see to anything else. One advantage to a place like this is that we aren't known too well & don't have to help do things etc. No one bothers you either or makes suggestions as to where you should go etc.

It's raining now but as there was thunder it may pass over. It's terribly dry & the lake about 5 feet or more below normal & none overflowing as it usually does at this time of year. Pete is enjoying the people, the costumes are wonderful.

8.

We got a most wonderful letter from Mildred all about the 50th. Some things you told but even more as well. About the amusing names of the rooms. I'm glad the celebrations were such a success. & it all went off so well.

If it rains should be writing other letters, so will send this along.

Lots of love from us both.

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Fri. July 8, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

We came back from Moraine this afternoon. We could have stayed until to-morrow but I had to have the three stitches out of my head and Dr MacKenzie had mentioned Thursday and then said Saturday morning would be alright, but it would mean leaving early and also we knew we would have to see Norman Luxton before he went to Calgary to the Stampede. We are going back up again in a week if we can.

Should have written you yesterday or last night but didn't. We really had an awfully nice time and felt it was more of a holiday than the trip to the coast, for all the time out there we seemed to be going to doctors or dentists and had appointments to make on time. but up at Moraine we didn't know anyone and could do as we liked. We met some awfully nice people mostly honeymooners, and we talked around the fire every night but it wasn't as if one had to or that you couldn't get up and go back to your cabin when you liked. The first evening we talked until nearly 11 o'clock when the lights go out, as they have their own power plant.

The first day, Wednesday I wrote you after breakfast waiting for Pete to come back to the cabin, but he got interested talking to people so stayed there quite a while, then as there wasn't time to start out painting we decided to have a look around and walked up to the big pile of rock at the end of the lake as you first see Moraine, found some good subjects for the future and as Pete hasn't had any real exercise for so long the little climb was good. (His hip and knee that he injured as a boy has been troubling him at times and he finds it hard going up and down I tell him I am in wonderful condition running up and down stairs in the house, just as Jean used to do for me)

We had a good lunch, the food is excellent up there, and then as we were letting it settle Pete thought he would just lie down on top of the bed and went to sleep on me. I wrote several letters and it rained a bit, the storms coming up over the high mountains and we could see it snowing on their tops but all we had were heavy showers. We also watched the cars drive in the tourists, and Pete got a great kick out of that, thinks he could make funny sketches of it. They had several bus loads and it turned out to be a tour of 175 people who sleep on a special train and have been traveling all over the states and Canada. One couple were so interested in the cabins we were in that we asked them if they would like to see in side, Next thing we knew about ten people were coming on the run including the bus driver and later a lady dressed in a bright rosy red outfit with even a big red hat came up, just as interested as the others. It was quite amusing. Invariably the husbands take pictures of their wives in front of the view and then visa versa. You see all kinds and descriptions. You would enjoy it.

Dr Davidson had told us that the best thing for a person with tenseness is exercise, so we took a little walk part way along the lake shore until it started to rain again and then came back. Pete felt so much more relaxed and seemed to enjoy it all and the woods felt and smelt so good. That evening it rained and we again sat and talked to people, not quite as interesting as the night before, a couple from Seattle this time.

Thursday it was fairly nice in the morning but rather milky and we drove to Lake Louise and back. Pete had slept in so there wasn't time to do much else before lunch. In the afternoon I had thought we might try a sketch but again the storms rolled in on us though we did have a few spots of sunlight in between. Pete thought it might be a good idea to try walking up to Larch Valley which is about as high above Moraine as Lake Agnes is above Lake Louise. We started out, was caught by one shower and sat out the storm under a tree, then on again until Pete's knee and hip started to trouble him, he couldn't tell when they would sort of give way. So we turned and came down very slowly, were gone over 2½ hours I guess but we both figured the exercise was good and that gradually by walking and climbing a little at a time it will strengthen the muscles. Pete wondered if he would be stiff to-day but we took another walk to the end of the lake which was on the level and he found it much easier walking etc. So think it was just as well to do that as to try to paint right off.

Last night there was a new honeymoon couple, married just a week, they had met at Middlebury but lived in Pennsylvania and it turned out that the Short boy from Concord, Seabury Short, had been in their wedding party. They were an especially nice couple. Then the young newly weds from Denver left yesterday. After lunch the man went to buy some cigarettes and Mrs Shaw asked them when they would be leaving. They said the next afternoon, and she said "you know you have already spent your 3 nights here" and they said "Have we?" They had lost all track of time, so had to leave then as all the rooms were taken.

Have you looked at the last Canadian Art? There is an article about a travelling Western Exhibition reviewed by Lucy Jarvis who was at Art School with us and who I visited in Canada. Also there is an illustration in color from the film the "Loon's Necklace" Grant Crabtree who came to the house once helped make it and it got a prize. Well last night the picture was shown at Moraine. One night a week the Government shows films free to the tourists at the various places. Banff, one night, Lake Louise another, Yoho another. We were awfully glad to see it and it was very good. All in color and all the characters were played by the masks which were real Indian ones owned by the Museum.

There was a new lady, Miss Davies —

Lads of Love
Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. July 12, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Am not doing very well writing to you this time
X but we have been fairly busy. Saturday did I tell you Marmie Hess
(a very intent and artistic person who lives in Calgary) came
down before supper with Andre Beiler (one of the Art teachers at
the summer school and who looks the part with hair standing up
off his forehead in the right style. He was here two years ago and
stayed with his family in the Wards cottage next door to them.
They wanted to come down in the evening or for us to come up, so
after a short visit then they decided to come back at 8.30 and
brought a phonograph and a lot of Cuban and Haiti records and we
played our Balinese ones and got out a lot of the things we had
from Java and Bali. At the end we showed them some of Grandpas
books but as it was after midnight they decided to come another
time to see those. Were very interested especially Andre Beiler.
He is staying in the new summer school building and as yet there
are no doors ^{at the house} and he said somehow without doors one doesn't have
much privacy. One night when there wasn't enough room in Banff
for all the tourists wanting rooms they took a lot up there and
he said it was really a mad house with children running about and
people of all ages and descriptions and no doors ! It was a nice
X evening though ^{sure talking}.

Sunday we didn't sleep in very late as there was
lots to do, I even had hopes of doing the kitchen floor which I
haven't done for the summer yet but didn't get around to that. We
went up to see Mom with some letters and had a nice call on her,
She was more cheerful but like Cousin Harriet living alone loves
to talk when anyone comes in. In the afternoon I did some of the
Indian Day things. Have 69 receipts to write out and check with
the list and see that the right number of tickets went to each
person sending in a donation. We worked most all evening and did
get the envelopes licked and stamped ready to send by eleven.
However about four we laid off and went down to see the Moores.
Pearl was out but we had a good talk with the Colonel who told us
about meeting the father of one of the C.P.R. vice presidents who
used to work on the railway when Pete's father did and when he comes
back he is to bring him down to see us. We were away when he was
here in June. We talked of Jose's father, no grandfather, who was
at the laying of the last spike. Do you remember hearing much about
it when you were a girl?

It was six when we came back, for Pearl came home
and we talked more. then listened to Frances James on the radio
after supper.

Monday we listened to the Stampede Parade at times
during the morning, took down a bit of a bell belonging to an old
wreck on the Field hill that Pete's father had, to show the Moores.

Put the donations in to the Bank and went to Luxton's to see if any more had come in. Spoke to Allan about the painting on the old house which the painters have just started doing. and it has rained a good shower each day. Also looked at the paint job. then called at the Greehams to pick up a photograph her nephew in England had sent to us, and Davy dropped in at lunch time. or was that Sunday he came over.

In the afternoon we had a real thunder storm, got mail and made a call on Mr Ness to show him a Norwegian sweater Pete has for he thinks he can get us one from a friend in Norway. His daughter was there for the summer, a girl Pete went to school with. Can't remember what else we did but in the evening Fern Brewster came over and we saw her home. She also brought us a wonderful piece of salmon, someone had caught somewhere special.

Yesterday I had great ideas of doing the kitchen floor and at the same time when it was drying some laundry but of course never got around to it, so this morning was up bright and early with great ambition of getting things all tidied up and out of the way and with the thunder storm last night it was evidently a cloud burst near the dam where our water comes from and it was literally black. So there was no use doing the wash or the floor! and with Fern coming in we hadn't even done last night's dishes! Got fly specks off the windows instead. to the bank and Luxtons and the usual errands. and then Barbara was over that a Mrs Hardy from the Gov't office was looking for us and so we went up there to find he had gone to Lake Louise. He is to do the canvassing for Indian Days.

To-morrow 400 Torontonians are to arrive in Banff. they came in a special train and 200 flew out for the Calgary Stampede and they are to spend to-morrow in Banff and are to parade and all. They have costumes and goodness knows what.

Thursday we go back to Moraine for three nights coming back here on Sunday. then that week is Indian Days and we will be busy all week I expect. After that we go to Moraine on the 3rd of August for 5 nights and might with luck get somewhere for a few days inbetween. But we aren't going to stay in especially to do the Indian day accounts. They will just have to wait until we are here.

This isn't much of a letter after the nice ones from you. I do hope you can make the trip to Edgartown it sounds so nice once you are there. and you wouldn't have to go off the porch and there wouldn't be anyone you would need to think of having down for a meal as you did at the hotel in York Harbor. You would be the guest and should let them plan for you.

Had better mail this if we can catch the train.

Loads of love.

Catharine .

Moraine Lake Lodge

In Valley of Ten Peaks

Lake Louise, Alberta

MAIL AND TELEGRAMS:
CARE OF CHATEAU LAKE LOUISE

Friday, July 15

1949

Dearest Mother,

This morning about gets me all mixed up as to when I wrote you last. One thing I do know for sure and that is that my last letter must have been a day late reaching you. Lucky they bug my hand-writing or you wouldn't have gotten it as I addressed it Banff. & you think at times you are breaking up!

Wednesday was the day the Special train of Toronto people who came to the Calgary Stampede came for a day in Banff. I don't know if you remember last fall a trainload of Calgary people went to Toronto to boost for the Calgary Stampede's Foot Ball team which beat Ottawa in Toronto. They evidently took staid Toronto by storm. Had their cowboy outfits, some horses & a chuck wagon & I guess rather surprised the Toronto people. But it was all spontaneous fun & the result. 263 Torontonians came for the Stampede. They marched in the parade too & were colorfully dressed in very bright colored, red, yellow green blue etc. Jack coats wore curly mustaches the same colors & some had monocles. They all wore stove pipe hats too

Some of the women were dressed as angels to depict "Toronto the Good". By the time they reached Bayview with their girls pipe band, there were only 2 costumes to be seen. The rest had cowboy hats etc.

We went to the station to hear the welcome speech by the Superintendent. The reply by the Mayor of Toronto then they paraded up to the Administration building where buses were waiting for them. By that time our perfect sunny morning had turned into a temper shower day & in afternoon they had a good deal of rain.

The water had cleared enough to get the laundry done but it was too dark to do the floor in the kitchen. Got our things more or less together again & meant to get an early start up here yesterday. However with one thing or another we didn't leave until 11 o'clock.

Had to see Norman Sutton who had just come back from Calgary & he wanted us to meet a Mr. Hardy at the Govt office who is to help with collections. Which took some time, but we hope he will get in the rest of the donations before Indian Day's start.

When we went out the drive found a lot of beer bottles, some broken, in the driveway & a beer belonging to a soldier in the Canadian Army Service Corps, so took that to the Police. Got some boxes of fresh raspberries & strawberries & whipping cream to bring up to the staff here. etc.

Moraine Lake Lodge

In Valley of Ten Peaks

Lake Louise, Alberta

MAIL AND TELEGRAMS:
CARE OF CHATEAU LAKE LOUISE

19

It took us about 1 hour & 50 minutes to drive up. We lost some time getting through a herd of horses being taken to Lake Louise. They were all over the road & hard for cars to get by. We were first in time for a late lunch.

It was a lovely afternoon & today has been lovely too. This afternoon a few showers fell on the lake early in the morning is so still & the reflections are lovely. Its such a quiet spot & one sleeps too much. The tourists coming in & out are great fun to watch. One elderly lady today with a blue straw hat & something sticking up in front, & a flowered ~~blue~~ white & dark blue crepe dress. ~~No~~ The kind of clothes a person might wear to Boston. She no sooner got out of the bus than she was sitting on a rock at the lake shore, had her shoes & stockings off & was in wading. She certainly enjoyed it & made no bones about fixing her garters to her stockings later. It really was funny. Honey mooners of all ages held hands as they walked along the shore path. Pete is fascinated by the people.

We are now having quite a thunder storm &
soon it will be supper time. We are here until
Sunday then to Bangf for the week of Indian Days
& come back here on the 3rd again for 5 nights.

Loads of love & hope you can visit the family
in Edgartown for it does sound nice.

Love love

Catharine.

Moraine Lake Lodge

In Valley of Ten Peaks

Lake Louise, Alberta

MAIL AND TELEGRAMS:
CARE OF CHATEAU LAKE LOUISE

Sunday, July 17

1949

Dearest Mother,

We go back to Banff again today & as it is overcast & not too nice out think we will take an lunch and start along slowly. As we will be very busy this week with Indian Day thought I would start a letter to you here where there is more time to write.

Friday afternoon we had quite a thunder storm here, a lot of sudden wind whipping across the lake & it was quite exciting, also sheets of rain driving across the face of the mountains. Afterwards the telephone to Lake Louise wouldn't work. Also we had called Jackie earlier to see if there was mail for two tourists here, who were on their way to Jasper. & if there was mail in Banff for them they would go down otherwise they wouldn't. Of course with the phone out the wire from Jackie couldn't come, so after supper we offered to go in to Lake Louise about the phone, send 2 boxes for people here & look for Jackie's message.

We saw quite a few animals, a moose lying in the Calceum-Chloride off the road. It is the stuff they spread on the roads to hold the dust moisture & lay the dust. Saw five Elk and as many rabbits on the way home. I tried to keep my

eye on the telephone line to watch for a break & when in one place a dead willow had fallen against it we stopped & took it off. But evidently it was more than that which disrupted the service. They fixed it yesterday.

When we got to the Chateau, Pete went in & did the errands while I talked to Rudolph Remmer & Walter Feuz, the Swiss Guides who happened along. Rudolph retires at the end of the year & they ^{for his wife} have been trying to decide whether to go back & live in Switzerland or stay in Golden. Now they have decided to go back in the spring. Ada Wilson also came out & spoke for a while. It was getting darker & another storm coming up over the mountains so we headed home & got there just before the storm broke. It wasn't such a bad one.

We seem to have had a lot of hot weather with thunder storms & yesterday morning about 5 A.M. had a terrific one, lasted an hour, then it never really cleared but began to blow & we've never seen such a wind. One had the feeling it would blow some of the trees over. Great gusts of wind & rain. The lake got very rough, the roughest they have seen it here. White caps & little waves breaking on the shore. It was rather exciting at times & kept up way ^{all day} into the night. The rain wasn't so very heavy except at times. It got very cold but no snow. Still quite a change from 80° the day before. I just sat in the main lodge most all day & wrote letters. Got 15 done & felt much better. Pete enjoyed watching the tourists come & go & had a nice talk with a Col Strickland & his

Moraine Lake Lodge

In Valley of Ten Peaks

Lake Louise, Alberta

MAIL AND TELEGRAMS:
CARE OF CHATEAU LAKE LOUISE

19

wife we met the other day. They had brought their daughter & a friend here ~~Thursday~~ at one o'clock to climb up to Sentinel Pass & be back here at 5. When at eight the 2 girls hadn't shown up they were very concerned. However the girls did arrive soon after having gone around Mt Temple! We had offered to go & look for them.

Last night we talked with a Mr & Mrs Wilson. He originally from London. She from Inverness, now Victoria. He made his first trip to the Rockies in 1905 & they evidently lived on the Prairies for some time. They have been to all the camps & we sort of compared notes. Have a lot of friends in common.

Guess its time to pack up so well stop now. We haven't done much up here but Pete feels better for it I think. We are away from interruptions & he can do as he likes about talking to people. After coming back from Louise the other night we talked with Blanche Maranich of Cleveland & her friend Edna Verne of Chicago until nearly 11. They were the ones going to Jasper. Take a trip some-when each year together by car.

Monday. Got home in good time Sunday. Busy ever since. will write first chance -
Loads of love.

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. July 20, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

This may be the last letter you will get for a week for I just might not have another chance to write until after Indian Days. Norman Luxton says we don't have to do anything but keep track of the money and we hope that is so. Another man is supposed to look after the gates and we aren't going near them, but one never knows just what we may have to do in the end.

Haven't written since we came back from Moraine Lake. it was a little discouraging after making a great effort to write letters I have owed since Christmas to get back and find two from friends I had just written to the day before!

We got back here Sunday about one and ate out picnic lunch in the kitchen, Pete was glad to get off the roads with so many cars. Hadn't been home long when Mario arrived, he had seen us go up the main street and so brought our mail, then as we were reading that Mr Scott came down with our newspapers he had been picking up, and after that Jonnie was over as he saw our car come in and then Barbara came to tell us that Peter, Cliff & Mildred's youngest boy, had been over and how fine and strong he looked etc. Also about the weaving class she is taking at the summer school. Barbara is real smart, has rented her rooms to summer school people and then gotten Better Painter's Walker's little girl to come and do the housework for her. Next winter Barbara hopes to store a loom which she would have the use of and then pay any damages. This was quite a visit, and then later Harold was over to tell us all about his two weeks at a boys camp. So we had rather a busy afternoon. That evening we just took a run down past the Indian Grounds to see if any Indians had come in. Saw Joe Kaquits and then an old Indian George Soldier who had known Pete's father in the old days and then Tom Simian who was ~~batching~~ batching with another Indian, Isaih Hunter. and we learn't for the first time that Tom Simian's wife had died while I was in Concord. She is the one Pete painted years ago. The Red Squaw. It was late when we came back.

Monday Pete had trouble with the thing in his throat and was up at 5 and back to bed and up again later. It just seems to happen every so often and might have been from the lady sweeping the floor at Moraine or the grass at the Indian grounds. Anyway he didn't feel too good until about eleven. I did the accumulated wash and then Sam Ward came along to see us. Really to ask us to take a picture of a cactus and we forgot all about it! Anyway Sam seemed to be troubled about something and we got talking as usual and it was about noon when Jonnie and Billy MacKenzie arrived. They wanted some old paint brushes as the lady artist in the house gives them her left over paint to work with.

We decided we better have our lunch and then start out for we knew there were donations to pick up at Luxtons and things to do, like dress materials to pick up for our Indian friends etc. Somehow we were going all afternoon. for instance met Elizabeth

Rummel's mother who has a wonderful job ^{at the hospital} she thinks as house mother for the nurses aids just has to be ^{my boss} at the place in the evening and is taking a french course in between. Then saw Asta Hauge the Norwegian girl and saw Mr Ness who came from near her home but they have never met before so introduced them to each other, all taking a bit of time in between shopping, then Mrs Noble spotted us and had some crocheted mats that a friend had sent us from England, as we have sent them parcels. etc. We had just gotten home about ten minutes when Mrs Simpson ^{her sister} Mrs Stewart came in for "just a minute" we made them tea and Bill Stewart came to pick them up later and he had some too. They left just in time to pick up their things before the stores closed.

They told us there were sixty Nordegg Indians coming down the Jasper Highway. Bill was much amused for they all dropped in with little bags in their hands, most likely flour sacks, to see Old Jim. Wanted bread and he said "didn't you get any bread at the Alpine camp?" (which was further up the road) and old Jonas Abraham said "no. they eat em all up." Then he asked little Jimmy if he was married yet, and when he found he wasn't, he said, something about "you give em woman one hundred dollars, all gone, she spend it all. gives you gray hair."

After they left we still had a couple of places to go and then I had some receipts to do and address and we had a Geographic for Pearl Moore so took it down to them. Had a good thunder storm (the weather has been quite poor and we are wondering about tomorrow) and it was nearly eleven when that storm was over and we got home. We really shouldn't have gone for so long but a call like that is our relaxation.

Tuesday. we finished the receipts and did the banking we hadn't done on Monday. and again there were several little things to see to, like tickets to the summer school etc. all taking time. I damped the clothes thinking there would be time to iron them while cooking a roast for supper, (so as to have cold meat in the house, or at least in the evening. and then we just took another trip down to the Indian Grounds. Found that Jacob Two Young man was there and asked about his mother who nearly died last winter. She was at their teepee he said so along we went and poor Mrs Jonie was outside and crawling on her hands and knees as she can no longer walk. She must be 90 but as bright as ever otherwise. We spoke to her through Rosalie, a little great grand daughter who speaks very good English, asked if there was anything she wanted and she said, something to eat. There was just time to dash back before the stores closed, Pete got meat etc while I got fruit and things in the store and we took them back down. No sign of Jake who had been headed in his car up town when we first went down, and so I guess they were mighty glad of a good meal. ^{The ones with Mrs Jonie}

Back here and a late supper and I cooked the tiny roast, we were just finishing and doing up some programs to send to the camps up west when Andre Beiler came along. didn't want to disturb us but came in and told us some funny things about the Summer school. One lady from Victoria, very English with a hyphenated name and who kept saying that the teachers were all so young, and felt she had been studying art much longer than they had, before they were born even. She would start in a class in Art and then nearly driving that teacher crazy he would suggest that maybe his class wasn't exactly

what she was looking for and perhaps Mrs Smith's class would be better, so next day she would go there and after a day or two Mr Smith would decide that Mr Jones was the teacher she should study under and Andre Beiler said she was still being sent on. He also read us a letter from his oldest boy who we knew two years ago and then we started talking about Indians and Pete thought it would be interesting to go down to the camp and see Mrs Jonie, which we did.

By luck Tom Simian was right there when we came up to Mrs Jonie's teepee and they asked us in. Tom doing the interpreting. It was dark except for the fire which lit up the teepee and the faces. Pete almost sat on the little boy who was sound asleep and never woke up and Mrs Jonie who had been sleeping, (though Tom said old people never sleep, when we wondered if it was too late to go) She was reclining on some mats and blankets. They drive three or four pegs into the ground and then one can lean against them. Mrs Jonie was wonderful and so bright, it was quite wonderful with the fire light and all. She uses her hands when she talks and seemed to take a great liking to Mr Beiler who is very distinguished looking with his hair standing up, a very fine forehead. Tom told us what she said and then once he couldn't for he said she spoke in the old way and very few could understand it any more. But she told us about living in Buffalo hide teepees in the winter in the old days and on the floors they had first spruce boughs and then buffalo robes on top and around the walls more buffalo hides, it was nice and warm, they wore no cloth clothing just skins. She also got out an old medal that belonged to her husband and she carries it with her and then no harm can come. She thinks this is her last Indian Days and she says she just comes to see us. of course she probably says that to her other friends too. But it really was quite wonderful.

When we got home I undid all the clothes to iron and hung them up to dry knowing that there would be little chance to do them this week.

To-day we woke to find it pouring hard but it lifted a bit later on and wasn't actually raining this afternoon. We looked for Norman but missed him every where. We are still trusting he won't expect us to appear anywhere with several hundred dollars! We did see him later to-day and he has another man helping. Earnie Kiar who writes for the Herald Tribune and loves the limelight, so he is welcome to it! We got boxes of food for the Indians we know best and went down in the early afternoon. The trains had been late and so they were just getting the teepees up. We never had a chance to see it last year but it was wonderful to-day and we just watched. Pete gets ideas just looking and wants to make another Indian camp picture. Yesterday we saw a wonderful sight of several dragging teepee poles across from one end to the other. an old lady with a stick and then several children, the smallest with the most poles. It really made a picture. The same this afternoon. It was a bit too poor light for photographs but Pete can remember things like that though I am afraid I can't. It was fun to see them set up the teepees, the big ones have to be done just right and poor George McLean who's wife died last winter had to take his down and start again. The wives superstitious.

First they tie three long poles together just in the right spot, a long rope is tied on and one man pulls on that while two others one with one of the tied poles, the other with the two poles raise them. then when they are upright they spread them in to a tripod. Against this they lay the other poles, then they tie the top of the teepee to ~~the~~ pole and raise that against the others, and spread the teepee canvas around. When the entrance is they tie rope across like a ladder and some young lad climbs up and sticks in the willows like pins to hold the canvas together over the door. Then the poles are spread from inside to make the canvas tight. & it is pegged down all round.

Must run -

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Mon. July 25, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Indian Days are over for another year and we are still alive. Pete felt much better this year than the other two as he didn't have to take any responsibility this time and though we were on the go from Tuesday night on it wasn't like other years where we had to be at a certain place at a certain time. I still have the accounts to figure out but it shouldn't be too bad this year. Never did get a good chance to write you except on last Wednesday when Pete was having a bit of a nap and again he is snoozing, really for the first time since then. One trouble too we had to get up soon after eight every morning whether we felt like it or not, no chance to sleep in even yesterday, Sunday.

The weather wasn't very good, at least not much for pictures, luckily it rained in between things and so didn't keep people from going to anything, but for some time now it has been rather cold and showery and to-day is just the same, It poured last night and is rather dismal out now, at least we aren't missing any really good weather *out in the mountains*.

Wednesday night we went down to the camp with some eye wash for Mrs Bearspaw and dark glasses as her eyes were sore, we didn't stay very long, had shined David's medal and took that down too and then I think we went to bed at a good hour that same night. We haven't really done such a lot but it has all taken so much time.

Thursday morning we were up early and down to the grounds to see the Indians start for the Parade, they got off on time and so we didn't take many pictures. The Morants were there too, ~~and the Morants were there~~ and we saw them for just a few minutes. Then up town where there was a big crowd to see the Parade and no real chance for pictures. We didn't go to the hotel but did a few errands before our lunch, and then got down to the grounds fairly early in the afternoon. Others were looking after the Gates so we didn't have to think of that at all. We met a good many people we hadn't seen for a long time, like Agnes Hammond etc. and one does a lot of talking while watching the events. I took a few pictures when I could but all week there have been so many clouds one had to wait five or ten minutes for a shot. That night we didn't go to the Concert as we didn't have to and decided they would get on all right if we weren't there. Did up a short coat and blouse to send Kathy Stockand and some books to catch the boat to Fiji.

Friday again we were up early and didn't get down to the grounds before the parade started. I guess because Mrs Scott came to borrow a ladder and some other person dropped in and we were delayed, Oh I know, Jackie Anderson came in as we were finishing breakfast to ask the name of a man who might help on the Gates and he had a cup of coffee and never having been here before wanted to see the front room, all taking time. It was so dull we didn't

take the camera and then when the Indians got on the bridge there were few people and the sun came out bright. but that is how things go. Got the prize money from the bank when it opened and did a few things like that, mailed the parcels etc. In the afternoon we were down at the grounds until fairly late, only got a few pictures but spoke to lots of people. That evening as we were finishing supper fairly early we thought we would just go up to the concert to see how it was going, left the dishes as we thought we would stay just a short time and then come back. However we got interested and just stood inside the gate to watch. Johnnie was there and awfully cunning, as the seats near the entrance were filled and people were a little timid to walk down to the other end in front of all the people, so Johnny would offer to lead them down, he took several by the hand and they were much amused, but he must have made about ten trips in all, not the least bit embarrassed. Finally he told one couple "I know a place you can squeeze through to get two seats." and off they went with him.

While we were there the two ladies we had met at Moraine Lake, (trying to get their mail for them) came in. They had been to Jasper and back. Stood beside us for a long time and then Pete thought it would be nice, as the show was nearly over, to have them come down to the house. They came about nine and it was nearly twelve when they left. They were so interested in everything and Edna Vanek is on the Library Association, the ones who get out a magazine recommending books to the various libraries in the States. She comes from near Chicago, Blanche Marouch lives in Cleveland and they went to school together and now try to make a trip by car together each year. She was very interested in our Canadian books and so was looking at them and could hardly tear herself away. We had a nice time with them but had hardly bargained on such a late evening so it was another struggle to get up next morning.

That was Saturday and we had to figure out how many hundred dollars to take out of the bank to cover everything on Sunday and Saturday afternoon too, the banks close at 11 so it didn't give much time, Jackie has been a big help in making out the programs and how much prize money for each event, He seems better and it was good for him to be in charge of that, though he had told Norman he wouldn't, but Norman just printed his name as "starter" and I sort of talked him in to doing it. We did the dishes when we got back but missed the parade that day. There were a lot of dishes too for we hadn't done them since the noon before I or maybe since Thursday night. This morning we did dishes from Saturday!

Saturday afternoon we went out again but -

Must send this along now. Just heard on the radio that a Sparrow carried a lighted cigarette butt to its nest in a London suburb & the fire burnt 5 houses eventually. Never heard of that before.

Loads of love
Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. July 27, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

The projector arrived to-day and thanks so much for having it fixed for me.

Have you seen the Canadian Art Exhibition yet at the Museum? Expect it has been too hot but perhaps when the kids come back Rusty would go in with you. I would be interested to hear your comments. Have an old catalogue here which covers about the same period, will write in it about the artists we know and then you could see if they have work in the show in Boston. It is to be there into September. We would like to have a catalogue of the Boston Show if you do go.

I think I left off telling you about Saturday afternoon of Indian Days. We were down for quite a while then as we were having supper Edna Vanek brought back a copy of MacLeans she had borrowed to read and Pete thought they should stay to supper. We were having it early and they didn't think they ought to but Pete insisted so while he took Miss Vanek over to the boat house to get tickets for an evening trip up the river, Blanche "arouch took movies of our house and helped me cook more supper. We had cold chicken and had just cooked asparagus on toast, (frozen kind) I had forgotten some fresh peas I had bought in the morning and was bemoaning the fact that I wasn't using them when fresh, so had time to shell those and cook them in the pressure cooker by the time Pete and Miss Vanek were back. We divided the by now cold asparagus on toast and made a good meal. some raspberries for dessert and they seemed to enjoy it. They left for the boat trip at 7.30 and later we heard that Davy had taken them up the river and given them a "swell Trip" according to him. He looks much older than he is.

They were the 2 girls we met at Mains Lake.

Luckily we remembered that they needed the bucking prize money to give out at the concert and wondered why Jackie had not come for it as he had said he would. It seems Florence had seen Pete driving by and across the bridge and so thought we had already gone up to the hotel grounds, and when we went up later met Jackie coming down. We went on up and saw a bit of the concert again. It was too long winded the part we heard where they made Godel a chief. but it went well otherwise. Then we gave Helen, (the Scotts granddaughter who lives in the old house above us) a ride down and as we thought we would go to the camp to say goodbye to Mrs Jonie who we heard was leaving next day and who we thought we might not see again, we took Helen with us. Didn't stay long as Mrs Jonie was not feeling well. She did go to Morley by car the next afternoon and seemed allright then, a wonderful old lady. She is the one who can no longer walk.

Sunday we had to be up fairly early and at the grounds by 10.30 to pay off the Indians. It was pouring when we woke and rained most of the morning but cleared enough to do well in the afternoon with just an occasional shower. Van Wezel and his wife were there and a great help giving out the money, he helped judge the bucking

and to run the events. We have to redeem the tickets that Norman Luxton gives each person who dances or sings or helps at the Concert, each ticket being worth 50¢. This took some time as there were about 400 tickets given out. There were the bucking horses to pay for at 1¢ \$10.00 a piece and the men who helped at \$6.00. 32 horses which meant \$192. so you can see it costs quite a bit. Norman Luxton tells one what to give who, but I had to keep track more or less of the money. It was all interesting but nearly 12 when we got home. We had barely started lunch when the kids came over, Jonny and Harold with Young Peter who we hadn't seen since last fall. He wanted to hear about Cliff and his mother, and then wondered what was to become of the farm and the Jeep etc in Invermere. We couldn't tell him much and didn't feel like going into it all then. He may get over this coming weekend and we may get Mr Vallance to look into it. as he is going to Vancouver for a holiday soon. They had barely gone when Susan Mather appeared and then Jackie for the Sunday afternoon prize money. all most confusing. *We did get some lunch.*

When we finally got out to the grounds we found that the boys doing the gate hadn't shown up. Because of the Lords Day Alliance one is not allowed to sell tickets to anything like that on Sunday, all you can do is ask for a silver collection and you know how little people give to that. However Norman Luxton just asked them all for a dollar, the usual admission and got it. and young Peter was helping him, later Ernie Kehr of the Herald Tribune took Peter's place and he did as well, so we took in over twice what we did on Sunday last year! I handed out programs for a time and then we watched a bit at the end. The girls were there and Pete showed them around, and then they left for Calgary. They did enjoy it all so much and said meeting us made all the difference. We brought back the Mathers and Lael and two other little girls. *a car full.*

That evening it poured hard all night and we thought we would have a quiet time when André Beiler called. I think he was homesick on such a miserable night and seemed to enjoy just being here, but it was ten when he left and we were tired, for it was quite a day. (you will see one of his pictures in Boston)

Monday again we struggled to get up to see the Indians off on the train but didn't try to get down to the grounds in time to bring any of the older ones up as we sometimes do. The train left at ten and we waved goodbye to a few. Then we had all the dishes from Saturday to do ! We hadn't done the ones from the supper the two girls had had with us or any of the Sunday dishes. There were a good many ! There were also a good many errands to do and things to see to and it is so hard to park anywhere.

They want to have an exhibition of our sketches at the Auditorium for the summer school. they have only just come back, arrived just before Indian Days but we didn't unpack them until yesterray afternoon to see if they were O.K. They were very humid and some had sort of bulged, also some frames had taken a licking as they hadn't always been packed back to back so the screw eyes had worn into the frames in some places. but with all the moving around I guess one has to expect that. Mr Beiler suggests we hang the show Sunday and that would work well for us as we go back to Moraine Lake for a week on Monday.

Guess this will have to do for a letter. We had Susan and Lael down yesterday morning, Lael had made us a little bit of bead work as the Indians do it. cunning of her to give it to us.

Lots of love Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.
Sat. July 30, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

This has been rather a busy week trying to get things done up for we go back to Moraine Lake this Monday for a week. Did I tell you that the Summer School people have asked us to let them hang the exhibition of Sketches this coming week! They only just came before Indian Days and we unpacked them Tuesday I think it was. There was a bit of arranging to do and people to see that would hang them and then yesterday we arranged for the Janitor, Tom Dunsmore, to store them in a locked cloak room until Mr Taylor wants to hang them on Monday. It is the first time that the Art School people have sort of recognized that anyone in Banff could paint and we are rather interested to see the repercussions, not many local people have seen our work, so it will be fun to hear their comments.

At present they have an exhibition of "Western Canadian paintings." They were picked out of 700 submitted, by A.Y. Jackson (one of the Group of Seven and who they call the Dean of Canadian Painters) a Mr Bawdon of England (who I think must be very modern and who is to have his pictures hung in the alcove when ours are shown on the side walls of the Auditorium) and another man I have never heard of from the east. Martin I think. This exhibition is supposed to be representative of Canadian Art and from each province later on, and then will be shown in the east and the U.S. and Europe. We went to see it yesterday and didn't think there was one really good picture, all very amateur. It is causing a lot of comment as a good many artists that should have been included, like Phillips, are not.

We were greatly interested in your comments on the show in Boston and I can see why there would be few you would like. I have a catalogue of a similar exhibition held a few years ago to show the development of Canadian Art and I imagine a lot of the same artists have work in the Boston one. When I get time will write in the margins the artists we know, ^{being it is you} and maybe you might go back before the end of September and have another look. We would like a catalogue of the Boston Show even if it does cost a dollar (I expect that is partly to help defray expenses) Maybe David Little would get one.

You mentioned pictures by Clarence Gagnon and we like those so much, Lileas Newton who did a portrait is also very good and was in Banff a short time ago, may still be here, though we have never met her. Will write about some of the others for it will make it all more interesting for you to see.

Pete says he has "Indaanitus" but actually it hasn't been too bad this year and we only have the accounts to sort of summarize and type out and the bills won't be in until we come back from Moraine. But we have had a number of things to do in connection and it all takes time seeing people about this and that especially with the traffic and we keep running into people here for the summer and one has to stop and chat.

Thursday night we ran up to see Sid Vallance for we knew he was going to the coast and probably before we got back from Maraine, and this weekend he is on the Trail Hike. They had just come in from the Alpine Club, two weeks sitting in the rain up in the Freshfield Group, 19 miles from the Gasper highway so once in there you couldn't very well leave. The weather looks better for the hike but glad we don't have to go on it just the same. Mrs Vallance was busy washing some clothes to hang out first thing in the morning and they had three or four people staying with them, She gets very excited trying to do everything about the house just right and I am sure Sid would rather not bother. He told us he would rather stay home than go on the Hike but she loves it so, and then they go to the coast and as he said, "Jean has planned all sorts of things she wants us to do" and he added "seems as if I never had a chance to do just what I felt like doing." He is going to give Cliff a ring and try and straighten out the Invermere Farm thing, we know we wouldn't get far writing for Cliff hates to answer letters and it would take forever. Incidentally we heard from Mildred and Donny has a job which pays more than hers and is living near Cliff, works for the same company so that is good. *It may be just for the summer -*

Had Tully Montgomery down for tea with his niece from New Brunswick (he is the Minister of the English Church) He wanted to bring her before, but we were out. She is also an artist and is this summer a parlor maid at the Banff Springs, I expect she got her trip out and wages. She knows Lucy Jarvis well and we had quite a lot in common and a nice time, we like the Padre very much and he is really our minister though he doesn't know it.

Then yesterday we asked Carl if we could bring Mr Beiler up to meet him and later at five found Andre Beiler, took him up and had a nice visit there, so as Pete says "that is one more thing done" for Andre was very anxious to meet Carl.

Now the laundry is done while writing this and after hanging it out we should go for the mail.

I will write more from Moraine where I should have a better chance.

Loads of love,

Catherine

Moraine Lake Lodge

In Valley of Ten Peaks

Lake Louise, Alberta

MAIL AND TELEGRAMS:
CARE OF CHATEAU LAKE LOUISE

Tues. August 2nd 1949

Dearest Mother,

We are back up here again & it really is a most restful place to be. We thought after 2 days we would have to change cabins but there was a cancellation so we have the very end cabin, next the woods & a wonderful smell of balsam and also can see a glacier which can be sketched from the porch. We don't have to move for the week.

One reason this place is restful to us, we don't know the person running it well enough to feel we should offer to help & knowing no one except casual acquaintances is rather nice for a change. Pete likes it & feels relaxed. The last few days in Banff we hardly sat down to a meal that some one didn't run in. Because they think we are sure to be home then. But whether its 12 or one it seemed to be the same.

Yesterday we didn't hurry. Sunday I had planned all sorts of things to do. Did wash out a shirt that runs so has to be done separately & some socks & stockings. Also turned the hay that hadn't been picked up. It bothers Pete's nose.

we thought Tom Lusk would be going through on the Chicago train at 10.10 A.M. but it was 4 hours late. Was just getting an early lunch when a knock on the front door & a young Hawaiian Drama student at the Summer School to see us. He was a Chinese Hawaiian & such a fine young lad & we knew quite a lot of people he did. Johnny came in the back door soon after & I told him there was a Hawaiian to see us & he was greatly interested. After a few minutes he came over to me & whispered "Don't you think Pete got her face a little too dark?" Pointing to Pete's portrait of Mable, the Hawaiian Flower Girl. It was a little too difficult to explain that the day was only part Hawaiian, so I just agreed.

He had stayed until after one & then we took him up to the Summer school where the students eat. For we hadn't really enough to offer, were just eating left-overs up before going away. & also had the train to meet. A wife came from Tom as he was there wondering if we could produce 2 lbs of Pretzels for him to take to O'Hara. He forgot it was Sunday.

We had a quick lunch & were at the station just in time to meet the train. Had a short chat with Tom. He told us he is being sent by the Rockefeller Foundation to Europe in October for 6 months to lecture in German.

Moraine Lake Lodge

In Valley of Ten Peaks

Lake Louise, Alberta

MAIL AND TELEGRAMS:
CARE OF CHATEAU LAKE LOUISE

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after the train left we just thought we would run around & tell the Moores about the Hawaiian lad. Talked to Pearl for a bit & were just thinking of leaving when the Colonel came in. So stayed longer. Then Pearl wanted to make tea & we couldn't leave just after that & it must have been 5 when we got home.

Barbara had been over too for a few minutes when the Hawaiian Lad. David Tom was there. I got my things together for coming up here & we had another stack of dishes to do but I don't think any one else came in.

Monday Pete had that pain between his eyes & the thump in his throat & he was afraid maybe he couldn't make it up here. But he rested & slept all morning & that helped & by noon we went out & did errands - bank etc. Then left about two getting here by five. So we stopped to speak to one or two on the way. Mrs. Asling & getting gas.

It was a real hot day too but felt nice & cool when we got here. Last night we met the most attractive family from Glasgow, Scotland. & their accents are wonderful. An Architect his wife & 2 nice boys. about 10 & 11.

We talked until 9.30 last evening & had a most interesting time. They will be here several days & then head east & fly back.

I know what happened Sunday evening. We read an mail & so heard about Mr Winton dying so suddenly. It must have been a shock to everyone & we felt so sorry about it. We sent a night message to young Tom that evening. Funny but 25 words to Scotland cost less than wiring to you in Canada.

It is supper time so will send this along.
 Goodsof love - Catharine

Moraine Lake Lodge

In Valley of Ten Peaks

Lake Louise, Alberta

MAIL AND TELEGRAMS:
CARE OF CHATEAU LAKE LOUISE

Thursday, August 4 1949

Dearest Mother.

Had a nice letter from you to-day, but my how hot it must be. Don't know how you stand it. Too bad in a way you didn't go to York Harbor as you usually do - and so miss the heat. Jean was lucky this year. How do the Newbury's like it?

Here we are having really lovely weather & nice & cool too. Brought lots of letters to answer in case it rained & I haven't had a chance to write one. The real trouble is that we have met so many interesting people & get talking.

Did I tell you about the family from Scotland? Their name Cordner. He is a young Architect in Glasgow & mentioned opening an office in London. His firm designs large buildings, churches, schools, hospitals etc. His wife was so attractive & two nice young boys. 10 & 11 & all with wonderful accents. We enjoyed talking to them so much. They told us about the Isle of Mull & other places in Scotland.

Then we met a couple on the trail. The lady looks & sounds very familiar. & we discovered we had met them at Bow Lake three summers ago. I remembered the lady's voice now. They come from California every year to the same

cabin at Base & love it. Think the Simpsons wonderful. Then last night two ladies from ~~Denver~~ Colorado Springs & a young man driving them started talking. They too loved the Simpsons. Had just come from there. One a Miss Donaldson is a sociologist & knew Helen Anderson, being about the same age. Thought Aunt Helen the most remarkable person. Also knows the De Watermans - I must find out more about them. Knows the Grants who now have a ranch in Wyoming. The ^{other} lady is a great botanist & landscape gardener. Wish regularly. All very nice & we chatted last night until ten. Pete enjoys the different people.

In the cabin next to us was a Dr Herrick who works in the Research Dept at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester. Has been there 20 or 25 years except when she was with the government during the War. She was awfully nice & hated to leave but some one else was coming in for her cabin.

Saw a car with an Hawaiian license plate yesterday & Pete spoke to the couple, a good & plump Hawaiian, very jolly, & a small but very nice Chinese husband. They were from Hilo on the island of Hawaii, were named Chuck & want us to be sure to come & see them when next we are in the islands. She is a teacher & has just been to a teacher's convention in Boston.

Then this morning three young women were having trouble with their gas leaking out of their gas tanks because of the expansion due to the hot sun. So Pete helped them turn round. I was trying to sketch from the porch & they asked if I

Moraine Lake Lodge

In Valley of Ten Peaks

Lake Louise, Alberta

MAIL AND TELEGRAMS:
CARE OF CHATEAU LAKE LOUISE

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mined if they looked. Pete said of course I didn't
so up they came. Turned out one is the principal of
the Teacher school in Milton Mass. & spoke at the
teacher's convention in Boston. Is related to the
Richardsons in Concord. She & one of the other girls
had spent some time during the war at Pearl
Harbor & knew lots of people there that we did. We
got talking about that & a trip she had made to
South America & the result was when they left &
I returned to sketching the light had all changed!

People all seem so friendly this year & have time
to stop on the trail or when we are eating at the next
table to talk & its rather fun. Before the war people
just rushed from place to place trying to see every-
thing in one vacation. I think its good for Pete to
talk to so many different people. He is fascinated
just watching them & keeps wishing you were here
to sit on our porch where we look down through the
trees at the tourists bus loads at 11 & 2 & car-
fuls at other times. There is also a family of
gophers to watch just below our porch & half
the tourists spend their time feeding or photographing
them while the other half take in the scenery.
There are also the honeymooners. The young ladies
are invariably in pale pink or impractical new clothes

Did I tell you about the "Flotilla" of Ducks
or Divers? One family, a mother duck (we call
them ducks) & seven little ones, ^{swam down the} ~~swam~~ ^{came} ~~came~~
behind her. As we walked along the lake shore
they kept abreast of us off shore. When it was
wavy they bobbed up & down & then she taught
them how to dive. They were too cunning.

Today when I was sketching there was a whole
family of weasels. Pete saw 3. ^{bram} ~~bram~~ ^{welt}
yellow terns. There were also humming birds on
the flower boxes yesterday.

If it rains I'll send a better letter but I
rather hope the good weather keeps up.

Loads of love.

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. August 7, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

We came back from Moraine this morning, a day earlier than we at first planned but yesterday Pete didn't feel very well with his sinus thing (we think he got too much sun and remembered too late that Mrs Mac told him once that too much sun was bad for anyone with sinus) He felt better last night but with just to-day left we thought we might as well come home. On the whole we had very good wether and a fine stay up there.

We saw quite a bit of the Colorado people, Mrs Kathleen Mariage is evidently a well known botanist, raises rock plants from wild ones and sends seed all over the world. She is also a landscape Architect. Miss Donaldson is a teacher of Sociology and I found later that she had young Ira Waterman in her class at the college or University, She thinks he is an unusually fine boy and says he is so very kind and considerate of Betty, the step mother. Ira Senior is away much of the time, no one knows exactly what he does or where he goes but she thought he was home just now. Betty has been ill much of the time. Funny running into someone who knows them so well. However she has never met Dorothy Brown. Knew the Helen Andersons very well.

at Moraine
The last night they were there, Friday, we were having a bit of a chat after supper and Marmie Hess from Calgary came in with Dr A.Y. Jackson (who must have some of ~~his~~ pictures in the Boston Show) He is quite deaf now but a wonderful man in many ways. As two of the waitresses are Art Students in Vancouver and (I may have told you brought out their work to show us one evening, both drawing very well) Pete thought they would like to meet the famous A.Y. Jackson, so took him over and introduced him as Dr Jackson. They never thought of his being the famous Canadian Artist and when Pete asked him if he knew their teacher Mr Scott, and he did, one of the girls, Dorothy Eperson asked Jackson " do you paint ? " then she realized who he was and I guess they all had to laugh. She told me later that she didn't really know if he was still alive or dead. There was also his neice a Miss Jackson from Montreal going to the school and Miss Anne Savage (who has a landscape in the book I sent you) She was very nice and wants to come to the house as Andre Beiler has told her much about Pete. We had quite a talk for a few minutes until they had to leave and then in the midst of it young Cliff came in. He had come over with some other boys from Louise and had dinner in the kitchen with the girls I expect. We saw him later and he had just heard from Cliff and wanted to tell us a little about it. Evidently Cliff likes it at the coast and doesn't want to return to Invermere and we now have the farm to think about as Lloyd Anderson is living on it. Mr Vallance I may have told you is going to see Cliff and try to get things straightened out.

It is fun meeting all the various people. Yesterday as Pete didn't come over for meals, at lunch (to save tables there were so many there) I asked Mrs Silsbee (who's son and husband I had seen leaving for a climb after breakfast) if she didn't want to eat with me. She is the loveliest person, comes from Washington D.C. her husband is a physicist. They have been coming to the mountains since 1925 and have been to most all the places like O'hara and Assinaboine etc. We had a nice lunch to-gether and in the evening at supper they saw me alone and asked if I would join them which was nice. Later Pete felt much better and came over and we all talked for a while until bedtime. As I tell Pete we meet even more people than when we are in Banff, yet you don't have to talk except when you feel like it and you don't have to give them tea or food or entertain them or do anything for them if you don't want to.

It is getting near bedtime. We got in about noon to-day and met Sam on the corner when going for the mail, so took him with us and the cadets were having some sort of Review back of the administration building with a couple of pipers, so we watched that too. Then this afternoon later we went for milk and also to see if they had hung our sketches for we were told they weren't up the first of the week. They were hung but only 22 out of the 35 and more of mine than Pete's, they weren't too well hung but guess it was allright. Then we went up by Marmie Hess' to ask her about it for she was the one who thought they weren't up, and ran into a Jack Martin also an Artist from Toronto, teaches design at the Ontario College of Art. It was all rather confusing as Marmie was just going to drive her father to Calgary and they had to pick up a girl Kit someone, so Mr Hess did that, then A.Y. Jackson dropped in and then another girl also going to Calgary. Martin and Kit - were to have supper to-gether and Mr Jackson had to meet someone downtown so we drove them down and here for a short time. Martin was a little bit the type who doesn't think anyone can know a great deal ~~about~~ living out here, though he said he liked our sketches. We saw a few of his at Marmies which were rather modern but think he does do quite fine things. They were here only a short time.

Will have the Indian Accounts to do to-morrow and the Sketches to bring back and other things to see to. So to bed now.

Loads of love,

Catharine .

Banff, Alberta.
Friday, Aug. 12, 1949

Dearest Mother,

Haven't been very good at writing you this week but have been working on the Indian Day accounts and finally day before yesterday got them to agree, that is the bank book, check book and the list of money taken in and spent, now I must type them out for any future committee to have to work from. I am awfully stupid at such things but Norman Luxton thinks I am good because I ferret out every penny spent.

When we went to Morfaine Lake this last time I took lots of letters to look over and many to answer in two large envelopes and then we had such good weather and not one rainy day and I never wrote to anyone but you, so now I am way behind again and will have to get busy on those before long. also the bills to pay this month haven't been attended to. Right now I am doing the third and last batch of wash that had gathered, think I may have a little too much in the machine so will have to watch it and writing you is one ~~of~~ thing I can do and jump up and down at the same time.

Don't wonder you didn't know why we wanted the book on ducks which is so expensive. We saw it while at the coast at Bobby Hunter, and were very interested from the photographic angle, then we thought how wonderful it would be for George Browne, the son of Belmore Browne, who specializes in bird pictures and has some difficulty in making them fly in the right manner. ~~theyx~~ George has a most attractive young wife from California, pretty as a picture, and they spent their first winter in a log cabin just outside the mountains, near Morley. Have come to see us when they have been up. He is getting an exhibition of pictures ready for a show in the Grand Central Galleries ~~next fall~~ and we thought ~~this~~ duck book would be a great help to him.

Am glad you are going to the Exhibition again, I wish I had time to send you more about the artists for then it would maybe more understandable. Last night we had Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Watts and their married daughter who is studying at the Summer school down to see the pictures. None of them had been here before and were very surprised as Mr Watts said, to see that Pete was a "great Artist". Pete feels that is an exaggerated view but was pleased never the less. Its funny how seldom people are appreciated in their own home town or their own country. Mr Watts is quite insensed because of the exhibition of Western Art which was picked by A.Y. Jackson (which was allright) and Jack Martin (who is really an Englishman who teaches at the Art School in Toronto and knows little about the west, told me it seemed as if there was nothing but pictures of grain elevators to choose from, and I said that after all that is one of the greatest characteristics of the ~~Praries~~), but they only picked one or two examples for the traveling show. Then another Englishman who has only just come over named Bawden, and he was the 3rd on the jury. Now how could the last two really pick the pictures most representative of the Art ou t West? I wish you could see the

the watercolors of his of the mountains that are hanging up in the Auditorium, very modern and dirty in color and funny looking. and we hear that he has sold them all. He is supposed to be one of the best of the newer English painters. We could have sold ours too or some of them but are not selling them as yet. There were several who enquired about them.

Just now we were over town in front of the telephone office and Col Moore's sister came along. first time we have seen her this year. She always dresses very much and had sort of ballet shoes a long full skirt or suit and beautiful silver fox furs, big silver earrings and other jewelry, hardly fitting for Banff Ave. So for the fun Pete walked up to her right in front of the " Telephone Office " sign and asked her if she knew where the telephone office was ? She never recognized him and very politely told him she thought it was two blocks down. So then I stepped out and she evidently knew me and then caught on we were pulling her leg.

Have had a hard time getting this written as Sam Ward came in this morning as I was doing the wash, about storing some furniture for the Masons etc. and then I ironed the clothes when they were still damp after lunch and when we went for the mail ran into all sorts of people/

Now I shall have to put this on the train. Don't know which day we will go out but thought we might go up to Bow Bakes if they have room.

Loads of love,

Catherine .

Banff, Alberta.
Monday Aug. 15, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

The little mess above is because I just put a new ribbon in, the old one got pretty light and worn out. Seems to me I am not doing very well in my letter writing, However I have almost finished the Indian Days accounts, got them to balance on Wednesday had no time Friday and think I only worked Saturday night until yesterday which was Sunday and then I did a little in the morning, more in the afternoon and all evening. Now there is just the final page to do, but that is the one that has to add up right. However we aren't going out to-morrow as we had thought so will have more time.

This morning we were up early as we wanted to see Norman Luxton before he left for a holiday and did that soon after nine, then Sam came over to ask us to have a look at the warehouse where the Leesons are storing their furniture until their hall which was burnt out is fixed. Sam thought we owned the building but it belongs to the store business and so Jackie really owns it. We were anxious to see if there was some storm sash in it that belongs to the store. Sam strained himself last week moving things around and was to see Dr Mackenzie at 11, so we left him and came back here after a couple of errands as we expected Mary and Jimmy Simpson in. Jimmy came first and then left to look for Mary who came in her own car from Bow and then Sam came down again to tell us that he was to go to the hospital this afternoon and be operated on for hernia to-morrow morning. I think he was a little upset though he tried not to show it for he has never been in a hospital before, and I don't think he wanted to tell Cis. We chatted a while and then he left and Mary and Jim came along. We decided that if he was to be sick (Sam that is) we didn't want to go out of town, even if they say it is a very simple operation now-a-days, we thought they would both feel better if we were around. and from what Mary says they are to be pretty full this week and the first of next week the carpenters come to start work on the second floor of the new addition. So we may go up for a day but not to stay and try to paint unless we go later on in the season.

It was late when we had lunch for Mary and Jim wanted to tell us the progress they have made with the log work etc. They hope to have the place ready to use next summer. We thought we should drive Sam up to the hospital which we did at four, having a cup of tea at their house and coming home with a big bag of fresh peas that they were to have had for their supper but which Cis insisted we take as she had other left overs. My they were good, right out of their garden. Peyto's peas will be ready Friday. Charlie Peyto raises them at Anthracite and nearly lost them with the temperature 34 Saturday night. There was a frost in some parts of Calgary, and many lost their vegetables, very discouraging a frost the middle of August!

We took Sam up and Pete went in with him to bolster up his courage, and to-night we drove Cis up to see him but she

was to walk home. Dr MacKenzie said he would operate at 8 A.M. While we were there Walter Ashdown who used to drive for Brewsters when Pete did and still does, had just brought a Mr & Mrs Freidman in from Lake Louise. She had fallen and hurt her wrist and they were waiting for Dr MacKenzie, who was in Canmore operating with Pat Costigan. The doctors are very busy.

Yesterday we just had one set of callers. We met Bob Svarre and his young wife. Phil over town and he wanted to bring her down to see the house. they came soon after three and we had tea. He is a Norwegian boy from Seattle, was out here with George Eisenshimml skiing and is running the Kanvas Kabins with a Banff boy. Was in the U.S. Airforce during the war and all through the Pacific. The wife is so attractive too. He wants to study architecture in Switzerland and we talked about that. then to-day I had the bright idea that one of Sir Normans men is a Swiss Architect up at Lake Louise so we ran up after taking Sam to the hospital to suggest they speak to him. Talked for a while and as we were leaving a man came along on horseback. The kind that tries to be very western and they sort of joke about him. It started us telling horse stories, and then just as we started the car and young girl came along on the same horse the cow boy had been riding and she called to us " how do you stop a horse ? " not that the horse was going very fast but he was going in the wrong direction. Bob showed her how to make him go to the left and right after how to stop and there she sat and the horse stood perfectly still. The she said " How do I make him go now ? " by this time quite a few amused people had gathered. Of course the horse had caught on and wouldn't move even when she dug her heels in to his side. So Bob hit him on the back side and he went allright but just a short distance and stopped again, this time to take a nice bunch of flowers out of their garden plot. Last thing we saw the girl and horse were ambling down the road.

We met Fern Brewster and stopped to talk to her a few minutes and by then it was supper time. Now it is getting close to bed time and I am getting sleepy and this isn't a very interesting letter. The duck book came to-day and want to have a good look at it for we might get it down to George Browne this week.

*No time to read over
Loads of Love
Catherine*

*P.S. Read quite a bit of duck book found
it most interesting -*

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. Aug. 17, 1949

Dearest Mother,

At last I have finished the Indian day accounts except for asking about and paying one bill and depositing any more donations that might come in. Norman Luxton is away for a couple of weeks and we said we would deposit anything that comes. But my part is done. When you realize that we took in over \$5,000. and spent more than five thousand, it is really ten thousand to keep track of. One reason that we made detailed lists of the amounts spent is if anything should happen to Norman Luxton and some group of people want to run it another year they will know how the money has been spent in the past and for what, how much food was ordered and the amount of bread meat etc. \$1800. was spent for food not counting the meat which comes from Elk and Buffalo that are killed by the Government in the winter and kept in cold storage until Indian days! About \$4700. went to the Indians themselves and \$700. to white people. like the printing, advertising some freight, busses etc. Its all spent on Indian days but some ask a little too much for what they do, while others donate their services.

Haven't written any letters I should, for three weeks so will have to get busy soon, maybe to-night if I don't write too much to you. We have been rather concerned about Sam. He was operated on yesterday morning at 8 A.M. and as we had a bill to pay at the Atkin Clinic went in in the morning and asked as well for Sam. Pat Costigan was there and had helped with the operation, as he and Dr Mac Kenzie work to-gether. He said that it was a double rupture and everything was fine. We took Cis up in the afternoon but didn't go in ourselves knowing ^{Sam} he would feel sick, He was evidently very dopey so Cis said and we didn't go up in the evening either. However this morning when we asked Cis how he was, she said he was fine last night, quite chipper, which surprised her, and had even gotten out of bed to go to the bathroom. When we saw Dr MacKenzie at the post office this morning he said Sam was up and feeling good. So this afternoon we dropped in. He had been moved from the room he was in at first, a lady was in there, and we had a job to find him. He was in bed but seemed alright, we didn't stay long, just a minute or two as I think people are apt to overdo the visiting. But isn't it wonderful the way they get people to move around so soon. He will be there a few days and then home. *They gave him a "spinal" not "ether"*

When I saw Pat he was very pleased having just received a letter from a Clinic in Boston. I have forgotten the Drs names, but they specialize in Ski accidents I think. A truck driver was badly injured up the Jasper highway when the truck and trailer went off the road and it is a long way to bring him to Banff. Pat said it took them 3½ hours to operate on his broken hip as it was in lots of little pieces. They had to put a nail in and I guess a plate and after it was done the Workman's Compensation Board questioned on who's authority they had put the nail through the bone, (or some thing like that) So Pat had sent the exrays and history to the

Boston Doctors for their opinion, and back came this letter saying they had treated the same type of break in the same manner and they had put the nail as much as half an inch through the femur and the patient had never known I guess for it was still there. (Pat had put it in only 1/8 of an inch.) The boy is in the room Sam is in now and was busy making those "weave it" things Aunt Julie made once, making sweaters, He said he had done it before and preferred it to reading. a funny occupation for a truck driver!

Pat also wrote the Boston Doctor about the way they treated some ankle break that is common among skiers and sent exrays of them too. The Boston doctors have to use wires or plates to get them to mend but Pat doesn't, and they were interested in that too.

Yesterday I went to a church tea, Pearl and Aunt Julia were there and Mrs Painter who later came home with us for some books. We have been doing a lot of running round it seems, as one does some times. like the mail, the hospital etc. The weather has been nice and now we know Sam is getting on allright we will think of going out again, though we don't know just where as we don't think they will want us at Bow Lakes, not just yet. too many workmen.

Got a letter from Gray Campbell and he said he had written you to thank you for the U.S. Stamps, they must be busy from morn til night on the ranch and do it all themselves, having no hired man this year.

We went to the summer school students art exhibit this afternoon, thought the things very good on the whole for they only show one example of each student's work. Then to see the weaving and such beautiful things as they make. Barbara showed us around and the things she has done already. A lovely baby blanket some kind of Swedish way, most intricate looking. A pãid scarf of the kind of stuff she can make boys shirts out of, suit material for Bubby as well. She is to have a loom this winter so will be turning out all manner of things.

Went up to see Carl Runghus just before supper thinking it was his 80th birthday, but it is to-morrow so we invited us back to-morrow night. He really is smart for 80, has three large pictures started.

The third book came and thanks so much for them all, also the Studios. I don't know how you stand the heat, it sounds just awful, Did I tell you they had a frost in Calgary, luckily not here for the peas are only just ready to eat. Cis gave us some yesterday and they were wonderful, out of their garden.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Sat. Aug. 20, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Have just finished two polite letters so now I think I should be entitled to write an easy one to you. We still haven't gone out again but maybe it is just as well for yesterday afternoon it rained hard and the same to-day though now (5.30) it is lovely and sunny, am glad for the weekend people.

As usual keep busy with one thing or another. On Thursday we took books to Mr Pelluet who has been very ill. Saw the Summer school exhibition again to try and find a local girls things and went to the Elementary school where they had extra pictures hung, met Andre Beiler who wanted to return a book so said he would come over in the early afternoon, then we would drive him up to where Miles Newton lives and as she has broken her left arm (fell off a bicycle) he would ask if she would like to come down for tea. In the end we ran into Kae Beaumont, the daughter of Gray Campbell's friend in Methbridge, and as she hadn't been to the house and is studying painting we brought her down and Jonny came too. He knew Kae as she was "one of George's girl friends" George stays at Barbaras. She is a most attractive young lady (maybe I wrote you this before) would have shocked Cousin Harried as she wore white shorts and much bare, though tanned legs. ~~xxxx~~ Pete hadn't at first recognised her standing on the curb as we drove along and remarked "there's a girl in her underwear" or "with few clothes on" and so of course Jonny told her what Pete said. However she is a good sport and didn't mind. She is at Queen's University in Kingston and was in Mr Beiler's class so they had great fun when he came along, not expecting her to be here. Her father is going back to Ireland this fall for the first time since he left in 1919. That's 30 years ago! We drove Andre Beiler where he wanted to go and then telephoned to Moraine for accomodation, but can't get in until this coming Tuesday. We had thought of going to Bow Lake next but they are so full we decided to wait until later on. *Miles Newton, who's portrait you liked in Boston, was also having dental trouble & couldn't come down.*

That same afternoon thinking it was Carl Rungius birthday we went up there for a few minutes but he wanted us to come back after 8 the next night when he was having open house. He went with Charlie Reid down to the Coxes Ranch 50 miles from here the next day, so as to get out of town. Jim Boyce is foreman there. So on his birthday he had quite a day, leaving about ten in the morning and not getting back until supper time or later and then had people in for the evening until 1.30 next morning.

Thursday night I think I wrote letters, it gets dark fairly early now. Friday I washed, also wrote a letter to Gray as we had such a nice one from him. Should send it to you to read and then you return it, for it gives a good idea of their life. We went out after that and as usual here one keeps running into people to talk to. We met Sid Graves (who runs O'Hara) down for a day, and the Moores, at the Post Office, who told us how very sick Mrs Wellman is, and then Leslie Mather, Allan's brother who lives in

Calgary, He was waiting for Hugh John MacDonald, who used to be the school principal here and now is a judge in the Supreme Court of Alberta and a very fine man. When he came out they were talking to Pete and wanted to come to the house to see the paintings but thought they better pick up the women folk first. We came back and got a fire going and I ran around flourishing a duster, and soon they appeared. Mrs MacDonald and the daughter (who was having a hard time with sinus or hay fever) and a friend a Miss Hennissey. They were very much taken with the paintings and as most of the sketches are still in the frames we showed them those. He would like to paint himself but doesn't think he possibly could, so this morning I suddenly thought he might enjoy Churchill's book "Painting as a Pastime" and we saw them on the street so lent it to them. Now they want to bring another friend to-morrow. He is more like a rancher than a Judge and seems very young. Had Pete finished school he would have been the principal then, but Pete had quit school when he first came to Banff.

After they left about 5.30 we rushed over for meat for supper, got some lovely fresh flowers Charlie Heyto had brought in from his garden at Anthracite and took those to Edith Abbles, Mrs Wellman's daughter. The Moores had told us that Mrs Wellman was in a coma, so we thought she must be terribly sick but she had come out of it we found out later. She has Asthma very badly and a Portland doctor found that she was allergic to a germ in herself. When she gets tired it gains and the medicine he makes out of her own self, doesn't help. Sounds complicated and guess it is, but she has had these spells before. They were looking for a nurse so we said we would try and find one. Went to see Jean Kelly up at the camp grounds but she has too small a baby to leave. Then to another mother who was in Calgary. Spent nearly an hour hunting and getting names but no real luck, just a few names. It was late when we got back, about 7 and after supper we went down to the Moores to ask how she was, for we hadn't liked to ask the daughters too much. So it ended by a nice evening at the Moores. Edmee and the Jack Brewsters coming in before we left.

Pearl was much interested in our opinions of a girl 14 and a boy about the same age who are from Banff and went to the Summer School. The Mooresthought their pictures the best in the Show and certainly they were among the best. One is Doris Livingston, Bubby's age I think, and does really lovely watercolors, Pearl I think sent her, no she had a scholarship from last year, and won a prize of a week at Sunshine. The other, Albert Roberge, who's mother is about the only person in Banff who goes out cleaning by the day. An awfully nice boy and he had never worked in oils before and did a very good scene of a back alley.

To-day Ules McCashe and his son Leonard came around to see what work we want done. They are going to make us a low fence across the front of the lot and also cut down any dead trees or leaning balm of Gileads etc. Are to start on Monday so just as well we won't be going out until Tuesday.

Again had the shopping to do and saw Cis who said that Sam hoped to come home to-day but she hadn't heard if he could so we said we would go up at two and see and bring him home if O.K. I had the droning all damp yesterday but never did it so knew I should get it done to-day. Did that right after lunch and then it got very dark, I hustled and we went a few minutes after two to

the hospital, It was raining up West and beginning to thunder. Took half a bouquet to Zani who is also in the hospital. an old bachelor without a jaw and who Pete used to work with in 1922 at Lake Louise, and another bunch was for Mr Cooper but he was asleep so gave them to a little boy with Arthritis. By this time Sam was all ready to leave, he had his clothes on over his pajamas and said he had been walking around and figured he would be better off at home and Dr MacKenzie said he could go. Pretty good having had the operation just Tuesday and this is Saturday. He walked downstairs in the hospital on Wednesday.

We hustled as much as we could as the storm was already starting and we got him home just before it broke. Cis was glad to see him so early and I noticed she had eustard just made and sugar cookies and fresh peas for supper. After we came back I wrote two letters, started this. Then we had fried chicken in the pressure cooker and also fresh peas and delicious mellow and now it is nearly bedtime. We have had several storms and then clear blue sky in between.

Got a most encouraging letter from Cliff today and he evidently feels healthy and happy at the coast. thinks the altitude is better for him there too. and Sonny has a good job as well. He was to see Mr Vallance ~~the next day~~ so looks as if we might get things sort of straightened up.

It is now Sunday, lovely and fresh out for we needed rain too. It looks much like the last few days as if we would have rain soon and maybe a bit of sun in between. I re-read this letter and hope you can make out what we have been doing. It sounds very confusing to me. We will be here to-morrow to get Ules & son started on the work, then can go to Moraine for 4 nights on Tuesday so will be back again next weekend to see how they got along.

If I don't send Gray's letter this time will next for you to read and return.

Loads of love,

Banff, Alberta.
August 23, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

I thought I was going to do so much if we had to stay in a few days but as usual other things have happened. Think I wrote you Sunday or Saturday night and then when we went up to the Post Office at noon heard that Mrs Wellman had died the evening before. Pete felt very badly for he has known the family always and was sort of brought up with the kids. We wanted to be sure it was right so asked someone and then just went to the door for a minute. Later after lunch we went down to Pearl Moores to speak to her *about it all*.

She hadn't known until Sunday either. It seems that Mrs Wellman was a bit better and over the bad attack of Asthma. Dr Atkins (who has been her doctor always) was there. She had been talking quite a bit and he suggested maybe she better rest, which she did, while the others went into the kitchen to make some coffee. It was about 7.30. Lorna looked in to see how she was and thought her color not just right and she had died in her sleep. Dr Atkin worked over her for a long time but could do no more. It was nice that her family had all been together for the first time in several years so she had enjoyed that. But she was a lovely person and a good friend. Her husband died in the flu epidemic in 1918 or 19 and left her with the three small children to bring up. She has had rather a sad life.

We had told the MacDonalds that we would be home so didn't dare go far. Later did go up and see how Sam was but he had had a number of callers and we didn't stay.

Monday morning bright and early Ules LeCasse and his son Leonard came around to start taking out trees. They began on the two big ones right next the living room chimney which were getting far too big and taking too much light. By nine the first one was out by the root and the next one didn't take long either. Ules was game warden for years and just retired. both he and his son are good axmen and Len has those things you tie on your legs to climb trees or poles, the way the Poweré men do, so limbed some trees for us. uses either hand. They did an awful lot of work and it makes such a difference.

We began to think that maybe it was foolish to try to go to Moraine with the funeral Wednesday and as we were also anxious to see how Ules got on now that we have them for a few days, we telephoned up. Are going Thursday for 4 nights and then they are booked up until the end of their season, so will try to get to Bow Lake after that.

Yesterday afternoon the MacDonalds came, Hugh John, the wife and daughter, and Sheila someone or other a little friend of the daughter who is studying painting. and a Mrs George Noble a sister of Mrs MacDonald. They were all

just as nice as they could be and seemed to really enjoy the sketches. We showed them the ones of Hawaii, Switzerland and Norway and the little girl said when she got home she would tell her mother she had seen all those countries. They were just going when a thunder storm blew up so stayed on until the heavy rain stopped and it was almost suppertime by then.

To-day Ules and Len helped get me a view, taking off branches and it is ever so much better, now they are starting to make a low fence across the front. 16 or 18 inches high and just one rail, sort of a baricade but it will help keep the cars out and not look too big.

We had to get permission to build it from the Super and then there being both Sweet peas as well as fresh peas from Anthracite, I got a bunch for Mrs Cooper and another for Mrs Paris and we took those around to them. Also saw Sam twice on errands and ran into Evelyn Browne who we didn't know was here. She is Belmore Browne's daughter. the sister of George Browne who the book is for. She lives in Durham N.H. near Dover. has a little house of her own there. Said she was so sorry not to get over to the exhibition tea at the Art Center but is going to try and stop in and see you some Sunday afternoon.

Mrs Browne was at the King Edward and Tibby (George's wife) at the store so we gathered them and brought them all back hereto tea. Mrs Browne is so full of energy and so very interested that we felt quite tired when they left!

George is to have a one man show at the Grand Central Art Galleries in New York next winter, and Tibby was so excited for he has just sold a large painting to be used on the Socony Oil Calender, and two other pictures of ducks to someone else which means they can pay the expenses of the show themselves. After they left I suddenly thought how much George would like to see the large Painting of ducks you have of Mr Bensons, and thought I would ask if they go to visit Evelyn when east if they would like to go and see you. and then I wondered, do you suppose that Mr Benson ever sees young artists these days? For what a treat it would be for George to meet him or see some of his pictures. Funny part is Belmore Brownes ancestors are old Salem people. Must ask what their names are. George is what I call a realistic artist and so sincere and such a fine young man and Tibby the wife is just about the prettiest person I know. and equally lovely in personality. George reminds me a bit of John Edward, perhaps because he lost the sight of one eye.

Another amusing thing. Mrs Browne knows Tibby's Aunts in Ross, California and they are much upset to think of her spending the winter in a log cabin way out in the wilds near Seebe, and only a privy, no modern conveniences. So they keep sending her all sorts of add about Septic Toilets, etc. She said even Ruth Draper, who she only met once, sent her information about a chemical toilet! I asked if it was The Ruth Draper and she said yes. She is some relation of hers.

We are going to try and make a wreath for Mrs Wellman's funeral to-morrow so will have to be up early, just a small wreath, and then Thursday hope we can be off early for Moraine.

Forgot ,Dr Riley, the one from Calgary who didn't get to Boston last fall, was here to see us on Sunday. He has a young girl Protege who has gone to Boston to study at the Mass. General I think. She has been so busy since she got there that he has only had one letter from her and the heat was awful. She said she wore underclothes until she noticed that she could see right through the assistant Supervisor's Uniform and so then she decided to wear just ~~the~~ her uniform after that ! Or so he said. He makes a good story out of things. He is going to send me her ~~name~~ and address and I thought Edith might like to meet her. We don't know her but believe she is a very clever girl.

Thursday. Never got this mailed yesterday

Will be starting for Moraine after lunch for it is a rainy day. What a mess I am making of this so won't try to write much more now. Sun seems to be coming out a bit so perhaps it will clear later.

Loads of love and glad your hot weather is over.

Catharine

Barbara
me meaning

Moraine Lake Lodge

In Valley of Ten Peaks

Lake Louise, Alberta

MAIL AND TELEGRAMS:
CARE OF CHATEAU LAKE LOUISE

Friday Aug 26

1949

Dearest Mother,

We are back here again but not for long. No dull this afternoon & a good chance to write. In fact I brought a lot of your letters which I wanted to re-read & maybe comment on & well maybe do that. Pete is having a nap & a loud one too. Sporing quite nicely. The last days in Banff were fairly busy ones for us & company each afternoon.

Wednesday was the funeral of Mrs Wellman. I think I told you we were going to make a wreath which we did. Juniper seemed ideal for the purpose with pieces 6 to 8 inches long & lovely series of soft shades of green & blue. & the under needles are a paler color which makes a contrast. After making the wreath (we first about 12 inches across) we went to the Golf course & got some Rin-a-bin-jin berries. Almost like Partridge berries, but a lovely shade of pinkish red, as they haven't all turned color there were several shades. I added them to the wreath in little bunches & it really looked awfully pretty. We think it means more to make a wreath out of wild things & then it will stay pretty for some time, after the perishable flowers are faded & gone. We took it to the church ourselves.

Jim Simpson was one of the Fall Beavers & Mrs Simpson & little Jimmie had also come down. We asked them to come in for a cup of tea on the way home.

The funeral was at 2.30. Had a shower just before but luckily it didn't rain again. Pete never likes to go inside the church so we stood with others outside. The family always follow the casket & the pallbearers in. A hard thing to do & poor little Edith (who her mother has lived with a good part of the time both here & in California) fainted just before she got to the door. I never saw any one do that before. It was like a play. Her legs just gave way & she sort of crumpled up. Some how the brother-in-law Dave Oliver, lifted her up & carried her to one of the cars. & after a few minutes Edith came to & enough to go on in with her husband. We all felt so badly, but they are a very emotional family & take things pretty hard & she has had the care of her mother with these bad asthma attacks for a long time. There were lots of old timers out, people you see seldom in Bayff & it was a big funeral.

Jim & Mrs Simpson came to the house for tea & Elmer who was working on the fence came in too. He used to work for Jim a long time ago. We had a nice tea together. Three or four carpenters came to work on the building ^{at Bayff} as they expected, so there won't be room for us until after labor day. There isn't room here either so don't know just what we will plan to do this coming week. Pete doesn't really feel like coming out. Some days his fur & others not so good!

Moraine Lake Lodge

In Valley of Ten Peaks

Lake Louise, Alberta

MAIL AND TELEGRAMS:
CARE OF CHATEAU LAKE LOUISE

19

after the Simpsons left we went over town. ran into Lorna (Wellman) Oliver & she was saying that she wished she could get ~~them~~ little Edith & The Hobbles away for a day or two. So we offered them our cabin up here for the 3 nights. It was a bit too soon but they telephoned today & will come to-morrow. Lorna & Dave Oliver insisted & so we may go back or get a cabin at Louise for one night. This was really too short a visit to try & paint.

Came up yesterday night after lunch. It poured rain all morning & didn't look very promising but by noon it cleared. Took the bot. full of Indian Day accounts to Lexton's first, figuring to get rid of it. as Norman is still away. we just left it there.

The effects were really lovely coming up but it was pouring hard when we reached Louise. Tried to find Jerry's Cliff to show him the letter from his father, but he was out. Got here about 5 o'clock & they all seemed glad to see us.

Last evening we met another interesting couple. Mr & Mrs Niel Belles of Los Angeles. originally he was from Denver. He talked all evening. they were very interesting. He told me all about a trip they made to Alaska on a friends yacht. How they went to one place where the bears came down to a waterfall to catch the Salmon as they jumped out of the water. Lots of bears, one just sitting out in the water & catching fish after fish & just eating certain

parts. Another place they went right up to the edge
of a glacier & when a chunk broke off it nearly
swamped the boat. She also told me all about
Los Angeles & the 3 1/2 million people now trying
to live there & the traffic problems etc. No one
can commute by train or subway. Just cars &
buses & the city wasn't planned for such traffic.
They have left to-day. We talked to them at lunch
& afterwards.

It's not raining today & we got some pictures
this morning but as there is little wind & the
clouds hang over the divide & the sun is behind
the clouds there is little light.

Now for your letters. Remember the catalogue I sent
from Vancouver of the Finnish ladies work? You asked
if I liked the faces. One would think they would
be queer but there was a strange haunting
beauty in them. Maybe it was the lovely soft color
a little like whistles, but they were fascinating
somehow, painted with great broad strokes -

You really have had a wickedly hot summer
for I notice the great heat started way back in
June. Am sure glad I wasn't there.

We were standing down by the lake side this
morning & a man from Connecticut spoke a while
with me. Finally he said "We have some rugged
country in Connecticut but not as rugged as this."
As if Connecticut could be compared to the Rockies
very well! He had driven 10,000 miles since June
all through the states. To avoid the heavy traffic
he said he often started at 4 A.M. or started
driving after mid night. Wonder how much
you would see that way -

Moraine Lake Lodge

In Valley of Ten Peaks

Lake Louise, Alberta

MAIL AND TELEGRAMS:
CARE OF CHATEAU LAKE LOUISE

19

was so glad to hear of Miss de Mear. I had an idea she had died somehow. Nice that she is back in Canada. Is that the correct way to spell her name? Or Mier. What a shame about Mary Abbotts hand shaking. I do feel sorry. Think the exhibitions at the Art Center sound very interesting.

Eds sent me such a nice letter for my birthday & with snap shots of the new house. It sounds lovely. I got the box of postal cards & everything else you have sent.

You know they say that people who can perspire freely stand the heat much better than those who can't. So maybe with all your dripping that's why you do so well.

Speaking of the well Flannery found & running the water into the fish pond. Someone mentioned keeping the water fresh, & I wondered if you ever thought of having a fountain & electric pump or something to throw it into the air which I believe purifies water.

You spoke of the drive to Jaffrey to see Miss Goodwin. But that you wouldn't want to stay there long. I agree with you about the White Mountains. I think all covered with trees they are monotonous, not like Rocky ones with the lovely changing effects.

Glad you at last have a nice cook! Could you sometime send me yours & Jean's recipe for rice pudding? Pete always talks about some Mrs Paris

used to make when he was a boy -

Will send you the folder of Moraine Lake & you may remember it. The Valley of the Ten Peaks. Guess you were only here once as the road is very scary for you. Shows the cabins we have been in with the porches to sit on. We have been in 3 of the double ones - & you can see we look down on where the cars park.

Yes the Concord Journal still comes but in spasms. Sometimes 3 at once. But think we receive them all. Maybe it would be just as well if you send the news terms about anyone we know & not subscribe again.

We are thinking of getting a new Ford. But so many people had trouble with the first ones turned out after the war. They weren't as well built as the old ones & so we decided to wait a while. Ours is still pretty good.

I wish I could design you a bag but am afraid I'm not much good at such things!

Guess the family had a good time at Edgartown. It sounds a nice place. Summer places seem to go in eras. Like Seal Harbor was great fern when there were lots of young people. Then they grew up & married & couldn't get back leaving the large summer places with elderly ladies & gentlemen. But perhaps now there are another group of young ones.

Did I tell you I think you better keep my watch that was fixed in Concord. Otherwise there will be duty on it to pay.

Guess I'd better call this a letter. It's pretty long. Pete's still asleep & it's after six.

Loads of love from us both

Catharine

P. just woke up. slept about 2 hours. Think he talked too much last night & after lunch.

Banff, Alberta.
Mon, Aug. 29, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Such a lot seems to go on and much has happened since I last wrote you the afternoon before we left Moraine as Lorna and Dave Oliver decided to take our cabin for ~~one~~ ^{the last} night. That evening there weren't many in the lodge as a party of 7 who had reservations since last ~~summer~~ winter never showed up at all. They had paid a large deposit and their mail had arrived but not a word from them. So mean when Mrs Shaw was turning people away who would have liked the space the 7 would have occupied even for one night. We had an elderly gentleman to talk to from Washington D.C. He has traveled all over this continent, especially Alaska and one trip he had just made and liked the best was on the Maquina up the west coast of Vancouver Island, the one we nearly took had we not gone to doctors and dentists instead. think it might have done more good.

Young Cliff came over in the Jeep to fish and we had a short talk with him. Seems he had gone to Invermere paid Lloyd Anderson so much cash and the cow, in return for Lloyds share in Cliff's Jeep. Later Lloyd wrote that he had found the Cow was never paid for by Cliff. Rather disconcerting!

The next day Saturday was lovely and I took a few Kodachromes before we left as we decided that we might as well get home in time to pick up things to eat etc. Got to the house by one and found a message in the door that there was a wire at the telegraph office for us. We wondered which member of the family was in trouble now, for I no longer expect it to be word from you, usually it is someone arriving on a certain train. We thought we would have a bite to eat first, for had it been serious they would have telephoned us. It was from Lloyd Anderson saying that he wanted us to contact Sandy Gordon (who they had bought the Invermere Farm from) as soon as possible. So we decided to try and find Mr Vallance as we could see by the shades being up that he was home. We also checked to see if Lorna and Dave had left for we wanted to let Mrs Shaw know if they had changed their plans. Got the mail etc. then to the Vallances. He was out, (having to go to the Wellmans with her Will) but Mrs Vallance told us that he hadn't been able to see Cliff at the coast, a great disappointment to us all, for Mr V. was going to get any papers from Cliff about the farm or Jeep etc. and also find out how things stood as Cliff has definitely decided to stay at the coast. I think I told you that when we saw him at the dentists office in Vancouver and asked him "what about the farm?" he looked a little surprised and said "why its yours." He is not always very business like.

WE waited there a while, saw the Phillippses who live next door and then thought we would try to find Sid downtown and also do the errands which we did. Saw Jackie a minute and he told us the sad news that Mrs Mac had died very suddenly. This was a great shock to me and I didn't tell Pete until we got home for I knew he would feel very badly as she was an old friend. I think you remember her, we went up to her log house for tea I think, She seemed so young, used to bring people here quite often and always very attractive people and interested in the pictures.

Mrs Mac had a one room cabin on a little ranch down near the Ghost River on the way to Calgary where she would keep her horses too. We heard later that she was in Banff the day before with Calgary friends and that she had gone to bed as usual, but next morning when the young boy went in to see if she wanted anything, or maybe start the fire, he found her dead on the floor. A flash light in her hand and still going. They think it was a heart attack. Awfully hard on the daughter Mary who is married, has two little children and lives at the coast.

After we had been here a short time went back and found Sid Vallance in, so had a bit of a talk. Cliff I just never got over to see him I guess though he telephoned etc. Most annoying. and the last day the Vallances thought they would go over and see him at Bowen only to find it was his day off and he had gone to Vancouver but wasn't at Mildred's and never called up the Vallances. We told Sid about the wire from Lloyd and as he realizes we are too easy as a rule, he said he would telephone over to Invermere for us and see what it was all about which he did. Then I called back after supper from Barbaras and found that he hadn't gotten much out of Lloyd who is a bit slow, loyal and honest but certainly not a quick thinker. He told Sid what Peter had told us. (I forget he appeared just after supper and told us Lloyd had seen him on the road and that the payment on the farm was 90 days due and young Peter was afraid if we didn't do something we would lose it all, and told Lloyd to try and get in touch with us.) Anyway Lloyd wanted us to pay the amount due on the farm \$2,600. by now and then pay him to run it ! This Mr Vallance was sure we wouldn't want to do but said he would speak to us. So then after talking to me Sid called Invermere again and spoke to Sandy Gordon who owned the Farm originally and they said that he and Lloyd would drive over the following day and we could talk it over as he had to leave Invermere for the coast on Tuesday and Monday Sid had to go to Calgary and this week is the Bar Association Convention in Banff. *He will be busy.*

So yesterday we had a full day. Starting with Dr Riley bringing us a present of a piece of Gray Marble for a pallette that can be put under water to keep the paint moist. He made us a short visit and is always fun and interesting, this time telling about warming cars with a blow torch in Saskatchewan's winters.

He hadn't been gone long before the Hemmings arrived. They were great friends of Mrs MacDonalds and Mary had wanted to see us at the house after the burial Tuesday. also wandered

where a certain bit of Silver was that her mother always kept flowers in and we had it here.

Lunch, a call from Harold and then at two Sandy Gordon and Lloyd drove in. Young Peter had told us how good Sandy had been about everything and he certainly was a most likable fellow. I called Sid and he soon came down, after which we talked business. Had a very pleasant talk but found out that Sandy had been to Cranbrook to start foreclosure proceedings as the man who had handled the original agreement died very suddenly a month ago. Another reason the whole thing is more difficult to settle up. There were really just two alternatives, either we take what he offered for the amount we lent Cliff in the first place (when he thought he was going to get more than enough from the Ski Co. to settle it all and of course never did) or else for us to pay the amount owing plus interest and have a farm we have never seen on our hands, if we sold it we would put Lloyd out of a house, and Lloyd could never afford to buy it himself or rent it even. and if we did get a buyer we might not get more than a small down payment and a worry for years to get the rest. We were very glad to take Sandy's offer of cash and sign a paper called a Quit Claim, so now we have nothing further to do about it as we have no claim against the farm. The agreement was made in Lloyds name ~~by~~ so it could have been very complicated, for at the time Cliff was afraid if the farm was in his name Mildred would come and stay. Anyway Sandy thinks he may keep the farm in the family for his son-in-law and daughters to use and perhaps even let Lloyd stay on for a bit. He also will give Lloyd the cow which fixes that matter. I think Sid was as pleased as we were to have the matter settled for the road to Invermere is under construction and none of us wants to make any trips back and forth. Sandy and Lloyd stayed for about an hour afterwards and we talked and had tea, but they couldn't eat much as they had been nervous about the whole thing!

Last night I wrote Cliff what had transpired and just hope and pray the whole matter is settled now.

Guess this is enough of a letter. Maybe sometime I will have a chance to answer yours and thank you for the lovely pictures of the garden too.

More love,

Catherine .

Banff, Alberta.

Thurs. Sept. 1. 1949.

Dearest Mother,

It hardly seems possible that it is already the first of September, and when we heard the school bell this morning we were glad that we didn't have to go to school! We are having lovely summer weather, in the 80's in Calgary. If it weren't for the odd leave already turning yellow I would think it more like July. Indian Days weather was much cooler. It is nice to have good weather this week as the Canadian Bar Association are holding a convention at the Banff Springs. 1000 of them, though some may be sleeping in the village. I don't think they can sleep that many up there. *They had the food to dinner up there last night.*

Tuesday I think I sent you a letter, It was the day of Mrs MacDonald's funeral and we spent most of the morning gathering Juniper with all shades of green and blue berries which the bushes we have been going to seem to have in great numbers this year. Then a few bunches of the Kinikinic berries. We used a piece of haywire to make the foundation of and that seemed rather appropriate as it is used in the west to mend everything with, in the way of harness or carts or cars. It came out very well and then we took it up to the cemetery. Had a hard time finding the grave of Gen MacDonald for when we went there was no sign of anything. I looked at Mrs Wellmeans and outwreath was still there that we made a week ago, and as fresh as ever, which was nice to know.

In the end we had quite a day for on the way home we saw Erling Strom with Siri in the Jeep, they were just going to see Ike Mills but said they were on their way to say "hello" to us. We said (foolishly) "why not come down now" and started on, thinking they were right behind. It was just about 12 noon, but they didn't come then, must have talked to Ike for a while and we wondered what to do. Didn't really have enough of anything for lunch and yet we rather wanted to have ours, waited a bit and then I tried to make some sandwiches with our last bread which was so fresh it was sort of falling apart. Then they came so I sort of hid those. Pete asked them if they had had lunch, but luckily they said that they had had a late breakfast and would have a big tea before Siri left on the train to go back to school, so that solved that, but it must have been 1.30 or 2 when they left. Think it was two, for it was after one when they came. Then we rushed through lunch, Pete likes to eat very slowly and I had barely changed my clothes for the three o'clock funeral when Mary Paris came to find out if Pete would draw an emblem for the Ski Runners to use on their note paper and as posters.

We got to the funeral on time and it was a very lovely service. It is a pretty little cemetery and the day was lovely, they

had quite a few flowers arranged on the grass, Mrs Boon came as we did with an armful of lovely flowers from her garden, She had picked the whole vine of sweetpeas and they trailed over her arm. She told us that just a short time ago she had heard Mrs Mac say how she hated funeral flowers, so she took these and very graciously laid them on the grass. It was all very simple. Tully Montgomery the minister walked up to the grave side and the undertaker had the wooden box of ashes. Mary and Gordie (the daughter and son-in-law) walked across from the car they had driven up in. (Mrs Mac's green one it was) and then the few good friends who had gathered, drew closer and the Padre made the service very short.

Afterwards a number of us were asked up to the house for tea. Mary had wanted to have her mother's old friends gather once more in the house, as they had always had it, and it was actually very pleasant. About 20 or so there. We didn't stay very long though. Can't remember what we did later. guess Pete had a nap as such occasions take it out of him and then a quiet evening.

Yesterday Pete had a bit of trouble with the sharp pain over his eye. It doesn't bother him as often as it did, just once in a while. So it was noon before we went out to do errands and I did some washing in the morning etc. We ran into Cliff Jr down from Lake Louise and He had gotten my letter about what we had done with the farm in Invermere and seemed to think it all O.K. He hopes to get a truck and go over and get all their things but now the question of where to store them. Seems a shame they have no place to call home or where they can leave anything. We were also in luck, two years ago we backed a note for a boy who was in the service and lost an eye, a nice lad but his father we don't care for and felt a bit sorry for the boy. Another man in Banff would back a note at the bank for half of what he needed if we would back the other half, We thought this other man would* n't do it unless he knew Dick pretty well, so finally we said we would. \$250.00. then of course the note bounced, the bank loans the money with someones backing and then if they don't pay it up you have to. They were very good about it at the bank and tried to collect it for us but no luck. Then Dick sold a Ski Lift he had put his credits into but we heard too late to get in on the money from that, though the other man who backed a note got his \$250. then. Dick rather avoided us and if we did see him he was sure he would pay soon etc. etc. I happened to ask the new bank manager (2 weeks ago) who is very nice, about it, and he said, if I see Dick I will tell him that I think you are going to start proceedings if he doesn't pay up soon, and both Pete and I were rather startled the same afternoon to have Dick stop us and say he had deposited \$225. to our credit in the bank that same day! And yesterday along he came with the rest. We are awfully pleased for he was the only one who had really let us down.

This seemed to be our day for getting money unexpectedly. Mrs Chuck Millar is making a couple of shirts for Pete. She came and asked us for a loan of \$100. early this summer, I have forgotten now what for, and to-day she had the money all saved up. I asked if she was sure they were alright and she said "yes" that it was a wonderful feeling to have someone they could ask if they really got stuck. We have lent to them before and always they save it up somehow.

Remember the two girls from Illinois and Ohio that we met at Moraine Lake and were here for the last Indian Days? We got a money order for \$25.00 from one of them to-day for the Indians. Wasn't that nice? She said we had been so nice to them and they liked the Indians so much that she felt she wanted to send it.

George Encil of the Chair Lift, used to be George Eisenschiml, was down Monday morning wanting some photographs of the boys who were killed in the War for the Memorial Hut. one of "Ape" Edwards was what he really came for, but then wants some others too. and he saw a Ski Jumper that Pete was modeling last winter and wants it for a trophy, and would even like three trophies. don't know if Pete can do them or not but he may have a try. *He was very enthusiastic about it.*

Don't know if it will be nice for the weekend or not but we had thought we might go up to Bow Lake for the day to-morrow and see what the situation is like and if there would be enough room for us next week if we ~~were~~ ^{were} up or if there are too many work men around. *they are working on the addition.*

Saw Dr MacKenzie this afternoon and he stopped right in the middle of the main street to say that he might be going to Boston this fall. I think Russ gave Pat too good a time last year! It seems that they have had some trouble with a certain kind of operation, a sort of repair job he called it, and Pat met Dick Chute last fall who they have been writing to and if there is a chance of seeing some similar operations performed Dr MacKenzie would like to go and watch another doctor do it. Dick Chute I used to know at dances in Boston. seems funny doesn't it. He is an awfully nice fellow too. I think was a year ahead of Russ at Harvard. If he does go I will let you all know, for though Dr MacKenzie isn't as handsome and dashing as Pat, we think an awful lot of him. He is a little short fellow. younger than we are, about Cobs size. I think Edith and Bob would like him especially.

This has grown into quite a letter but I have written it in between things. If I could only get down to it would really answer some of yours. The Catalogue of Canadian paintings came and I can imagine some of them. They are with two exceptions all Montreal and ~~Toronto~~ artists as if there were no others painting in Canada! Some have only been in Canada 10 years or 20 at the most and how can they be called Canadians when they started out and even taught in Russia and Germany. Pete gets quite cross on the subject sometimes. But more of that later.

Loads of love.

Catherine

75 I thought it was quarter to ten but it is only nine so will type a bit more. Went to a tea yesterday at Doris Blows. have never been to her house before but she is a great friend of Edmees and had her. Mrs Aainter and Aunt Julia to tea. Aunt Julia is Col. Moores sister, you remember when you were here one Indian Days and said "who is that extraordinary looking woman?" well its Aunt Julia. I was first there and then she walked in, is the kind to make an entrance. It was rather hot and I had on a very summery dress. Aunt Julia was in black, hat and all with a brilliant green short coat over her shoulders. So Doris said "can I take your coat and put it in my spare bedroom?" (as the house is too small to have more than one or two bedrooms at the most for the family of four. There is a comoflaged bed in the living room)

Aunt Julia answered " Oh. no. my dear, it would spoil the affect" and then added. " the spot of color you know " She kept it on until after the others had seen it I think, but had to throw it aside it was too hot. My she is funny. Talked at first about being so unused to being fat, " why " she said " I used to be so thin all my life I had to stuff cotton padding around my waist so my hips wouldn't seem too large." Never heard of anyone trying to make their tummy larger !

Pete had gone to see someone at the hospital and wanted to tell the Moores about it so we ran in there a minute not realizing that they were entertaining Bar Association friends. Turned out to be the Hewards of Montreal and his father was Secretary to Sir William Van Horne years ago, or an assistant. which was interesting. She came from San Francisco and most attractive. Pearl tried to tell me who she was, I think one of the Gibson girls or something related to them, will find out later. As we were going we gave them a lift to the hotel, taking them around by our house first. Her sister was an artist who died two years ago. Prudence Heward, and she has a painting illustrated in the Catalogue you sent, (not one I would like much, of a flowers on a table. at least I expect they are flowers in the vase ! He spoke of Takakaw falls being a Japanese name, and it was Sir William who evidently named it because of his interest in things Japanese. Takakaw Falls are in Yoho Park where the Moores used to run the camp.

Must stop this time am getting a stiff neck .

Loads of love,

Catharine

Gray Campbell's letter came back - will send you another one as I think they are interesting.

Banff, Alberta.
Sunday, Sept 4, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

We are in the middle of the Labor day weekend and a more miserable day for people I can't imagine, unless it was snow or cold. It was lovely yesterday morning and then got overcast and by supper time was raining and rained all night and most all day to day. The moisture will be good for the woods but it is poor for visitors, especially the ones who must be camping out. We don't mind for it is nice with a fire going in the fireplace and we have more than enough to do in the house. I hoped to answer a lot of letters but so far have done one and a half so this evening thought I would write you and if no one comes in answer some of yours.

It was late when we got up this morning and then this afternoon the Nick Morants came in about tea time and we ~~at~~ always seem to have so much to tell each other about one thing or another and then they go with still things we have forgotten to ask them. Then a late supper and it is nearly eight. Doesn't promise any better weather to-morrow but Tuesday should be sunny, so they say.

Didn't do much yesterday either, except the cleaning and the errands and spoke to a number of people. As we were finishing the dishes Jonnie appeared with a white cloth tied around his head and two pieces on his feet. He was supposed to be Robinson Crusoe and then he changed a bit and was someone else. Said "its surprising to see what one can do with just a few pieces of cloth." He has the greatest imagination, used one piece for a beard and was Santa Clause. a red lid to a box and was a Red cap. One thing after another. Wants to go on the stage now. We took him up to see Sam with his "bag of tricks" as he called a paper bag with the cloth inside but he wasn't as funny up there, perhaps a little too selfconscious. Sam is feeling much better and out in his car already.

Later as we were almost ready to eat and early supper Mary (MacDonald) and Gordon Bell-Irving came down with Mrs Mac's soup tureen for us to store. its a big silver one they used for glowers or fruit in the center of their living room. Mary is very good but it is hard for her to know what to do. She thinks now she may keep the Quarter section with the little cabin where Mrs Mac died but will sell the house in Banff. It needs a lot of upkeep and has been broken into a couple of times being off by itself. They couldn't stay long having to get back to the ranch. May be in again.

Now for your letters. Nice to hear from Dorothy Brown again, I must write her soon, haven't except at Christmas for ages.

Did I tell you that one of the tourists we met at Moraine sent us \$25.00 for the Indians. Wasn't that nice. We wouldn't have helped this year except for two of the oldest Indians who Pete is afraid may not live much longer, but next year we plan to be away beforehand so we just can't help and then they will have to find someone else.

I can't quite remember the four Japanese books you spoke of bound in blue and of flowers, but I think it would be nice to send to Eileen Morse. After all John E. is the only ~~one~~ of his generation with the Morse name to carry on and they should have more of Grandpa's things, don't you think? One thing you can always do is "Lend" to a Museum for I believe that then if any of the family want them back at any time because perhaps the museum isn't showing them, they can get them. But if they are given, then they belong to the Museum for keeps. Also I think it is just as well to see which of the great grandchildren show the most interest in such things, otherwise they soon are discarded. I am so glad that you sent them the lovely bronze lamp. Just tell me the things you are thinking of giving away and I should be able to remember them enough to tell whether I would like any or not.

About the children's books, there are quite a few that I would like sometime for the illustrations, especially the French ones. De Monvel I think was the illustrator. and then there are others. If you could maybe get someone to write down the title and illustrator then I could say "yes" or "no" quite quickly. They may have a children's section to the library here if they ever get it started, they are still working on it. and some might be good for that. I don't suppose that Rusty or Gale are very interested in our children's books and more than we were in the ones you had, but I know the kids here would love them for they keep coming to borrow the ones I had as a child. I think they would like the old St Nicholas magazines too if you got someone to ship them out freight. The Mather girls loved "Six Girls" which was one of your old books. and also the Alcott ones. and Jonny is a great reader too its the youngest kids that are just learning to read and haven't too much homework. The evenings are long here in winter too. Maybe George could do them up in a wooden box, that is any you want to send. First wrap each in newspaper and then pack them in a wooden box is a good way. There isn't any duty on old books. or new ones either when you send them.

Your letter of August 31st. came to-day and I certainly wouldn't worry about Mrs Huppertz. I think you were good to have her for as long as you did, times are not what they used to be and without ~~xxxxxx~~ Mary being there it really is much too hard on just Jean and I think the responsibility of a person with Heart trouble is a bit hard. It isn't as if she hadn't other places to visit or as if you had urged her to come. Don't you worry a bit and I don't think you were selfish at all not to ask her to stay longer. Naturally people love to visit you for you do everything for their comfort etc. You could have a houseful all the time of you wanted to!

Yes. it is much nicer without so many trees. The real trouble has been that the former superintendent was sort of hipped on the subject. Some people in the town had cut out trees without thinking and in a town they don't grow back again very easily. The ones we have were here before us but as we plant grass they grow more. When the trees turn will try and take the pictures for you.

I don't know that Mr Benson was so old or that he no longer paints, but if George and Tibby do go near Concord I will try to have them see you. The sister Evelyn will call I think some Sunday afternoon. They are all such nice people and its fun for you to meet friends from out here.

I will write Edith when I find out the name and address of the girl from Calgary, and if Edith thinks it would be nice you might include her in Thanksgiving or something. Anyway I will wait until Dr Riley lets me know.

Pete thinks perhaps you never went to Moraine as the road in is very scary, narrow and drops off on one side all the way with no guard rail. Some people get in and are afraid to drive their cars out and the boy at the camp has sometimes done it for them and hitchhiked back down again. It is lovely with ten high peaks on one side.

Don't they make wreaths for decoration day any more. That was such a lovely custom.

I will find out more about sending books ~~to start~~ for the library. They aren't ready yet for them as the shelves won't be built until fall.

Gee. I forgot that Jaffrey wasn't in the White Mts. You spoke of not liking the mountains and those were the only ones I thought of. Its really just country isn't it? or one Mountain?

I think the pictures of your garden lovely. hope mine of the house come out as well.

It was fun hearing about A'arcy Baker Carr and Kay. Wonder what they will do. Shall be anxious to hear. There is another person I should write to, even just a note.

Couldn't you use an old design over again with different colors? I wish I were more help. This is in connection with the needlepoint. I guess my letter sounds as disjointed as yours when answering questions. Pete was amused to-day when I read yours out loud. first you spoke of a new Ford car and then would send the recipe for rice pudding, all in one breath.

Am so glad that Cousin Bert and Alma had such a nice trip to Portland and how nice of Florence to ask them there.

I'd forgotten that you wrote a journal letter from Europe in 1924. Would love to read it and have it sometime. Think you sent me the postcards though, but you will have the photographs.

It is now Monday and turned out to be a beautiful day, am so glad. There may have been a frost for our thermometer on one side of the house read 32 this morning. It is so fresh after the rain. The town must have been full for two cars spent the night on the river bank in front of our house. Bet it was chilly sleeping in them. The one right in front of the house, the people kept slamming the door every hour or so. I expect they got cold or cramped and maybe opened the door to get out which we couldn't hear but did wake up each time they slammed it shut. There was a dance starting at midnight for lots of horns blowing and noise through the night. Pete had trouble with his nose this morning so is sleeping a bit now. It seems to come every ten days or two weeks and we can't figure any thing that causes it, except perhaps the stuff backs up in his sinuses until it reaches a certain point and then starts draining down his throat.

Better get on with those more difficult letters now.

Loads of love,

Catharine .

Edmonton, Alberta.
Fri. Sept. 9, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Haven't written you for several days so will send you a quick Air Mail to tell you that everything is under control and I just haven't had time to write.

It's been lovely weather too but Pete was under the weather again and this time as Dr MacKenzie was in Calgary and Pat Costigan was taking a day off to celebrate the birth of a son (do tell Russ that Pat's son was born the 6th and a fine big boy too) ~~So~~ asked for Dr. Atkin and he came down right away. I think that was Wednesday noon and he seemed to understand Pete's condition best of all so I just hope he can get him in shape again. First thing he suggested was horseback riding as the best way to take exercise easily. I wish now that we had gotten him last fall or that Mom had gotten him this spring but if he can help now we will be very glad. Pete feels much better to-day and Sam just came in so I will ask him to mail this.

Got a letter from Dr. Riley and the girl who is in Boston is Dr. Cay Haney, Boston Hospital, South Dep't. 745 Mass. Ave. Boston. He wrote "She does find things a little more reserved and proper than out here in our uncivilized land." I will try to write Edith about her for it wouldn't be far from Brookline. If I remember correctly the girl had a very unhappy childhood, the father & mother were divorced I think and Dr. Riley tried to help the girl and has seen her through Medical School. At least I think she is a doctor or going to be one. maybe she is working on it in Boston.

Also have received the Churchill book, "Painting as a Pastime" and would you like two did you say? They were bent in transit but think they will press out alright.

Will send this along and write more later.

Loads of love from us both.

Catharine
P.S. Dr. Atkin is the old family doctor who was here when Pete was little. a wonderful man, now retired, so as he said, he has plenty of time to help us out whereas the younger doctors are too busy with sudden serious things. I can't give much time to a case such as Pete has. when it takes talking & patience Sam says to tell you he is running this to the station.

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. Sept. 11, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

We seem to have arrived in the middle of winter! Last week it was warm and sunny every day, clear blue sky and a hot sun and we didn't need any fire in the house, just one in the fireplace at night perhaps. Then on Friday when it was 81 in Calgary and I guess 75 here, the radio said "storm warnings" cold wind from the north to reach Calgary at Midnight and probably snow." This sounded a bit queer but in the afternoon still with a west wind it got overcast and by evening the wind had changed and it was pretty black over Minnewanka, but at midnight there was a strong north wind and rain, then sleet and about 6 or 7 in the morning it was snowing hard. For a short time it came down thick and wet and loaded the branches with heavy wet snow, later it let up and only snowed lightly off and on all day yesterday, but there must be six inches of snow on the front lawn and the poor shrubs are all bent over as they still have green leaves. Mrs MacLeod has a lovely willow in her yard, very symmetrical and yesterday afternoon I noticed that it was like an umbrella turned inside out. the branches all bent over to the ground. Several of the Balm of Gilead branches here have snapped off with the weight of snow and some trees have broken, the little ones are bent over and touching the ground. I tried to shake the heavy snow off but it seemed to be frozen on and it doesn't look as if the trees would ever straighten up again. It was about 28 last night and I guess it finished the gardens allright. The few flowers I could see at the Post Office garden looked very miserable sticking a bit of orange flower above the snow.

This morning it is trying to clear and the snow falling off the trees in great globs, but it is still awfully pretty out. We had a wire from Tom Link last evening saying that he would be going through on the train and could come on the morning train if O.K. with us and then leave this afternoon. But Pete didn't feel like a whole day with anyone so we wired that we couldn't see him until late afternoon. Pete is feeling better but not well enough for that.

Dr Atkin is awfully good. comes down each morning and has a cup of coffee as we are finishing breakfast, He is a real country doctor and very wise. Has given us all sorts of tonic things for Pete to take to build himself up and I believe if Pete can only stick to it he will be ever so much better. He has gotten so overweight and doesn't feel up to much and Dr Atkin wants to get his weight down and is sure then he will feel ever so much better.

Yesterday Mrs Simpson arrived about 11 A.M. to stay as long as we needed her. Mary and Jimmy had been in when Pete was feeling sick and I guess told their mother and Mrs Simpson said "I am going down and help Catharine in case she needs me." It was good of her as they are awfully busy at Bow Lake, She talked to Pete and they washed the dishes to-gether while I went over town and did the shopping which was nice.

I have gott4n a bit behind on the letter writing so won't write more now, Will start anwsering your questions in old letters soon. My trouble is that I put your letters down after reading them without using any system and then of course they pile up and aren't answered properly.

Don't say anything about Pete having been sick when you write as he hates to have people know he has been under the weather and likes me to read your letters when they come. It is much the same as he had before but I really think that Dr Atkin understands better for he has known the family and been their doctor for so many years from the time they were all kids. He was also Pete's father's friend and Doctor and he has time to sit down and talk, which the younger doctors just can't take time to do.

Am sending a couple of clippings that might interest you

Loads of love,

Catharine

PS. Will send this Air Mail so there may be a few days before you get the next one by ordinary mail.

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. Sept. 11, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Wrote you a letter to mail to-day but as we are sitting listening to the radio thought I would try to catch up answering some of your recent letters, even if I don't get far.

To-day turned out busier than we expected. We had a late breakfast as we both slept until nine. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours. We lost a lot of sleep earlier this week so I guess are making it up. Then as we were finishing breakfast Dr Atkin came and stayed nearly an hour. He is retired but likes to call on patients that are old friends and we talked of all sorts of things. He isn't coming until Tuesday, he seems to have taken a great interest in building Pete up so I hope this time we are on the right track. After he left it was getting near lunch time, wonder if that was when I wrote you anyway we had lunch about one. The snow was falling off the trees and everything wet and dripping so we couldn't do much outside. We were just in the midst of eating when a car drove up and a man rushed to the back door. He seemed to know me but I couldn't quite remember him but he was very anxious to say hello to Pete. It was Tom Jamanaugh, a Norwegian by birth who had worked for Pete's father in the store before Pete was born and for a few years after. Then had gone farming and has a family near Edmonton. Wetaskwin is the place. He said he had had lunch but to go on eating which we did and he was here about an hour. Much interested to find that we had been in Norway, in fact he really enjoyed his visit. While he was here Mom came in to see if we felt like seeing Pete's Aunt Lizzie who was to come and see her this afternoon. Pete said he didn't mind if she came down for just a short time.

I had a few things soaking to rinse out and was just hanging those up when Edmee and Lorna Wellman Oliver drove in, and they made quite a call which we enjoyed for it is a long time since we have seen Lorna and she had never been here before. By the time they had left and we had sat quietly for a bit it was time to go to the station to see Tom Link go through. The train was late and we were there nearly half an hour but saw him for the short time the train was in. So we never did see Aunt Lizzie, which was just as well. for too many people are a bit tiring.

And now for a few letters. Am glad you got to Salem to see the Agges for it means so much to them. One wonders how they keep on as they do, and Miss Annie's letters sound so young too, not like an old ladies.

That was interesting about Katherine Mayor getting married again, I never thought her first husband, Cook, so very exciting somehow and not one for that family. I hope she has a happier time out of this marriage

That was very interesting about the Hiam girl getting her pilots license, must send it to Mrs Rogers who was such a friend of Frances and will like to hear any news of the children.

Thanks for the rice pudding recipe, haven't tried it yet.

About the Campbells, who's letter I sent and who live on a ranch. He came from Ottawa and was a mounted policeman here for several years. Was in the car with two of the mounties who were shot by the Doukabors years ago. you may remember the case. The Doukabors shot and killed two of the Banff police and Gray and another Mountie were in the back seat and had to try and catch the men. That was before the War. Then when his time in the Police was up he worked his way to England and joined the R.A.F. and went all through the war. Married Eleanor overseas and then was sent to Canada to an R.A.F. Training station and she came over, but a year before the end of the War he was taken back to England and put on Lancasters which he flew on bombing missions over Germany until the War was over.

Its quite wonderful to think that Sam Manierre is planning to go to Taos N.M. this month, I do hope he won't be disappointed. and that all goes well with his recovery.

Was glad to hear that you got an accomodator, I had thought the Norwegian was going to stay but guess she didn't last very long. Why not keep the accomodator until you can get a person who will stay. Even if it is expensive, it is worth it. *How your letter saying she has left too!*

Seems funny our season is so late here. The first day of Sept. we had for dinner. Fresh Salmon, fresh peas and Blueberry muffins it was more like a 4th of July dinner. We got our last fresh peas yesterday. Sept 10th. and to-night on the radio they warn that in Calgary it will get as low as 20, so may here.

Did I thank you for sending the Canadian Catalogue of Paintings I don't wonder that there weren't many you liked.

That was awfully interesting about Mrs Chambers running into Miss Morse of the Art Museum school in the apartment next her friend, If you do go to see her do remember both Pete and I to her. We didn't realize she was still alive somehow. Funny how things happen like that.

Nice that Madge can have a house built ^{so} quickly, Frances & Gil will soon be moving in and how nice it will be for you to have them close by.

If I can only remember I have a suggestion to send you for a design for a needlepoint. It is a full page colored picture of tulips in the new issue of Better Homes and Gardens and I think if you made a similar design it might be very effective. It is just an idea but you could use pictures of tulips and then combine them in an overall pattern.

I was sorry to hear that Mrs Eckfeldt died, that is unless she was too old to enjoy life much more. I always mean't to send her a Christmas card but would forget to put her name on the list.

Did you ever find out what the strange leaks were in the down stairs ceilings in late July? I wondered if it had anything to do with the insulation, for sometimes the warm moist air works through and condenses, but that usually is in the roof not the first floor.

About my watch you had fixed. Better keep it in Concord until our next visit east, though I can't say when that might be.

The book you mentioned about Japan " Popcorn on the Ginza " by Lucy H. Crockett sounds very good. Haven't seen it here at all if you want to send it sometime we would love to have it.

I have no idea how old Mrs Mac was when she died, she always seemed young but I imagine was in her fifties anyway. Was married during the first war so maybe was even 60. Too bad about Sted's Old dying and it will be hard for Sted to find a person to take his place in the garden. For now-a-days there are not many who know much about gardening in that way, unless he gets someone from the Old Country.

Tuesday It is evening and will just finish this before we turn in. We both slept 12 hours Sunday night but this morning woke before 8 after only 10 hours sleep so guess we have caught up on that. Dr Atkin came this morning and checked Pete over, wants him to do certain things, like taking a bit of exercise, he now suggests sawing wood, which I don't think appeals to Pete much, However we did take a bit of a stroll along the river bank yesterday and this afternoon cleaned up the fallen branches about the yard. found a dead cat too and covered it up with grass till we can dig a hole, just hope we don't forget it and trip over it some dark night ! Mrs Scott was out and told us that during the storm she and Mrs Scott watched two robins eat all the pretty red berries off the mountain ash, I noticed them too under the trees, looking a little lost in the deep snow. We still have large patches of snow in the shadows and it is quite wet yet. Have a lot of wood to pile so may get that done to-morrow. The trees haven't turned yellow yet and I do hope when they do we will feel like getting out sketching. Pete is trying hard to do what Dr Atkin suggests and I hope he will feel better for it, but to-day felt very let down.

Jackie and Florence have gone off for another little trip, just a few days over to the Windermere with Young Peter to drive them. He wanted to get his things at the farm and that was their excuse to go. But as they offered to take Mario to Trail with them and that is a two or three days trip we wonder how far they plan to go. Everyone in town seems to wonder how Jackie can afford to travel so much but we just try not to bother our heads about it for it really doesn't concern us now.

We are glad to have the farm matter cleared up, that is Cliff's farm. We didn't lose as much as you thought and it is as if we paid rent for him for a year or two while he was getting his health back. Now we hope they will be able to take care of themselves.

We were so pleased to hear to-day that Tena is to go to the Concord Academy, how very nice for all. Nice for Tena and how happy Aunt Julie will be to have her there. I think it a wonderful thing to do. Nice too for Tena to know John's relatives and all better.

That stuff you spoke of for dishes, We use Dreft and I like it ever so much. It is a powder but washes the dishes without a streak and good for woollens too, so don't bother about the other. *We don't have to dry ours if we don't want to.*

I hardly have time to tell you I am glad you have a cook at last, when I get a letter from you saying she has already left! Do hope you have better luck soon.

When I wrote about Mrs Mac having " the Quarter Section " that was a bit of land down near Cochrane where she could keep her horses all winter. She built a one room cabin on it and liked it so much that she spent most of her time there and rented her house here in the summer. Though she had mentioned living in Banff this winter. Mary doesn't know whether to sell the house here or not but wants to keep the little ranch place.

How nice John Watkins is engaged but was very amused when he wrote he was engaged to " Miss Jean W. Hyde " it sounded so formal. Hope he waits until you have a cook before bringing her to Concord! Wonder did Jim and Margaret get there yet.

Siri, Erling Strom's daughter goes to a school in Quebec just north of where Stowe is in Vermont. I think it is a convent school but I imagine cheaper than one in the states. She is a lovely girl.

Am glad you remember Dr MacAenzie, I had forgotten that you of course met him the summer Pete had his hand burnt so badly. If he goes east his wife may go too and they will pick up a new car. His father lives with them here in Banff most of the time as he is a retired farmer and her mother also lives with them so when the parents are away the Grandparents look after the four children. Of course they might not get east at all, I don't know.

Pete is fixing the furnace and then bed. So all for now.

Loads of love,

Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.
Sat. Sept. 17, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Usually after a good snow storm in September we have a really fine spell of weather but this year our storm came after the week of fine days and all this week has been overcast or windy and rather cold and not the kind of weather to want to be outside in. The leaves are only turning gradually and yellow in just a few places, so I expect it will be a while yet before the color is at its best.

We haven't done a great deal this week, Got all interested Wednesday (when I wrote you the Air Mail) about the possibility of Asta Hauge cooking for you this winter, but after that your letter came saying that Kitty had gotten you someone so perhaps she will prove satisfactory, but if she isn't going to stay all winter, just remember that Asta will go and help you out.

Wednesday we also started thinking of going away for a couple of weeks before winter sets in. Pete isn't very keen on driving anywhere but he suddenly thought of Harrison Hot Springs which is about 80 miles east of Vancouver. It is a Spa, with hot springs, a quiet spot on a lake with nice walks, and he thought perhaps with a pool to swim in and perhaps a gym and walks for exercise, it might be a good way to get back into trim. The trip we took in June was too upsetting seeing doctors and dentist and the family, and we would know no one at Harrison. So we started looking for folders of the place, we used to have one, but could find none here or Overtown or at the Banff Springs which closed that same day. So we wrote them and as yet haven't had time to hear. Then as I had a business trip to Calgary to make Pete thought he would drive me down and we could get a folder there. So we made plans to go down Thursday morning.

Set the alarm for six to get an early start but the clouds were way down on the mountains when we woke and we waited for a bit before getting up, listened to a seven o'clock weather report which said it would be overcast but no rain and so decided to chance it. Left at 8.15 and were in Calgary by 10.45. 2½ hours. The road is so good now and it's not a hard trip only steady driving, we took turns which helped. Did our few errands and were back here by 4. Got the folder at the C.P.R. Office but aren't sure whether or not we will go. Pete seems to be better and more anxious to do things and we will see after Indian Summer what we feel like for we wouldn't like to miss the color here.

Friday the oil man was to look at Mom's furnace to see if it can be converted to oil and we had him look at ours too. Liked the man so much and you can tell he knows his job, has put several furnaces in this fall and we will have to wait 5 and 6 weeks but we think it will save us lots of trouble. It is only recently that we could get the right kind of oil and before that we could get good stoker coal, but now you can't get the right kind of coal and it means carrying up ashes and all the rest.

With Mom ,she has to have Mario look after her furnace and he sometimes forgets to go or wakes her up late at night or makes a lot of dust or something else to complain of and this way it should look after itself, and she can go and come as she likes.

✕ We also have had a couple of calls from George Encil (Eisenschiml) who has the Chair Lift up Mt. Norquay. He wanted ~~from~~ some photographs for the Memorial cabin and when he came to the house saw a ski jumper Pete is modeling and wants it for a trophy, also a downhill racer, so Pete has been seeing about that, ordered the Plasticine in Calgary and got wire for the armature and the lumber yard to make a base and Charlie Beil to come and look at the thing to see if he can cast it.

Sam was down this morning, so I didn't get my usual cleaning done and then this afternoon we piled a load of fireplace wood and also went to the train to see Janet ~~Atkin~~ Crosby away. Her husband Doug Crosby has just come back from a year as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford Univ. and they just heard Tuesday that he could get a house so Janet and the two kids, about 5 and 3 in age could go back with him for ~~the~~ the second winter. They had just 3 full days to get ready which was quite a rush but they made it alright!

Your letter came telling about Mrs Hupertze having the heart attack, how lucky it was she wasn't with you at the time and I think you were quite right in not asking her to stay longer. Am glad she is in a good place and Stephen has the responsibility.

Too bad about Miss Publicover's brother's farm burning. I don't wonder she suffered a slight ~~shock~~ or nervous strain. ~~A~~ fire like that would scare anyone. I will send the two Churchill books as soon as they are flattened out a bit. It was too bad but they were badly crushed in coming though they were well done up too. Some heavy weight must have crushed them.

Jonny was here at noon and wants us to go on another Pic-a-nic as they still talk about the one 3 years ago. He thinks maybe we could go early Saturday morning and spend the night in a cabin. He thought he could use six of his dollars and take Billy Mackenzie with him for he said " Billy isn't as lucky as I am ,he doesn't get free trips on Allan's boats or the busses the way I do . "

Sunday, We ~~we~~ slept late, breakfast at 10.30 and then I did the vacuuming upstairs I didn't get done yesterday. It is very windy but 55 out and some sunshine so think we will go and see if there is mail and send this off too.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. Sept. 20, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

The color seems to start turning here early in September and we always think it means an early fall and that it will all turn soon. However it doesn't and still it is only very yellow and golden in spots, the rest still green. "e had a nice white frost last night but it takes the hot warm days too to turn it well.

Sunday I think I wrote you, we had met Jean Kelly up at the post office and she wanted to bring her mother down and that afternoon seemed as good a time as any, so they said they would be down at three. They came soon after and Mrs Miller never missed a thing in the house. I think she was the most observant person we ever had and she seemed to know about everything, having read somewhere about it. For instance she knew about Poi, the great Hawaiian food and having been a nurse in the first great war in southern France and Brittany she knew about Quimper Ware and was most interested in the plates we had. Then when Pete mentioned the Balinese chewing Betel nut, she remembered the Sengalese soldiers who were in France chewed it, etc. She wasn't a person who acted as if she knew everything but she was just pāāin interested. There is such a difference in people. She comes from Toronto and when I showed her Mr Phillips picture she said she had seen his exhibition in Toronto. We showed them lots of sketches and gave them tea and it was nearly six when they finally left. We took a quick run out the west road, the light was lovely and we saw the color hadn't turned much.

Just as we were finishing supper Big Jim and Mary Simpson came in and had cantalope with us and then we talked the rest of the evening. They had come down for cement and sugar and want us to go up and see how well the building is coming along. Young Jim is to be married in October to young Lorna Oliver. We talked until nearly ten, so it was quite a day for us.

Then Monday Pete slept late and I started to wash a few things out when Dr Atkin arrived, for he said he was going to check up on Pete in a week and we had thought he would come Tuesday, but he stayed and talked a while and took Pete's blood pressure etc. Thinks he is doing allright and is coming again in another week. Then we began to think after lunch that perhaps Jack Douglas could help Mary in advise as to how to finance the new building at Bow. so we spoke to Jack first, he is young and fine to talk to, then got Mary and went with her to have another chat with Jack Douglas. But it took most of the afternoon, Mary and Jim dropped in here about 4 o'clock and we gave them tea which turned into a regular Smorgasborg, with cheese, smoked salmon and smoked oysters! They were to start back with their cement and sugar, though Jimmy was afraid it might rain, it had in the morning, but we were glad to see them go by at 5.30 and it was clear all evening so they would arrive dry.

We decided to go up to Bow and see the work on Saturday combining it with Harold's pic.a-nic. We have promised him one for two years. So after the Simpsons left Jonny and Billy MacKenzie happened in and Harold right after so we asked how they would like a picnic on Saturday if the weather is good. They were all excited and we had to get out paper and a pencil so that Harold could write down what we should take, including a frying pan, hamburgers and rolls, onions, butter, cocoa not lemonade as it is apt to be cold. a small cake etc. Each can invite one friend, Jonny taking Billy, Harold thinks he will take a girl. Then Davy and Bubby can do the same and Barbara is invited too. That will make 11 of us and we will take the two cars. We really should have taken them oftener for it seems to mean so much. We are to start at 8 A.m. and go to the Bow summit, see the view from the Peyto Lookout, then cook lunch at the camp ground and call in at the Simpsons afterwards. It will be quite a day.

No time to read over
Loads of love.
Catherine -

Banff, Alberta.
Sat. Sept. 24, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

To-day was " Harold's Pic-a-nic to Bow Lake and though it has been quite a day, from 8 A.M. until 5.30 P.M. I thought I had better tell you about it while fresh in our minds.

We have been promising Harold his pic-nic ever since the one we took Jonny on three years ago and somehow have never gotten around to it. The Simpson's have been anxious for us to go up there and see their new addition and we thought it a good chance to combine the two. So last Monday or Tuesday when Harold Jonny and Billy MacKenzie were over one afternoon we asked how they would like to go this Saturday to the Bow Summit. Jonny was all for an overnight pic-nic but we thought one day was enough responsibility for us to assume. So it was decided that each one could ask one friend, Jonny to take Billy, Harold would invite Norma Scott, who had missed the last pic-nic to Field because she hadn't taken Harold seriously and thought he was fooling when he asked her to go. Davy we thought might not want to go with the younger kids but he decided he would ask Earl Foster, then Bubby was to bring someone if she went, but in the end she and Yvonne thought they would rather go with the Teen agers on a hike to Sentinel Pass. We also included Barbara but she had to stay home for some expected roomers and to take care of the new dog, Penny. So in her place we asked Patsy MacKenzie, sister of Billy's, and also in Harold's class at school.

There was great figuring as to what to take to eat, Harold making a list starting out " cocoa 1 tin Neilsons, Hamburger 3lb. frying pans 2, H.buns. 2 dozen, butter 1lb. sugar 1 lb. potatoe chips (these had to come from Allan's at the boat house as he considered them the best in town) Ritz Crackers 1 pa, Cheese 1.1b, small cake 1, cookies 2 doz, candy, paper plates, glasses We suplie our own, 1 bag marshmellow, dry wood, matches, newspaper, Leave at 8:00 on the dot from my house, Harold's picnic." This list took some time to figure out with many suggestions from Jonny and Billy, and we added later a Watermellon and apples.

Since then there has been much talk of plans. We thought yesterday as Bubby wasn't going we would ask Susan and Mary Lee Mather, asking Grace first if they could go. After school we came home to find girls bicycles in the yard and first Susan came to say she could come, and then Mary Lee with her great friend Lona Becker dropped in and Pete felt so sorry not to be able to take Lona too that he said she better come and we could squeeze her in somehow. We were to take the two cars. six in each, though it made the Jeep which Pete drove a trifle crowded.

We managed to get everything pretty well ready last night with the help of frequent calls from Harold, Davy and Jonny and many questions, especially on Jonny's part. We had quite a time getting him to go home to bed but he told us he had figured out a "contraption" to wake him up in the morning, a string tied to his toe and from there to the back door so the milkman could pull it when he came in the morning at 7, and wake him up. Jonny is always inventing something, has a terrific imagination for ideas.

This morning we were up at 6.30 and everything ready by quarter to eight, and about three minutes past the kids began to come, some on foot, some on bikes. Norma was a little late but we were all in the cars and started by 8.15. It was the most perfect Indian Summer day and beautiful morning you ever saw, and the trees are now at ~~xx~~ their best and a wonderful golden yellow, no wind so that the reflections were perfect, even when we got to Bow Lake about 10.30 there wasn't a ripple. We had told them all to dress warmly thinking of the icy blasts that sometimes blow up there in mid summer but as soon as the sun got up it was very warm and they were running about in bare feet most of the time. Luckily I took along a cake of soap and paper towels so if they weren't supposed to wade, any tell tale dirt could be cleaned off.

It was a little hard to decide who should go in which car, but we promised to change over passengers at Lake Louise Station where we stopped a few minutes. It wasn't a too successful stop, for Earl leaned his fishing rod against the mud guard and then got in the Jeep when we left there and I drove off never noticing it as it was on the other side from me, and it hadn't been found when we telephoned from Bow Lake.

We went straight up to the Bow Summit and walked up ~~the~~ ^{to} the Peyto Lookout which was lovely this morning. The kids all seem to notice the beauty which I think rather unusual, for they remarked on the color in the trees when it was particularly pretty and they all did a good deal of Ohing at the view. Patsy began picking up rocks which she was sure were very old and Jonny brought home a very sticky bit of balsam as he wants to start a scrap book of such things. He also thinks out next picnic should be a "Science Pic-a-nic". By the time we had walked up there and back the kids including ourselves were very hungry and we went back to a really lovely spot where they have a new picnic shelter overlooking the valley and Bow Lake. ^{in the distance} It was warm and sunny and we got the fire going in the iron stove and as we bring boiling water in a big thermos, it didn't take long to get hot for cocoa, they all mixed their own in cups, with sugar and canned milk added. Susan was very helpful making the hamburger in flat patties by making little balls first and then smashing them down and we had onions for those who liked them too. The girls buttered the rolls and everyone did much helping and eating. At first we hadn't counted on so many or we might have brought another dozen rolls and another pound of meat, but I think they all ate as much as was good for them for they all complained of being too full afterwards.

The girls roasted marshmallows, with only one, Patsy, getting a finger burned when a hot one fell on it, but otherwise there were no more casualties except a lost glove of Davy's which may be found yet.

There is a wonderful spring up there with a little stream running from it and of course as soon as they had eaten they were in it making a dam and having a wonderful time wading and running about. Without a doubt they were the best group of kids and all ages from 8 to 13. Even in the cars they were good though at times they got a bit rambunctious and started fooling or teasing, but on the whole they were just fine and no trouble at all. We think it ~~is~~ fun for they all call us "Pete and Catharine" though the little Scott girl we have never met before and Earl's and Lona's parents usually call us Mr & Mrs. But the kids are perfectly natural about it and seem to include us in the fun.

About two we went down to the Simpson's, Davy and Earl running part way down the road as they are practising for the track meet. Big stuff. Mrs Simpson and Mary said they couldn't believe their eyes when they saw ten kids piling out of the Jeep and Ford. and they seemed glad to see us. The kids all made for the stream and lake shore for more wading and fun, Harold going round striped to the waist and barefooted. It gave us a chance to look at the new building which is going to be wonderful, a large dining room and kitchen with a really lovely big fireplace that Big Jim has built, and upstairs, which we didn't see, will have ten bedrooms, some with bath, and the top floor 8 rooms. The carpenters are now putting in the dormers and Mary hopes if the weather holds to have the roof shingled by the end of next week. They seem to have a good gang of workmen.

Later they made tea for us and Scotch scones Mrs Stewart made especially. a large plate of cookies for the kids, out left over cake and a whole case of Coca cola. The kids came up from the water some still barefooted but all very polite though full of beans. Most of the girls skate with Mrs Simpson's and she has offered them a prize for the best letter they write to her about their picnic. They were very interested in all the pictures etc. Jonny coming over to get me to see "the Trophies" which were Mary's and Margaret's skating prizes on a shelf. All in all we had a wonderful time and were only sorry that Big Jim wasn't there to see them.

And then about three we started back, getting here about 5.30. It was quite a long way to go but most of them had never been there before and it mean't a lot. The thing that amused them all the most was when a tourist asked Pete on the trail to Payto Lookout if the long ~~trailing~~ trailing black moss on the spruce trees was "steel wool"? Now they are wondering where we will go on Davy's picnic. The same tourist asked Pete if they were all his children!

It's now Sunday. Another lovely day but too much traffic on the West Rd where we went this A.M. Nice to see so many enjoying the Autumn Color. Will send this account of the picnic along though I haven't yet told you of the 2 days previous when who should arrive but Jean & Mrs Sunday. The latter on her way to Concord - Loads of love
Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.
Wed, Sept. 28, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

We have had a whole week of wonderful weather and when it is like that I just can't stay indoors to do anything at this time of year, for anytime now we can get a nice cold spell. It is real Indian Summer and I was hotter to-day than any day this year. In the sun that is.

To get the record or sequence of events straight I will have to go back a whole week. Last Monday the 19th. it had rained in the night, the last we have had. That was the day Big Jim Simpson was down and Mary and we spent some time speaking to the bank manager for advise as to the best way for them to finance the new building, then went back with Mary and later she and Jim had high tea with us before starting back for Bow Lake.

Tuesday, was clear but very windy, we were anxious to see how the color was coming in the aspens and in the morning went up to Norquay, 1st time this summer and saw the new improvements George Encil has made to the place, but didn't go up in the lift. In the afternoon went up to Minnewanka and walked up the Cascade River about a half mile, it was in the shadow and felt like a cold Nov. chilly day. Also watched the men hauling up one of Allan's boats that run on the lake.

Wednesday was warmer but too many clouds, in the morning we did errands and got some weeding and shower presents for brides and Pete went up to get Sam to fix a base for another ski figure he wants to do in plasticine for a downhill trophy. Then in the afternoon I weeded the flower beds under the windows for the first and last time all summer, and we also pulled over a balm-of-gilead tree that was broken half way up. Then Pete said "lets go down and see the hats at the train" so we just drove down and were a bit disappointed not to see much in the way of funny ones but I did notice someone with a very gay outfit on, a plaid coat and tam to match, they were further down the platform. Then we came home and as it was lovely and mild out I told Pete I was just going to try some steel wool on our new fence which turned green in spots. So down I went with an armful of different sizes of steel wool, and as I got to the gate someone called "Catharine" in a loud voice and I looked and wondered who it would be coming along the road with another girl. It was into the sun I was looking and I tried to make it into all sorts of Banff people, and of course who should it be but Jean and Mrs Lindsay.

They had gotten off the train we had been down to see, and later I discovered that Jean was the one in the plaid outfit. They asked the bus driver if we were in town and he said he had just seen us at the station and I was eating an apple! Well they came in and we had a nice chat and then went over later and had supper with them at the King Edward. brought them around here for a few minutes after

but as Mrs Lindsay hasn't been well. Super tension, she has to go to bed early, about 8.30 is best so they went back early. I thought she looked well and Jean is just the same. I haven't seen her for ages. Next morning Mrs Lindsay came around about ten o'clock and Jean had been for a two hours walk up by the Alpine Club etc and came here too. We then dropped them for a call on Mrs Greenham of the Mountain school where Jean had been one of the first pupils. and then met about 12 and drove them up to Norquay where we had a fried chicken dinner. rather a good one. The day was perfect and it really was lovely up there.

Then Jean was rather keen on trying the Chair Lift and so I said without much thought that I would go with her. Well it was much more scary than I thought it would be, and in the beginning when we went over the places where the cable is attached to the pylons, I thought my lunch might come up. But it didn't and I just hung on and tried not to think what it felt like. The view of course was wonderful. But you sit on a rather slippery varnished seat, which hangs by a bar from the cable. there is an iron bar from the upright around your right side and back but nothing on the left side except the Bow Valley. in front is another bar that swings across as well as a foot rest, but whenever I touched the bar across the front it seemed to move back or away from me and gave a very insecure feeling. It was better coming down. I was almost tempted to walk down but Lloyd Harmon was at the top taking pictures and he said it wasn't bad if you didn't look down. I never was much on roller coasters and ferris wheels, never wanting to go near them.

Coming down it was quite funny for there were a whole bus load of tourists on their way up, the first man was so scared that he had his eyes shut tight and was all screwed up, hanging on for dear life, but the others were enjoying it and everyone made some remark as we passed them on our way down, like "this is the life" or "gee this is swell." After that we drove the Lindsays with the top down up the Cave and Basin, the Hot Springs, the Hotel etc then to the house for tea and they left for Calgary on the six o'clock train. We heard from Mrs Lindsay later and they were met by old friends of Irricana, spent that night in Calgary, took an hour to see about some furniture in storage and then went to these same friends for the night in Irricana and had a wonderful time. Mrs L. was to leave Monday for Montreal where Tommy would meet her and drive her to Concord. There to stay with the Wards.

After waving them off at the station we came home to supper and were just having desert when George and Tibby Browne came in to return a book, they stayed until nearly nine when George Encil, brought a Mr Weber and Harvey Clifford (the Canadian Olympic skier who teaches skiing here and also has been cutting the new ski trails) George wanted them to see the Ski Jumper he wants for a trophy and also to talk about a design for a pin etc. They were here until nearly 11. and were we tired. For it had been a steady day of talking and on so many different subjects. The Lindsays and Brownes had seen all the sketches and for the others I got out ski things.

Friday we didn't feel very energetic. Pete slept late and I got a batch of washing done. the sky was milky and poor light for pictures so we did other things. Spoke to Allan about the tenants etc. I forgot the day the Lindsays were here we also had a Calgary Stock broker try to call on us but were on our way out so got rid

of him easily, but the next day saw him just in time at Allan's and waited until he left before seeing Allan. We asked Grace if Susan and Mary Lee could go on the Pic-a-nic and she said "yes". Later first Susan with a little friend we couldn't ask as there wasn't room, came over. Susan didn't expect us to ask her, but it was too bad we couldn't. Then Mary Lee came on her bike with Lona Becker, and Pete felt so sorry not to include her that he said if she could come we could squeeze her in. We had more calls from Harold and Jonny, just to check up on whether we had forgotten anything or not and we had everything ready that night.

Saturday was the Big day of the pic-a-nic and I have written you all about that. Sunday we thought we might be rather tired but woke early and so went up the west road in the morning for pictures not knowing how long the color would last. It was lovely and we took a number of pictures but soon there was so much traffic, all Sunday drivers seeing and enjoying the color as we were, but it made it hard stopping for pictures, so we came home. Pete spent most of the afternoon cleaning the telephoto lens, while I helped a bit with the tiny screws and getting things he needed. Then Mary Lee came over for some book on Explorers and then Young Cliff and Peter called in. They were to leave the next day for the coast to see the family. Peter is through his summer job with the warden Dep't. and Young Cliff has quit Brewsters where he has been working. He didn't feel he could do the work they were going to give him as he is not heavy enough to drive the tractor all the time. So if they find good jobs at the coast they might stay, otherwise they know they can get work here. We had quite a talk and suggested they go by Invermere and be sure that Big Cliff's things have either been stored in Invermere or sent to the coast. So they decided to go that way. After they left ~~we~~ it was too late to take more pictures but we took a shortdrive anyway, it made us a little late for supper, and we were just in the middle of it when Ted Brown and Harold King called. Pete thought they might be here to borrow money but ~~Harold~~ wanted advise on where to take the best color pictures and for nearly two hours Pete talked photography with them.

Monday was very milky, no blue sky showing at all, so we gave up any idea of sketching or photographing, which was just as well for we wouldn't have had much time. Dr. Atkin came at ten to check up on Pete (his blood pressure had been slow but is back to normal) and before he came Mary and Young Jimmy Simpson had come, as Jimmy was just in from a hunting trip and ~~as~~ Mary was to leave that day for Omaha, they wanted to see us together before they left. They hope if the weather holds to get the roof of the new building shingled by the end of next week. Again we spoke to Jack Douglas and then saw Mary again and she and Jimmy went to the bank together in the afternoon to have a talk with Jack. He is the young bank President and very helpful to talk to as his advise is very sound. We had the Stewarts here for a bit before they left with Mary. Mrs Stewart is Mrs Simpson's Sister, and she and Bill the husband come out each summer and are the greatest help.

Tuesday was a lovely day again, and we thought we would take more pictures and try out the big lens. In a way we should have sketched I suppose but with so many things going on Pete seemed more inclined to photograph. We found there was too much

smoke in the air near Tunnel from clearing land up the Spray for the new WaterPower development. but we did get a few shots both in the morning and afternoon. Again we didn't get our supper eaten in peace and quiet. I guess we were a little late for I was just serving it when we saw Mom trotting down and both of us thought "wonder what has happened now." She wouldn't eat though we urged her to for she was too upset over Jackie who has been sick. She got Dr Atkin to see him (he has had all the other doctors one after the other and won't really follow their advise) Dr Atkin found his liver ~~very~~ in very bad shape and his heart not good etc. and wants him to go to a place in Guelph Ontario for 3 to 6 months, for nerves so Mom says. Anyway she was very worried and we tried to eat at the same time. I, like a good Morse can always eat under any circumstances, but Pete just picks at his if people are here, so for the 3rd time in a week we got interrupted. Then before we had finished Norman Tabuteau called to show us how the camp he runs is going, Mom soon left and we talked to Norman about all sorts of things until nine.

Today was nice too and this afternoon we took pictures east of Banff and ended at the School track meet at Canmore, Banff won I think and we saw Harold win his relay race and some of the kids who went on the picnic were the leading scorers. It was so warm and hot in the sun we finally left. So now we have had supper and it is bedtime now I have written this. It says a cold wind to-morrow and so I guess Indian Summer will soon be over. It is too lovely with the trees so bright and lovely and the sun so very warm and no wind.

Before I forget. How is your new cook getting on ? About Asta. I don't know whether she would like to do general house work or not but think she prefers to cook. What had you in mind? I may not have explained very well about paying her for what she does. One would give her what anyone else doing the same work would get but in cash, not by check, so that no one can make a fuss about her working in the states. I guess you could call her a paying guest. *only you pay her not she, yes.*

All for this time, Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Sat. Oct. 1, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Will write you a bit to-night, then if it is poor weather to-morrow I can concentrate on the many letters I now owe, otherwise I would be apt to start out writing you and never get to the others.

Our Indian Summer weather is over and the leaves are falling fast but it is still mild though over cast and a bit of rain now and then. The last really good day was Wednesday when we went to the track meet between the Banff and Canmore schools in Canmore. It was so hot too, the next day was a bit milky and no good as far as light went. Can't remember now what we did, couldn't have been very exciting. Yesterday there was a shower for Larry Oliver who young Jimmy Simpson is to marry, and also it was a showery afternoon, so I didn't mind going so much. Mrs Painter gave it, she and Mrs Wellman were to have given it to-gether and then Mrs Wellman the grandmother died. There were lots there and all ages and it was very nice. Mom and I went to-gether and we had sort of forgotten about it in the morning when Pete took the Ford to Mr Nudd to put a new top on it. So we had to take Mom in the Jeep. Pete took along a butter box for her to step out on, and then we walked home at six. That is the only trouble with a shower, you can't leave very well until it is all over and the gifts all unwrapped.

We decided to put the new top on the Ford as it still runs well and we get the benefit of it this winter. We can't decide about a new car and with the Jeep too we hardly need one. Mr Nudd the shoemaker who is doing it was the man who used to do all the tops and upholstering on the Brewster cars. We took it over again first thing this morning and then Monday take it back at 8 A.M. when he hopes to have it finished. He was interrupted too much to-day to do it all.

Mary MacDonald was down Thursday afternoon to get Mrs Mac's silver that she had left here. She is to sell the log house in Banff and is busy looking over things, thought now that she has someone to take care of the children she better do everything she can. We asked if she had anyone in mind to sell it to and she hasn't, so we suggested Armie Hess who wants a house in Banff. Mary was very pleased for she would like to feel someone she knows and who knew her mother would have it. She didn't like to telephone Armie so we did, and she is coming up this weekend. It may be that it will be too expensive for her but we hope that it works, the lots across the little road are to be opened for building which would make it seem too different to Mary. I just hope it works out.

The lovely Swiss Calenders came to-day and we would love 3 more of the large photographic one, THE ALPINE CALENDER. We like to give two to the Swiss Guides and another for Nick Morant. So thanks ever so much.

Dr MacAenzie is really going east. Mrs MacAenzie too. They think it will be after the 20th of October. I don't think either of them have ever been east before. they will pick up a new car in Oshawa, Ont. and drive to Montreal, then south to New York and maybe to a doctors meeting or convention in Philadelphia, but they aren't sure of that. They won't have much time for they have the long drive back here too. They are both very musical, she plays the piano and organ in church and he sings in the choir and they have a wonderful collection of records I believe. So they are anxious to go to a good musical show in New York. and there might be one in Boston. I will write to Russ, but I wondered if you could lend them some American money and then they will pay me back in Canadian money when they get home. They are each allowed just \$150. which doesn't go very far these days, and they don't know when they will be down that way again.

It is so nice to think of Frances and Gill being near you, At least Frances isn't apt to cry on your shoulder the way poor Madge did and they can run in to see you. Oh I had an idea about the things you have lent people. Why not leave in your Will, the memorandum part, what you want done with things you have lent. For instance you could say. "the Japanese Bureau which belonged to my Father and which I lent to Frances and Gil Roddy in such and such a year, to Jack Morse if he wishes it." and incidently I would love to have the Franklin Stove that you lent to Mabel Brown years ago, sometime!

By the way have you seen the ~~xxxx~~ ACORN Stove that is made in Concord. I was looking at a picture of one in the Architectural Forum and to my great surprise found they were made in Concord, Mass. It is like a modern Airtight but with an open front. Quite an idea. The address is Box 86, and seems to me they are made by Acorn Houses Inc. Wonder if that is Charlotte Hutchins husband's company?

It is Sunday morning and nice after all but rather damp feeling, like a fall day in the east. We may go out later so I will finish this.

Loads of love

Catharine

PS. Let us know what you had in mind for Asta, the Norwegian girl. We haven't seen her lately so haven't told her you already have a cook. Did Frances want some one? or who were you thinking of. She works so hard in the summer we wouldn't want her to stay some place where she would have too much to do & she likes the country.

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. Oct. 4, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Just a quick letter about Asta Hauge, She came down this evening to see if we had heard anything from you as she decided if you would like her for the winter, she would have liked to have gone and cooked for you. Now that you have a cook, we were wondering if there was anyone else you know who lives in the country who would like someone for the winter?

The idea of living in the country was the thing that appealed to her and also a part of the states that she hasn't visited, for she has spent winters in California and Arizona and the southwest.

She told us to-night that she was willing to do general housework as well as cook but I think as she is such a good cook she rather enjoys doing it in the winter for a change. I wish I had thought to ask her how much she was paid in the other places she has been, and I don't know what people pay now in Concord.

Is there anyone you know who would like to have a really nice girl who is lots of fun, and likes animals, especially dogs and who lives in the country? If Frances and Gil needed someone to help them this winter, Asta would be the very one. Or two people like Mrs Keyes and Aunt Grace, or the Bartletts, or maybe Mrs Cochrane up the road.

She could come about the first of November and stay until the end of April. Another idea would be for her to go to you for a few days first and then she could go and see any friends of yours who wanted some help. Let us know as soon as you can what you think and if you have any ideas, also how much the person you have in mind would pay. Have the Chases a cook? I often think of poor Martha having to do the cooking so much of the time. Everyone who knows Asta is very fond of her and she seems to get on well with all. She has been working for the Beckers (who have about 50 or 60 tourist cabins) for about ten years and they think the world of her, she has charge of all the girls in the upper camp, the ones who clean the cabins etc. Quite a job. *We would want to be sure she was with someone who would be real good to her.*

I am sending this Air Mail as naturally Asta wants to know if there is a chance of her ~~getting~~ going to Concord for otherwise she would want to make other plans. She remembers meeting you out here, and would like best to be with you.

Will try to find out in the morning how much she got last winter and let you know later in the day.

Loads of love,
Catherine

(orn)

7.5. Have seen Aita again this morning & asked
what she was paid last year. in Phoenix Ariz. & she
got \$35. a week, the year before in California it started
at \$30. & then they raised it to \$35. This seems
more than I remember people paying in Concord
but maybe that's what they get now. a-days.
Anyway you can let me know. She really
is a wonderful cook. for I remember how good
the food was at Temple the winter she was there
& she is used to cooking for a big family.
Just drop us a line Air Mail what you think.
Maybe Cal needs some one.

His swimming this morning doesn't look
very good for the wedding.

Loads of love

Catharine.

Dear Mother, Don't know if you can read this
very easily but promised to write all the details
to Mary & so made a copy for you. Will be
writing soon.

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
October 7, 1949.

Dear Mary,

You know I promised to write you all about Jimmy's wedding and though I am afraid I can't describe it awfully well, will have a try to give you some of the things we saw etc. It was one of the nicest weddings I have ever been to, all very simple and natural and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves so much. The only part missing was that you and the Stewarts couldn't be there.

The evening before we saw a light on over at your house so thought we would just see if your mother or father had come down, found your mother eating a late supper and a bit worried as she hadn't laid eyes on Jimmy all day and she knew there had been a Stag party the night before and feared the worst. We tried to tell her not to worry and finally got on the subject of the Marquis Albizzi and other characters roaming the mountains and before long Jimmy and Donny MacDonald appeared, after which we soon left. Your mother was much concerned about all the fuss that seemed to be going on and was so afraid that Jimmy wouldn't do all the things he should do etc. Actually the whole thing went off with no fuss at all and I expect because everything was planned so well ahead! ~~she needn't have worried at all.~~

Thursday dawned nice and snowy and the barometer way down, and I think it snowed a little all day. Saw your mother in the morning on her way to the hairdressers with a huge hat box and later coming back with Sid Graves who she must have met there for Sid had a funny old felt hat perched on top of her hair-do to keep off the snow I expect! Jimmy had gone up to Mosquito Creek to pick up your father, as the Government had chosen this week to rip up the planking on the bridge and I think your father and Timmy had to cross on the "stringer" or whatever they are. One advantage was that the men working couldn't get out so they will stay through the storm and finish the shingling if possible. Ken Jones is holding the fort till your father gets back. (I think both your father and mother go back up to-morrow, Jimmy taking them.)

After lunch Pete wanted to go over to your house just to see if there was anything we could do and if your father had come, found him and Jimmy eating huge steaks about 3 in the afternoon, and potatoes grown in your Banff garden, your mother was going to see that they were both well fortified. Jimmy was rather quiet, just a big smile and your father in fine fettle. your mother warning him to take care of his green shirt each time he got too near the stove. Bud Gourlay came in with a carnation for your father's buttonhole, your mother insisting that it should go in water to keep fresh, like dabbles was there too with a lovely corsage of gardenias for your mother and we decided it was about time we got ready ourselves.

The wedding ceremony was at 5.30 and when we arrived there were quite a few in the church and all the families were seated. I didn't see until later how really pretty your mother looked, the blue dress was just right and very becoming and the gray hat with the feathers which she tied ~~xxxx~~ with the gray lace under her chin, very pretty gray shoes and the gray fur jacket. She looked lovely and you would have been proud of her. Your father too looked fine and he didn't wear the tie with the fishhooks!

We sat rather near the back as it was quite a victory to get Pete into the church at all, on one side were the Brewsters en Masse, even Bill and Pat, Jack and all the rest. only Claude was missing. The Painters were there and I was much amused when Bud Gourlay tried to seat them altogether, ~~for~~ young Bobbie went right up to the front row and sat next the little Fabbles girl as they are evidently inseperable. The Walls were there, and Jennie Edwards with the Alf Capels. and Jim Boyce had come up and Mary Wright and her husband, the Dean Robinsons, Mrs Walker and the Leathwaites (Donny was an usher with Bud) and lots of the younger people. Mrs MacDonalld and her family, The Murphy's from Okatoks. Carl Rungius, the Casey Olivers, J.D. Hansen, and Dr & Mrs Atkin. The Brownes didn't get up because of the snow. Having sent a message to your mother.

The church looked very pretty, vases of carnations in each window, soft yellow bulbs in the lights, We could hear a rather animated conversation going on behind the green curtain at the back where Tully, Jimmy and Donny the best man were waiting. Then pretty soon it was time and Jimmy and Donny walked down the aisle together, somehow the way they walked set the tone of the whole affair, for they just did it in a perfectly natural way with broad grins. Then they stood facing the Alter, Donny right behind Jimmy, it must have seemed a long wait and you could tell by the way Donny's ears went up and down every once in a while that Jimmy must have made some amusing remark. Tully soon joined them with his flowing robes, which Pete suggested I should give a run through our Bendix, but I think it was the light. Your father was evidently having a good time in the front pew on the right, for he told us later that one time he reached for his pipe and looked all round saying " I don't see any 'no Smoking' signs here! He got a terrific nudge from your mother at that point so refrained from lighting up.

Larry came in on her father's arm with Edith Fabbles as Matron of Honor walking in front. They both wore plain suits, Larry's was a light gray and she had a soft purple hat with all sorts of bright things on it, she had a lovely bouquet of pink roses, Edith wore a brown suit as I remember and brown hat. They both looked very well. The service was the usual English Service but I don't think anything was left out and there seemed to be one prayer leading into another until I got a bit mixed up. They both responded so you could hear quite clearly and it really was a lovely service and very impressive. After it was all over and they came up the aisle to-gether they looked so happy. They had to sign the registry and the congregation started out, and I think we nearly all shook hands with your father for he stood near the door. I was much amused for as he came up the Aisle he gave us a big wink. Then everyone stood on either side of the pathway when

Jimmy and Larry appeared, Tully ringing the bells so hard you couldn't hear yourself speak. Some went up to Norquay to the reception in their own cars and a bus took all the rest. We went in the Jeep, but a bit later.

It seemed a funny place to have the reception at first, way up at the Ski Lodge but it really was ideal, even if there was about six inches of snow when we got there and snowed harder still before we left, and it was pretty muddy too. However it was awfully pretty and the lodge has been fixed up and ideal for a crowd like that. Everyone just milled around and enjoyed it all. There were tables and chairs along the sides, one large table in the middle where they kept well filled platters of hors d'oeuvres (can't spell it) another table with the punch in a great big silver bowl and at the end a really lovely brides cake, which the wife of the manager up there had made, delicious too, and coffee.

Pete was much embarrassed and pleased when Larry kissed him, also a bit confused, but he soon recovered. They weren't standing in any formal line but just here and there and again the whole thing was natural and nothing forced. There was a bit of a delay before the "toast to the bride", as the little Habbles girl had hurt her knee when she opened the door which stuck and the glass in one of the panes broke and cut it badly, so Ike and Edith took her back down to be fixed up and they waited for them to come back. There is some custom that you don't eat until after the toast is drunk, so everyone sipped away while they waited (and their tummies must have been as empty as mine as it was supper time by then) so they were all in a very receptive spirit to drink the health of the bride & groom.

Soon Col Moore got ready to give the toast, started out with a mixed up line and then in trying to straighten it out got it more mixed up, we all thought he might have had one too many, but not at all, he read from a paper and a very well thought out toast it was, something about it's being the season of Indian Summer (looking like the middle of winter up there) and the color of the autumn leaves in Larry's hair and then the bright reds of the bushes had evidently gotten into Jimmy's hair. (Of course he worded it very well) then he also told how nice it was to have Larry come to live in the mountains where her mother had lived, her grandmother, her great grandmother and even great-great-grand mother who was one of the early pioneers. Jimmy had to reply and he did it awfully well, thanked everyone in turn for giving them such a nice wedding and for Mrs Oliver Sr. to come way out for it. He did it in a way only Jimmy could. That was all the speeches there were, for the rest we just talked to everyone, about eight they started square dances and Pete claimed he couldn't stay as he hadn't worn suspenders! All the men took off their coats and set to. We left soon after that, but they kept on up there until nine and then went to the Mt Royal and we hear the party didn't break up until four in the morning at Carl Rungius. Jimmy and Larry slipped out sometime and no one knew when exactly. Also there were no accidents coming down the hill.

I am afraid that this letter isn't all that I had hoped it would be, there have been so many interruptions, It is now Sunday night and if I am to send it at all had better finish it.

Your father came over to see us Friday afternoon and made us such a nice call, told us all the plans he had for the building next year etc. The men have evidently done well and though the fresh snow may keep them from shingling all the roof this fall they hope to get the valleys done. It was really cold yesterday morning, about 18 above here and quite a lot of snow on the ground but it was mild in the night and all to-day has been in the 40's so perhaps the snow melted off the roof there as it has here.

Jimmy and Larry didn't go far the wedding night and Jimmy was to drive your father and mother up to Mosquiton Creek yesterday. Then he will be around next week too, the carpenters will most likely leave when the bridge reopens on the 12th. I think that Larry and Jimmy are to go on a hunting trip later on after the other things are looked after.

I am afraid I missed some of the wedding highlights, such as Gertrude Tees hat, she is a friend of Carl's and the hotel crowd and came all the way from Victoria, I had to look twice to realize it was a hat. a creation in pink, that turned up all around and had roses about it, looked like the world like one of the Habbles new lamp shades! Mrs Robinson told Pete that Dean never drinks anything but on an occasion like this wedding he might try the punch!

Banff, Alberta.
Sat. Oct. 8, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Seems to me it is sometime since I have written, with one thing or another taking place there hasn't been much time. Thursday was Jimmy Simpson's wedding and I have been trying to write a letter to Mary with a carbon copy for you, while it was still fresh in my mind, but haven't finished it as yet.

Got a nice long letter from you to-day about Frances and Gil working around their place, what fun it is when the shrubs and trees etc are your own. I do think it is fun for you to have them nearby.

Our oil tank is being put in, at least they started last evening to dig the hole and a lad came this morning to dig some more, but this is our Thanksgiving weekend so they may not get far, Monday being a holiday. They want to get the tanks buried before the frost goes very deep and then will do the actual instalation later on. We had it 18' above this morning and there is snow from the other day on the ground yet. a cold wind.

Jackie was supposed to be going east to-day but they haven't heard yet if there is room in the Sanatorium he is going to. they are all packed and I should think they would wire but they just wait to hear by letter. We cooked our turkey yesterday so as to have it for the whole weekend and because we thought there wouldn't be time to-day with Mom going off on the train with Jackie and Florence. He is supposed to go for two months or more and she will visit Lila for a week or two and be near Jackie too. Now we don't know when they will go and it sort of keeps us on edge, foolishly perhaps, but we can settle down better after they leave.

I have some lovely big cranberries from Wareham Mass, Cape Cod ones. seems a long way for them to come.

This isn't much of a letter but must go out again to get the car which we hope will be finished to-day. the new top that is. We also have been seeing about getting a back shed built onto the store, back of the grocery. Sam will look after it for us which is nice, he still doesn't seem well after his operation. Looks as if it tired him to stand much. I expect an operation like that takes it out of one.

Will send this along and you will get a great long one all about the wedding which was awfully nice.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
October 11, 1949

Dearest Mother,

Your wire came yesterday morning and we went right

up to Beckers camp to see Asta, She was very pleased and excited for she had hoped that you would want her to be with you this winter. She has promised to stay with Don Becker's children until the end of October, not having heard sooner, but can leave here the first of November. I didn't ask her how she would travel but presume she will go by train, in which case she would reach Lowell or Boston on the morning of the Fifth. I have an idea that the cook you have now isn't too wonderful and I really think you will like Asta and her cooking. She makes wonderful Norwegian dishes, like fish balls and all sorts of cookies etc. and she is lots of fun, so there should be more laughter in the back of the house. I guess when you spoke to Russ he thought you better send for her to come.

We have had rather a busy time lately with all sorts of odd things to think of. Seems to me though we try not to get involved we do. We have sort of been waiting for Jackie to go east, Dr Atkin recommended a Sanatorium (or is it orium) in Guelph Ontario, as he thinks if Jackie gets away for two or three months in a place like that he might get his health back. They wrote down but hadn't heard from the place, if we had been them we would have written again as they may not have gotten the letter, but they don't do things in a sensible way. They were all ready to go Saturday and now they are to go anyway to-day even if they haven't heard. Mom is going east on the same train as she is to visit the Stockands in Owen Sound. Once they have gone we can settle down better I think.

Some of the things we have been doing is to have the Oil Heat put in to Mom's and our house, her tank is in and the hole is being dug for ours and they hope to get it in this afternoon or to-morrow if the weather is mild enough. When there is one suite empty again and we have had to talk to Allan about that, then Pete had an idea of improving the back shed behind the grocery Dep't and we spent a good deal of time speaking to the Gov't for permission, getting Sam to oversee the work and finding out the cost of the material, but now we think it is too expensive for a temporary structure for within the next year or two we will want to build on to the store buildings permanently.

What a morning we have had. Got up before 8 and the lad came to dig, then I started to wash and Pete to work on the design for a ski pin, I think a Mr Coultis came first wanting to borrow some money for a cabin camp he has built and his partner wants him to buy him out, He was very nice but we told him we could do nothing in that line so he left. Then Dorothy McNeil

came to see if we would buy oil from her husband, then the Heating man came, Gotki and Pete showed him the basement and they had to figure where to put the oil line etc. Then Dick Pike arrived and took a long time to get around to give us a cheque for some money he owed us and then wanted to see if we were interested in lending him more, then while he was still here the two men who would like to build the shed at the store came and by the time they left and we got ready for lunch young Pete came along looking for work.

Must send this when we go~~x~~ for the mail as we are through lunch now.

Loads of love

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. Oct. 12, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Columbus Day ! My but your airmail came quick, It was postmarked _ 6 P.M. Monday and we got it first thing this morning, Wednesday. We were glad to hear what you were thinking of doing about Asta and thought when we got your wire that something like that had happened. We haven't seen her to-day but after the oil is connected to-morrow may be able to run up and see her. Am not sure how she will go east but I expect by train as I do. I probably haven't explained it all very clearly, but when she gets any money she spends it on parcels to send back home to her family. Her father is 80 now and she has a mother and sister all living on the farm in Norway. She went back to see them that very cold winter after the war, but she is rather a wadderer and likes to go to different places. She has been here every summer since she started working for Beckers during the war but in the winter she likes to go some place she hasn't been before and work her way. I do think you will like her as everyone here does, and all animals love her from dogs to squirrels.

We have had a very busy time getting the Oil put in, no one showed up on Monday which is our Thanksgiving, but Tuesday morning at eight they came, finished digging the hole for the 1000 gallon tank and then it took them a good part of the afternoon to get it in. During this time with men going in and out and young Peter shoveling out dirt that had fallen in in the unexcavated part of the basement, we had numerous callers. I told you about some, a Mr Coultis, a very nice young man came first, to see if we would be interested in investing some money in his tourist camp at 6% interest, as his partner was trying to sell out. We told him we couldn't do that, and luckily he had come right to the point so didn't make a very long call. While he was here Mario came with the mail and stayed to talk a bit about things. We gave him some more turkey. Then Dick Pike came along. We had backed a note for \$250. for him a couple of years ago because we rather liked him and one of the Greek's here did the same and we thought he wouldn't do it unless it was a good risk, the Greek did the same and thought we should know and we both got fooled. Except that the Greek got his money paid back when Dick sold out a Ski tow he had some money in, but by the time we heard about it all that money was gone. However there is a very up and coming bank manager in Banff now and we spoke to him of how Dick kept putting off paying back the note, and he talked to Dick and told him he would do much better if he kept his credit good, so we got a cheque for half in the middle of the summer and another cheque for the rest not long ago. We were very surprised and pleased. True we didn't get the interest but yesterday he gave us a cheque for that, and after a long call talking about every thing under the sun even to the best soap to use to wash dishes, he asked if we would like to lend him several thousand, a real businesslike proposition, However we don't want to lend any more

as there are other things we are anxious to do with the money. While he was still here Dorothy Scott McNeil came to see if we would get our oil from her husband, and then after that ~~he~~ was near noon and young Peter came over to see if Gotki wanted a digger. Mr Gotki is the head man doing the instalation and Pete spent a good hour talking to him too in the morning. We thought we could use Peter to better advantage to do some of the jobs that need doing, so got him to dig out the earth from the basement which we have been meaning to do for a long time but it means hauling it upstairs and dumping it in a wheel barrow. He worked hard all afternoon. We give them tea too.

We knew Mom and Jackie and Florence would be leaving on the six o'clock train but couldn't find her in. She came down later in the afternoon with jam and a lemon, all she had left over I guess. Then who should appear but Tom Simeon the Indian, they had come up to cut teepee poles for next Indian Days and were to get a grub stake and Norman Luxton was away and Lou, his brother, thought Pete might know more about getting the food. So off Pete went and spent an hour at least going to the various stores to get the food and figuring it out and seeing Lou Luxton. The men didn't leave until nearly six and we just had time to pick up a box of candy and reach the station as the train came in.

It worked just right for there was only time to say good-bye and see them aboard. Pete hadn't been up to see Jackie since he was sick as everytime he does Jackie usually lights into Pete about something, but Mom thinks he is slighting Jackie by not going which is always a touchy subject. Anyway we said good-bye very good naturedly on all sides and waved them off. Jackie didn't look any too well, but had a light grey overcoat on, darndest looking thing it was like some of the ads, and a cigarette holder that Pete didn't notice but amused me. Anyway they got off. We took Mrs Waterworth home and then came back for a late supper, pork tenderloins cooked with kidneys, onions and tomatoes, Pete cooked it and it was delicious. We had just finished when a knock on the door and Lou Luxton about the Indians, he couldn't stay a minute as he was to take his wife to the movies but he had never been here before and got so interested he stayed half an hour. So you can see we had quite a day.

Loads of love

Catharine.

P.S. Saw Aota this noon (Thursday) & she will be able to leave Nov 1st for sure & by train & if any sooner will let you know. She is all excited said she had just read a book "Eagle" & something or other about Marblehead & Salem. So am going to send her some things about Boston & Concord.

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. Oct. 15, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Seems to me I have neglected you lately and when I have written I have forgotten to mail it. and also I haven't told you all that has been going on. The oil is in at last and if it keeps going it should be quite wonderful. True the first evening it went off as it wasn't adjusted quite right, but luckily it was a warm night, but it wasn't until the next noon that the man came as Pete couldn't find him though he went all over town looking. They worked Tuesday digging the hole for the tank and had a bit of difficulty getting it in and then all day Wednesday and Thursday the ~~three~~ men were here changing the system over from coal to oil and Thursday Cecil Phillpot was also here doing the electrical part. We had heat that night and all worked well until sometime Friday evening it didn't come on. That was the evening the Mackenzies came down to see us before leaving for the east and I am afraid that we froze them out. That was also the day of the blood donor's clinic and I thought that was the reason I felt a little chilly. Hope they didn't catch cold!

Dr and Mrs MacKenzie leave to-day on the train and pick their car up near Toronto Wednesday or Thursday and drive to Boston via Albany. I hope it was allright for me to suggest to them that they telephone you say the evening before they get to Concord and then if convenient for you, they might be able to spend a night with you. They are going to call on you for sure. It is a new car and so they won't be driving very fast at first and can't tell how long it will take them to reach Concord, but it might be Saturday at the earliest or Sunday. Dr MacKenzie is very much interested in historical things and seemed to know about the Wayside Inn, the Minute Man and Paul Revere etc. If they do hit Concord at a good time maybe Cousin Jane will be with you and could pilot them about the most interesting places and if not Frances might be good enough to do it or Cousin Bert. (Had a card from Mrs Lindsay and she is visiting Len near Lynn or Marblehead but will telephone you the minute she gets to Concord she says.) The MacKenzies said that their greatest difficulty would be having enough time to see all the interesting things. I have also given them Cob's address in Boston and Brookline and Russell's too, for they might want to borrow a bit extra money for their time in New York. He wants to see some special operation there. and also take in a few shows. They know Asta well too.

We had a young Norwegian couple to see us last Sunday afternoon, they had been out at Erlings for 3 weeks but it was a friend in Seattle who asked them to look us up. She had been to Vassar (and also to a summer session at Wellesley) and knew Margie Watkins. They were a most attractive couple and interested in the pictures. She came back at breakfast time the next morning to see if she could buy a sketch they liked of mine, but we were sure they couldn't pay that much with the exchange the way it is. So as we thought it would be fun to have one in Norway we suggested

she send us something from Norway and she was very pleased and went off with the picture under her arm. It was about the only one I didn't mind letting go as I had another similar one.

I can't think of all we have been doing lately but a lot of running around seeing people about different things ,as usual. A young couple came Thursday noon to see if they could rent the vacant apartment at the store and as Allan was away duck shooting we showed them over it and it looks as if they would take it, which will be a great relief to us as they want it the year round. They have a month's holiday so in the meantime think we will invite the Grayson's up for a month as we did in the spring.

It is lunch time and then we hope to dig and move the earth left after the tank was buried, quite a pile. Peter (Cliff's boy) has a job so didn't come again, however it is good exercise f
for us. as long as no one comes in and it doesn't storm.

Loads of love,

Catharine .

Banff, Alberta.
Mon. Oct. 17, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

What a day! Just to show how difficult it is to plan anything much ahead in Banff. Last week I thought I would wait until the men finished in the basement before starting to clean a bit, ready for winter, and also there might be dust when the oil heater first went on, so this morning I had several alternatives. Do a wash as two Bendix loads or more have piled up, or clean the studio so it will be ready for use, or the end of the big room where I like to paint, or maybe it would be better to start on the kitchen as the floor has to be done and I should do any cupboard cleaning etc before that. Well there was quite a choice.

Yesterday was Sunday and we planned to dig some of the dirt away, it was mild and sunny enough and no wind, but we were a little late getting up, then I had a letter to finish to Dorothy Whyte who is helping about the Stockand girls at the coast who are sick and she has been to see them and reported to us how things are. so we took that to the station to mail and found the Bert Manleys were leaving for Honolulu and Australia and thought we were among those coming to see them off, so we waited until the train pulled out and said goodbye to Louis Trono Mario's son who works in the Grocery and is off on a holiday, and they want him to play his trombone in the orchestra for the Barbara Ann Scott Skating show, so we spoke to him and to Sam and Cis, down to see the Manleys away, and it was 11.30 by the time we got home, or nearer 2* noon. Pete thought an early lunch would be best and then dig all afternoon, so we had a baked Sweet potatoe and cold meat and washed the dishes. 1.30 by then. and Pete thought we might just take a run up and see Jaeggi about the Ski trail that still has stumps on it. We spotted his truck by the bank and caught him there instead of going way up to the Upper Hot Springs and Pete was full of it, he gets so interested and enthusiastic, and talked with John Jaeggi while I spoke to the wife and then we came back all prepared to dig, even were dressed for it. A car was across the driveway and two men looking in the windows. George Encil and the Dawson boy come to see how Pete was progressing with the Ski model.

Well they were very pleased and full of ideas and we discussed the pin too that Pete is designing and they talked and talked. Jonny came in and I told him to be very quiet and he was so good and gave his ideas very seriously as well as the others. They stayed until after four and Pete was so tired he felt all dizzy. It may have been that the turkey was too old the day before but he had a headache from the constant and intentness of the talk and so he took aspirin and felt better. Then we just ran down before six to see if the Macenzies were leaving and saw the doctor off. Nellie had gone to Calgary with the youngest boy on the morning train. They aren't sure when they will reach Concord but he promised that he would telephone the morning they hoped to reach Concord by night, and to be sure not to go to any fuss over them. They are very easy informal people anyway.

Last evening after supper Pete still didn't feel too good, I think a combination of things and when we went upstairs at nine he lost his supper, so we didn't have too good a night's sleep.

This morning I knew it was too cold to wash, we were up by 8.30 and finished breakfast at nine, but Pete didn't feel too wonderful. Then the furnace men came having decided to put the heat oil into Mom's to-day and to-morrow instead of later in the week. That suited us, so Pete went up with them with a key. Then we tried to order the oil, no answer. Later saw the wife at the Post office so that was allright. We came back here and Sam arrived to see what we had decided to do about the back shed at the store and we talked over lots of things and it was nearly noon when he left. My morning all shot by then.

We did errands and had lunch about one, did dishes and then Pete thought we could go for the mail, get the key ^{to the main} back door and basement of Mom's house from Mario and come home so he could get to work on the pin design. We got the mail but had some time finding Mario, waited here and there and finally got the key only to come over and find it was the wrong one. so back again, I think the first time we found him in his room and so sleepy he gave us the wrong key, and the next time he had gone out and we did the waiting and some shopping. So about 3.30 we finally got home, Pete started to work and I thought I might as well do a letter when he called, "here comes a car" It was Dr and Mrs Robinson to return some borrowed books, and as they never get down to-gether and could now as he is taking a few days off, we asked them in and it ended by tea and showing him all the sketches, for he paints too. At five they left, or a little after and about ten minutes later Pete discovered her bag ^{at the door} so we jumped into the Jeep and went to their house to return it, no one home, went up the main street ^{and returned} an to the clinic etc. and finally back to their house again and they hadn't missed it ~~at~~ at all, and were very grateful.

Back we came for supper, but Pete wanted to rest a bit before eating so about quarter past six I began getting it ready and a ~~knock~~ knock on the door. Earl Petch, George Encil and Harvey Clifford to the the progress Pete had made, which wasn't much with all the interruptions of the last week! Earl leaves to-morrow for Vancouver so they gave their ideas and talked and talked and Pete too and by 7.30 they left and we had our supper! We decided as they are all bachelors they don't realize what an awkward hour 6.20 is to call!

Just now we went up to check on Mom's house, found it a bit chilled as the stoker had to be taken out this morning and there is no heat. We are having cold air and light snow from the north and it is only 14 above. was 58 in her kitchens and we are afraid her favorite plants will freeze, so sat with a heater on for a while to warm up the kitchen a bit and hope for the best. They hope to get the heat in to-morrow afternoon.

But wasn't that a day?

Loads of love
Catharine.

P.S. Will let you know if Gsta can come any sooner.
Tell Dr Mackenzie if there that Mrs Ken Jones had a daughter the night he left!

Banff, Alberta.
Sat. Oct. 22, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

I don't know when we have felt as badly ~~about~~ as to-day when we had to wire you that Asta couldn't come. We keep thinking of all the trouble we have caused you and the disappointment, and if only we hadn't ~~xxx~~ tried to help every thing would have been alright and you probably still would have had a cook for the winter.

Of course when we first thought of the idea you didn't have a cook at all, and knowing what a really fine person Asta was and how she loved the country and all, we got a little over enthusiastic. We also knew how most of the recent cooks you have had have left after a short time and so when you wired that you would like to have Asta with you, ~~it was~~ we thought the cook had left. I don't blame you for thinking what a good idea if she would go to Kitty and when Asta could come to you, but the unfortunate part is that Asta couldn't take work that would put someone else out of a job. We kept thinking over all you had written and decided to ask Mr Vallance about it. He came to see us this afternoon and said that he had worked on similar cases with the American consul in Calgary and that at the present time it is impossible for Asta to go to you under the circumstances. (that is until the laws are changed) and if she did she might get into all sorts of trouble and never be allowed to enter into the states again. We don't want to get you or her into any difficulty and so its better for her not to go, though it is an awful disappointment all round as she was looking forward to ~~it so much~~ being with you so much. She got your Air Mail to-day too.

If anyone asks what happened that she didn't come, just say that she couldn't come after all and don't give any particular reason. You could say you didn't know just why. We feel so very sorry about it all and just hope that you can get someone even better than this last cook, though I believe she might have worked out well for you, and to think we were instrumental in your losing the cook you did have, when all we wanted to do was to help out.

We are having a touch of winter again to-day, snow and a northeast wind. We had hoped for some mild weather after the snow at the beginning of the week. They had two feet of it in the south of the province and about 6 inches in Calgary but for some reason we didn't have so much.

We got the oil heat into Mom's house Monday and Tuesday, the coldest night of the fall was the one when there was no heat on and we were a bit scared when it went down to about 8 above, the basement stayed warm but it got to 42 in her kitchen,

However they got the heat on in her house Tuesday afternoon and we have it set at 60 and go up each morning and evening just to check that it is alright. Its just as well we got it in, for the Janitor at the store, Mario Trono, has not been feeling well and he used to look after her furnace as well as the one at the store. We think we are going to have to get a new Janitor but Mario is getting too old.

Wednesday was the Auction at Norman Sanson's house. He was a bachelor who used to be Curator of the Museum here and also took the weather observations at the observatory on the top of Sulphur Mountain, making his 1000th ascent in 1931. He was 86 or 87 when he died in June and they couldn't find a will, so all his things in the house had to be auctioned off to divide the estate among his heirs. We felt badly to think of some of his things going to just anybody and so wanted to be sure and go. You could look at the things in the morning so I went first and then came back and got Pete, who had been busy with the furnace man checking the installation etc. At first we thought the collections of fossils and pressed flowers etc were to be sold but the Museum here got all of them which was nice. The Library here wanted a lot of the books, especially on the birds and flowers and no one else who knew where to bid against them. The library that is just starting.

Pete and I aren't much good on such things, never having bid at an auction before. It was a fine day but at that time of year they didn't dare have it outside, only a few of the tools etc were outdoors. They started at 1.30 sharp with those, and I was much surprised when Pete spoke right up and bid on some old leather cases that had been used to pack cameras. Pete got them for \$1.50 and a whole box of straps thrown in. There was a gun there too which he bid on, about 100 years old, but when he found both Jimmie Simpson and Charlie Beil were trying to get it, Pete dropped out.

Then they tried to move inside but there was such a crowd by this time so jammed in the house, that it was a question if the auctioneer and his helpers could get in themselves! It isn't a very large house and with tiny rooms. They began in the kitchen but I didn't even try to get near that. Pete had gone around to the front and I got in the middle back to be in strategic positions not knowing where they would start inside.

When Pete was in Ottawa and I in Concord he went to the Martindales house for dinner and Norman Sanson and a Miss Barber were there too. After dinner Miss Barber asked Norman if he would consider selling his map collection to the Government but he didn't think he wanted to. they had a long conversation about it. So when he died Pete remembered this and told Sid Vallance to look out for the maps. However they didn't find any valuable collection but the morning we went to see what was for sale we found a huge box of rolled up maps in one of the bedrooms. So decided to bid on it just for fun and see what was in it. When they got to that bedroom I happened to be the one there, so when he asked for a bid I made my first at any auction and said "50¢" It was the only bid and to my great surprise I got all the maps. We have spent 3 whole evenings just looking them over. There must be about 200. many of the park and northern Canada but nothing very rare. *though interesting to have & some day they would be worth a lot.*

It really was quite an auction. I waited over an hour or more jammed in the dining room just hoping the Indian stuff would be sold. It went for more than I expected but finally got the pieces I liked best for \$10.50 Two old necklaces made of bone pieces and brass beads that were used to trade with the Indians, and the other on leather with white beads wound round, entirely different from anything we have so I was quite pleased to get them. It was funny when they sold the rug we were standing on and no one could see it but it was sold just the same. I also got two bayonets that Pete wanted and he stayed on the porch and got the ice axes that Norman used in climbing. Had to take the umbrella stand too, but Mrs Boon wanted that, and Mrs Greenham a cane and the other cane we are to send to Mr Gibbon. I also got a lovely little model Kayak from the Arctic, made of Walrus hide, for \$4.50 and thrown in was a large not very good piece of beadwork which had a \$8.00 price mark on it, and a basket with some dark glasses, a camera case with a lock & key a needle case full of needles, a sort of whistle looking thing, and another gadget we don't know what it is. Quite a bargain!

We couldn't get our purchases until the end of the auction and then had to get a truck to bring the maps home. I also got a lovely rush bottom chair which I found later was broken, no doubt someone was standing on it to have a better look at the stuff being sold! Its not the seat that is broken, the legs are unglued. Barbara bid on a lovely old highboy, but it went for too much for her, then later the lady who got the 2nd highboy offered it to Barbara, for a bit more than she paid for it to be sure, but still way below its value. We haven't seen it set up in the house but I noticed a shipping label on it, Seven Oaks in England. I suppose in the states they would sell for around \$700. or more and I am sure Barbara didn't pay a hundred. Mr Sanson himself paid \$300. when he bought them years ago from an old family here.

The next day, Thursday, Pete went around while I finished the washing and found Norman Sanson's niece there, so helped take a few pictures off the wall that were family pictures and which they hadn't sold for that reason. It was much like Grandpas house and Pete said a cloud of dust each one he took down. I know once during the auction someone moved a center lamp to shed the light to one side and there was a shower of dust, no one under it could escape as it was too crowded to avoid.

It was sad to see so many things that he had collected through the years auctioned off but I think most people got this and that just to have something to remember Norman by.

Its Sunday now, about 23 but and looks like a November day in the east. dull but no wind. Pete has been working on his ski model and I expect I should write some letters as it is a good day for that. We also must see it again, we still feel so badly about the whole thing. I guess it was our fault to think the idea would work and of course we should have enquired more in the beginning before making the plans.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. Oct. 26, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

We are just waiting for some friends who most likely won't be coming so thought I would try to get some sort of letter written to you. We are still feeling very badly to think what we did to you and do hope that it didn't upset you too much or make you sick. It was all so unfortunate and of course had we not thought it would work so well never would have suggested it in the first place. Live and learn they say, and we will be mighty careful before we do anything to bring so much disappointment to everyone again.

This has been rather a busy week in several ways. Monday started as the previous one did with several people coming about one thing or another. First Mr Boon with the Oil bill and then Sam. They may go to the coast soon and we were rather anxious for him to help Mr Painter measure the store buildings for the latter is going to make a proposed sketch for us of what kind of building would look well on the corner. Sam suggested he would be free the next afternoon and as luck would have it we saw Mr Painter when we went shopping and so he said he could be there at 2 o'clock on Tuesday. We also had to see Allan and Mario hadn't been well on Saturday ~~for~~ So when Pete saw Pat Costigan's car he spoke to Pat who is to suggest to Mario that the work is too hard for him. Also on Monday there was a wedding at the Scotts, one of the Grand-daughters, she came down all excited the evening before to thank us for our present, but we weren't invited to the wedding as it was just family. However we did a bit of peeking from our windows! and yesterday I had to go up to see the dresses.

Monday afternoon Pete was working on the ski pin and I thought I would do some of the windows as it was mild enough, and at this time of year you wonder how much longer it will be warm. When Edmee came along to return some books and borrow more (will send your two soon) Then while she was here MaryLee and Lona came and started shoveling earth all on their own to help us. and then asked if it was alright, Harold came and wanted to earn some money so he too dug, but we couldn't very well go out with Edmee here, before long we heard more voices and three friends of Harold's had joined in as well as Davy and they worked for quite a while, there was a good deal of fooling too and later we found they had dumped the dirt on the high ground instead of filling in the low spots ! However they did get a lot of dirt away from the lawn where it was left after the oil tank was put in the ground.

The people came after all last night, George Encil, his mother and Harvey Clifford bringing Hannes Schneider with them. He has come to go on a hunting trip with George. You might not know who he is but Russell will. He is one of the most famous skiers and when we were at Skoki years ago had his book and tried to ski as he did. He has had a lot to do with the modern skiing and is a wonderful person, we had a most interesting time, will write more later but will send this air Mail and hope it catches up

with my last letter and not too great a gap in between,

Loads of love to all.

Catharine .

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Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. Oct. 27, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Jean's letter came this afternoon telling that the MacKenzies were in Concord and what a wonderful time you are all giving them. We can just imagine how they are enjoying it all though we didn't really expect ~~them~~ you to do so much for them. I don't suppose they have ever had a vacation like it and we are so glad that it worked out allright for there is no couple I can think of from here who it would mean so much to.

Each day I have met Dr MacKenzie's father getting the mail and we both ask if the other has heard, so to-day when Jean's letter came we drove right around to the house, Nellie's mother was home, so I read out bits of the letter to her and she said she was so glad they were having such a good time for at first Nellie didn't know whether she would go if the doctor was going to spend so much time visiting hospitals etc. She was so pleased, then Mr MacKenzie came in and I had to tell him all about it too, he was so delighted and laughed so much, I never saw two people more pleased. They are looking after three of the children while the parents are away, I don't think I ever heard of a grandfather on one side and grandmother on the other doing that before, but they make a good team. From what Dr MacKenzie has said he had rather a difficult time during his childhood, as it was during the bad years on the farms and ranches and the drought, and I guess it was pretty hard getting along. I don't know anything about where Mrs MacKenzie came from, but I am sure they are enjoying all you are doing for them in Concord and Edith and Cobb too. It is awfully good of you. and Russ too and How lucky that Cousin Jane was there to show them around all the interesting places, for they seemed to be so interested in such things. Will be looking forward to your letter about the weekend.

We had quite a day Monday as I was writing in my last letter, the kids all trying to help move dirt and Edmee here. George Encil came down at supper time to see how Pete was getting on with the models and pin and then after supper we had told Miss Carrick (who had bought quite a few things at Norman Sanson's auction) that we would come over to look at it. She got a table full of odd things for \$50. at the end. We went over there, first time Pete had met her and she is really a very nice person. Was a house mother or planned the meals or something for the girls dormitory at Mt Royal College in Calgary since 1911 until she retired and opened a sort of tea room here. So many people asked if the things she had were for sale, she finally started selling them and has quite a lot of stuff for sale. We didn't find anything we really wanted but got interested talking and Pete asked if she would like to come down here for a few minutes and she came for half an hour or more. Was of course very interested in all we had and wants to bring an artist friend of hers down ~~next~~ when next she visits Banff.

So that made Monday rather a busy day and late evening.

Tuesday I washed in the morning while Pete worked on his things a bit and then in the afternoon at two we met Mr Painter and Sam over at the store and they looked around for about an hour. We thought it would be a good idea to get Mr Painter to draw up an attractive plan for the corner, incorporating the old store into a new building on the corner lot. We wouldn't expect to do anything right away but we might start a bit at a time. Mr Painter was the architect of the Banff Springs Hotel and by the way he talked we began to think he might plan a miniature Banff Springs on the corner! We told him we only had very modest plans but he asked Pete if we would just let him pretend it was his property to do as he liked with and make some sketches accordingly. So he is going to do that, but poor Sam was a bit scared at the amount he wanted to spend on the development for Mr Painter says it is without a doubt the best property in town.

Mrs MacAulay was having the old Red Cross Group in for tea and so I went to that leaving Pete and Sam still talking. When I came home Pete had leveled more earth with the help or distraction of Lona and Mary Lee and Harold. They had come with a list for another picnic, hoping that we could have gone to-day as they are having a teachers convention this week at school. However in the end we had to call it off and I think it would have been too cold in any case. (dull and windy though mild.) But they pretty nearly had us talked into it. I got home to find the house in darkness as Pete had blown a fuse in the kitchen changing a bulb and the Superintendent was here to invite us to a shin dig last night to meet Hannes Schneider *at the Super's house.*

Yesterday was Wednesday, I tried to tidy up the house as George had asked if he could bring Schneider down in the evening and the house was in quite a mess, as usual. (this week I had had visions of getting well organized but so far haven't) There were several things to see to and I went with Pete. saw Allan etc. we worked some more on the earth, we do half an hour to an hour's work at a time and have it nearly finished but there is still lots to do around the place if it stays mild and the exercise is good for Pete. Then we got ready for the party. It was at 5.30 but not really cocktails, sherry etc. and wonderful hors d'oeuvres which we all made a meal of. There was just George and his mother, Hannes Schneider. The new manager and his wife from the Banff Springs. a Mr Macartney, Colin and Mrs Rennie of the Chateau and a Mr and Mrs Muir. We got there right after the George, his mother and Hannes arrived and so had quite a chance to talk before the others came. Last time we saw him was at the F.I.S. Ski races in Engleberg in Switzerland, when he and Arnold Lunn went up in the same cable car to the starting point, and Pete has a picture of him taken then. The Super and Dorothy are great fun and wonderful hosts so it was lots of fun and we were there until after seven I think.

Hannes had arrived by plane in Calgary that morning and so George thought he might be tired but said they would come round for just a few minutes in the evening, they came about nine. with Mrs Eisenschiml and Harvey Clifford as well (Harvey had been at the Superintendents too) and they stayed until after 11. We had a wonderful evening and Hannes loosened up and seemed to feel right at home and we joked and told stories etc. It was a treat for us.

Now to-day, having slept in a bit this morning and gathered all the stuff for my overseas parcels which I hope to pack to-morrow, and again done lots of errands which we always seem to do and which takes too long because of people we stop and talk too, but which also saves time. for instance to-day we saw Erling who leaves to-morrow and he said he was coming around but wouldn't now he had seen us, and a man from the chartered accountants office who does Pete's income tax return and had several questions to answer, he too wanted to come and see us unless we could tell him the answers there, which we did in about 3 minutes. and so it goes. The car has to be winterized so we left that, and Mr Nudd had some measurements to make for seats etc. and now it is bed time.

Thanks again for all you have done and are doing for the MacKenzies. Jean said they were to leave their car with you when they go to New York and that seems a wonderful idea, bet you thought of that.

Mustn't write more now.

Loads of love always,

Catherine .

P.S. A card from Nellie Mackenzie & your niece Lou's letter came this morning. Can just imagine what a good time they are having. Thanks to you all. How lucky Sandra was there. They too mentioned the chowder - am glad George could drive them to Edith's for they never would have found the house!

Banff, Alberta
Tues. Nov. 1, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Not much time to write you to-day but did want to send even a very brief letter. You have all been so wonderful to the MacKenzies and I know it has just made the whole trip for them. We were up at the parents Saturday and Mrs Wallis read us part of Nellie's letter from New York. Evidently Russell made reservations at some very "swank" hotel and they didn't know what to make of it. Both Mrs Wallis and Mr MacKenzie were so tickled about the whole thing. It really was worth doing it all just to see their pleasure, they both said it was the first time they had had such a holiday and Mrs Wallis thought Nellie needed it more than the Doctor. We can't thank you enough, and of course can hardly wait until they get home to tell us all about it.

This is the most perfect day for November. yesterday was the warmest Oct. 31st. they have ever had in Edmonton in the last 75 years. 67° and here it is 55° to-day. The Wards left for a short trip to the coast this noon and we told them we would take them to the train. They had the water to turn off and the heating system to drain and Pete thought we had better go up and see if we could help. It took us all morning from 9 until 12 helping with this and that. Sam hasn't felt too well and we don't think he really wants to go, and he can't think very fast. Cis said that Sam has been wanting the trip for so long, and Sam winked at us. But anyway they are off. Mildred Ashley is going too and we went down to check her bags as Sam had told her he would do that, but we knew it mean't getting his car out and all. Her bags weren't quite ready so that took time, then we took her reservation back to her. Went to the Wards again and found they hadn't picked up their ticket or reservation so down to the station again, they are coming back a different way as they have business to do in Grand Forks and so we had to ask them which of two ways they would like to do that. and this time Sam came down to the station with us. then to the bank as he had two checks that we had gotten in the mail for him and so it went. We took them and Mildred to the train and away they went. Then drove Jack Ashley the husband back to his house. and by the time we got home to lunch we felt quite tired ! But we wonder how they would have managed without our help. they would have rushed all morning.

I think it is a lovely day as I have to go to a tea. At least I have been invited to one. Next time I am going to say if it is nice out I won't go! It invariably is lovely on days we have to do things indoors.

Was so glad to hear that you had got a cook and hope she proves to be good natured as well as a good cook.

Will send this along and loads of love and many thanks to all for giving the MacKenzies such a good time.

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Fri. Nov. 4, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

I mean't to get a letter off to you on the after-noon train but never did. Have been rather busy lately and haven't written all I would like to. Each evening have been doing up overseas parcels, they take quite a time, first fitting in 20lbs. of odd things, then doing the box up, addressing, then the outside paper and string around twice three ways, and the declaration forms to be filled out. I hope to do the last three to-night. That will make 18 in all we have sent this time. We put in a tin of ham weighing ~~2~~ 3 pounds, a 2 lb. fruit cake, 1 1/2 lbs of marmalade, a tin of butter and one of lard, each a pound, a tin of hamburgers a tin of "bully beef" (Argentine beef) and two tins about a pound each of Steak and onions, and steak & gravy or steak and kidney (We used to enjoy them at Tofino) Then 2 pounds of rice in a cloth bag and 4 packages of Jello (pudding or jello) about 3 chocolate bars and mixed peel for cake. - Coconut

Yesterday or maybe it was the day before Susan and Jonny arrived in the late afternoon as I was putting the stuff into the boxes and wanted to help. They got me so confused I was all mixed up but really were quite a help. Then to-day when I went up with the 3 parcels I did up last night and took them to the post office, everyone was overweight by 4 or 6 ounces. I was rather discouraged to think of untying the three just to remove a jello or a chocolate bar, and thought the kids must have weighed them wrong or mixed me up. So back we came and I put them on the scales again, all showed under 20 pounds, so Pete suggested we take them to the store and try on their scales. So we did and they still weighed under the 20 pounds. so back up to the postoffice, and she weighed them again, all under ~~20~~ 20 pounds! It seems something was wrong with the post office scales though they didn't know what it was but wouldn't I have been mad to have spent to-night re-doing them and then find them not weighing 19 pounds to-morrow! I was awfully relieved but it took a good part of the morning.

We received more letters that the MacKenzie's had been back in Concord. you must have made them feel right at home and I bet they enjoyed it all and can just imagine how they ate, for your food is about the best we have ever tasted and I am sure they never have had anything so good. I don't know how we can thank you all enough, and Edith and Cob too for all they did. I rather thought Edith and Cob would like them for they are sort of the same size and both have four kids. and should have a lot in common. "e have had fun comparing notes with the parents and also told Pat about their being with you. He said he wired Dr MacKenzie care of Russ & Kitty Saturday night to tell him that they have a major operation every day since he left besides the extra practise. There is always a stream of baby carriages outside the clinic door.

We got your letter to-day with the one from your mother to her mother-in-law about Japan. We would love to read the others so don't throw any away before we have a chance ! Were there any envelopes with stamps? I don't expect so but if there are don't ^{tear} take the stamps off but leave them on, as they are more valuable that way.

We are so sorry that you lost your voice and had to stay home a whole week. I expect you may have gotten extra tired with the MacKenzies and know you are apt to lose your voice when overtired. Am glad to hear you feel better now and hope the new cook works out fine.

We have had the most wonderful weather for November, in the 50's most days and even warmer in the sun. It has broken ~~all~~ records for many places. It feels more like spring than November, but no doubt we will make up for it later on ! We have hated not to be out doors all we could so have done odd jobs like cleaning windows and such like. Ules la Casse has finished the fence, that is repeeled the section in front of our house and because it has been warm has oiled it twice, also made a gate and it looks fine.

As Sunday is coming will try and write more then and catch up on all your fine letters of late. Have just done up two more parcels while the news is on and have two letters yet that I must answer.

Loads of love to all and so many thanks for all you have done, all of you, for the MacKenzies. I do hope taking them around didn't tire Cousin Jane and hurt her eyes, will be anxious to hear how she is.

More love from us both,

Catherine .

Banff, Alberta.
Mon. Nov. 7, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

The MacKenzies are back, arrived yesterday (Sunday) afternoon. We heard from Jonny for Billy had told him about the wonderful presents they had brought him. Then this afternoon when we went for the mail we stopped a minute to speak to Pat as he got out of his car across the street from the Clinic and Dr MacKenzie must have seen us, for he came out with his listening things hanging round his neck, a room full of patients probably waiting. (I can now see where the name "patient" comes from) They had a wonderful time and think it will take at least an evening to tell us all about it. We saw Nellie later down the street and she said that she liked Concord far better than New York, that Pietro had given her some plants, one a slip from my grandmother's geranium I think she said. When they got to the border the customs man said that no plants were allowed to be brought in so she pretended she didn't know that, and said she had brought them all the way from Boston, so he said that she could keep them. Seems funny to have some of your flowers growing in Banff. Dr MacKenzie was much amused at Jean wondering why people knew she was Scotch, and all in all they had a grand trip, drove over 400 miles a day to get home. We may see them to-morrow night.

We have had the most wonderful spell of weather you ever saw and especially for this time of year. It is over a week now that it has been 10 degrees or more above normal, up to 50 or 55 here and in Calgary was 71 both Friday afternoon and yesterday, in Lethbridge 73. I can't bear to stay inside and yet we keep feeling it won't last. The sun is getting low now and already the other side of the bridge is in shadow in the early afternoon. But such clear skys as we have had some days and a warm haze. I was trimming trees yesterday with just a sweater on and some years it would be 20 below by now and snow. There are even dandelions blooming and the willows are red as they are in spring, they say lilacs are budding in the southern part. This year we are really ready for winter, the leaves raked up and the windows mostly washed etc. tools put away and such like, some years the storms come suddenly and so early.

Yesterday was just as different from the previous Sunday when we had Mrs Simpson after breakfast and the Svarres after lunch and Jonni too. Yesterday not one person came and we really got quite a lot done, working raking up in the morning, also a trip up to the Hot Springs, and in the afternoon we took a short drive out the west road where it was very sunny and warm, then Pete worked on his models and I raked and trimmed the little spruce. Was going to write you last night but Pete had trouble with his nose, we think from the morning raking of the dry grass, and so we sat upstairs. He has been so much better lately and I am wondering if it may not be the fact that he doesn't have to fix the furnace as the dust from that may have troubled him, I haven't mentioned it to him yet for I thought it would be interesting to see if that didn't make a difference. For the first time in two years nearly, he is feeling like doing things again, little things around the house.

Instead of wanting to put off until to-morrow he is getting a lot done to-day.

We had a very encouraging letter from Mildred to-day, Cliff has a job as caretaker for a new apartment building near where they were living in one room, so he and Mildred can live there while Donny keeps their previous room. He eats his meals with them. Mildred is still at the hospital, Donny didn't have a job for a time, but this letter says he has one with a lumber company with a chance of promotion and he can play hockey at the new Kerrisdale Arena. We had been trying to figure out how he could come back to Banff for they would have found him a job, to have him play on the Banff ^{hockey} team and he could have stayed with Peter and young Cliff at Barbaras, but this is so much better and he has done it on his own. I think all the worry and thought we have given to the family has been worth it, and they are getting pretty well established. Its nice too for Cliff and Mildred to have one boy at least out with them. *Donny is an exceptionally good hockey player.*

Shall be anxious to hear how Cousin Jane is getting on. Have lots of things to answer to you, a whole pile of nice letters and will get at them soon. Have a wonderful letter of Gray Campbell to send you to read as soon as I answer it, how he took his little boy Dene to Lethbridge to shop as a birthday present, think you will like it. Trouble with us is that we are too interested in too many things but guess you have to just be yourselves, we have so many ideas and get too enthusiastic about them. things they could do to improve the park etc. or the skiing or something.

It is nearly bedtime so will end this and have it ready to mail in the morning, if we get up real early and nothing happens I hope to start cleaning the studio, was going to this morning but we were later than usual and I washed out a tremendous lot of rags which had piled up, from cleaning windows and silver and the house at various times the past year. They went through the Bendix like any other wash and are all nice and clean now. The machine is worth having even just for that! There are so many things I want to do around the house and never do get them done.

Loads of love and so glad that you are over your larengitis.

More love,

Calhoun

P.S. WE had a most wonderful sunset the other evening. It had been a peculiar steel gray sky in the east and clear in the west. Then the mountain tops got a lovely glow in the east from the setting sun, rose against the steel blue. Later the whole sky in the east, or rather clouds turned redish, very bright, making a pink glow over everything. I was in the store for an errand and the small square windows above the big plate glass looked as if there was a pink light behind them and when I went out on the street the effect was wierd. We looked towards the bridge and you wouldn't have believed the green color of the left hand wall, reflecting the clear blue green sky in the west, the right hand side was orange, reflecting the color of the clouds. Had you painted it no one would believe it. We crossed over and the whole bridge from the boat house looked green. It was really wonderful. Reminded me of Tofino sunrises.

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. 10, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Never had a chance to write yesterday and then last evening the Moores came over and stayed until nearly eleven. To-day have been doing all sorts of things and also did up the last two parcels for overseas, that makes 20 we sent this year. Now I may not get this in the mail to-night for there is only about half an hour before the train goes east.

The weather is not quite as warm but up to 40 each day and feels mild enough out. It is nearly two weeks of lovely weather and most unusual for this time of year. Ules LaCasse came around to oil the fence as he said he wasn't so busy right now and so we asked if he would like to take out a few more trees. He does them so well, taking away all the branches in his truck and cleans it all up. It already has given us more light. We have also gotten permission to "park" the ground between our land and the river, taking out willow and dead trees, or unhealthy ones, and Ules said he would do it for us.

Night before last we spent the whole evening at the MacKenzies talking, don't know who talked most and Mr MacKenzie sat on the couch and just chuckled about it all. He said afterwards he figured he knew as much about Concord and Boston as they did after all the conversation. The thing that amused us most was that they could remember what they had to eat every meal at your house, fried chicken, whole halves for each, best they ever tasted and steak, this thick, showing a distance of several inches and the biggest roast they had ever seen, and the fish chowder, etc but when it came to the names of the people they met, who wanted them to tell us they had seen them, they couldn't remember hardly any! They tried to describe the people too, especially someone who met them as they came in from the walk with Russ and Kitty and who had glasses and went to school with me, I thought it might be Cal or Elisabeth Draling, the only ones I could think of. They had the Morses and Newbury's pretty straight and of course Cousin Jane. They really had a wonderful time, and liked Concord much better than New York in every way.

Did they tell you that when they followed my map up Monument Street, they almost stopped at George's thinking that must be your house, until they noticed there should be a driveway. They also showed me the three plants that came through O.K. they made 400 miles a day and got home Sunday Afternoon.

I will tell you about all we have been doing in my next, we have some others coming tonight and with this good weather one hates to stay in very much. Mom is as far as Winnipeg and should be home in a day or two. Jackie is still east.

Loads of love to all,

Catharine

P.S. Nellie said to tell you she is so busy getting her Christmas cakes made this week that she will wait a few days before writing. MacKENZIE is correct.

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. Nov. 13, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Russell's birthday and I am afraid that I didn't get my letter off to him soon enough. Somehow it is hard to realise it is so late in the year. We have had such a long ~~and~~ mild spell it is more like September or October. It did snow most all day Armistice Day and what a day it turned out to be for us.

We were up quite early and first thing we did was get the mail. Think I told you that Kathy Stockand wants to go back east to her family and asked to borrow the money from us for the ticket, we have done a lot of writing back and forth, getting Dorothy Whyte to go and see the girls for us and see how they were etc. as we didn't want them to think that anytime they wanted to move across the country they could just write and ask us for help. There were three letters, from Dorothy, Mavis at the Coast, and from Marian from the east, to tell us that they could get Kathy a job there etc. Anyway we just had time to answer the ones from the coast so that they would get them Saturday and rush to the train to mail them. Also wanted to be at the station in case Pete's mother came and didn't let us know. She didn't come, ~~and when the~~ ~~way home we stopped and~~ We had an early lunch and then thought we would just check on the house, and telephone Sid Vallance to see if we could see him. He said to come right up then which we did. Pete had a long talk with him while I spoke to Mrs V. It was on advice as to what was best for Pete to do with the Store Property, we have been getting advise from several people before deciding to do anything. Then we got the mail for us and for them, and before I think I wrote Russ, Air Mail a hurried letter, we mailed that and before coming home thought we would just call on Mrs Moffat who's son, Bob was killed in Italy in the War, Pete hadn't gone to the Armistice Services and said he would rather call on Mrs Moffat. We had a nice call there. It was snowing gently all day so she was home and her daughter and the other son, Charlie, came in, so we had a nice time with quite a lot of joking. From there Pete thought we might drop in to see Mrs Paris, I began to feel like Christmas.

We found her daughter Georgie there, Mrs Dunsmore, Mrs Hoggard and a Mrs Anderson from Cochrane, a regular tea party going on. Pete stopped and talked with Mr Paris while I joined the ladies, and later when we started to go Pete realized that Mrs Anderson was his cousin and we had her brass kettle, at least it belonged to her mother who lived with his Grandfather and his Grandfather, Mr Curren, had given it to us. So he asked if she would like it and of course she was pleased. It came from Scotland. So as we were driving them home we drove around this way, by the time we had taken them to Mrs Hoggards and come back here it was 6.30

Earlier in the day we had seen Young Cliff working on the Jeep and when speaking to him, he told us that Sir Norman was in town, had just stopped by asking where the Simpson's lived.

So we figured we had been out all afternoon and so missed any call from him. I asked Pete what he would like for supper and he said " Just let's sit down a minute before we begin ~~on that~~." He sat down but I happened to look out the window and a tall figure was streaking up the path, sure enough Sir Norman ! We talked for a while, then asked him for supper and when we had the vegetables cooked and the steak (which was luckily a good big one) ready to put in the pan, he asked if we had a phone, of course we don't, then he said a friend who had come over with him to act as secretary for him, was waiting at the King Edward, So of course we said to go and get her, so off he went with the flash light and was back in no time with a most attractive war (English) widow. A really awfully nice person, has two boys at boarding school and ~~lives in~~ ^{lives in} a cottage in the country, I think he brought her over to do something nice for her and also to be company and help with letters etc. We had quite an evening and they stayed until after ten.

I had left glasses from the evening before, the breakfast and luncheon dishes, (as we had gone to see Mr Vallance early) and Mrs Hallaroon helped with all of them while Pete and Sir Norman talked. They stuck to the state of the nation and we never spoke of Temple or Skoki etc. Things are in an awful mess now, I guess he wishes Cliff was back ! Its too long to go into here, but she told us a little bit and we have heard a few things besides.

Yesterday being Saturday I cleaned a bit, Pete going up for the mail, by the time he got back Jimmy Simpson had come in, He had been down twice the day before and we were out, it is about Bow Lakes and a few of their difficulties, before he had a chance to say much Mrs Halloran dropped in as I had told her we would go to the store and pick out a few things to send her boys, so she stayed a while and we talked while Pete talked to Jimmy. It was 12.30 when we went over town and she was going up for a swim with Mrs Hemming, It was snowing lightly and in the end they didn't go as the roads were too slippery, we asked her to supper again as Sir Norman was in Calgary and she was trying to save dollars and stayed here with Miss Gratz.

We did a bit of running round after a late lunch, saw how Casey Oliver was and had no sooner gotten home than Allan Mather dropped in about store Insurance and other matters, and by the time he left it was time to get supper. We had roast beef, broiled potatoes, brocoli with Hollandaise Sauce, ice cream with frozen strawberries, the best I have ever tasted. She enjoyed it and it was nearly 11 when she went home. That was a late night every night last week, Tues. we at the MacKenzies, Wed. the Moores here, Thursd Wally Kelly to see us about his bungalow camp. and Fri. Sir Norman and Mrs H. Sat, Mrs H.

It is another lovely day to-day, just like spring, the snow, only about an inch melting fast in the sun. says continued mild. Pete's mother isn't home yet, we met the trains this noon on the chance she might just surprise us but no sign, she said she would wire but sometimes she just arrives.

Better go out for a bit. Loads of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. Nov. 17, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Its funny but you have been in our minds all week and when we didn't get a letter yesterday or this morning, I said to Pete " I just hope Mother is alright " and then Jean's letter came to-day saying that you had broken a rib coughing. I never knew anyone could do that, Here you are wondering how Miss Annie will come through an operation and you go and do something much more painful. We feel awfully sorry and as usual are so far away there isn't much we can do to help and most likely by the time you get this you will be better and not so much in need of a letter.

This week I haven't had much time to write, we seem to have been awfully busy so I really have neglected you. I don't even know exactly what we have done as I haven't had time to write up my diary. There seemed to be someone dropping in about this or that all this week. I will just start with Monday, for I think I wrote you Sunday, it was a quiet one this week for a change.

Monday we were up before 8 thinking Ules might be here to start clearing the front between the road and the river, really thinning it out and such an improvement as it is for we can see through to the water all along and in some places he got trees down that were spoiling our view, there are still one or two others we would like to have out but don't dare do too much all at once. I did the wash that morning ~~and was finished sending a few notes to Mom that she would be in the next noon and so sent Kathy Stock and a ticket so that she would get here a day and a half later to stay off with Mom. Also wrote a couple of quick letters, then Mrs Hallaron dropped in and Jimmy Simpson, which took most of our morning. We arranged to meet Jimmy at the bank at two to have a talk with Jack Douglas about their finances, which took over an hour in the afternoon. Also sent you the 2 books of Churchill which I finally got to-gether, Pete lent one by mistake instead of our copy and we had to wait until it came back as our copy had our name in it. That afternoon I think Ules came in for a cup of tea and I also got some ironing done and either that day or the next Pete Dick Pike called in, Guess it was the next morning but we had to leave to meet Mom's train and a good excuse to get rid of him. Monday night I wrote notes to mail with the new stamp issue coming out next day.~~

Tuesday I did another light wash and Pete went up to get the new stamps but too late to find them all, so I went up and saw Barbara White and she had all but the 5¢ sheets, but thought that Norman Luxton would have ~~the~~ a few he could give me, so we called in there and he said he would bring me two at noon, which he did. Stamp collectors seem to like them with the date of issue stamped on the envelope. Then we had the train to meet and Mom, it was on time, a big help and she came here for lunch and talked about her trip until two.

She had a nice time and the family were well etc. Jackie may be back this weekend we hear, he evidently is much better. Pete had a little trouble with his back and so went to Jimmy Masterson for a massage and lamp treatment and I shopped, then we asked the Sid Worts to drop down at 4,0'clock which they did. He used to be at the bank here and a fine fellow, he and his wife were just back for a short time and trying to see everyone. a bit more ironing before supper and then we thought we would just see if Mom was allright, the heat O.K. etc but she was out after supper, a curling meeting, so we dropped in at the Scotts to tell them she was back if they saw lights. and stayed there longer than we intended, and by the time we came home Pete was ready for bed, so I didn't write you that night.

Then yesterday morning ^{Wednesday} I was going to do so much, Ules came and took out a big tree early, then had a cup of coffee with us and Pete had to go to Masterson again in the morning so did errands then I think. We saw Allan too about new tenants and about a sofa, also about the insurance that Jackie has neglected to look after in a way. and now the head man is coming to try and straighten us out. Hope he arrives before Jackie does so we can get that finished and one more thing cleared up. We had the furnace man coming at two to check both furnaces after the first month, which he did and that took about an hour, he took temperatures of the smoke pipe to see how efficient the system is, acted like a doctor taking someone's blood pressure. He is a very fine workman and loves to talk about the heating things and certainly knows his job. He had just gone when Jim and Mrs Simpson came in to see us, I think partly to speak of Sir Norman Watson but they never got on the subject. They had tea and finally as it got near time for Kathy Stockand to arrive we had to go to the station, taking Mom down with us to meet her. Both she and Mom came to supper, baked slice of ham, mashed potatoes, creamed onions, ice cream and cake. She looked and was better than we expected for she has a very peculiar and rather childish slant on life. Wants to go to Owen Sound to the family, and we were afraid that she might be a burden on them, but got a letter from Marain saying she was sure they could find her work, so trust they will be allright. But she is to stop off here a few days, gives us a chance to sound her out. They stayed until after 8 and I went with Kathy over to Barbara's to see the kids and then left her up at Mom's, but by then it was after nine and we were ready for bed.

To-day we are having really warm weather, a chinook wind and it is 50 out, 60 in Calgary and the last bits of snow are going fast, no ice on the river or in the rink. It is more like spring than fall. This morning Pete's back was rather sore, maybe too much treatment so he didn't go. We were over town at ten and George Encil wanted to come down as he leaves to-morrow, and he wasn't feeling well so made him some coffee and toast, and while he was still here Dr Robinson came in with the first sketch in oil he has made, a copy of one of Pete's. We had him read Churchill's book and he is so enthusiastic and asked all sorts of questions and really his copy of Pete's was awfully good. He had just left when Mom and Kathy arrived with a deep apple pie and a few minutes talk. We had lunch and up to the post office, meeting Mrs Hallaran on the way down, she came for a few minutes to get some old trail hiker bulletins, and now at last, though Pete has been talking of doing it all week, he has gotten to work on the Ski models. It seems to have been one interruption after another all week.

I should really get this into the mail before anyone comes for we are anxious to know how you are getting on. A broken rib is so awfully painful at any time. Wasn't it last year or the year before you had pleurisy about now? Must be a bad season for you.

Jonnie was also over two evenings this week, once before, and once after supper. He wants to make Christmas presents, so we will have to think up something, for one can't discourage them. For some reason he got talking about weddings and said "now I proceed you man and wife." meaning "Now I pronounce you - tc." He is funny.

Will try to write you oftener but still have a few letters I should answer.

Do hope you are feeling better now and no more pain and that your cold is gone.

A great deal of love from us both always,

Catherine .

P.S. The reason we have to go slow on taking out trees is that the Government under Major Jennings never wanted anyone to cut a tree down. By doing it gradually they don't notice so much. We got permission first of course, but it is on their land Wles is doing most of the thinning.

Banff, Alberta.
Fri. Nov. 18, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

I do hope that you are feeling better and that the rib isn't giving you any trouble. With Thanksgiving coming on I know how anxious you will ~~fee~~ be to feel well, and I do hope you don't try to do too much. Am awfully afraid the MacAenzies visit tired you all out, seems to me it was rather disastrous for both you and Cousin Jane. Do hope that she is alright and won't have trouble with that eye.

As usual we have been busy the last couple of days and the weather is still mild, says it is 20 degrees above normal for this time of year, was 55 yesterday. Ules came again and cleaned out the willows between us and Barbara and also a bit more along the river bank. It is such an improvement and he works so fast. He can't come for a while now as he has a job hauling away dirt from where the storm sewers are being dug. Such a mess as Banff is going to be in all winter, they are putting in a system of storm sewers to take the water away and it means digging up most every street, and the dirt is the kind that tracks everywhere and then where the ditches have been dug and are filled in again any truck or car sinks in and with a little melting snow it is all mud in some places. I guess it will be a good thing for the future.

Kathy is still up at Mom's but will leave to-morrow afternoon for Owen Sound. She wanted to go to-day but Pete couldn't get a reservation right through and got it for Saturday. We haven't done much for her really but this afternoon got her a couple of dresses, one a very pretty paid one that will be useful and warm and the other a lovely dark blue with four birds embroidered in black sequins on the front. Doesn't sound much but is the shade of that dress I have had for years and found so useful, short sleeves and very simple. They all wear the same sizes so that Marain, Lila or Bette can also use it if necessary and it will be one nice dress for them to have. It was only \$13.50. But it is sort of hard not having any clothes. I have an idea that in the past they did as they used to when little children and Lila likes to dress them all alike then would give the clothes to Mrs Powell for her family instead of handing them down to the younger girls. They probably don't save their old clothes to be made over ~~xxx~~ or to use in another way. Kathy was awfully pleased.

Yesterday we went for errands, met George Encil and he came back with us to see how the pin and trophies were coming on, didn't feel well and so I made him some toast and coffee and he felt better, had come from Calgary on the late train and hadn't slept. While he was still here Dr Robinson came along with his first oil painting, a copy of one of Pete's and really very well done. George was leaving and the doctor stayed until noon asking questions and talking about painting, you can see what the Churchill book did for him.

Maybe I wrote you this, Pete worked on one model in the afternoon and I wrote letters, then Ules was in for a cup of tea Can't think of the other things we did. Anyway after supper we dropped in to Mom's as we knew she had choir practise and took Kathy with us to Allan Mathers, as we had to speak to him and to the Simpsons for a short call and then left her about 8.30 at Barbaras as she was going out with young Cliff who used to be in her class at school. He seems so much older than she does yet is only 20, but he has been working for 4 years which makes a difference.

I know now what we did in the afternoon, we called on the Simpsons to tell them about Kathy and see if Mrs Simpson had any skates her size, and then Herb Paris came down at five o'clock to see the stoker we took out, we decided to give it to him for the new house he is building practically himself. His wife works in a store, the two kids at school and they are living in what was a tiny living room of the old house while the new one is being built at the back of the lot.

To-day we suddenly remembered that we had promised George to have all the details written down for him to take to Birks in Montreal with the design of the Ski pin, so we figured that out and while Pete went to the station to get the reservation, I typed it out and got it ready, then we went hunting George who we found at the Sandmers and took it all to him there with explanations.

It was nearly lunchtime by then, went around by Allan to see if the Insurance man had come and left word with Grace we could be home at two. Later we found after lunch that Allan had told the men three when they came along so we left it at that. Got one more parcel to send to those Scotch people we met last summer at Moiraine Lake, and who we just received an Art Magazine from, and I should do that up after this. Back here, finished a letter to Gray and Eleanor and by then the Insurance men came, they were here an hour.

Allan came with them and we got the policy's pretty well straightened out. Jackie has been their agent but though he pays the premiums often, he doesn't bill us until months later and we don't always get the policies and he has been so difficult to talk to about it the last few years, we were getting rather provoked. This young man from the Edmonton office was very nice and understanding and we found almost as confused as we were, so it looks as if at last we were getting somewhere.

We also had Mary Lee and Lone for a few minutes and then we took Kathy overtown, I had told her to pick out a dress and I would look at it later but she just picked a skirt thinking the dresses too expensive, so I figured it wouldn't hurt to get her and Mavis each a dress, it will sort of encourage her.

Better get at the parcel. Will send you what I think a very nice letter of Gray's and also when I get it done up the article about the arrival of the 3rd. boy. You can let Cousin Bert read it and Cousin Jane when she comes, don't hurry about sending it back.

Loads of love and hope to hear to-morrow how you are.

Catharine

in the parcel of books I sent a picture in
idea of things. I thought I would make
a lovely design done in needle point.

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. Nov. 20, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Just a short letter to tell you how glad we are that you are feeling better and the pain not as bad, will be anxious to hear all about the Chinese doctor from Boston who set the rib.

We are still having wonderful weather, yesterday and to-day not a cloud in the sky and so clear and sparkling. It is hard to realize it is getting near Christmas and I just realized that it will be Thanksgiving in Concord this week, If this reached you in time, do give all the family our very best wishes and tell them not to overeat too by too much.

It was also a great relief to hear that Cousin Jane's eyes are improved and the tension going down. Dr MacKenzie explained the thing to us and said that is what Dr Atkin here has too. He had it real badly a few years ago and I guess that is why he is so careful now.

Kathy Stockand left last evening and Mom went with us to see her off and then came here to supper, and most of the evening we tried to finish a cross word puzzle Pete had started in the Ski Magazine. I have never known him to do one before but he started on it because it was made up by Harvey Clifford in Banff and he was really smart, got all but about two sticklers.

Pete has been working on the ski models to try and get them ready to be cast this week, he inked in our Christmas card yesterday afternoon while I went to the church tea, we are a bit late with it and may go to Calgary the first of the week to try and get it printed in time.

Sent the magazine with the article by Gray Campbell which may interest some of the Thanksgiving people, I also thought the letter rather good about his oldest little boy aged 6 I think and his birthday trip to Lethbridge. It is nice when a father gets so much fun out of a son.

Must go, Jackie came home this noon, looks much better.

Loads of love from us both and don't try to do too much for Thanksgiving.

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. Nov. 22, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

That was the brightest letter you wrote that came yesterday, all about the Chinese Doctor and how he set your rib. And we used to think that Grand-pa and Aunt Mary were smart, I think you beat them all for your age, even Cousin Harriet of ten years ago. Pete says he is only half your age but he can't write a letter half as good. (To tell the truth he doesn't write at all!) I shall be anxious to ask Dr MacKenzie if he has ever heard of the operation, now if he had been there that weekend he could have watched it being done. He liked Dr Piper so much and was sorry not to have a chance to talk to him more, both being general Practitioners they had more in common.

X We have been talking of going to Calgary for a day to see about our Christmas card being printed as this year we want to have at least the sky printed in and perhaps something else too. This year we thought we would do a skiing one as a change from the animals, though most people like the animal ones best, but we are just a little late and the color on the animals does take longer to do and I can do the other kind but Pete does the animals best.

We may go to-morrow morning early if we feel like it when we wake up, almost went this morning but the thing in the upper middle of Pete's spine was bothering him and he didn't feel like the long drive. I told him we should go east and see your Chinese doctor! He is going to have it x-rayed as it bothers him occasionally.

Am going to enclose a piece of the material that Barbara has woven for a coat for Bubby, don't you think it looks lovely and very professional after just a six weeks course in weaving at the summer school. One side with a little line is the right side. She has also made plaid for the boys shirts and when she finishes will give me a sample to send you.

Right now Mary Lee and Lona have dropped in after school and it is a bit distracting. I don't think I told you about the drive we took Sunday. Jonnie and Billy MacKenzie came over and we took them with us in the Jeep to see Herb Paris first, then up to the camp ground, Jonny's remarks were quite funny, on the way up the hill he said "isn't it discouraging the few light poles they have on the camp ground road." Then later when I was remarking on the lovely light on Cascade he said "I was admiring the light as we went by." or words to that effect. "Admiring" was the big word I noticed. Then when we went by the war Memorial at Bankhead which is there from the first War though the town has moved, they asked about it and Pete explained that it was and said "do you know Jo Woodworth?" and they both did, "Well, his brother is one of the names on the monument." Whereupon in a most matter of fact way Jonni said, "Well anyway he gave his life for Jesus." We didn't dare look at each other.

As we left Minnewanka Pete said " Billy,when do you have to be home ?" and Billy in his little small voice and quiet way , said, " early, because Cyril is coming to supper before the train and I have to be there at 4 o'clock." Pete looked at his watch and it was then 20 past four, so we got him home as fast as we could about 4.30. That reminded Jonnie that he was supposed to tell Bubby to put the potatoes in the oven , so we rushed him home too. Did I tell you about Mom asking them both what they were going to do when they grew up and Jonnie said " I am going to be a Bachelor" and Billy said, " but if we are bachelors we will have to do our own cooking Jonnie."

Must rush, hope you are feeling O.K. for Thanksgiving and don't get too tired, we will be thinking of you all that day.

Loads of love from us both.

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. Nov. 24, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

All of you in Concord will be suffering from over eating on good food, just about now. Cobb probably is having a good snooze and maybe some have gone for a walk to work off the turkey and pie, it is two here and four there, so maybe you will be acting charades. I never thought to figure who all would be there but in your letter to-day Cousin Jane wasn't coming or John and Aileen. maybe they can make it another year.

We have just finished calves livers and bacon and it is trying to snow very lightly, but the radio still says mild weather for Alberta, so thought I would do a few clothes in the Bendix so they wouldn't pile up if the weather did turn cold.

We have changed our Christmas card. The first one which Pete drew was a Ski cartoon but as it was a funny photographer taking a picture of an old lady skiing in a skirt who had just made a run down the ski hill knocking all other skiers in all directions, he suddenly thought that people might think it was supposed to be us and not at all complimentary to me. Barbara happened in and said she liked it but thought the best ones he has done are the animal ones, so he thought maybe he should do one using the idea he made for you last year as a Christmas present. So ~~yesterday~~ night before last he made the idea and yesterday ~~morning~~ and afternoon drew it in pencil and this morning inked it in and now is just finishing it up so we can take it to the Crag & Canyon for them to have a cut made. We have planned it so there won't be as much coloring as previous years.

If we didn't have so many interruptions we really would get on quite well, Monday we had partly thought of going to Calgary, in fact have thought of going each day, but Pete hates to go for some reason and finds good excuses to put it off, I am now telling him that he designed a new card just so we wouldn't have to go down! Monday afternoon we cleaned the coal dust out of the basement. The men came and moved the left over coal out of the bin on Saturday, did it very quickly and well but there was dust over most everything, then Monday morning we woke at five to hear the fan squeaking, it evidently needed oil, Pete put some in but ours must have been old for it didn't help, so before 8 we telephoned Cecil Philpott the electrician and he came down and fixed it. and that afternoon we vacuumed the basement.

Tuesday we were all set for Calgary but but again ~~it~~ didn't go, and yesterday there was a fine snow which made the hills east of Banff too ~~icy~~, anyway Wednesday isn't much good as the stores close in the afternoon. Then to-day Pete wanted to finish the card so if all goes well I will perhaps go to-morrow. It is getting so near Christmas and there are some things one has to go to Calgary for like books and also I rather enjoy going. should go to the dentist but will take a chance on that.

For weeks now I have been hoping to clean the house up a bit, mostly dusting and cobwebs but always something else seems to come up and the good weather I hated to be indoors. but the last couple of days I did get started on the Studio, yesterday afternoon I got a good start, only Edmee came in the middle of the afternoon for a short time, but I managed to finish the studio this morning, now it will be ready to use without my interrupting Pete.

Ules LeCasse stopped working on clearing out bush and trees for us as Mannix who are putting in storm sewers wanted him to haul earth away from the man holes etc. Ules said he would bring some down here if he had a chance to fill in the low spot between Barbara's and our house. This morning they came before we were up and had four loads in before we had cooked breakfast and have been coming pretty steadily ever since, two trucks some of the time. We never thought we would get so much.

Must go now so lots of love from us both. by the way the letters of Grandma Morse from Japan came and are so very interesting, more about them after on.

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Sat. Nov. 26, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

We are still having mild weather, it rained hard in Banff nearly all day yesterday but I was lucky for in Calgary it was quite nice, just a few clouds. That is the only trouble about going down for the day, you never can tell much about the weather, they can forecast the Calgary area pretty well but the weather in the mountains may be entirely different. It was dark at quarter to seven when we got up and about 8.30 when we were through breakfast I heard the first patter on the roof, it only rained very little and I decided to chance it, just hoping it wouldn't turn to snow, we ran out from under the clouds as we went out of the mountains and just before reaching Morley I looked back and there was quite a rainbow, I am sure unusual for Nov. It usually doesn't rain much after October.

Didn't do too well in Calgary, I seemed to have to wait a lot to be waited on and that took time, some days one makes good progress. Made an appointment at the dentist for next Thurs. (I thought there might just be a chance of his seeing me yesterday but he was booked solid) then to the Canadian Art Galleries to ask Mr Turner about several things, he has a new gallery and it is most attractive, lots of room for pictures and plenty of light, there were one or two things to get and then he told me of a new idea of his which I think quite clever.

He is starting a club and each member pays \$10.00 a month and can choose any picture in the gallery to hang in his house, at the end of the month he picks another and Mr Turner then delivers the new one and picks up the old one. Then at the end of the year with the \$120. paid in, the member can choose a painting up to that amount (or if it is less, maybe two pictures etc. *to buy*). He is having little pamphlets issued with room for the member to jot down the name of picture and artist and any comments on the painting. It is to make people picture conscious and interest them in the artists. I think it a really good idea. It is sort of like paying by the instalment plan but gets the money saved first.

Then I had lunch and met Mrs Newton the neice of Norman Sanson's who we met after the auction ~~so~~ we sat together and then I started in on my Christmas shopping, mostly books. the little book store here has so few to even look at and there are two rather good places in Calgary, then to the toy dep't which is fun. Gray's children being young are fun to buy for, and at the Bay the little kids speaking ^{so} were so cunning I couldn't help but stop and watch them, I also got two folding chairs for the Campbell's as Gray happened to mention that they only had one easy chair, all the others just straight backed charis. these are those lightweight Aluminum and quite comfortable, they would be good for you to carry round the garden to sit in when you liked, they weigh only 5 pounds

It seemed a long day and for some reason nearly everyone smoked in the bus both going and coming and it gave me sort of a headache, it was so crowded coming back that six of us instead of five sat in the back seat. I knew the bus left at 5 instead of quarter to and so most people were in their seats before I got on. there was a man in each corner of the back seat, so I sat sort of in the middle, then a young couple came and I moved over ~~né~~ next a "steel man" (construction work) Another very tall man came in and a mother picked a sleeping child up on her lap and made room for him, He hadn't been there long when a nice little old lady arrived, no place to sit, so the tall man gave her his seat but he couldn't stand he was so tall he hit the top with his head, So then the young couple suggested we squeeze over, which we did and we were so squoze in by then that when we went round a corner we didn't lean even the tiniest bit, I between two strange men who talked construction work most of the way to Cochrane until the one by the window fell asleep and I had to listen to the other, though he mumbled so I could hardly tell what he said. At Cochrane a good half of the passengers got out and then there was plenty of room and I moved up forward.

To-day I didn't get the usual cleaning as there was a note at the bank to sign before it closed at 11. and we looked for Allan as the insurance man had come up yesterday and I had been away, However it was Jackie ha had wanted to see about the policies and he was at the Old Timers with Mom, we did errands etc. then listened to the football game in Toronto where the Montreal Alouettes beat the Calgary Stampeders, Allan came again after that about a refrigerator for one of the suites at the store, three of them are getting new tenants all at once, it just happened. Then the mail and another church tea, I go for the cakes etc which are home made and good. Pearl and Edmee and Mrs Painter and Barbara Brewster are nearly always there and we have tea to-gether. It was pretty crowded to-day but I was lucky and got cake etc. "e took one cake and some nut bread to Ivy Paris who fell down stairs the first of the week and injured her tail bone or cox~~is~~ (however it is spelt) and it must be mighty painful. It was mild but to-night is raining a little so if it turns cold we may get our snow.

Sunday, still mild and a little fine snow, rained in the night. Haven't done much to-day somehow. Called in on Mom who we hadn't seen since the oldtimers dinner in Calgary that she went to on Thursday. She has a bad cold which is too bad so we tried to cheer her up a bit, then went to see if Sam and Cis were home, the curtains were up but they weren't, so went back later and heard all about their trip, they both look better for the change. back to Mom's with cough medicine and then a late lunch here and a call from Dr Robinson who is taking up painting, he copied one of my pictures and really made a good job of it, Pete has finished the ski models and we hope to get them to Charlie Beil to cast this week, Guess we will have to work on cards for a bit.

Must write a few letters if no one comes in, it is awfully dark to-day. Will try to answer your letter with the questions next time for I think it is upstairs where I read it when I came back from Calgary.

Loads of love,

Catharine .

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. Nov. 29. 1949.

Dearest Mother,

I thought I had your letter with the questions to answer but find it is another, so will have to wait until I find it in the mess which at present litters my desk. I don't know why of all Grand-pas many abilities I had to inherit the one of tables covered with papers and letters! Sometimes I do get it cleared off only to become piled up again in a few days. Of course there are a few things that Pete puts down and they form sort of layers between all the stuff I accumulate. But, if I stop to clear it off you won't get a letter.

To-day Mildred's letter came telling all about Thanksgiving, and that you carved your turkey as usual and in spite of the rib you were able to enjoy everything. It sounded a very nice Thanksgiving and the charades must have been good. Too bad that Cousin Jane couldn't come but much wiser of her to stay in Portland. I got a nice note from her and she said she had spent Thanksgiving with Florence which must have been nice. It was a very cheerful letter.

Our weather is still 10 to 15 degrees above normal and up to 40 above each day, it seems very mild for this time of year, 32 days without precipitation in Calgary and it seemed funny to see a sprinkler going in Calgary when I was down, they advised people to water in the paper a week ago so as to have moisture in the ground when Spring comes. Here we have had rain.

In Vancouver last week end they had the worst storm in 20 years, hurricane winds and $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches of rain in 24 hours. That's an awful lot of rain, it washed out one bridge between North and West Vancouver over the Capilano river, 40 feet of bridge, and isolated the community until the army built a Bailey Bridge for one way light traffic. The Railroads were held up in the Fraser Canyon by slides and all in all they had quite a time. It seemed to blow over us although we had some very strong winds in the night. A few snow squalls which don't amount to anything. The river is still open and no snow on the ground.

We have been trying to get Pete's ski models up to Charlie Beil to cast in plaster, after which Pete has to work on them a bit before they are cast in bronze. First Charlie said anytime, then the end of last week, then the first of this, now it is to-morrow as he has had to make two trips to Calgary for material for a new furnace. Pete will be glad to have them finished. We also are waiting for our Christmas card to be printed so as to start coloring a bit. We are later than we were last year and the light is good for such a short time now days. *Artificial light changes the color of one's eye & day-light is better.*
I have been trying to do a bit of cleaning but make practically no headway, perhaps it is having a man in the house

that makes it harder, For instance this morning as soon as it was light enough to see I started on the further end of the big room, dusted the ceiling for cobwebs and dust, and by the time I had done that Pete thought we might go for the mail, the cleaners etc. which we did. With one thing or another it was after lunch the dishes and mail before we settled down for the afternoon. Pete had a drawing to make so I decided so as not to bother him I would tackle the kitchen, but he started to draw in here so instead I went back to the walls of the big room, and before long Pete had moved to the table in there to figure out the plan of the drawing, so as the vacuum is rather noisy and disturbing I continued using a duster and did the walls, leaving the sofa until later and the floor and rugs. Was just in the midst of a window when Allan came about one or two things connected with the store building and he stayed quite a while, and by the time he left it was pretty dark and late for spring cleaning !

Its now Wednesday & time to go for mail.

Lots of love

Catharine .

Have received 4 parcels from you for Xmas.
Have sent on parcel to you for your birthday
so hope it reaches you in time .

Banff, Alberta.
Fri. Dec. 2, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Seems to me I have accomplished practically nothing to-day, somehow we did too much waiting around for things I hope to do better over the weekend.

My last letter written Wednesday or maybe Tuesday night, I forgot to mail on ~~Thursday~~ Wednesday and finally sent it yesterday from Calgary. Am sorry to be so forgetful. I went to Calgary yesterday, Thursday and it really was lucky and I got the last trip in just in time, for this morning it was snowing a little when we woke, only a few inches fell but it was warm enough at times to-day to make it awfully slippery, ice in many places and all cars were having trouble. I wouldn't have enjoyed the bus trip and it would have been bad all day. As it was I had a better trip than the time before, no one smoked the first half and I didn't start out the shopping with a headache, Cy Harris who works for the Government and is also a bit of an artist sat with me going down and a girl who lives in Banff now, sat with me on the way back, and the time goes much quicker if you have someone to talk to.

Got quite a lot done, even bought a 2nd hand chair, really a ~~simple~~ chair, at Eatons for Eleanor Campbell, as Gray said if we wanted to send them something (when they refused to accept a saw we were going to get for them) that a 2nd hand easy chair would be wonderful, they had only one chair with a soft seat and took turns sitting in it, I had thought of a folding summer type chair until I found this one and I just hope it will be right. Went to the Dentist yesterday, which was my real reason for going down, and had my teeth cleaned, so that is done. Got what is called an Ovenette for Cliff and Mildred, it is shaped like the kind of metal lids they put over food in a hotel to keep it hot, domed shape, and fits on a large burner on an electric stove or plate, there is a part on the bottom which sort of sits above the burner and lets the heat circulate, you can bake potatoes, pies, muffins etc. It will hold a large size dinner plate so I am going to try using one to heat the plates in. Got a few more toys and books (for the kids) I couldn't resist. *The ovenette will save heating all over just to warm plates.*

Every time I go to Calgary Pete has a most exciting day at home, usually a line of people coming about one thing or another, Yesterday the furnace man came about the fan, as we want to get an extra one in case one of the four we have in the family breaks down, as they are interchangeable. Then Ules came about the tractor man coming to to level the fill between us and Barbara, He had to go back to Calgary at night but would just have time to do the leveling of the earth here, which he did in the afternoon. and wasn't it lucky to get it done just before the snow came? Pete was awfully pleased. Then they are putting in a new sewer line

in front of our house and Pete told them just in time where our line was, as the men didn't know and might have dug right through it as they thought ours was the one on the next lot. We also saw Charlie Beil about the models, we took them up Wednesday after lunch and to-day went up to see how he was getting on, a most complicated business casting, I still don't understand it very well. Oh yes and the construction man, the tractor man works for, came down and was very interested in seeing the house. So all in all Pete was kept busy, Jonnie had been over after supper and they both met me at the bus.

Today I was going to clean some more but we slept a bit late as I was tired, then after tidying up a bit we went for the mail and to the bank and somehow I had to wait everywhere for things. Sam came down to borrow a brush as we were finishing dinner and we went up to their house to see if he could make the hill which he couldn't, we used the Jeep to-day. He had painted the sun room and Cis had put up new curtains which I had to see, Then there was another church tea and that took an hour with tea etc. and so the time slipped by, maybe I'll do better to-morrow. Our cards haven't been printed yet so we will have to work hard to get them all done.

Tell Jean I heard from Jessie Brown and our parcel reached her safely, so they should get them in time for Christmas.

We feel awfully sorry about Madge, its a wonder she wasn't killed and I do hope she won't be laid up long, I will send her a card.

I know I am terrible about answering your questions. The one to-day about how Barbara can get the wool for weaving. The people who teach weaving at the summer school here give the students the names of places where they can get good materials and Barbara sends for what she needs. they also get out a little magazine to give new ideas and patterns, I think they try to encourage weaving in all parts of Canada, especially on the farms.

Thanksgiving sounded very nice and I am sure Rusty and Gale must have decorated the table beautifully. I still can't find those questions to answer. think one was whether Dr MacKenzie's father lived with them, I think he does most of the time and her mother, Mrs Wallis does too, they both help look after the little kids for we often meet him with them. The little girl looks so cunning in her blue outfit from Concord, she and Michael and the Grand-father were in the store the other day, He is the jolliest person, something like Uncle George Owen who had such a twinkle always.

I must send the note to Madge and one or two other things must be done to-night. Oh yes, I had another, more amusing looking book for your birthday, did it up in a great rush after we came back from Sams and then there wasn't time to mail it before the sale so waited until later and then there was such a long wait at the post office and it got too late to go to-day anyway, so will send it to-morrow. It might get there in time with luck.

Loads of love and so glad you are feeling better.

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. Dec. 4th, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

I do hope that I haven't left it too late to write you a birthday letter, especially as it is your 85th birthday, it is hard to realize it is 5 years since Pete got out of the Air Force and we thought we would be allowed to go to Concord to help celebrate your 80th. and then for some reason they wouldn't let him go out of Canada until he got his final discharge, I was sure then it would be easy to make your 85th. but will just have to try for your 90th when it comes! Many Happy returns of the day and may you have a very happy birthday and be feeling fine.

At last we are having more seasonable weather and to-day has been dull and looks like snow, though it is now afternoon and hasn't done anything in the way of precipitating yet. It is colder at night now, around 10 above and not as mild in the day time. Has been awfully slippery, especially after the first light snow, but a few extra inches improved matters. We were a bit worried about the sewer line in front of our house, last spring they started putting it in and then when the river came up stopped, began again a week ago, ours was joined into the new system Friday I think it was, before that it went straight into the river, then as they only had some slow moving boys filling it in by hand, so little at a time, we began to wonder if it would freeze on them, However much to our relief yesterday afternoon a bulldozer came along and filled in the whole large ditch and now we can use the road once more and it can get as cold as it likes.

We had hoped to get our Christmas cards before the weekend but because they are to print the sky for us it took a bit longer to have the block made and they may get it printed to-morrow, at least enough for us to start working on, There isn't as much color to put on this year so it shouldn't take as long.

We had Dr Robinson down yesterday afternoon for his new sketch box which I had gotten for him in Calgary, two sizes for him to choose from, he took the larger one and we want the smaller one so it worked just right. Painting in Oil is evidently doing him lots of good for he seems less strained and nervous since he started to paint a little each day, we lent him one of the Churchill books and he took the hint.

This morning I thought I would do up Christmas presents but we slept late, perhaps because it was dark and just as we were starting breakfast George Encil came along, he wanted to show us the folders and poster for the North American Ski Championships, also tell us how he had made out with the pins Pete designed for him and to bring me some Celery root from his mother. Nice having our vegetables delivered from Montreal! Have you ever tasted it? It looks a bit like a white beet and in one of my cook books (the one Cousin Alma gave me) it calls it

Celeriac. It tells to scrub well, peel and cook in boiling salted water for 2 hours or until soft, I did mine as I do beets in the pressure cooker and they were soft and delicious tasting. I forgot how Mrs Eisenschimml did them, but think she mixed them in with potatoes. You ought to try some. They are evidently a European dish.

We had an early lunch and then I cleaned the top of the desk and the table and sorted things out, they were in such a mess, now I probably can't find anything but at least it looks better.

Jonnie was over last evening and entertained us by drawing ideas for Calenders he might make for the family, he was awfully cunning.

You asked if we knew Polly Nordell who is having an exhibit at the Guild but we don't, think she went to the Museum school a few years before we did.

Yes, we do have sort of CARE Parcels to send overseas, ours are called CANAID but I had ordered the stuff and all for mine before I found out what they were sending, ~~also~~ they don't send always such good stuff as when you buy it yourself. though this year their Christmas package would have been very good.

You can see I have found the letter with the questions. Aren't the MacAenzie children good looking. Michael the youngest boy won a baby prize one year when they were away on their vacation. It was a sort of money raising scheme in Banff and each baby had its picture on display and then everyone voted on the one they thought should get first prize. You paid so much a vote. There was a good deal of competition, but Michael got the cup! Mrs M's mother, Mrs Wallis, lives with them all the time and Dr M's father just part of the time, as I think he has a farm somewhere.

Yes. Jimmie Simpson is the one who was just married to a girl named Larri Oliver, her mother was born in Banff and lived here until she was married to a Pathe News Photographer, so they have lived all over, Hollywood and mostly near New York, but come here for the summers often. Jimmie and Larri live in the house her grandmother used to live in, just below the Wards.

Kathy Stockand is the 3rd daughter, Marian Stockand is the oldest, she is in Owen Sound with her father and mother and Better (the youngest girl who was adopted) Then Mavis is the 2nd daughter and David is younger than Kathy. Mavis & David are still at the coast. They are doing much better and all have jobs, ~~expe~~ though Kathy having gone east may not have one yet. Cam is doing very well writing editorials and signed articles, if they only will be satisfied to stay put.

Yes. Sir Norman still owns Temple, Skoki and the Lake Louise Ski Lodge where Russ and Kitty stayed. I believe they will only have Temple going this winter. As one person said. " sir Norman would be all right if he didn't have such Screwy ideas " The young widow who came with him lives in England, but as both her little boys are away at school Sir Norman suggested she come for the trip and help

him with letters etc.

Yes. we did receive "Popcorn in the Ginza " Mrs Painter was so interested in it that I let her have it first, but it is back now. Someday I am going to copy out the interesting parts of your mother's letters. Do you realize she was just my age when she was ^{my age} there; Did you read them carefully, I thought them most interesting in many ways.

Guess I had better call this a letter, and again we wish you a very happy birthday and wish we were there to help you celebrate.

Loads of love
Catharine

Banff, Alberta.

Tues. Dec. 6, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

At last we have made a start on the Christmas cards and think that they will be quicker to color this year, for when Pete was making the drawing he sort of planned it so there wouldn't be much color and we also had the sky printed in which saved doing one "wash" as we call it.

This was as far as I got yesterday so I hope I do a bit better to-night. We did about 25 cards yesterday, but had one fairly long interruption when Allan ~~father~~ came to tell us about how things were progressing at the store property. Three new tenants have moved in and we hope they will be permanent, they are all young and working and I think should be easier to please. We have had so many of the English type who used to live in China and used to lots of service etc. The Olivers were grand people but are to go back to Wales to live for a time, Casey (the man) used to be in the R.C.M. P. in Banff and they also had a place they ran in Radium so they were used to the country. The Jennings were the worst and they have finally left. She was the wife of the former superintendent of the park and her daughter married a local boy, Ted Paris, (Cyril's younger brother) the poor husband died of a heart attack and we all think the women wore him out. They are both neurotic and Ted is fast becoming the same. People all felt sorry for Ted ~~but~~ now they haven't much patience left for him, I could write pages about the stories and it would sound like a book. Anyway much to our relief they are out. Betty Painter Walker and her two children are in that suite, she works in one of the drug stores. Then Eleanor Boyle and her husband Crozier live in the next suite and they both work up at Norquay both ~~summer~~ and winter. In the Oliver's suite is a mother and son, he runs a taxi business.

There was an ex-Hongkong couple who wanted the Oliver's suite, wouldn't take any but a front one and came from the coast just to wait until the Oliver's left, then suddenly had to go back to the coast again for a court case or something. I saw her at the church fair and she told me they were so sorry they couldn't take the suite after all but she said "You know I couldn't have done with so little storage space in the kitchen etc." First we had heard of that, and then she said "I understand there are two working men in one of the apartments." Well that made me mad, the way she said it, and I bet that was the real reason they didn't stay, not the right class of neighbors. If I only had been quick enough with a good comeback but I never am. I wish I had told her that it was the working people who deserved the accomodation first. We think we were well out of it when we didn't get them, yet to meet them they are very nice.

Here I am way off the subject. We did 50 cards to-day and no interruptions, have also tried to get the Christmas boxes away, for the deadline for the U.S.A. is Friday. Sent you not very exciting things, all books, one that sounded the best went to-day and just as I did it up discovered that it is a Houghlin Miffelen one even if it is about Winnipeg, well if you have read it you can send it back or give it to someone, Didn't the Davol girl? Ebbs friend's wife come from there? She might like it. The customs in the U.S.A. always scares me a bit and it never seems worth trying to send a real present. The thought is the main thing isn't it?

I read over some of your recent letters and made a list of things to ask or remark on so here goes.

Could you find out D'Arcy Baker-Carrs address from Mrs Mott Shaw? and also how is George Shaw after his case of infantile paralysis?

Am reading "Pop Corn in the Ginza" and find it interesting but wonder too how the whole situation will turn out in Japan.

Thought that Wadsworth Owen's new place or old house they are buying on an island near Old Greenwich sounds very intriguing, bet Mildred can hardly wait to see it, nice they are nearer than Florida.

Pete said I shouldn't have mentioned his back, it is much better now and only bothers him once in a while, we are so stupid for when it bothers him he says he is going to see Pat or Dr Mac Kenzie about it and then we both forget all about it until he is troubled again. One good thing he doesn't have so much trouble with his sinus now we have oil and that is really something.

Sorry you didn't see more of Mrs Lindsay but guess she was pretty busy enjoying her family, she seems to like Palo Alto and has a place at the back in a garage I think she said, anyway make into a comfortable place of her own.

What a time John Edward and Tina had getting home. Can't Aunt Juile drive any more? and what happened to the cook she had. Can't think of her name but the lady who lived with her and was so good.?

The only reason Pete did that one cross word puzzle was because it was all about skiing and was made up by the Ski Pro here, otherwise I am afraid he is not so interested!

You say that few come to see you when you are old, on the street in Calgary the other day, a rather crowded sidewalk and I heard a rather peppery elderly lady coming towards me say to her companion "No one pays any attention to you when you get old." and another lady near me caught my eye and smiled. I think Aunt Jane Brooks was the best for keeping young friends. Don't you think one trouble with most elderly people is that they live a good deal alone and the minute anyone comes to call they are so glad of an audience that they do all the talking and rather bore the caller. Now if they were more interested in what the caller had been doing etc. and didn't go on about the younger generation and the world

not being what it used to be etc. I think more people would go and see them. Of course so many times an older person is a bit deaf and it is an effort to converse. But I think you have lots of people dropping in to see you, no one makes real calls these days, I know we usually just go to see people when we have some bit of news or question to ask.

Isn't Miss Anne Agge remarkable? She has the youngest spirit and to think she has been sort of an invalid all her life, or may be one should say delicate and here she is 95 and taking operations in her stride. I didn't realize that Miss Chafarina had the same eye trouble as Cousin Jane. It is a lack of fluid or too much, I forget which! Dr MacKenzie explained it very well to me too, I will have to ask him again. *He called Glucerna I think. I think he has it. But takes life very easy so guess that helps.*

Don't worry about our laundry, we could send it to Calgary and have the woddens all shrunk and the things badly ironed in a machine but there is nothing much to it in the Bendix.

The Art Magazine you subscribed to you were going to send to us when you had finished with it. How do you like it? *No hurry, for remember now Frances enjoys it fast.*

Last night Jonnie was over with a bit of modeling, Pete gave Billy MacKenzie some Plasticine and he took something he made to school with him, I guess that made Jonnie want to do something, so he used dough made of flour and water and brought over a bunny rabbit to show us, ~~the car~~ *the car* had fallen off on the way and it has sagged a bit so we are going to give him some Plasticine to work with.

What is the name of the school Gale goes to next year? If you know, otherwise don't bother for I will hear later on.

Who was Miss Dehon who left the money to Miss Grace Keyes? We were awfully amused about the trick played on them asking them the question over the phone when poor Mrs Keyes was trying to have a bath!

We really did very well at that Auction, except for the chair that I found was broken when I got it home, however Edmee was so taken with it I sold it to her for what I had paid for it. The maps I bought for 50¢ was well worth it, I must have hundreds and all different and very interesting too.

MacKenzie is spelli that way

Sam Ward must be over 60 maybe nearly 70, I am not sure.

Arizona Highways has been ordered for you so let us know if it doesn't come.

What a wonderful time Bert must have had in Milwaukee.

Hows that for a disjointed page. Now it is bedtime.

Loads of love and hope you had a very happy birthday.

Catharine
RS. Mom is 70 today - Dec 8th.

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. Dec. 11, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

I was going to write you last evening and then Pete wanted to go up to see the Vallances and I was glad to go too. Now it is not really light enough to work on the last hundred cards so will just type off a bit to you.

We have worked every day this week in the middle of the day on cards then about three o'clock go out and do the errands etc. We both had colds last week, mine was almost as bad as the one I had in Concord last May, a real head cold and it made me so provoked for even when I typed a letter, every once in a while a drip would fall into my lap. However we are all over them now, expect I picked up mine in Calgary and then gave it to Pete, his didn't go into his head which was lucky.

Friday we had a busy time, when we were over town we happened to meet John Jaegi who is Swiss and has just married the wife of an old friend of Pete's, (a boy he went to school with and who lived up at the Upper Hot Springs) and as John was on crutches, we found he had chopped off a toe and a half with an ax, so brought him around to get some books to look at. While he was here Mr Roberts one of the school teachers came along to see what books we wanted to give to the library as they are to open this week. So for a while we were all confusion in the front room. Pete took John home and funnily enough I said to Mr Roberts "I had better look in some of the books to see if there are any papers left." opened an old school book and there was a lovely Swiss post card in color of the covered bridge in Lucerne, the last time John Jaeggi was down with Edith, (his wife), he was telling about going to school every morning as a boy and crossing the bridge and I tried to find a picture of it for him but couldn't, and here it was. Later on he came back for he and Pete had forgotten his parcels in the back of the Jeep and one was to be their supper, so I gave him the card and he was so tickled.

Anyway while Mr Roberts was still here, Mom came down to tell us that Uncle Pete was in town staying with Pete's Uncle Jack Campbell. she had been down before but we were out and she and Jackie had been over to see him that afternoon, she said his mind was going and he didn't know either of them, Uncle Pete is one of the uncles from up north, Uncle Angus who wrote to you, died.

That evening we went around to Uncle Jacks but Uncle Pete had gone to bed, However it gave us a good chance to talk to Uncle Jack about him. Uncle Jack Married one of Pete's fathers sisters and used to work in the store at one time but was too slow for Jackie and he let him go. He also has a ranch down near Cochrane where his son lives and works. and he goes back and forth, sometimes staying on the ranch and sometimes living with his sister Mrs Tollington in Banff.

I don't know if you remember about two years ago word came to the store about Uncle Pete being in poor condition from malnutrition as he had lived alone and hadn't been eating enough, he was put in the hospital up at Smithers B.C. near where he lived. Jackie had visited up there years ago and so he took charge of the correspondence. later when the people up there didn't know quite what to do about it they wrote again and at that time we suggested Uncle Jack go up, but no one seemed to think much of the idea and his sister was going anyway.

Now Uncle Pete seems better and must have come to the sisters (Mrs Clifford Jones) in Calgary and somehow they thought of Uncle Jack and he took Uncle Pete out to the ranch. It was allright out there but Uncle Jack was afraid he might get sick and it would be better to bring him in here. We asked him about Uncle Pete's mind and he said that there were some things he couldn't remember but he was bright enough and interesting to talk to, and of course he knew and remembered Uncle Jack from the old days.

Well yesterday while I was at the last of the string of church teas, Pete brought Uncle Jack and Pete up to the house so when I came home they were all here, and I made tea for them. and we had a most interesting time. Pete was so pleased about it all. Uncle Pete spoke of New Brunswick, (don't think he has ever been back since he left as a boy) so I got the two sketches Pete made in 1929 when he went to the old farm on the Bay de Chaleur to visit. Right away Uncle Pete said " Why thats the house in New Brunswick ! " and Pete said " yes, the old house. " and Uncle Pete said, "Not the old house, for that was of logs, with a big hearth where they did the cooking. they had a grate in the fireplace to cook on. " Pete had never heard about the log house before. Then the sketch of the bay. and Uncle Pete said he remembered sitting on the hill " and watching the Yankees (sailing vessels) come up the bay and turn around. " Pete spoke of the Phantom light that he remembered talking about when he was there as a little boy, and Uncle Pete knew about that, it was when they buen't the old shingles at the shingle factory across the Bay. Then he told Pete about sailing around the Horn, and he showed with his hands how the boat tipped, and " green water came over the bow " and they went down by the Falkland islands etc. Pete never knew he had been around the Horn. *before.*

We asked when he came out west first and he thought it was in about '82 to Winnepeg and then he worked his way west on the C.P.R. construction, staying for a time in Indian Head and Regina. and he remembered all the relations he stayed with that Pete knew from his father. When we took them home he sat in back with me and I said I guessed Banff would be hard for him to recognize as it didn't look much the way it used to, and he said when he first knew Banff there wasn't one house in it, and that in the early days he used to prospect in the mountains. We hope to get him to talk some more about the early days.

Uncle Jack says he thinks his mind has improved since they have been to-gether and I imagine Uncle Jack is the best person for him to be with. a link with the past and as Uncle Jack speaks very slowly and is an easy person to be with it doesn't confuse Uncle Pete at all.

After Mr Roberts was here looking at books we had every chair in the front room piled with them .so yesterday morning we put them into five boxes and took them over to the new Library in the afternoon. They have a room under the Robinson's Clinic being about the only fireproof building they could get a place in. They have a lot of books already and Mrs Roberts was a Librarian in The University Library and also in the Children's section in Calgary so she is teaching the others what to do. For a while they will have volunteer workers and be open two afternoons and two evenings a week for people to get books.

Do you think you could get us a set of the Twin Books by Lucy Fitch Perkins ? Even a 2nd hand set would be fine. All the kids seem to like those as well as anything and they find they have very few children's books as yet, and of course want to encourage them to read.

Dr Macenzie hasn't brought us the books from Concord yet ! He keeps saying he wants to come around with them himself but Pat was away for 2 weeks and he hasn't caught up yet, also he was singing in the Gay Nineties Show they put on this week.

Just as I was writing this Mom appeared to tell us her furnace had gone off in the night and the house was terribly cold so we went up, All she needed to have done was to turn a little knob but she didn't want to monkey with anything, so we turned the knob and on came the furnace, but it mean't we stayed up there for a while until the house warmed up. It was ten below last night and no doubt the controls may need adjusting a bit for this is our first cold spell. It is lovely and sunny this morning.

Loads of love and hope you had a lovely birthday.

Catharine

P.S. A parcel came for Pete & one for me . not books .

We just had a nice Christmas card from the d'Arcy Babes. Came with their address so never mind asking Mrs Shaw for it .

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. Dec. 13, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

Just a short letter to-night as it is really our bed time but to-morrow I have so much I want to do that I thought I had better write you to-night.

It is too funny but now that it is nearing Christmas we are receiving great attention from the kids. Jonny comes over after his supper nearly every night wanting to make Christmas presents, and last night Pete was awfully good and helped him make a set of blotters, each with a picture and one month of the year on it. I think Rusty made some at Fenn school once and Jonny made his mother some two years ago and wanted to again. Then to-night Pete was busy so it was my turn to do the helping. He colored an old Christmas card Pete made once for Chrisine Penn, a lady at a piano and lots of kids singing. Then we pasted a calender on it, and that is for the teacher. I have been trying to address the Christmas cards and get a bit confused and slowed down as you may imagine, but perhaps with luck to-morrow I can get some off, so many need a few words written inside, or I use them to thank people for things or letters.

We finished the last cards to-day, at least I did my part and Pete has 25 to finish, then we had to order a few more for each year we seem to add about 25 new friends even when we try to drop some previous ones. But this year they were easier to color.

I am also trying to get the house tidied up and dusted before next week. Was making fairly good headway on the front room this morning and then Pete wanted me to find something that he couldn't find and then just before lunch he thought it would be fun to see if Charlie Beil had finished casting his ski Models, so we went up there and Charlie was glad to have us take them home, we had to make two trips for I have to hold them carefully in my lap. Pete has bits to add here and take off there and then after New Years Charlie hopes to cast them in Bronze. Pete has been working on them this evening. There is lots of work to do to models I find.

We had gotten home with them safely about one when Davy came, a Christmas call I guess for he said he just thought he would come and say hello he hadn't seen us for so long. We waited until he left before having out lunch and then Jonny arrived, wanted to take the Kayak model we have to school. We did a few cards and got the parcel done up for Owen Sound and were just taking that to the express when Dr Robinson overtook us at the station and he had another picture to show us, so back we came and looked at that. The front room was all upset with chairs this and that way and the vacuum still out for I had never had a chance to finish, will try to to-morrow. Then we had errands and when we came back I sorted books out as there were so many holes in the book shelves where we had taken some books out for the library and you know how it is trying to rearrange them again.

/So you see we are quite busy, one always thinks one

can get things done ahead but rarely can I . I was talking to Olive Beil while Pete was with Charlie and she said they eat at all hours on account of Charlie. I guess men are different from women and if they get interested in something they either want to wait until later or eat right away quick. She is an awfully fine person and just right for him.

Bed time so will send this off to-morrow.

Loads of Love
Catharine .

Wm. H. Brown

George
William

Bayff.
Alberta
Dec 14, 1949.

Dearest Mother.

Don't miss the Christmas card in this envelope will you?

What a rush I seem to be having getting them off, principally because I couldn't get a start somehow & the ^{head} cold interfered.

To-day I wrote notes on the English ones & Hawaiian & then this afternoon thought I'd better get the big box of tags off to the Campbells in Cowley. The ones on the ranch. Think they come in on Saturdays as a rule & so wanted the box to be a week ahead of Christmas so the kids could have the excitement of wondering what was in it. Also we sent some things for the tree.

Won't write much until maybe Saturday for I have the boxes to get off to Vancouver too.

Loads of love & in case the letters are slow. A very Merry Christmas to you. A parcel from you came to-day & one from Rusty & the Country store too.

We also got a box of holly from
Port Alberni. B.C. real English Holly -
+ an "early Victorian Paper Weight"
from England. Got an old fashioned
piece of sculpture from Mr Bechland
in England + 2 little dishes + some
real chestnuts from one of Mrs Greenhous
nephews. + today a lovely book on
landscape painting from the Gardiners.
We've had quite a Christmas already.

Must stop. Loads of love + glad
you had such a nice birthday. No
what I meant was that seeing I didn't
make you 85th birthday which is
sort of a special one. I hoped to
make the 90th - another special one -
but that doesn't mean we won't
be there in between!

More love from us both.
Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Sat. Dec. 17th, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

I guess this will be the last letter of mine you

will get before Christmas, though I will be writing again but with mails slow you aren't likely to get it. So we wish you a very Happy Christmas and am glad to think that Mildred will be with you. I wish we might have been there too and at one time this fall had visions of maybe making it as a birthday present, but the time was too short and Pete is so interested in the Ski Models and getting them done in time for the Ski meet, we couldn't have gone and done those too. He has the finishing touches to do, adds a little plaster mixed with water to build it up in some places and wets it when he wants to cut a little off. Then after New Years Charlie will cast ~~the~~ ⁱⁿ bronze, and we hope nothing happens to the originals.

At last we are having real cold weather and to-day felt the coldest of any day this winter, a cold wind from the north and sort of a frost or very fine snow in the air so we saw no sun. Our furnace has been doing pretty well, the oil part is O.K. but the fan which we have had for ten years has slowed down and the other Sunday Pete found a bit loose in it. The fan circulates the air and unless it blows fast enough the house doesn't heat as easily. Mr Gotki came down Thursday or yesterday and said he hoped to have the new fan to install this week and we hope so too. Luckily Pete ordered one when we first had trouble, thinking if anything did happen it would be as well to have an extra fan.

Have been working hard on Christmas cards, somehow I never think it will take as much time as it does to send them and so many I want to write a little note or a real letter with them, Have about 100 to do and most have notes, then the local ones after that. We have gotten lots of nice ones this year and it is fun to have messages from the different people. Got one to-day addressed Mr and Mrs Whyte, Banff, from Claresholm where we don't know any one we can think of. Inside a nice card with "a Merry Xmas to Mr and Mrs Whyte" but not a word of who it is from. I took it back to the post office and told them to try another family, it wasn't sealed so they can try all the Whytes and Whites.

Met the Vallances yesterday ~~at the Rex~~ over town and they came down for a short time in the afternoon as they wanted the neice from England who has just come over to see our house. She is a most attractive girl, a trained nurse and wants to stay in Canada. Will do specializing here in Banff. The kids are still coming in and out, Jonnie was over the other evening again and Pete kept him quiet while I was writing by giving him plasticine and he made an Eskimo Dog team, dogs and all, it had a lot of action. then a sort of screen with "the little lord Jesus" in a sort of manger and several angels leaning over the back of the screen and one in front. He has the greatest imagination and described what "we" could make, the whole scene like a Creche, camels and all. I hope he doesn't plan to do it Christmas eve and over here!

To-day they had Santa Claus in the store, and Mom helps in handing out the pop corn and popcorns, they gave away 300 so I guess most of the kids in town were there. She said some were very cunning. Jonny was there and finally came over, of course he doesn't believe in Santa anymore and Mom said sort of swaggered over knowing all about it, Santa said " and what do you want this Christmas ? " Mom couldn't quite catch what Jonny said but she gave him some pop corn and he went on. Later while another little kid was talking to Santa Jonnie ran up to him and pointing to the large space between his teeth said " you can bring me two front teeth ! " Mom said he was too funny the way he did it. She was down to supper to-night and seemed in excellent spirits, is over her cold and feeling fine.

Everyone seems to have colds, much coughing and sneezing. Wonder if it is the kind you had.

You know I am so disappointed about the awful Christmas presents I sent to the states, yesterday I was in the Home Industries and was talking to Mrs Oxbonough and she said that since last summer you could send a five dollar gift free of duty to the states or England. Its too bad they wouldn't put it in the newspaper so one would know. I remember the times when I sent parcels as you do with several tied up inside and they opened them all and naturally left them all untied and in a mess. Do tell me if they open what I have sent and if there was any duty to pay and on what. I thought anything under a dollar went in unopened. Next year I will write to the American Consul and see what is what. None of your parcels are even opened just stamped " duty free."

Maybe I had better do more cards. I sent Mildred a book when I found out she was to be with you, and now I almost wish I had sent her a book I sent you. " Curtain Time " If she would rather have that perhaps you could swap.

We have three days holiday at Christmas as it comes on a Sunday, that is Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Nice for people who want to go home but sort of a prolonged holiday for people like us. Even the stores will be closed. and the same over New Years.

A Merry Christmas to you all and a great deal of love always from us both.

Catharine .

Have had 3 deer around the house all day. Every time we open the door they come. Would hardly let us get into the car. came right up & stuck their noses against the windows. Moved back when Pete started the engine. One deer watched us through the window while we washed the dishes this morning.

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. Dec. 21, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

I really don't know why I plan anything ahead, it's not like New England where one does more or less what one plans ahead, guess you would have a fit here. Sometime ago I had it all nicely figured out that I would clean a bit each morning and then maybe write the messages in answer to letters on the cards in the afternoon, sounded nice and easy, but somehow it hasn't worked out that way at all! I used to be able to address half the cards we send in one evening, but had forgotten we send twice as many as we used to, then last year Pete would often fall asleep in his chair at night and it would be after ten when we went up, but this year he doesn't sleep like that and feels like going to bed about 9.30 so naturally the evening is shorter. Then we both had colds and that slowed us down a lot.

Now it is just a couple of days till Christmas and the house is such a mess. Pete had sort of laryngitis last night and this morning, sounded like your cough must have been, so I gave him hot lemonade and even tried a mustard plaster this morning, he went to the doctor this afternoon but it is nothing serious just sounds bad but I am always afraid of colds in the chest. Was going to finish cleaning the living room but instead finished writing all but one Christmas card.

Now it is Thursday night and I am not much further ahead, We did get all the cards but one sent this morning, the local ones amount to nearly 50, but people are always saying ours is one card they always keep so one can't very well disappoint them.

Yesterday afternoon we just thought we would go up for the mail, stopped for Pete to speak to the doctor (I was afraid of his cold getting in his chest too deep) and while I was waiting Margaret Hemsley, Syd Vallances neice came along, so I asked her to come sit in the car and when Pete came we took her up to the Post office, then we had to see Allan, as he had been down in the morning quite worried about Mr Scott, who is in his 70s and suddenly realized that he couldn't see out of his poor eye at all, and the other one was getting tired doing all the work, so Allan pretended he had to go to Calgary Thursday and would take him along. Asked us if we knew a good doctor, so we offered to telephone Dr Riley and ask him, which we did and he told us who to tell Allan to see and the time, so we had to tell Allan. Margaret hadn't been to the skating rink at all so we told her she better come. Allan wasn't there so we watched a little and tried to talk her into trying to skate, she had only ever tried once before and hadn't been able to even stand up. She was game to try and just as she was putting on skates Mrs Simson came along, so we turned her over to her and she knows just what to tell a beginner to do and so took her around the rink twice and she never fell down once. Was quite tickled and was to have gone back to-day at three for Mrs Simson to help her. We thought she would meet people that way too.

As Allan hadn't come we decided not to wait and found he was at his house all the time putting up their Christmas tree. So went in there and he was very pleased, but my whole planned afternoon was completely shot as you may imagine. Last night I directed the local Christmas cards and would have had them all stamped and ready but Mr Pequet came in with something for Mom. and so had those to do Thursday,

Now it is Friday, Yesterday I did get the front room sort of finished and Pete brought the tree in, We put it in a little wooden bucket and fossil stones around it sort of wedged in and it will stand up. ~~Was~~ I thought we should do the kitchen after lunch and then go out but Pete thought If we just went for the mail and right back, and then we picked up something for supper and ran into Mr Bloedel and brought him down to the house and he wanted his daughter Virginia to see something so she and his wife came back with him later so you can imagine how much of the kitchen was cleaned. We had to do that this morning. Pete thought it would be fun to decorate the tree last night so we did that.

Now Jonny is here and we are going over to do some last minute shopping, so will send this along. Got a nice letter from both you and Jean to-day written the last weekend. they came right through .

Loads of love and if this reaches you in time tell Middledred her wonderful box of caramels came several days ago. We couldn't resist opening them just ~~to~~ to be sure nothing had happened to them on the way!

A Happy New Year to you all and a great deal of love and wish we were there.

More love

Catherine .

Banff, Alberta.
Mon. Dec. 26, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

I hardly know where to begin and can't remember when I last wrote but it must have been last week sometime and so much has been going on ever since. In the first place I had better thank you for the really lovely presents, all except the enclosure in a recent letter, I just remembered it wasn't to be opened until Xmas and of course can't for the life of me remember where I put it. That's the trouble cleaning off the dining room table and desk, don't know where anything is, except that nothing has been thrown away. Looked a little but decided I had better write instead to-night and wait until morning to hunt. Stupid of me I know, but there has been so much to think of and try to do.

the day before
Maybe I had better start with the day before Christmas which was Friday. The house wasn't too bad and I think I did manage to tidy the kitchen, had given up all idea of washing the kitchen floor, (just as well so many have been over it) and the silver has gone uncleaned. We got some more notes off with cards and did a few more errands and shopping. Pete took Lloyd Harmon to the house while I got some of those scenes for a viewer that we got for Harold for Xmas, a little projector really. Then I had promised Edmee sometime to make a wreath for her door, and so we finally just before dark went out the west road to look for green things, however they were so shriveled up and dead looking we finally got an extra tree and cut off the branches and then stuck holly in here and there. I was busy making or getting ready to make the wreath when Dr Robinson came with a sketch to show us and a present for each of us. A 2 lb. box of Page & Shaw chocolates for me and a lovely cashmere scarf for Pete which was very nice. So once again I started the wreath with newspaper on the dining table and spare ribs in the oven, when Mom came along with a wonderful mince pie. She made us a Christmas cake, shortbread and cookies and then two pies! We made her stay to supper and I moved the half finished wreath to the desk, We were in the midst of supper when first Jonnie came along, Christmas excitement. He walked straight in and through to our tree and set down a large round parcel, tied at both ends as you would do up a molasses kiss with a twist of the paper. It had looked like a little girl's pigtails so he had pasted on bits of paper on the main part of the bundle to make eyes nose and mouth. He has the greatest imagination!

We were eating mince pie about then, so he had to have some with us and a glass of milk, before we were through Harold came along and of course he liked mince pie as much as Jonnie. The piece I gave Harold was bigger than the one Jonnie had so Jonnie had to have another bit and then Jonnie having had two, Harold had to have two! By then half of our Christmas pie was gone and Mom came down the next day with another!

During all this confusion I managed to finish the wreath for Edmee and get a bow tied on and it really was very pretty

Mom had two calls to make with presents for friends and it was snowing out so we took her along with us and left her at the 2nd house for the evening while we went up to Edmees, stayed there just a short time and then came home as I had all the family parcels still to do up and worked until nearly eleven. Did laundry that day too.

Well that was Friday, and the day before Christmas, Saturday was even worse. First thing we did was make another little wreath for Eleanor Luxton the girl we took the little tree too last year. We had sort of forgotten about her but knew she liked the tree for the table center so made a small wreath also of spruce and holly and then got some fancy candles, one in the shape of a red flower and two little eskimos and two polar bears. We did last minute errands getting Davy a sweater he wanted and seeing about the goose they had forgotten to draw for us etc. Then took the wreath to Eleanor which pleased her very much and came home for an early lunch and to stuff the goose and get it cooking. Pete made another six cards while I did up the last parcels and it was getting too dark and then Dr and Nellie MacKenzie came to deliver the books. The joke was that they couldn't get the back of the car open and it must have taken 5 or 10 minutes to unlock. The books were in perfect condition so you needn't have worried, Nellie thought Duncan had brought them here when they first came back, and he was so busy he forgot and then it became a joke between all of us. The children's part of the library hasn't opened yet so they are in plenty of time.

They made about an hours call as we got talking about all sorts of things and then he had to go to give a young mother with 3 children a blood transfusion. She is anemic and they figured if they did that it would sort of buoy her up for over the holiday, especially Christmas. We saw him later and he said it had worked allright. The blood comes from the blood bank in Calgary but the train was late and didn't get in until 4.

After they left, the goose was cooking itself and smelling very nice too all this time. We went down to Mrs Browns with a basket of fruit and a cheque too. Her husband died and she is a shy little soul who doesn't go out much, thought her family are here. Her husband was in the reserve army with Pete. Then we dropped in a few minutes to see Barbara Brewster who's husband George died a couple of years ago, and then home for goose. Mom couldn't come for supper as a couple were to call at 7 so we gave her a plate of goose, mashed potatoe and gravy.

By this time we had dishes from all day to wash and those were done and I had my dress changed when Allan Mather came over to see if we were going over there which we nearly always do on Christmas eve. He brought us a wonderful present of preserves and shortcake from Grace. Stayed for a short time and then we gathered the presents for them and went on over there. Mrs Simpson and the MacKenzies were there and Barbara and Betty Painter came later. Grace's sister Lilla Wright always comes, she is a district nurse 100 miles north of Edmonton, has to cover a large area and gives talks on Sanitation and Health I think more than the actual nursing but am not sure. We always have a good time there and it was midnight when we got home

Barbara had asked if we would be over around nine Christmas

morning so we knew we would have to be up early. We woke early enough to hear the "round the Empire" (or Commonwealth as they now say) broadcast from England which was very good and then the King. Then got up, had breakfast and without looking at any of our presents went over to the kids with theirs. They had all been late getting up and so were in the midst of paper and presents and all excitement. Barbara had not only woven but made plaid shirts for all the boys and Jonny had his on over his long underwear and no socks or shoes. He was so excited he was everywhere. Barbara has given me the promise of weaving some curtains for the living room, we will figure out the design later. So that's pretty nice.

After half an hour or so we went up to Mom's with her present, then back here and opened a few of our things. Pete has given me a wonderful thing to look at slides in. Quite large so that the picture is big enough to really see, about 5 by 7 inches and we have been looking at slides pretty nearly ever since! for everyone who comes in likes to see it, kids and all.

Then we thought of Sam and Cis for three of the couples they see the most of are away, two having left Banff and we thought they might feel not very gay, so went up there at eleven. They were just up and having breakfast so we stayed a little while, then to the Rileys to see if the house had been warm etc when they got in as luckily Mr Hanson had gotten some one to put the fire on rather than Pete. Then home to lunch ~~66~~ cold goose.

After lunch we thought we would try to make our regular calls and then come home for the rest of the day. Went first to Mrs Moffat (we knew that most people have a late lunch because if they don't get up early they don't get the turkey in the oven in time for an early Christmas dinner) Mrs Moffat was very pleased and we would see only one other person had been up the walk since the snow the evening before. Then to the Parises as Pete always goes there as he has done since he was a little boy. They wanted us to come back to have Christmas dinner with them but we thought it would be too much. for you can't just eat and run, it is a whole evening. We also went to Uncle Jack Campbell's to leave a present for Uncle Pete. and then to Mrs Edwards. who feels very lonely since her favorite son was killed overseas. She had her little 6 year old grandchild with her and she was too cunning. Had a new set of dishes with a little coffee percolator, and served us all with something. Asked if I would like coffee first, went out to get it and then came in and whispered to me "you know the coffee is just straight water." but we all drank it anyway. She even brought a cookie on a plate to each of us, first placing a paper napkin on our laps and giving us each a knife and fork. She made numerous trips back and forth to the kitchen and was so dainty and sweet about the whole thing and Mrs Edwards said Lorraine would never stop talking about it.

After that we came home though we had been asked to the Grahams for a Santa Claus and Christmas tree, but it was to be a big affair and we decided that the older people mean't more to us to go and see. We also were supposed to go to the MacKenzies too but never got there.

When we came home we really opened the parcels from everyone and what a lot of wonderful things we had. mostly from you.

You know you don't mark who all the packages are for so we try to guess and Pete was too funny. I had just opened the nice blue mitts and the next package felt like mitts for Pete or maybe socks so handed it to him, Next thing I new he looked much embarrassed with a lap full of bright pink vests ! However I am very pleased to have them for it seems to be hard to get ones with out " built up shoulders " and these are fine, also the two lovely slips. The Sitwell books I am so glad to have for I have heard about them and they are the kind of book I enjoy.

To be continued. No chance to write more
loads of love
Catharine

A Happy New Year to all.

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. Dec. 27, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

To continue where I left off in my letter last night about the Christmas presents and our day, Christmas Day.

I found the note you enclosed in one of your recent letters which wasn't to be opened until Christmas and the wonderful cheque for a Glad iron. Thanks you so much and for the thought that prompted it. To be perfectly honest I am not sure that I would use one unless I start ironing the flanelette sheets we use, right now I just fold them and we use towels like bath towels and paper napkins. The only things I have to iron are shirts for Pete and my blouses, a few handkies when we don't use Kleenex, the dish towels and pillow cases and the odd slip and now I have two of those that don't need ironing! However I will see. Cis Ward has one of the Glad irons which she likes very much.

And now to go back to the Christmas gifts. The slips are lovely ones and am so glad to have nylon ones to use, and Jean was right I needed shirts. The bowels are the loveliest shades and I felt like a bride with such lovely ones. I will tell Pete one set is for him. The little pin cushion is a beauty and I wonder did Madge make it? The aprons are lovely and I really needed some and of course the dusters are so nice to have. Agreed the one with the calico hand was a bit silly but will find a use for it, might be good for polishing. Wasn't that or those the prettiest patterns on the aprons? The books we both like, Blueberries for Sue will go with our Duckling book which all kids love, Johnny has already done a good deal of chuckling aloud over Sue and read bits out to us. The landscape or rather Hudson River painters looks most interesting but to tell the truth so far I haven't had time to more than glance at the books as we opened the parcels, haven't even looked at the pictures thoroughly. As I said in the other letter I am so glad to have the Sitwell books, and the Martin Bovey one too as I have read about him in the journal and you have spoken of his pictures and I know he comes west but have never seen any of his work.

The little dog fascinates us all. I got a larger one I saw in Calgary to send to you originally but when it came it wouldn't work at all so sent it back for another and they were sold out. Some people had seen them but none as small and we have had great fun with it, pushing the button. The maple candy I have promised to open when the children come over, and oh yes the book about Louise Alcott I know will be good, remember reading childrens books by Meigs I think. The little notes will help a lot to use to write on for I am apt to say too much. and the pretty calender with the flowers I am going to use to remember birthdays as there is a memorandum on the back where I can write the dates and then circle the dates on the calender in front, for I am always forgetting birthdays.

I needed the bed slippers badly and these are the very prettiest ones I have had. And thank you too for the the dish towels, pot holders and pretty paper napkins and the lovely little wooden bowl. In fact thank you for all and for doing them up in such a pretty selection of paper. Thank Jean for the Whitman's candy. We don't get it here and I think it is awfully good, we have put it away to eat later when there aren't so many people to offer it too!

Rusty sent us a lovely colored photograph calender with an especially pretty picture of the Wayside Inn, and then best of all a little memo pad which is a lovely shade of red and has a pad about 2 inches thick and a little gold pencil in the red leather cover. Gales present of little jars on a turn table thing for the kitchen came to-day and a wonderful can of maple syrup from Kitty.

Johnny bought us a great big jar of hard candies, Page & Shaw make, cost him a dollar too and someone was in who saw him buying it all by himself. When I thanked him I said "I think you must like these candies too." and Johnny showed in his eyes that was a good reason for buying it and he said "I thought you could use the jar for something afterwards." Davy gave us a tin of peanuts and Harold bought a jar of Barbara's best strawberry jam. She had told them they would have to buy their presents with their own money but he thought a jar of her best jam would be what I would like most, so she said he could have one and he asked how much it would cost, so she said she thought 25¢ would be what it was worth and he gave her a quarter.

We had just finished opening our parcels when Johnny arrived to see what we got and how we liked his present and then Harold and Lona and Mary Lee came in. They looked at everything and then we were looking at slides in the new Table Viewer they had to have a look too. When they got a little rambunctious in the front room I suggested gingerale in the kitchen and they all came out for that. Then Don Becker and his son Donny came to pick up Lona and they had never been in so came just for a minute "Johnny had to show Donny everything getting down one of the eagle hats and putting on an impromptu Indian dance, then Donny had to try it feeling perfectly at home evidently, so we got the other hat off the wall and the two of them danced a regular war dance, it was perfect and they weren't a bit selfconscious either.

They all left but Johnny and I suddenly remembered a letter from Chuck Millar that came two days before Christmas asking to borrow some money as his daughter wanted to get married before New Years. They always return what they borrow and here we had forgotten to even answer, so rushed a letter off and heard the train come in on time so rushed to the station, the conductors saw me run down the platform to the mail car and held the train, so I wished them a Merry Christmas and said thanks and they were very nice about it.

On the way home, I still out of breath, we thought of Jackie so went up there. If we don't go they act as if we didn't want to and had neglected them, but it is a little forced, as I don't think Florence is too friendly really. But Jackie was in a pleasant frame of mind and we had a nice short visit. then just went up to young Jimmy Simpson's as it is Larri's first Christmas, but they were out

so left a note to come on down when they could. We then had our supper and had just gotten settled down in the front room after doing a good batch of dishes I guess, and Don Becker came back with a present from Lona. "a beaded bookmark" made on a loom such as I used to have, and then sewn on a bit of buckskin, our initials burnt into the buckskin. P C W. It must have been a great effort to make and we were very pleased. Don stayed to look at some slides and he was still here when Jimmie and Larri came in. and by the time they left after a very nice visit it was midnight. So it was a busy Christmas day for us. *We made 10 calls & only 1 person not counting family.*

Monday, which was Boxing day and also a holiday was just about as busy. We didn't have to get up early so had breakfast at ten, then as Col Moore had given me an old book about the Concord Fight that his father or grandfather had had and which must be very rare, and to Pete a Bayonet his grandfather had bought in Germany in 1870 something and which was used in the Franco Prussian War. we went over to the hotel to thank them, had a nice visit there until nearly noon, then to Uncle Jack Campbell's to see Kenneth and also Uncle Pete. We had been asked to one o'clock dinner there but Pete didn't want to go to such a long drawn out afternoon as it would be (Mom went and didn't get home until six) so we came back here for lunch.

Were just in the midst of washing the dishes when Grace Mather came in with her sister Lilla and they made us quite a call. I broke the cork in the bottle of sherry and we showed them the slides in the viewer and all in all they stayed sometime. Lilla is quite a wonderful girl really and full of vigor. When they left I again got hot water and had to rewash the silver which hadn't been wiped and showed spots of soap, had just put it into the drainer when Gladys Atkin and Noel Gardiner from Flat Creek B.C. came in after skiing. They want us to visit them this spring for skiing in Glacier Park where he is a game warden. Gladys takes slides so they too had to be shown the viewer. They were just going when the Rileys dropped in, and again we showed off the viewer. I can see where we will use it a lot to show people a few special slides of the things they are interested in, and you can see very clearly even in ~~summer~~ daylight whereas in summer it is never dark enough in the evening to show slides. but this way they are sparklingly clear and fun to see.

By the way have you in your attic any of those boxes that the square shaped chocolate peppermints come in? The ones in a little envelope. Those boxes are just the right size to hold slides and as the Viewer holds about 25 or 30 at a time I will have to resort the slides so as to have them handy for showing. If you haven't any little boxes maybe a box of those mints would be nice to send us from time to time? *A hint but I notice the Country Store has them in a catalogue we got from them.*

Pete seems to have more things happen to him. Had a sort of cyst develop on his right hand, right on the back near his wrist. Pat said one day he could cut it out, but after the holidays, then Duncan MacKenzie looked at it and said if it is cut out it just comes back. best way is to knock it out on an Oxford Dictionary! Didn't sound very pleasant. Pete showed it to Dr Riley and he just felt it a bit and then told Pete what to do, (Mrs Riley and I had gone into the kitchen as they were just leaving at six) and he told Pete to raise his arm a certain way and then he cracked the thing with ~~his~~ the side of his hand and it disappeared, but not without

hurting ! and it had been rather unexpected, but he said he did it to lots of the nurses who get them. Pete doesn't know how his came but it is often from some strain. He said 90 times out of 100 you could get rid of them that way.

We heard a train come in just after they left and hoped it was the first one late, as Percy Woodworth and his wife, the game warden from Lake Louise were going to England and Switzerland on a trip and we wanted to wish them a good one. We dashed to the station but it was the 2nd train so had missed them, gave a little old lady Mrs Bollans a ride home and then as we came in the yard a car drove out so we must have had callers while out.

By this time we were quite weary, had our supper, ^{got the dishes done at last} and then had just sat down when Dr Riley came back to put a tight bandage on Pete's hand to keep the thing from forming again. It didn't make it very comfortable last night but its a relief to have the thing gone. He stayed quite a while and we talked painting as he is a prize winner among the doctor artists. It was good of him to come back we thought. ~~he was supposed to go to the wards as its their wedding anniversary but didn't.~~

After he left I wrote you until after ten when we went to bed.

To-day is another sort of holiday, the Gov't men are working but the stores are closed. Again we were late getting up and it was a real winter day, snowed steadily, a fine snow all day and was cold, zero or below all day and a cold north or east wind. We got the mail this morning right after breakfast, three letters from you. 17th 18th and 21st I think it was. and lots more cards. the kids counted ours yesterday and we had over 200. Then we went to the Beckers to thank Lona for her card and bookmark and to return Don's gloves he had left. The kids were so cunning up there, Lona making dolls clothes with her grandmother and Billy MacKenzie was there too.

~~When~~ We stopped in at the Simpsons on the way back as we hadn't seen them yet and saw their presents etc. Then we also had been to see Mom a few minutes. Lunch about one and before I had started on the dishes Susan and Lael MacDougal who is here for the holidays and is the little girl so very interested in Indians, came along. Lael on snowshoes and wearing the mocassins we had given her. They had to see slides in the viewer, all of which takes time to show, and the ~~the~~ other things, but they helped me do all the dishes for 3 meals which was nice.

We were due at the Painters for tea and I had just gotten ready and my coat on when Dr Riley came to return a book and wanted us to go up there for a Tom and Jerry. So we promised to after first going for the mail, mailed my letter to you too but it may not go very quick as the trains were late due to slides west. Then to the Painters for tea and a very pleasant time as there were a nice group of people. and up to the Rileys where the talk is always fun. and home after six.

And now I have written you most all evening and think I will have to go to bed as it is nearly ten ! But you can see we have been rather busy. I don't know but Christmas in Concord is more fun in many ways as you can sit at home and enjoy the new books !

Loads of love and a happy New Year too.

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. Night,
Dec. 29, 1949.

Dearest Mother,

We are still going fairly steadily and when we aren't we seem to have stacks of dishes to do. Think I may have written you Tuesday night about going to the ~~hainters~~ ^{hainters} to tea and then to the Riley's afterwards for Tom and Jerrys, for I believe I wrote ^a letters to you that night.

It snowed all day Tuesday, a very fine snow and all day yesterday a heavier snow with the result that we have 16 or 18 inches piled up and some places even deeper. Last night at 11 p.m. it was -18' below and this morning a surprising 30' above! Quite a sudden change, a chinook blew in from the coast which raised the temperature and also blew the lovely clumps of snow off the trees which was disappointing.

Yesterday was Wednesday and the first time the stores were opened since Christmas eve, so we went for mail and did errands after a rather late breakfast. I had planned to clean up the scattered Christmas paper etc. but Pete thought we should go out first and do it after an early lunch, we were just eating lunch when Jonny came so we suggested he go up and clean off Mom's walks which he did like a very good boy. Looked too cunning with his red short blanket coat and the large snow shovel over his shoulder, told him she would pay him which she did and we would give him mince pie when he got back. Before then Sam came along, and so we all had mince pie and ice cream to-gether. Mom gave us two and Cis one mince pie so we have been living well and even serve it to guests!

Sam hadn't been here before, at least not since Xmas so we showed him all the things and the viewer and Jonny looked too and it was nearly ~~there~~ ^{there} when we all went up for the mail to-gether, then as we had gotten a card for Uncle Pete ^{from him} we drove by there and Jonny and I went in. Jonny up to see Uncle Pete on his own and we could hear ~~him~~ ^{him} talking upstairs. When we got home we had all the dishes to do from the evening before, breakfast and lunch and did those. It was a real blizzard outside and a cold wind from the north and the snow about a foot deep by then and we were glad to be home and pretty sure on a miserable night like that no one would bother to come and see us, so for the first time that day we both sat down in the living room and I started the introduction on the "Concord Fight" book that Col Moore gave me. written by Ezra Ripley, I got about a quarter way through the first page when there was a great noise of stamping feet at the back door and in the hall so out I went wondering which kid it could be, and of course it was Sir Norman Watson!

We gave him some sherry and by then it was five something so by six Pete suggested he stay for supper. I hustled about and used some left over gravy to warm up goose legs in, and mashed potatoes and onions in the two pressure cookers and then mince pie and coffee. He seemed to enjoy it, but it felt cold after eating and

so we put a fire in the fireplace and sat around and talked about all sorts of things, mostly world conditions and he does most of the talking, smoking one cigarette after another. At the Simspsons he stayed until 3 o'clock one morning and smoked all his cigarettes then Jimmie's and then the top row of the box Mrs Simpson had bought to offer people during Christmas! also he helped consume most of a bottle of rum in hot toddies during the evening. We had apricot brandy in tiny glasses so not much of that was used even if he did have four or five glasses of it.

He was quite interesting about some things but said that the world he had known in England was really gone. Not one of his friends lived in the same house they had lived in before the war, either it was too big and they had to move to a smaller one or were bombed out or not as well off. As a boy of 18 he had started the first World War in the army, being the only officer not killed in his company at the Somme, then he was a rear gunner in the Air Force I think he said all through the rest of that war. In between he built an aircraft etc and then was in the Air Force in the 2nd war, and now he says he is building atomic planes for a 3rd world war. Thinks it is all fantastic and too much for one person's lifetime. He never mentions what he plans to do at Temple or Skoki and we don't like to ask.

About 11, after 5½ hours we were getting rather weary, and so Pete made up some excuse about having to bathe his hand in hot water and (Br Riley had suggested that the first night if it was painful) and that sort of got Sir Norman thinking of going to bed and he finally left. But of course we were pretty tired this morning. Oh yes and to make matters less pleasant our kitchen sink plugged before supper and we couldn't force it ~~thought~~ through so didn't do last night's dishes.

This morning the sink was no better so set out after breakfast to find Bob Watt and he said he would be down in half an hour which he did, and had to go up onto the roof to poke down through the vent to clear it, then as he is one of the skiers he came in and looked at the models and as we had just gotten a wonderful ski book from Russ we showed him that. So it was lunch time when he left. As soon as lunch we knew with it 35° above by then and the snow getting heavy we would have to take the snow off the eaves so it wouldn't start melting and backing up underneath. It was a heavy job, Pete did that and I cleared our paths etc. Then Jonny came over to see if I would go to Bobbie Smiths to tea with Barbara and Grace, but I felt too tired in a way and not like going and getting cleaned up and all, (the house still hasn't been tidied)! So we went for the mail, saw how Allan was getting on cleaning the skating rink in case he was having trouble, picked up Grace, then Barbara and drove them up to Deer St. in the Jeep. When we got back Pete ran up and down the road a bit to pack it down and I dug a path for the milkman and as we had done the huge stack of dishes from the night before after cleaning the roof, we decided we would again sit down and look at the Christmas books in peace and quiet before supper. I happened to look out and Dr Robinson and his wife and daughter were walking through the snow from Momm's house.

They all came in and had had tea but Dr Robinson who had a cup of coffee with me, that sort of buoyed me up a bit and they

did enjoy showing the house and things to the daughter Peggy who had just come from the coast, after sitting near Glacier B.C. for 19 hours on a train because of an avalanche. Mrs R. couldn't say enough about how much the doctor was getting out of painting and he brought a sketch to show us.

It was supper time when they left. We have also had numerous visits from our friends the deer, It is just as if they knew about the Christmas cards and this afternoon as the Robinsons came along two little deer that haven't been here before came to the door and are so tame and plump for deer it was fun to feed them. One deer with nice antlers came this morning and around one horn was draped a long piece of tinsel, I saw him again later in the day and it was still on his antler but wound around a bit more. Did look funny.

Loads of love

Catharine

Have house tidied & fairly clean at last.