

Sanff, Alberta.
Mon. Jan 2, 1950

Dearest Mother,

We are having what might be termed a "cold spell" After that warm day Thursday when it got up to 35 above and even warmer in some places it dropped again and I think Friday morning it was about -20° below. a fine snow I think all day or maybe in sort of squalls, I have sort of forgotten, I do know in the afternoon we met Sid Vallance coming from the post office and he was very glad of a ride home in the Jeep. No car had been up their hill which is quite steep and you can't get a running start and Pete went right up in the low gear through all the foot or more of snow. I think I shopped and also went to the bank a couple of times to get the coupons off the savings bonds, that took time as we had to wait. Can't think what else we did but it was cold and rather miserable out.

Saturday it was around -20° below all day and a cold north or east wind and some snow, at one time it snowed very heavily around noon. We stuffed the turkey in the morning after sleeping a bit late and Mario came down with the mail and made a call, then Pete went out to start the Jeep and I was to come and help if he had trouble opening the door, but first I ran upstairs to the bathroom, next thing I knew someone came in and Called "Catharine, where are you?" it was Sir Norman and I fully expected him to come right upstairs after me, it is the darndest way he just walks right in. I rushed down and said we were just going out to shop for the weekend, it was then about 11.30. He paced up and down the kitchen like a caged lion, saying he just had to kill time waiting for the holidays to be over I expect. Then he said he would go on over to the Simpsons and come back and see us later in the afternoon. Later I found that though Pete was having a hard time opening the door and Sir Norman came and spoke to him he never thought to offer to help. He seems to think of no troubles but his own. *He has plenty of those*

We went along our way, took the Watts home as it was snowing hard and blowing and so cold, then saw Mrs Vallance with two armfuls of parcels and we knew they hadn't their car out so drove her home and she was much relieved for her face was covered with snow as she was facing the wind and going up hill. I was afraid she might over-exert herself. As we got to the main street again we saw Sid Vallance, but he was on his way to the station to meet a friend coming from Calgary for the weekend, Margaret and another friend had gone to the station too, so we left him there, Pete brought me home to put the turkey in the oven and then he went back and met the train and drove Sid and the three ladies up to the door in the Jeep. The first Jeep ride for some of them. By that time it was after one so we gave up doing errands until after lunch.

Found some old Ski pants which with a windbreaker and ski boots we took up to Margaret Hemsley, (Sid Vallances neice who is a nurse and just over from the old country, the one we started skating) That made the 3rd trip up Saturday, they insisted we come in and of course we stayed longer than we intended, but at least Sir Norman

couldn't call on us when we were out. We then had the shopping to do in the crowded part of the afternoon and it was nearly five when we finally got home. luckily — haven't been able to finish from here —

wednesday —

I haven't had a chance to finish this. We have been having it rather chilly. Sunday I think it was -35° below when we woke up. It never got warmer than about -30° . I think that night really dropped. was -49° below the next morning & some said -52° . anyway it was cold. never warmed up even with the sun out more than -35° & that evening was -48° below until some time in the small hours of Tuesday morning. It's gotten up to -10° this morning so the coldest part is over. Will write you all about it later.

Loads of love —

Catherine.

This is so long better try & read a couple of pages
a day -

Banff, Alberta.
Fri. Jan 6, 1950

Dearest Mother,

It is so hard to remember to write 1950. Two nice letters from you, maybe I had better start right away with a new Years resolution to answer your questions right away quick.

No, we didn't know about Russ, but I don't blame him for not wanting to go to New York and am sure he will be too busy as it is looking after things in Boston. Hope he takes more time off to do other things that interest him. We are so sorry he has to have an operation on his ~~foot~~ knee. Pete had trouble with his last summer and Pat wanted to operate on it this winter when they aren't so busy but since then it hasn't bothered so much and Dr Atkin thinks he should leave it as is. Something to do with the cartilage, only Pat said Russell's kind is more complicated. I do hope they are more successful this time and it is not too painful.

Think you were mighty smart to go so far in a Jeep, it must seem funny to have it so warm. Even in eastern Canada they are having a record year for heat and picked pansies and crocuses which they never knew of doing before at this time of year. We have real winter and when it got up to zero to-day figured it was real mild. Yes I have been to John Buttricks pond, a lovely sheltered place.

Yes Edith Palmer sent the picture of the family and I had a feeling they had all been stretched out as I think of the boys as short and chubby. It was fun to have. I think Gale sent us the same card she did you, for I know we got one like it.

Never thanked you for the New Yorker, so do now, and very much, I think you are right about not sending the journal, there is less and less in it that interests us and it is so late coming and often three copies at a time. I would like to see any news about people we know, like that good picture of Gil Roddy and the Art Centre things. So if you cut them out we will be sure to see them.

Its wonderful to think that Miss Annie Agge has any teeth to come out at her age ! But must be a tiring thing at her age.

Now I must try to catch up with a whole week of us. Think I got as far as last Saturday when it was snowing and blowing and at least -20° below. (We haven't had a Banff paper for 2 weeks so don't know the exact temperatures.) That was the day we made 3 trips to the Vallances in the Jeep, the last one with Ski pants for the neice from England, they wanted us to come in and wso we did for a short call. We had our turkey that night but it was so cold and the snow down to here so deep we didn't ask Mom down, also we wanted a quiet evening so were real selfish. Went to bed early and heard the

New Year being welcomed in by the bells of the Carillon at the English Church, it always sounds so nice.

Sunday morning it was -35° below if I remember correctly and snowing another 4 or 6 inches. We hardly went out all day except to pull the fresh snow off the eaves and the wind was so cold it wasn't very pleasant. No one did much calling and as our driveway hasn't been dug out no one came in. ~~In the afternoon~~ Now I do remember, Pete tried to start the Jeep but couldn't and so took the Ford out as he likes to keep one car going, this in the morning. It really is remarkable they start at all in a cold garage and we haven't one of those electrical connections some use to keep the oil warm. We stopped in to see the Simpsons and they were having a late breakfast by the kitchen stove, told us that Sir Norman just walks in on them so they now keep the door snibbed and they call him "the Pest" am afraid he has worn out his welcome in most places. We joked about that and then looked at their cards and came home. Asked them over here in the afternoon and they came about 4 and stayed until six, which was good of them to wade through so much snow just to call on us. We showed them slides in the new viewer and Jim had never seen any of the Bow Lakes ones before and really enjoyed it.

We also had Mr Scott's nephew who is working for Allan, He ran through the yard with the Jeep plow of Allan's a couple of times so we asked him in for some sherry. It was good of him to do it but he really did it for the Jeep and as it is the Ford we have to use it made a ridge in the middle of where we back around coming out of the garage so it really made matters worse, but as he was doing it as a favor to us we didn't like to say anything!

Sunday night it was -30° or 35° when we went to bed and in the morning when we looked and found it was -49° below we were a bit surprised! It was -51.8° below at the Buffalo Park so might have been -50° here, the thermometers aren't too accurate at that low. It was clear and no wind but a peculiar sort of frost over the valley. Pete wanted to see if the car would start, so as soon as a rather early breakfast he did that, it turned right over but took a while to warm up enough to turn and back around. The deer and the chic-a-dees kept us busy all during the cold spell coming for food and one buck tried to keep us from getting out the door. We drove down to the station to warm up the car, and people were a bit surprised to see us out and about at 9.30 on such a cold morning but actually you wouldn't have known it was as cold had one not looked at the thermometer. Pete wears the same clothes still, a woolen shirt, a sweater, The scarf Dr Robinson gave him and an ordinary suit coat, sort of worn out tweed. The secret to being warm is the long underwear. I wear that too and just ski pants and woolen shirt and sweater and my old green coat but it has a bit of a lining. We also have flight boots so our feet are warm and those nice new mitts you sent under buckskin ones. I certainly feel much warmer than I did as a child even with equestrian tights!

We stopped in to see Mom as we hadn't been up the day before. Even though it was -35° she had gone to church as usual, ^{sunlight} only 4 showed up to sing in the choir and someone brought her home. We shoveled off her paths and then came home. Were just thinking of an early lunch when Lael MacDougall and her little friend from Calgary Margot Turney, the latter's father was taken prisoner at Dieppe and one of those put in chains for a year or so. He was an officer in

the Reserve Army at Sarcee when Pete was there) The two little girls were very cunning and Lael, who used to come here with Susan, showed Margot all the things, she is teaching her to read Cree in her spare time. They love the Indian things. They hadn't been here long then Lael's mother, Muriel came in, Sir Norman with her much to our surprise. We gave them something to drink the girls had gingerale and we continued showing the kids the Indian things etc. Sir Norman wasn't the least bit amused by them though they were awfully cunning and we got a great kick out of them with Muriel. We also showed them some of the slides and they all looked at those. After which Sir Norman went out in the kitchen and put on his coat and told me he thought he would go on to the Simpsons, he had a brief case with him. I couldn't think of any way of discouraging him from going to see them but was rather glad he wasn't to stay to lunch with us. Pete was in the midst of telling a story, so Sir Norman took one look in the other room and said "he will be sometime telling that, so say good-bye to Pete." and marched out, never said goodbye to Muriel at all. *(The kids think our house a combination Museum & Reading Library)*

We then found that they had just met at the back door and Muriel seeing the brief case had thought he might be on business. and we thought she had brought him down. She can't stand him and it is too bad that he seems to antagonise people wherever he goes. How he ever expects to do anything with the Ski development or interest anyone into investing money into it I don't know. and he won't listen to anyone else's advise.

The girls soon put on their extra pairs of Indian Mocassins and all three left about one or a little after. We had lunch and then thought it would be nice to call on Harry Hazeldean, an elderly bachelor carpenter who is in the hospital with a bad case of the same cold we all had but which was I guess pneumonia with him. We took him some shortcake, nuts and candy but didn't stay long as Mr Scott was there making him a call and they are old friends. Then we went up to the Wards, knowing they wouldn't go far on a day like that, and they were sitting in front of their fire very cosy and warm. We stayed there about an hour and then figured we had better get home and watch our own fires. It was - 46° when we left their house and hadn't been above -35° all day. That evening it stayed at - 48° until midnight or early morning I guess, but then warmed up a bit and so wasn't as cold as we expected the next morning. seems to me it was - 16°.

In all this cold snap we felt it was lucky our fan on the furnace worked at all, for we had trouble with it running too slow to blow the hot air into the rooms and pull the cold air out even before Christmas and Ted Gotki had ordered a new one which hadn't come. Well the poor thing just couldn't keep the house warm. (It had nothing to do with the oil heat but is part of the original furnace) Monday a fire in the fireplace kept that room in the sixties and looked warm, but by evening the place was getting pretty cold. especially the back part. I went out just to look at the back toilet and found the basin in the sink half full of water, the drain having congealed and a drip of water filling it up. and then one look at the toilet and I called "ete, there was a skim of ice in the bowl and it was just starting to freeze in the tank at the back. We got the electric heaters and also put boiling water down the drain and got that thawed out, but decided that we had better drain

the back part of the house after supper, which we did. Then as wherever there was a tiny crack the cold air was pouring in, we plugged up all the cracks around the doors and the cooler. I found the cooler where we keep vegetables had turned into a quick freeze! We of course should have fixed the weather stripping around the doors but until this cold snap and when the heat was on full hadn't noticed the leaks. We thumbtacked ~~xxxxxxx~~ newspaper over the door going out the back towards the Crosbys. and hung a blanket over the back door we use. and it helped quite a lot. We had frozen a couple of gingerale bottles the night before sitting on the floor in the back hall. Anyway it kept us busy all evening turning off and draining the water system for that part and chinking the drafts.

Next morning, Tuesday it wasn't so cold and we found it a bit easier to keep the kitchen and bedroom above warm, we didn't even try to heat the front room and it gradually got colder and colder until at one time it was 36° and I guess our bedroom above about as cold. Had the fan been working as well as it is to-nighh we would have been allright. We were a bit late getting up and Shinny Bloedel from Vancouver came in to ask us for cocktails that late afternoon. She had walked way down in the deep snow without overshoes not realizeing how deep the snow was here and with nylons which are much colder than silk, her legs were pretty cold. She stayed a while and as she had made such an effort to get us we promised to go to the hotel lateron.

I didn't feel so good that day, sounded like one of Grandma Moses headaches she mentioned so often in her letters, though mine aren't very often. So took it very quietly, was resting upstairs in the afternoon when the fire alarm went and as it was "one" we always think of the store so dashed out. It was just a chimney fire in a house and out when we got there. So back we came and rested a bit more until it was time to go to Shinny's. He is such a nice person and her daughters were great friends of Betty Hiams and one girl still goes up to visit Betty at the Websters. (The husband of Shinney has gone back to Vancouver already) The party was just an informal group. A fellow named Meadick was there when we reached Shinny's room. He is a Yugoslavian and from just south of the great Ski Jump at Planica where the world record jump of 393 feet has been jumped. He is here working up at Norquay. a D.P. with his uncle who I think designed the Planica jump. At first we thought he was one of Sir Norman's Swiss but when Pete found out where he was from etc. they got to-gether and talked the rest of the time. Edmee and Charlie came in and Fern Brewster and Dell, and Mr Ronny Graham and Muriel MacDougall. The joke was on me for I was just finishing a small drink and talking to Charlie, when Shinny insisted we each have another, so we said just small ones as Charlie had to go on to the Walkers later. When he was handed back a good stiff one, though mine was rather small, he began looking for some place to cash it. His idea was to find a plant to pour it into. (I wonder what it does to plants.) but could find no place to park it. He drank a little and then as Edmee was anxious to go I offered to swap glasses. He thought that a fine idea, but it nearly finished me with my remains of the headache, and right after supper after we got home I was all ready for bed and we turned in at 8.30

Wednesday was clear and -26° below but it didn't seem cold. Pete has been troubled from time to time with a place in his back

but forgets to go and see about it, I think pulling the snow off the roof sort of made it recur a bit. So in the afternoon he went to see the doctors, they were so darn busy that he wouldn't stay and Dr Atkin said he had just come from Phil Moore's and we should go down and cheer him up as he has had fly. So we did just that and found Pearl and Runt and later Edmee came in. They were glad to see us and showed us letters and cards they had gotten. One especially interesting was from I think the man's name is Stratomeyer, they met him in Banff and we did too at their house. He is now head of the U.S. Air Force in Asia, under MacArthur in Japan. (wonder if Russ knows who I mean) But he couldn't say enough about the wonderful job MacArthur is doing and thinks he is the greatest American of our time.

We took Pearl to the station to see the old Golf Pro at the Banff Springs, (now retired) off on the train, and then back to the hotel. all meeting again an hour later to see Shinnny Bloedel off and several others here for the holidays, it was a beautiful evening.

Thursday (yesterday), was -10° seemed real warm and mild out! We went for the mail and then as Pat Costigan's car was at the clinic Pete dropped in for a few minutes. Pat told him to have x-rays taken at the hospital which Pete has done to-day. but we won't know for a few days if they show anything or not. While he was there Dr MacKenzie telephoned Pat that Col Hemming had just died, no one you would know but quite prominent in army and political circles locally. So that mean't flowers for Mrs Hemming etc. and other errands to do. We also had been having trouble with the fan the last few days, making an awful squealing noise and getting us up in the night etc. so got Ted Gtoki to come around and look at it. (We call him Dr Gotki he comes with a doctors manner) He had found that they no longer make this type of fan but the extra one we ordered through another firm two years ago just to have in case anything went wrong, was in a warehouse in Calgary, has been sitting there all this time and people have been borrowing parts off it. He is going to try and fix it for us later. Anyway he came over at noon in the middle of our lunch and said if we had any further trouble to let him know, it started to squeal as soon as he left nearly, and so we left and note for him last night, and this afternoon he and his helper came and took out the whole fan unit and took it all apart and fixed it up and put it back in about 2 hours. They were awfully good to come, for it isn't their installation.

Yesterday afternoon we went to the hospital to see if Pete could get the x-rays but they were too busy, so he called on Harry and I to see a Mrs Bolans who is resting and is to have a serious operation. Then as Sam was with Harry he came along with Pete, and we drove him to Skinners, but he wasn't in so Sam came along back with us for a short time. Donny MacDonalds also called about some insurance and then we took Sam home. Donny had heard that another friend had died, but wasn't sure about it, so we tried to find out and I went into Nobles, George being the brother of Bill who was supposed to have died, I asked him a little first about the Kodaviewer (it is George Noble of the camera shop) and then casually how Bill was, As far as he knew fine, so then I said little more and got out. But as I went out Dr MacKenzie went in and then we wondered had it just happened and was Dr MacKenzie on his way to tell him. Turned out he was asking about a movie camera. so all was well.

Another funny thing happned. Cis had lent us some English

magazines, one a Tatler in which I spotted a picture of Sir Norman Watson at a christening. We thought the Simpsons would be amused and so went around with it. Big Jim was alone, (Mrs Simpson skating) and we said "just two more pests" He seemed glad to see us but said that he can't keep Watson out even by snubbing the door, for he comes peaking in at the windows! We were laughing and joking about it and he said anyway he was going to Calgary on the afternoon train so we all agreed we would be safe all day Friday, and with that the back door burst open and we thought it was of course Mrs Simpson, but no. Sir Norman! He marched in, took off his coat, was much at home and we just looked at each other trying not to laugh. He said he had been with Col Hemming the night before, Hemming having driven him out to Frenches and this morning Col Hemming had died in his sleep. I looked at Jim and just said "isn't it the limit?" meaning Sir Norman coming, but don't know if Jim noticed the double meaning. We said goodbye to Watson, (for he had just come from our house he said) the trains were late but he was off for Calgary. then we made a hasty retreat. came home, put the car away and stayed in the studio until we thought it safe to come downstairs! We were taking no chances. *of his seeing our lights on & coming in.*

To-day Friday we were up early in case Gotki got our message about the fan and came in the morning to fix it. At 11 we put a note on the door, for Pete had to go for his x-rays. He was much elated for when he went in one of the head nuns (its a Catholic Hospital) took him by the arm and lead him down the hall, saying "this is one of our best friends" or something like that. She is a lovely looking person, dark eyebrows and beautiful face. I wasn't there but Pete has been telling me all about it! Then later she introduced him to the new Mother Superior who took his hand. I never heard such goings on in a Catholic Hospital! Actually they are very kindly. Right after lunch Gotki and Art came and Pete stayed with them all afternoon in the basement, I got a good chance to tidy up the Christmas wrappings etc in the studio so that is all cleaned up and also did the front room, got the tree and trimmings down this morning. Dr Robinson came to show us another sketch and we have lent him the book on the Hudson River artists.

After the fan was fixed we went for the mail etc and now it is bed time. You can read this letter in instalments?

By the way. Fern Brewster who is the dearest sort of person and a great friend, a neice of Pearl Moores, is going east to New York and may go to Boston with a friend Hazel Tompkins who arranges conventions for the C.P.R. and there is just a chance that she might be able to go out and see you. or maybe they could both go and spend a night. You would love Fern and Hazel is a very interesting person too. *I will let you know more later on.*

It is now Saturday & better past this.

*Loads of love
Catherine.*

*P.S. It was Gale who sent us one of these cards.
Miss Agge might enjoy it.*

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. Jan 10, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

Such a day, nothing happened as planned, I have dozens of Xmas thank-you letters still to write but don't feel like doing them to-night. I was going to write Russell last evening, in fact have been trying since Saturday.

Saturday (to go back where I left off my last letter) started at - 10° but did get a little above zero, maybe 5° above during the day. I cleaned a bit upstairs and then Cecil Philpott the electrician came in with a new Florecent light, both white and yellow which is very much like daylight and will enable us to work on some things after dark. He stayed to talk about various things and then we did errands. In the afternoon we also dropped in a moment on the Simpsons to find out their reactions to ~~what~~ we went to see Jim and were talking about Sir Norman when in he marched ! We also took Sam to the postoffice and back. Cis hasn't been out during this cold weather says the cold bothers her lungs and wants Sam to go to Bermuda to build a house there. This sort of upsets Sam a bit. makes him unsettled. That night we went to the first hockey game we have been to this season, a juvenile game but very good. It was 7 - 14° below when we went over and ~~on~~ day pretty cold watching but we enjoyed it.

Sunday was -20° below and we never went out all day. Pat had suggested putting dry heat on Pete's rib that troubles him so we did that after breakfast and it made him go fast asleep. I stayed upstairs not daring to leave in case the heat was too much and sort of tidied up bureau drawers etc. Then after lunch started writing "Thank-you" notes, did quite well for a time until Jonny came along. He hasn't been over during the cold weather, playing with his Christmas things, so I was glad to lay off and do some mending. He spent a good hour or more making plasticine animals. We gave him a wonderful book on animals for Christmas and he knows so much about them all, far more than we do. He was too cunning and funny too. He gets such fun out of doing things. Finally he went along and we had a rather early supper and were just going to do dishes or settle down to more thank-you notes when there was a knock on the door. At first we were tempted not to go as we thought it might be Sir Norman but it was Mrs Simpson.

She was all excited and rather provoked, Said Sir Norman was over at their house and she got so tired of listening to him she just went and got her coat and came over here. Said she had given him tea at four after he had been there a good part of the afternoon and she wasn't going to give him supper too. So we gave her a roast beef sandwich, milk, tea and cake. and while I was getting it Pete got her mind off Sir Norman and onto Scotland and we had a good talk about all sorts of things. She has already read one Sitwell book and loves it, knows so many of the places and types of people. || (Have you read his travel book " Escape With Me " ? If not I can send || to London for it as it was advertised in a magazine we just got) ?? ||

Mrs Simpson had been here about an hour when there was another knock on our snibbed back door and this time we were sure it was Sir Norman ! Pete didn't know whether to go or not but finally did which was lucky for it was George Encil with two most attractive Swedish men. Mrs Simpson thought she should be going but stayed a few minutes. They were really interesting. One Sven Gillsäter is a photographer the other young man Sven Petersson a journalist. They are touring the U.S.A. and had just come up from Aspen Colorado by Greyhound bus and were going to Lake Placid for the World Ski Championships in Jumping and Cross Country. Petersson was also a great cross country skier and had a wonderful build.

We had a most interesting evening for they looked at everything and then showed us some of Gillsäter's photographs. I wrote Russ about it but chances are he might not show you the letter so will tell you too. George wanted them to see the Ski Models and they insisted on taking a picture of Pete with them much to Pete's embarrassment !

First Gillsäter showed us pictures he had taken on a visit to the Hospiz on St Bernard Pass in Switzerland where the famous dogs are used to rescue people caught in the terrific storms crossing the pass. I think he said he was there 5 days or 3 weeks, and had but 5 hours of sunshine. He had pictures of the large monastery, of the snow blown in 30 foot drifts and like waves across the ground. Pictures of a dog rescuing a man, this was arranged for him but showed how the dog, with the little cask of hot wine tied around his neck, caught the scent of the man and then tracked him down. They are taught to sort of crouch on top of the body so as to give heat to the person lying in the snow. He told us that it is very dangerous to wear any fur as it makes the dogs wild, even a little fur on the parka hood would be bad.

He had several good portraits of the five monks who stay all during the bad part of the year. In summer there are about 20 there. They were a jolly lot and the head monk was especially fine looking with a real twinkle in his eye. There were pictures of the really beautiful altar, of the vestments and other regalia in drawers and of a very old illuminated book. Also of the large wine casks in the cellar. The most gruesome were the pictures he was allowed to take in the crypt where the frozen bodies are put until claimed. Some have never been claimed and have been there for over a hundred years. The bodies of several of Napoleon's soldiers were stood in their uniforms against the wall, and some skeletons were just stacked in a sort of pile. One rather terrific picture showed what had been a mother and child in her arms. He was the first person ever allowed to take pictures in there. He was such a nice fellow I guess he got on well with the monks.

The other book of photographs were of a ski tour they took in the north of Sweden, three weeks on ski in mountains very much like the Rockies. I didn't realize they were so high. His wife too was with them, she also is a professional photographer (is now in Chicago doing some work) They had pictures of Laplanders and of the dogs pulling a sled each with their supplies, (Not the Laplanders supplies but the skiers) also of the igloos they had to build to sleep in as there are not any places, where they went, to stay and they camped out. They were gone three weeks and only one night spent in a hut. It was a wonderful lot of pictures.

It was 11.30 by the time George and the Swedish fellows left and needless to say we were rather weary with so much varied talk.

Monday we slept a little late. -20° below again, got up to -10° and dropped to -18° at night. Did the same to-day and it is getting a little tiresome. Col Hemmings funeral was at 11 at the Catholic church, we didn't go to that but wanted to just make an appearance at the cemetery, it was cold waiting in the car so we did a few errands and then went into Edméés as she lives right next the cemetery. Every little while we would think they must be coming and once went over and walked around the whole cemetery to try and keep warm, it was very frosty and real cold and overcast, so we went back to Edméés again. The funeral service must have been at least an hour. (he had just turned Catholic and some thought it takes longer then) also it was a military funeral with a firing party up from Calgary. Poor lads they looked so cold and you could see their noses drip when they were at attention and some clutched their ears when they got the chance. By the time the whole thing was over it was nearly one and but as Pete said "if you are not present that is when you are most noticed."

In the afternoon Pete was supposed to see Pat Costigan to see about the x-rays that were taken, but his car wasn't at the Clinic and so we did a few other errands and just by chance was stopping to get an address when Pat came by in his car, they had some serious operation and he was very busy so said for Pete to come to-day but he said that the x-ray showed one of Pete's ribs fractured or pulled away from the Breast bone, so no wonder it is sore at times. However there is not much one can do but let it heal as it is in a bad place to strap. May take a month or two to mend completely, sounds a long time but really bothers Pete most in bed and wakes him up in the night. Wish we had your Chinese doctor here! I think pulling the snow off the roof at Christmas and squirming in behind the furnace may have pulled it apart more for Pete doesn't really know when he did it, though he hit a door one night and a table too. Anyway it is better to know what it is.

We were just back home and I was starting in earnest to get a letter off to Miss Burditt and Russ when three little girls dropped in, Lona, Mary Lee and Sally Brown, another friend. They are so very cunning and remember so much we tell them and always so well behaved. Then as the car was still out we drove them home and got the mail before supper. Had just started dooking ham in the pressure cooker when Mom came with the last of the mince meat in another pie, so we urged her to stay on to supper and as she hasn't been down since Christmas eve we showed her the presents, and the viewer etc. and it was nine when she left and we went to bed being rather tired from the evening before.

To-day Tuesday, again 120° below and only warmed up to -10°. Pete didn't sleep too well in the night and so slept in late and I decided instead of doing dishes from the night before to write letters while he slept and got the one written to Russ, for Kitty said he was to be in the hospital this week. Then Mario came with the mail and it was so cold with snow coming from the north and the wind was cold, I asked him in to warm up. Pete came down by then and soon after we went over town and just by chance saw Pat's car by the clinic so Pete went in to talk to him which is much easier than waiting with a lot of people in the afternoons.

Then home to lunch and we even had thoughts of doing a few cards instead of by now a good stack of dishes, when Mr Walter Phillips the artist came. He hadn't been here for ages and Pete wanted to show him the slides and the ski models and then he thought he should go as he was to meet Mrs Phillips at the dentist. So we said we would drive him home and then go for the mail. Going up their hill which Pete didn't really ~~want~~ need to do but likes to try, the wheels began to spin and we got a little sideways, of course the more Pete tried the worse it got, and then later I could see that the wheels weren't turning and we knew something was wrong. A bit of shoveling kept us warmed up, then Margaret Hemsley poked her head out the door and telephoned for the wrecking car as we were really stuck. While we were waiting for them to come one of the Government men came by, then turned around and came back and was awfully good and pulled us backwards down the hill. Still the motor wouldn't make the wheels go round and we thought we had broken an axle, but after getting towed to Bill Bunn's, and going to tell the wrecking car not to come and walking home. We heard later it was the clutch which had gone and most likely would have broken anyway.

Met Barbara on the way home and as she hadn't found us in since Christmas she came down. Ken Bunn was to bring a battery to try and get the Jeep going but though he and Pete worked for sometime with several batteries the moisture had gotten into the wrong place and guess we will just have to wait until it warms up a bit before starting that. Barbara was here until nearly six talking about all sorts of things and when she had gone Pete sat down in a chair and went fast asleep for over an hour. So supper was rather late and I got the dishes done beforehand while Pete was asleep. But what a day and the worst of our troubles caused by trying to do a good turn!

It is ten and must go to bed now. Loads of love

Wednesday. - 20° below again this morning for the 4th straight day - like yesterday a fine frosty snow falling steadily. If it was sunny it would seem warmer. Now we must find out when we can get the car etc. always something to see about this weather.

More love

Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.
Fri. Jan. 13, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

We are still having cold weather, -34° below this morning instead of -20° which it was every other morning this week. ~~xxxxxx~~ except yesterday when it started at -25° below, and both days has not got warmer than -24°. It is pretty steady cold, and to make matters worse our furnace fan has been acting up again. It makes a high pitched squeal and the only thing we can do is dash down to the basement and turn it off and on again. Sometimes it stops it but this evening we must have made about 10 trips to the basement and back. No sooner than do we get up stairs than it starts in again. most annoying! Yet at other times it will go 24 hours without a sound. Last night at 3 A.M. it woke us up and again about 4 just as we had gotten asleep again. There is not much we can do but hope it will hold out until a new one can be put to-gether or gotten. It wouldn't be quite so bad if it weren't so cold.

It seems as if we had done so little this last week and my New England Morse or Owen nature gets me a bit discouraged, the cold makes us slower and Pete has been rather troubled with his rib. I think it is pulled away from the breast bone, not exactly a break though I didn't see the x-ray. Anyway at times it is very uncomfortable and wakes him in the night so he has to sit up, and its too cold to do that in the bedroom so we move into the nice warm little room and sit a bit before going back to bed, but when we wake up a couple of times in the night like that we sleep in a bit later the next morning. Ther^x with such cold weather Pete likes to start the car to see if it will go, and with that warmed up we usually go for the mail and do a couple of errands and invariably run into some lame lady or old lady who is struggling home with groceries facing the cold wind. Or we take someone down from the post office, which is a terribly cold walk for people this weather, and all this takes time too. Everything and every body seems slowed down. I guess the bears ^x are wise to hibernate! ^x

Wednesday it snowed all morning and we had another 6 inches. We set out on foot that morning to see how the can was getting on. It was a clutch that went and it was going to go ^{and way} just happened to be on Mr Phillips' hill. Bill Bunn brought it around in the afternoon. We stopped in to see how Mom was getting on and shoveled off her paths so she could get out and she was a bit worried about getting cream for an Eastern Star meeting, so we told her we would pick it up and instead came back by the Union Milk place, but they said they would deliver it with the ice cream. and the Eastern star had a most successful meeting in spite of -25° that night! We also pulled the new snow off the eaves to keep the melting part from backing up.

Wednesday afternoon Jonny and Billy MacKenzie came to see us, they were awfully cunning, Billy telling us all about the things he made with the plasticine Pete gave him, we gave them ginger ale and cookies and when they left Billy said "thank you for the lovely tea party and everything." They both had on red blanket coats and ski pants, ski hats and scarfs, looked too cunning trudging off in the deep snow. The kids don't seem to mind the weather and only if it is 30° below can they get out of going to school so Lona said. *They all walk to school 5 to a mile for some.*

Yesterday the C.P.R. were trying out a great big powerful deisel engine and it was to go through taking train # 7. so we found out when it would be in as Pete was very anxious to see it. We had told Jonny and Billy we would pick them up at school if it was when they got out at noon but it was too late for that. *coming at 2 o'clock* Instead Jonny arrived as we were finishing lunch with a note to the Teacher from Barbara explaining that he was late with her permission, and so he went down with us. It was - 24° below at the time and a strong north wind blowing so it was cold and miserable but to our surprise there must have been 100 people at the station to see the new engine, mostly men, but a few wives and some mothers with children too young to go to school and with scarfs tied over their mouths and noses. Quite a few kids had gotten excused for the occasion, the ones with co-operative parents! The engine was a beauty, silver and blue and in three big sections. the cab in the front and the other two parts just motors I guess. It will haul the trains without the pusher engines for the big hill near Feild and Glacier park. and ~~also~~ won't have to stop for water so often and will start up much quicker too. It went way down to the crossing and so we all had to trapse down too and it certainly was frigid coming back. I never thought so many people would turn out for something which soon may be going through every day!

After that there were a couple of errands and we saw Allan who had some paper for Pete too sign so he said he would be at our house in half an hour and we went for the mail, took a lady with arthritis home and got here just before Allan. Poor Allan has had a poor skating business this year for no one will go down weather like this and the season was so late starting that now people hardly think it worth while to buy a season ticket. He stayed and talked about one thing or another, and then he warned us that Mary Lee and Lona would be down and they came before he had left. However they didn't want to go home when he did so stayed and made things out of plasticine and we took them home about 5.30. Ordinary weather the kids would be too busy skating and skiing to come around but they do love to come so we hate to discourage them. Allan wants to have Pete show the Carnival Committee some slides of the skating so last evening I sorted those. Another trouble is that with it so cold it is too cold in the evening in the front room to do things like that so it means a lot of bringing things in and then putting them away. Now to-day Allan has given me the Store accounts to figure out for Pete's

Income Tax returns. Always something like that to do, I don't mind accounts but it does take time. Once this week I wrote 3 thank you notes, air mail letters to ~~Gwen Bax~~ England, one to Gwen Bax thanking her for a lovely green glass early Victorian paper weight, one to Jasper Kerr for some table mats made of racing scenes and lacquered, and one to Lady Gardiner to thank her for a lovely red leather compact she sent me. All were presents we got before Christmas and I hadn't had time to thank them. I wrote them Wednesday night, mailed them Thursday morning. Got a letter from Gwen the next mail, one from Jasper Kerr yesterday and one from Lady Gardiner to-day. so now I owe them all letters again! most discouraging for had I waited until to-night I could have answered the letters ~~that~~ at the same time!

To-day, Friday was -34°, having been up in the night it was after nine when we had breakfast and then as we went for the mail around 11 Pete saw Pat's car and thought he would just ask if he had heard anything from one of the x-rays he sent to Calgary, and got talking about a Banff person who is going east for a cancer operation. Pat has been corresponding with Cob about it and wanted us to write Cob a bit about the person. so we did that at lunch time and took it to Pat to read. All these things take time for one of us sits in the car to keep the engine going, and then it was Susan's birthday, a present there, and Allan had the books to show me. When we got home Lona and Mary Lee dropped in again to tell us about where they were going on an imaginary trip they are taking at school so we can look up some pictures and things of it for them to take to school. and so the day went.

Now we have spent the evening going to the basement every few minutes it seems to fix the ~~fan~~, says there is no warm weather in sight for us. Seems that at this time of year there isn't enough sunlight to warm up the cold mass and it just stays over us!

Haven't had a chance to answer your letters. the parcel of magazines came to-day, also a nice letter from Miss Barret offering to send us some books for the library, awfully good of her. and a nice letter from Miss Agge about our Christmas card, as bright as could be. Will send it to you to read.

Hope Russ is getting on well with his knee operation no one has said how long he will be laid up?

This is an awful letter I am afraid and I don't mean to sound discouraged, it is just that I can't seem to find time to do all the things I would like to do. Some days are better than others!

Loads of love,

Catharine .

Banff, Alberta.
Mon. Jan, 16, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

Your letter telling that Russell had had his operation came this morning, a whole week, I guess due to the bad weather and Sunday without mail. We do hope it is successful this time. *The operation is fine.*

About all any of us can talk about is the cold spell. It dropped to -50° below again this morning, just two weeks since it hit the lowest mark before, and in between it has been mighty cold, gets real frosty and to-day there was sort of a mist or frost all through the valley, luckily no wind here though they had one in Calgary. I have tried to keep some track of the temperatures but at first just recorded the temperature when we got up and it reads something like this - The last day above freezing was Dec. 29th when it got to 35° above, since then -

Dec. 30	- 17°	below in A.M.	Maximum during day	- 8°	Bed time		
" 31	- 20°	"	"	"	"	- 7°	" - 18°
Jan 1	- 35°	"	"	W wind	"	- 25°	" - 30°
" 2	- 51°	"	"	"	"	" ? - 35°	" - 48°
" 3	- 35°	"	"	"	about	" ? - 15°	" ? - 20°
" 4	- 26°	"	"	"	"	zero	
" 5	- 10°	"	"	"	"	5	
" 6	- 10°	"	"	"	above	4	
" 7	- 10°	"	"	"	"	4	" - 14°
" 8	- 26°	"	"	"	"	3	" ? - 20°
" 9	- 23°	"	"	W wind	"	- 10°	" - 18°
" 10	- 25°	"	"	"	"	- 10°	" - 18°
" 11	- 20°	"	"	" & snow	"	- 12°	"
" 12	- 25°	"	"	"	"	- 18°	" - 26°
" 13	- 34°	"	"	"	"	- 24°	" - 28°
" 14	- 32°	"	"	"	"	- 24°	" - 30°
" 15	- 42°	"	"	"	"	- 20°	" - 32°
" 16	- 50°	"	"	"	"	- 20°	" - 26°
" 17	- 34°	"	"	"	"	"	"

- 10° the
warmest in
8 days

and what is more there is no relief in sight. At the coast for the first time in memory they have had it zero and lots of snow and poor things their houses aren't built for really severe weather. It is the steadiest cold most people can remember here, and most days it is just at noon it reaches its maximum and as soon as the sun goes behind the mountain it drops down again, one evening it was - 48° from five o'clock on. It gets sort of tiring.

We haven't been able to do much lately even in the house. Pete hasn't felt very ambitious with his sore rib and each morning feels we should start the car first thing, then we go out and my morning plans are all off! This morning at -50° the car started right away but it takes 15 or 20 minutes to loosen the grease up enough to back around and go out of the yard.

When I pulled the kitchen curtains back this morning to look at the thermometer, there was a little chic-a-dee all fluffed up

and pecking away at the peanut butter in a ^{half} coconut we have hanging from the eave, It even had frost on its feathers and you can see the birds breath quite easily. The deer too came to the back door. They were all bedded down in the deep snow for protection and some didn't get up until noon, they look so pretty all through the trees. I saw a young buck with single prongs showing it was not very old, walk over to an old handsome buck that was lying under the trees and start sort of sparing with it. The old buck moved its head about until the young one stopped but never got up. There has also been a herd of Elk across the river, but it is too cold to try and get pictures as the oil in the camera's congealed.

This morning we went to the post office about 9.30 and as we crossed the bridge about 10 young girls were coming along in Ski clothes with their skis on their shoulders. We figured they must have just come in from Sunshine or perhaps they were at the Y.W.C.A. but none of them looked as if they knew it was - 49' at that moment. We now get our mail a bit mixed and after coming down town I found a "registered mail slip" in our mail, so we went up again and then found it was for Uncle Pete. However it was so cold we thought we had better take it to him, getting their other mail as well. Found Uncle Pete quite enjoying living at Jack Campbell's, who's sister Mrs Tollington is very kind and seems to enjoy having Uncle Pete there. It is hard to get him to talk, but we mentioned the Yukon and he said he built boats on the shore to float down the river, but as he finished each boat someone would be so anxious for it that they would pay a lot and he would sell it to them and start another, I think he made 10 or 11 before he got his own finished. I hope we can get him to talk about some of his experiences.

Yesterday, Sunday was rather quiet. I wrote 3 letters in the morning and we took the car out and mailed them, also stopped in to see Mom and some books she has been looking over. Pete got one about the C.P.R. and rules of the railroad which his father had in 1893 and another book about the old days he wants to read. In the afternoon I worked on the Store accounts from Allan's books so the information will be ready for Pete's income tax. Jonny came over and so I let him read the books you sent with the St. Nickolas. He read the one that you colored and which you gave to Mildred Owen as a little girl, right through and seemed to like it but thought the children all seemed to do the wrong thing, didn't get up when they should or go to bed when they should or act the right way, and sure enough each one is a sort of lesson. He asked who colored the pictures and I said you did, and he thinks you must be a good artist. *The other day he looked at the book of songs w/ French & sang them. Knows no French but pronounced the words anyway.* He read some of the muffin man and the Ralph Berggrin ones, whenever he comes to a song in a book he always sings it. He finally went home and I got along a bit faster with the accounts for it was a little confusing his reading poems aloud. Then Davy came over to see if we were going down to the station to see the new Deisel engine going back through. We hadn't thought of it but Pete thought it wouldn't hurt to warm up the car again and down we went. Were again surprised to see so many people interested and lots were down for the 2nd time as we were. It was - 24° below too and cold out on the platform, but with lights inside the engine parts or motors you could see more.

Saturday we went up to see the Wards and how they were getting on, they are doing better than we are as they have had no one coming in at all, except us. We have had the kids because there was little else for them to do. We also took the St Nicholas to the Library and were surprised to find it full of people and several children too. One little girl we gave a ride to said it was the 3rd time she had had books out, they are certainly using it. It is only open four times in the week as the librarian is a volunteer and until she can train some others to help. Several were helping as it was. I didn't have a chance to ask about what kind of books they are most in need of but will when I get a chance. Am so glad you could get the Twin books for they really are well liked by both boys and girls.

Our fan on the furnace is still not right and one evening we had to go down every half hour anyway to turn it off and on again which sometimes stops the squealing. It did it until 1 A.M. which mean't getting out of bed and I must say in cold weather it is a struggle. However I guess we are lucky it is going at all but we can only keep the kitchen and bathroom and little old bedroom warm, the rest of the house gets very cold when it is below - 20. One reason, we can't keep the kitchen warm without the door into the living room closed, and then the living room cools off, It is in the forties in there now. and where we sleep is just as cold, so no pleasure in going to bed early to read. 'ts a good chance to get the accounts done though and I will try to get them done.

Should have answered your letters to-night but will next time maybe.

Loads of love, Catharine

P.S. Allan is the head of the Carnival committee this year and asked us to show some of the old Carnival slides to the others to give them a better idea of what shows well in pictures, So we went over to where they met and went through them on the new viewer about 4 times. The men were very enthusiastic and we were glad to be able to help Allan out, he does so much for us.

This morning we noticed after getting back from the mail there was a man in the yard taking photographs of the deer, thought it must be a tourist, but it was Syd Vallance come to return some clothes Margaret had borrowed for skiing and saw the deer and so was taking pictures. He came in for a bit and to get warmed up.

Am so glad you liked the book " the Valley of Youth " I hadn't time to read it over and can't remember which it is. Is it the one of the man in the Skanagan Valley, in B.C.? One was by the author of "the Owl Pen " I sent some time ago. The one to Mildred by Clare Bice about children in the different provinces is by the man who asked us to send the exhibition east to London Ont. Funny name for a man. We got a card from him painted by himself and they have a new baby, a boy and a girl now and I should think he loved children.

More love,
Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
January 18, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

This has been quite a day in spite of my good intentions too. Night before last what with the fan squealing and Pete's rib bothering him at different times we didn't get any real sleep until 4 AM. (Gotki came and oiled the fan again yesterday and it should be alright for a few days) so this morning we slept in, not on purpose but when I looked at the clock it was ten. We were in the midst of breakfast when Allan Mather came with the Insurance polices and had a cup of coffee with us. It was 11.30 when he left so as it was also Wednesday we went over town before the stores closed. Lunch when we got back and Pete was resting afterwards when Mrs Painter came to borrow a few of my books, she likes the kind you send. Is interested in Japan so lent her Mrs Wayman's book about Grandpa and herself and Grews book. Also read the interesting letters that Mrs Wayman sent you and the thing about Baekerker and the collection of Japanese pottery at the Art Museum.

She had gone just a short time and we again were resting a bit before going to find Sam to fix our back door lock which has broken and also look at a plate glass window that has cracked at the store, when Jim Simpson came in to tell us about Sir Norman etc. Too long to write now but he has gone back to England.

We told Jim about Uncle Pete being here and he was surprised to hear that he was still alive, said he knew him well, had worked for him near Antracite when he first came to this country in 1894 or 1896. They were building a bridge for the C.P.R. I think he said, Jim told of an Englishman in the group who Uncle Pete sent to the creek for a pail of water, they were camped near the water and when the Englishman was so long in coming back, Uncle Pete went and got the water himself and had it boiling over the fire when the Englishman finally showed up with his pail full. Uncle Pete told him he was too late, so the Englishman turned round went back to the stream and poured the water back into the creek! The same Englishman when told to get a stick a certain length to hang the pot over the fire, took the measurement by stretching his hands arms apart, (as you would tell the size of a fish you caught,) then he started off through the woods, ran into a tree and lost the measurement! instead of taking the length on the ax handle.

Jim worked for the C.P.R. a year and a half and for Pete's father who was foreman near Sawback. Then he went on the trail after that with Bill Peyto for Tom Wilson. He said that he got his first Pay from William Whyte, who later became Sir William Whyte and was quite important in the C.P.R. He was paymaster then.

In the old days they used to pay the men in cash and came every so often in a special car on the railroad. We want to take Jim down to see Uncle Pete and see if ~~they~~ remembers ~~each other~~. Jim.

By the time Jim left it was after four, I am still trying to get the accounts finished for Pete's Income Tax as the man who does them from the information we give him comes up this week and there are a few questions to be asked.

Am glad that Russ is getting on well and hope he doesn't have too much pain afterwards. Pete saw Pat again yesterday and the x-rays of his back showed an old fracture of the 5th. vertebrae below the 7th. Cervical. It has never healed or grown to-gether properly and no doubt has been responsible for a lot of things Pete has been bothered with. He went once several years ago when Dr Yates was at the Clinic and Dr MacKenzie was sick and Dr Yates told him it would be a waste of money to have an x-ray taken and he never got around to asking anyone else about it. There is nothing you can really do for it but be careful not to do the things that aggravate it. Sometimes it has been very sore and at others Pete doesn't notice it so much but now with the rib broken it sort of makes each a little more uncomfortable.

Better get busy on the accounts.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Sat. Jan 21, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

The other day Allan Mather told us about a long letter he got from his Uncle Allan in Toronto who they hadn't heard from for over a year and he thought, "how fine news of the whole family." When he read it he found three pages were about the unusual weather they have been having in Ontario this winter and then sort of stuck in as after thoughts on the side and on the bottom were bits of news of the family. As Allan said he could read in the newspaper about the weather and he was ^{not} particularly interested in it anyway!

I guess that is the way my letters to you sound but weather does make quite a difference to what one does. We have had it a little milder and it has seemed by contrast to what we did have very mild. It got up to about 10° above yesterday and 5° the day before. Then strangely enough last evening (when again we were later than usual going to bed) it was 18° above, I could hardly believe it. Pete was up once in the night and it was 20° above, and when we came down at 7.30 to look it was 28° above and snowing hard. We heard later that it got to 38° at six o'clock. In Lethbridge it did the same sort of thing but only took a couple of hours to drop back to zero, where it has been all day. To-night we are having a regular blizzard with a cold north wind and more snow, the Chinnok was short lived!

Thursday was spitting snow, we went to the station to find out when the train from the east would be in as Frances James (the singer) and her accompanist Earle Moss were stopping off ~~for~~ the night just to see us, and the Moores and Edmee and other friends, the husband, Murray Adaskin, wasn't with them this trip. The trains are all late, (weren't any to-day) and it wasn't due until 2.55. so we decided to get Sam to fix the lock on our back door as it was so loose anyone could pry it off. Sam was awfully good and came down with us, took it apart and put it to-gether again after tightening screws inside loosened by the cold weather. Sam and Cis are doing far better than we are for their friends, being older ones, they don't go out in the cold weather and so they have had few callers.

Anyway we had lunnh and Mom was down about ordering her oil etc. and then we took it easy until it was time to go to the station. The train was another hour late by then so as we were out decided I should go and see Mrs Bollans at the hospital. the lady who was afraid of an operation she was to have, found her fine and going home the next day so glad I got that in. Then back to the station. Pete had it all figured out that if we took them to the hotel so they could get their rooms, and baggage up, then we could bring them to see the house for an hour and take them back to the hotel, then they could see other friends in the evening. Pete didn't feel up to too much talk and entertaining, or driving about in the rather difficult going.

We met them alright, Frances looking very regal as she is tall and carries herself well. Earle Moss a little bit of a fellow hidden behind huge tortoiseshell glasses, rather young and first trip west. We got them to the hotel alright and then they just said "hello" to the Moores which took ten minutes or so and came on over to our house. Showed them things and some Indian slides too and luckily Gotki having oiled the fan the day before it was working better and the front room warm enough to sit in. The Moores wanted them to eat with them at six so we got them back to the hotel about then. It had begun to snow in earnest by that time, a lovely soft snow. They wanted so much to come back in the evening and Pete thought it would be fine if we picked them up at 8.30.

We had time to rest and then get supper, listen to the news, and get the dishes done and then went over to the Mt Royal. Edmee was on her way down so they wanted to wait for her and so we went up to the Moores room and of course even after Edmee came it was hard to leave there, and it was so very hot and smoky too. We thought as it got near ten that they wouldn't be coming, but not on your life, when we got up to go they came too, and we made Edmee come as well. It was quarter to twelve when we drove them home in another six inches of fresh snow! Actually it was a nice evening and we are both very fond of Frances, she is an old friend of Pete's from a way back when she worked as an information clerk at Lake Louise and we have been very interested in her career. but it was rather long talking for us.

One thing she told us about was her part in the opera "Peter Grimes" which the Canadian Broadcasting Co. put on this fall. It is by Benjamin Britten the young English composer and the first time it was put on as a complete radio broadcast. (took a couple of hours) Frances was chosen as the leading lady last year and they began rehearsals last spring after her western tour. There was much controversy as to who should conduct the performance, but the cast all agreed that Geoffrey Waddington was the one, and she said it was as if all of the singers taking part wanted to prove he was the one to do it and did their best to back him up. They rehearsed until June when they had a complete dress rehearsal, then two months off for the summer, and rehearsed again until the broadcast from Massey Hall the end of October. A great many were there to see it given and it was all so carefully arranged to bring in all the voices. There were 3 microphones for the 8 or 10 leading singers, and they were each cued to go to a certain one at a certain time, when the previous singer would step back etc. It really was a most wonderful performance and they got so many wires and letters and the response was so enthusiastic that they gave it again over the air the next week. Fran said later when she and Murray made a tour of the Maritimes it was surprising how many people came up to her after the concerts to tell her they had heard "Peter Grimes" and one old lady over 90 ~~was~~drove 40 miles just because she had heard her and wanted to see what she looked like. The recordings of the broadcast were played for Benjamin Britten later and he thought it was a better production of his ~~opera~~ than that done by the Metropolitan and equal to the very first performance in England done by Tanglewood (whoever they are) Anyway it was all quite thrilling. Frances thought perhaps the Canadian production was done with more understanding of the British music.

Do you ever get the Canadian stations? Some of their Musical programs are very fine for the C.B.C. is gov't owned. one of Murray Adaskin's compositions is to be played on Wed evening Feb. 1st. by a musician he met in California last summer.

That night was a bit tiring for Pete, but we slept pretty well, he usually wakes up once or twice and likes to sit up a bit because of his rib, thats when I check on the outside temperature.

Friday, yesterday we woke to find a fresh 6 or 8 inches of snow and were wondering if we would need to shovel a bit when Tom Day, came through the yard with Allan's Jeep and plow and this time did a very thorough job and we were nicely plowed out, lucky too for it has snowed ever since! We were to meet them (Frank & Earle) about 10.30 or 11 and go to Edmees, (they none of them have their cars going, having frozen up or can't get out) So we met about 11 and the train again was late so they had until late afternoon. We went to Edmees for about an hour and she had made a blueberry cake out of frozen ones that was very good and we had coffee and looked at her pictures by Carl Rungius etc. Had a nice time. Then left them back at the hotel.

After lunch we checked on the train and then took them up to the Banff Springs, for Frances wanted to show Earle where she had sung so many years. We waited for them as we didn't want to trapse through and by then as Pete was getting a little weary and as we were also supposed to see the accountant from Calgary we left them to go to the Robinson Clinic and said we would pick them up half an hour before train time. We had the eaves of the roof to do too, for there was enough new snow to make it necessary to get it off, so the melting snow above wouldn't back up. We drove them to the station and the poor accompanist was exhausted for the Robinson's had had them to tea and it had been continual visiting for him. The train came at five something (was supposed to have come at noon) and it looked as if it would clear. The lad had hardly seen more than an outline of a mountain and had to imagine the view from the Banff Springs.

When we got home and the car away Pete just sat back in his chair to relax and before I had even sat down we saw Mom trotting along through the deep snow. She had a letter from Owen Sound (the Steinhilber) first we had heard since before Christmas, why they couldn't even drop a few lines to Mom I don't know but guess they just keep putting it off and then their conscience bothers them and writing becomes more difficult than ever. She was here over half an hour for like Cousin Harriet, living alone when she gets a chance to talk she does a good deal, seems to take a long time to tell anything and it rather tires Pete at times. After she left Pete slept in his chair nearly an hour, then we had supper and though it was rather deep snow and all, Ed Steele came to see us. He has quite an important job for such a young man in the C.P.R. reminds me a lot of Russ and looks a bit like him. His wife and two cunning children are east for the winter with her mother and they have closed their house as he is only here off and on having charge of all the construction jobs in the hotels and camps etc. on the C.P.R. in

the western part. We think he was a little lonely, they were the ones who were in one of the apartments over the store when first here. He is sold on the west, very interested in skiing and was in the R.C.A.F. during the war. We got talking about all sorts of things and it was 11 when he left. Pete enjoyed it all but it does sort of tire one on top of the other things.

When we went to bed that night much to my surprise it was 18 above. the hottest it has been for so long, and once in the night 24 above. Dan Macowan said it was 28 at 6 A.M. I will cut a clipping out of the paper to show what it did in Lethbridge about the same time. It dropped to ten above for most of the day and then zero last evening. It must have been a surge of warm air from the west but was very short lived and when the cold air from the north hit, it made snow. Has been snowing and blowing for 24 hours now. It is now Sunday afternoon and still a blizzard out. Blew all night and snowed. great drifts outside To-day for the first time we aren't going to even try to get the car out.

Yesterday, Saturday, Pete wanted to get the car out early to keep the driveway open, we did the few errands, mail etc. and found out when we could see the accountant from Calgary. When we got back I pulled the snow off the eaves again, there wasn't much but it seems best to keep at it so no more ice than necessary will form. The snow plow went by in front and of course left a 3 foot mess of snow across our entrance, so had to shovel that out too. George Encil and Jim Morrison came down before lunch to bring the first ski trophy pins for Pete to see, the ones he designed. They really came out very well. It is for the North American Ski Championships and the winner gets a gold one. silver for 2nd prize and bronze for 3rd. These are round and have little skis crossed in back, I will leave a space and try and draw you one.

After lunch there was just time to wash the dishes which had by now accumulated to quite a pile, (even if we did have a dish washer I doubt if I would have time to arrange the dishes in it) and then at two o'clock the Calgary Accountant, Mr Walls arrived. an awfully quiet nice sort and he went over the books and the way I had it figured out, and even complimented me on the system which is based on one Russ showed me years ago. I also had a plan of the Insurance premiums and when to pay them etc and he said even the boys in the office hadn't figured out a better system. so I felt pretty good about it. I rather enjoy doing the books and getting it all straight but it takes a bit of time. He was here an hour and a half and then we took some fruit to a friend of Pete's in the hospital, just left it, picked up the little lady with the bad arthritis who lives alone at the other end of town and we wonder how she gets to the post office even in good weather far less in a blizzard. for by yesterday afternoon the wind had come up from the North and it was snowing and blowing. blew all night and must have snowed too. our nicely plowed out driveway is only a foot less deep than the deepest part every where. Last evening no one came in and I wrote a good part of this figuring that with a bad Sunday no one would come around unless the kids showed up in the late afternoon. That was what I thought!

It is now Sunday night, almost time to eat. 6.30.

It was Pete's birthday to-day and while I think of it many

thanks from us both for the fine box for the slides, best metal one we have seen and we shall make good use of it. You were awfully good to think of it. Jeans letter and card came in time too and Pete was very pleased.

We were up fairly early and it was still blowing and snowing hard, just a little discouraging. We were just finishing breakfast when we saw Mom struggling down with a Birthday cake for Pete. It really was too heavy going for her and she said she hadn't realized the snow would be so deep for it was up to her knees most of the way. Luckily it was about 10° below and not so cold. She stayed for a bit and I went home with her to make a track for by the time she went her track was all blown in. It is the worst blizzard we have had. You should just see the drifts and the roofs have 3 or 4 feet of snow on them with great cornices off them, not many will forget the month of January 1950.

By the time I got back from Mom's and started to finish this Harold appeared to borrow our roof scraper for Davy to use. He came back a little later with a shovel having done Mom's walks and I think having seen the cake she brought for he stayed and had lunch with us and cut the cake. We didn't light the candles thinking Lona and Mary Lee might come down though Harold thought it too stormy for them. He started making little figures in Plasticine having no doubt heard Jonny speak of the modeling.

I once more started to finish this before tackling the lunch and breakfast dishes when I looked out and there were three little girls, Lona, Mary Lee and Susan all waving Birthday cards in one hand and Allan bringing up the rear, all on snowshoes. In they came with much brushing off of snow as you can imagine, for they are very inexperienced on snow shoes, except Allan. I wish you could see the cards. Susan's was a boughten one but she had written "Birthday" in lipstick. Mary Lee had pasted a lovely picture of roses on hers and then in a border of still sticky lipstick, stuck alphabet soup letters to spell "Pete Whyte" Lona's was a carefully drawn picture of some skiers on a hill and inside about four pink clouds floating around with the words "Pink clouds for good LUCK!" and "Happy Birthday Pete." Allan just brought himself.

From the time they all arrived there was a good deal of excitement, at first they worked quietly on the plasticine but later the girls got one of Harold's socks and from then on there was a good bit of roughhousing in the other room while Allan and I tried to figure out the accounts etc. Susan was a little older and more dignified. Mary Lee asked if she and Lona could help serve the refreshments as a great favor and we had ice cream with frozen strawberries and most of the cake, that is all but the crumbs which managed to pretty well cover the floor under the table. It was quite an afternoon. They must have come about 1:30 or 2 and it was 4 when they left, all of them, Harold waist deep in snow on the way to his house and the others having their difficulties snowshoeing. It was about 12° below too and a nasty wind and drifting snow, pretty good of all of them to come out at all we thought.

Harold was soon back with some skis for Pete to Wax before Friday, but I told him he had better come over and do it himself.

He went home and before long a buck deer came to the door and had to be fed. I gave him rolled oats and he seemed to like them and it is easier than trying to keep enough bread on hand. Once more Harold struggled back with the roof scraper. I just tell you this to show how many times this letter has been interrupted!

At last we settled down again and once more Pete was snoozing when Jonny appeared, having heard from Harold about the Birthday cake I expect. He came in singing "Happy Birthday" to "dear Pete" and stayed a while making a couple more animals, not thinking very much of the others efforts in plasticine. He went off just before six with a large piece of birthday cake and the candles all on it.

So it has been quite a day all round, and this has lengthened into quite a letter, but had I not written to you I would only have been reading a newspaper or magazine.

We are wondering how far Frances James got on her way for hers was the last train west and she is to give a concert in Vancouver to-morrow and counted on plenty of time to practise before it, as she should have gotten there Saturday. Last we heard was that ten trains were held up and 1500 passengers, and they were being flown to Vancouver when they could get them back to Kamloops. the poor C.P.R. was having quite a time with slides, and one C.N.R. train had been half buried in a snow slide and the passengers spend the night in the express car. On the freights the poor crew had little food, just the lunches they carry with them and some trains were stuck for 48 hours far from anywhere I guess. It is the warm weather at the coast on top of so much snow, and some freezing rain so there is no telegraphic connections with the coast. and in the Fraser Valley the rain has brought down melting snow and they are having some floods and expecting worse. So if we are just snowed in that doesn't seem much.

Monday. It blew all night & today the drifting is worse than ever and -26° below this morning. It's certainly a spell of weather.

Don't know when this will go as we haven't heard any trains.

Loads of love
Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. Jan. 25, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

About all we can do is talk about the weather and what it has done to so and so's house. It was -60° below this A.M. How is that for temperature after all we have had? That short lived chinook before any one was up and about is the only warm bit since New Years.

I think I wrote you Sunday, we never went out and it seemed a miserable day snowing and blowing and -20° . However 285 skiers came up on the train from Calgary to ski at Norquay. Monday after blowing and snowing all night it was -26° below in the morning. Such drifts around the house you never saw and piles of snow in front of the windows which we have pulled off the roofs and sometime will have to shovel away from the house. Pete thought he would like to get the Ford started though with the drifted in driveway we knew we couldn't go far. I hadn't scraped the front roof the other day, Pete didn't think it was necessary before the extra snow came. He can't do it on account of his rib and I don't find it hard just pulling the snow off the eaves, so that as it melts under the snow on the main part of the roof and runs down it won't freeze on the eaves and back up. So we bundled up about 9.30 and Pete started the car and I started on the roof, found it was ~~up to~~ snow up to my waist and deeper in some places and a little awkward trying to get the snow off the eaves with the teepee pole we had. Then I realized Pete was having a bit of trouble. He thought to loosen up the car he would just back outside the garage and in again. However with the fresh fall of snow he couldn't tell where the old firm tracks were and anyway the ~~thin~~ car just dropped down further and further in the snow. I tried to help him dig it out and we worked away, but it only got deeper and with a strong wind drifting the snow over it wasn't too pleasant though working one kept warm. We finally decided to give up and leave the car there with it's nose practically in the garage door! We hated to do it but couldn't do much else. /

We had a number of things to get over town so I took a pack sack and went on over, at -26° the wind was pretty cold but I picked a more or less sheltered way and it wasn't bad. Got enough bread for the deer in case the next day was worse. I forgot in the morning George Encil was down to pick up the sample of the Ski Pins Pete designed for the North American Championships and it was afternoon I went over town. When I came back I felt quite warm so decided to try and dig the car out for it was just packed with snow underneath. It was in a sheltered spot and not too cold and I got it free except for the center of the axle and I couldn't reach that, Pete came out once more and tried to get it out of the holes the wheels had dug, but one wheel wouldn't bite and the other would not go round so we got an old teepee, and covered the poor car up for the night.

Because we hadn't pulled the snow off the eaves ^{some from} in front we had drips in the bedroom, and a good part of the night we would wake up and hear a new drip hitting the floor, then I would try to find it with the flash light and get another saucepan or bucket underneath. It did it all Sunday night and most of Monday and so every so often I would have to go round checking. Pete said he was Chief Broken Rib and I the good squaw ^{Many Buckets!} I guess that is why the severe weather seems to occupy most of our time. The next night being colder it didn't drip which was lucky. The water backs up from the melting snow.

Harold came over Monday night on his way home from the Library which is open two nights and two afternoons a week at present. He said there were quite a lot there though it was 30° below that night. The news boys waiting for the bus that brings the evening paper went in to have a look at the books. The kids are very interested. Thanks so much for sending the Twin books, they are in Calgary but haven't reached here as yet. ^{It was so nice of Miss Barrett to offer to send us books for the library & I have written her -}

Tuesday it was -40° below in the morning and the wind had stopped it was a lovely day. I didn't go out until afternoon, Barbara was over as they have had trouble with their roofs and the water running down one wall. Think in Concord the same thing happened when you had that severe winter. The weather has been so cold it has been hard to get snow shoveled. I finally got our eaves all cleared in the afternoon. Mr Crosbie next door was on his roof with an ice axe to chop the ice off a dormer of theirs and he was tied to the chimney like a mountaineer! I had just finished and come in when we saw Tom Day coming through the yard with Allan's Jeep and plowing us out. Pete thought maybe he could help pull the Ford out of the spot it was in so out we went and Tom was very willing, Mr Scott his grandfather also came down and between us all we did quite well. though when the Jeep first started pulling the Ford backwards it too dug itself down in the snow and we wondered for a time if it was stuck too! We were much relieved to have the car under a job.

Wednesday - it had been -48° when we went to bed the evening before but we hardly expected it to be -60° when we got up in the morning! It ran right off our thermometer - & seemed to be about -55° but in other parts of town they read the lower readings. Barely Clifford dropped in that morning as he is off Monday for Aspen, Colorado in the F.13. championships. He stayed longer than he intended looking at the World Ski Book Russ sent us Christmas. I went over to shop & for mail & in the afternoon Sam dropped in. It was a lovely day & got up to -14° below which after all was a rise of 46 degrees!

Pete's rib is O.K. just slow healing
got you an mail
Loads of love
Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Mon. Jan. 30, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

Haven't had a chance to write you the last couple of days and the weather is still cold, not quite as cold, but it gets down to -30° something below in the early morning and up to nearly zero in the daytime, funny thing is that it feels very mild even at -10° below zero now. I guess one gets sort of used to the cold, it didn't seem too cold trying to shovel the car out at -28° with a wind, though we were sheltered from the wind pretty much. One thing we will all be glad when it warms up, no one can remember such a long awfully cold spell without a break. but we are lucky here compared to the people on the praries.

We haven't done much the last few days as Pete didn't feel well and had a regulār upset much like a bilious attack, however he is feeling better now but being sick to ones stomach ~~keeps one~~ takes it out of one and kept me hopping. Dr Mackenzie was awfully good and came over even when his car wouldn't start and he had to go everywhere on foot. Anyway I did manage to get the store accounts all figured out ~~on~~ Pete's income tax papers. That is the Store Property ones, Allan keeps books and then from those I sort of figure out the figures they want for Pete's Income Tax returns, I don't mind doing it and find it more fun than cross word puzzles. Now I have my own to do.

The Twin books came and there was no duty on them also the other two, Hans Brinker and I have forgotten the name of the other one. Mary Lee and Lona were over this afternoon after school and I got them to help me open them. They were greatly interested and think they will be very popular, for as they say they are good stories for both boys and girls. Lona's mother won't let her get any more books out of the Library for a time as she had 16 in 3 weeks, and I expect read too much! They have read most of the Twin books I have and saw a whole lot of new ones they haven't seen before, then they noticed that the Pickaniny Twins were missing, so we checked on the list inside and found that the Japanese Twins weren't there either. Do you suppose it is an edition printed during the War years and the Japanese Twins left out and perhaps because of the color question they didn't do the Picka-ninny ones either? Or do you suppose they weren't included when you got them? There should be 25 in the set including "The Dutch Twins and Little Brother", and you sent 23, only the Japanese and Pickaniny Twins missing. I really got you into quite an expensive contribution to the Library but I know the grown-ups and children will greatly appreciate it.

You asked how the Library will be supported, and why they never had one before. I think in the United States there is a Carnegie fund which helps libraries get a start in many places. but in Canada there are only libraries in the big cities.

and British Columbia and I think Alberta have an arrangement where you can send for books but its not always easy to do that. At Tofino one of the girls had a list of the books you could send for and she got one or two I think. Here the money has been gotten by benefit concerts and plays etc. Also by canvassing the town for funds and by gifts of books. The Junior Chamber of Commerce are the ones behind it all. Then if they have enough members who pay \$1.00 a year, children 50¢, the Alberta Gov't give them a grant of so much a year to buy new books, \$300. a year I think. Some day they hope that if the Parks Dep't build a new Museum they will incorporate a library in it which can be used. *The Librarian is a volunteer & is teaching others.*

No, you hadn't mentioned the family going to Europe this summer, how nice that will be and I hope Russ takes plenty of time to do all they want to in. Will be interested to hear there they will be going, what countries they will visit. We had a wonderful letter from Russ and are so glad that his knee is getting on so well. When you told me they had found something loose inside I told Pat, and he drew me a sketch of what he thought might have happened and when Russ wrote the details it was just what Pat had described.

Its bedtime so all for now,

I wonder if you could do something else for us? There is no great hurry but in the next few days. A man from Banff, Ted Langridge, has gone to Boston for treatment which Cob has arranged for him to have. Pat wrote Cob some time ago sending x-rays etc and ~~and~~ evidently in Boston they give this certain treatment and Cob suggested he go down there and he would see that the man was looked after etc. He is one of the local Barbers in Banff and though I don't know him, Pete does, and I know the wife quite well. They are originally English. We thought it might be nice to have some flowers sent him as he will be in the hospital some time. Don't know where he is but Cob will know, I imagine it is the Mass. General. At first they thought his trouble had gone too far to help but now it looks as if his condition is "favorable for treatment". It is quite serious I believe. Don't know where you get flowers for people in Boston, but just a nice bunch would be fine and am sure he would appreciate it. Will send a note to enclose.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. Feb. 2, 1960.

Dearest Mother,

I don't expect this to be a very bright letter but thought I might as well write to you to-night as I expect I will be pretty busy to-morrow. Seems to me we have more letters than ever to write, especially to the people overseas as they have been sending us books and magazines and long letters too. I must write Jean about them. Mr Young has sent us a book about Bobby Burns which Mom is reading now, part of his life. He also told us about Sir Harry Lauder who is just about the same but was heard humming a song the other day which cheered them up considerably, his neice Greta, who has been his secretary and companion for 22 years, is looking after him by day and they have a nurse at night.

At last we are having milder weather, and it got up to 10° above zero to-day but there was such a strong west wind that it didn't feel any too warm. but I expect soon it will be warming up a bit. No buses the last two nights from Calgary as the road has drifted in so badly.

We have had a couple of days of company and Pete has been trying to finish the Ski Jumper model as there is still quite a bit to do on it. Tuesday we got the water turned on for the back of the house which we had off for sometime as we were afraid in that very cold weather it might freeze, so I have lots of washing and mostly woolens which I can't send out as they will shrink them, so have been doing a bit each day. Got all the socks done to-day. ~~Yesterday~~ Tuesday we saw someone coming in a red coat who turned out to be Mr Redfern from Canmore who runs a Taxi there has had a hard time this weather keeping going and wondered would we lend him some money. We like him and his wife especially and know they have just got started so said we would back a note at the bank. then the bank collects it and people are more apt to make their payments when the bank lends the money. He went off and just at lunch time the Bank manager came to tell us how it could be done and as he is new as manager and has never been here before he made quite a call. We had a late lunch, Mom also was down for a short time with a newspaper article of Cam's. and then in the afternoon Pearl came along as she had heard Pete was sick and wanted to see how he was. She stayed for tea and most of the afternoon, we had a good visit from her and then I worked on the Income Tax figures all evening.

*Yesterday Wednesday was even worse. Leonard LaCasse was first one in the morning, wondering if we had any work to be done as all building in town has been suspended due to the cold weather and he and his father are idle at the moment. He didn't stay long. Then Tom Day put the battery in the Ford and Pete got that started and we got the mail. Had just gotten back and Pete

Pete had set up the model in the kitchen when Dr Robinson came with a sketch in oils he had made. It really was remarkably good a lovely winter effect he had seen from the Clinic and he was so anxious to see what we thought of it. It is the first one he has done that hasn't been a copy. We encourage him all we can. He had just gone when Gotki came to oil the fan, (we had asked him to come down when we were out) He was here just a short time. Once more we started in to work when Lloyd Harmon came to see what flags we had they could use for decorations during the North American Ski Championships. and by then the afternoon was nearly gone!

To-day Pete worked all morning on the model and Mom was in for just a short time, don't know just what she came for this time. Then this afternoon we were out a bit, did a little shoveling by the garage door etc. and then just as Pete was starting to work again George Encil came along with the head of the Alberta Publicity Bureau or something or other. a Mr Ryan I think it was and another boy with a camera. Wanted a photo of Pete working on the ski model, Pete hates photos taken but what could he do. and by the time they left it was time for supper. Its funny some days no one comes near and the next time we have one person after another.

Friday. Another lovely day & -10° now zero so it maybe mild but we are promised more cold from the north tonight. Gotki hopes to have a rebuilt fan for our furnace next week & we hope he is right. then the whole house will be warm & not just the kitchen & bedroom. where we have been spending our time.

Loads of love

Catharine.

P.S. will send Tom's letter. can't find it this minute.

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. Feb. 5, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

We have just had our first really lovely mild day and it got up to 36. you have no idea how nice it felt and we both were out without hats or coats shoveling snow this afternoon. This was the weekend when the College teams come to the ski races. It was started a number of years ago by the University of Alberta for ~~Western~~ University skiers and mostly those of the Western states come. like the Univ. of British Columbia, of Washington. Oregon Montana etc. 12 teams were entered this year but the roads were so bad 5 teams couldn't make it. We could have gone up to watch the Downhill and Slalom to-day but we aren't so interested when we don't know any of the skiers taking part. But it must have been a lovely day for everyone. We noticed that there are 2 Texas cars, 1 from N.Y. and 1 from Wyoming in town this weekend. The Carnival is the 3 days at the end of this week, then the Bonspiel and after that two weekends of the big ski races. The North American and Dominion championships combined. It should be rather fun for some of the very best European skiers are coming. Italian's Team, Austrian, Swiss, Norwegian, Swedish, American and Chile too. If the weather is good and Pete feels like it we might get some good pictures when they are practising.

Pete has been trying to finish the Ski models, they are in plaster now and because of the cold weather there isn't time now to cast them in bronze. that will have to be done later, but Charlie Beil said he could finish the plaster so it looks like bronze. Charlie was down Friday night to look at them, he has been so good in helping Pete do them and telling all the little tricks of the trade, for he is a sculpture and does the casting.

Yesterday was quite mild too, up to 20 but there has been a strong wind the last few days and it felt a little cold. to-day there were real summery clouds and the icicles were all dripping in the sun. First time anything has melted since Christmas I think. This morning we were up early and Pete thought it would be a good chance to clean the workshop out, somehow the milder weather makes one feel more like doing such things. So many boxes of rubbish had collected and as Pete hates to throw anything away that might come in handy we collect more bits of wood, wire old tin cans for washing brushes etc. We took a lot of things out to the shed (which can be looked over later in the spring) and then got a lot of paper and boxes to be burnt and had a fire on the snow to get rid of that. Pete feels so much better to have the shop tidy once more though I think I shall have to get busy with the vacuum one day myself and really clean it! It took us all morning, then after lunch we decided to shovel the path to the driveway. It had drifted in from both directions and we had just walked on it packing the snow down. Pete took a grub hoe and broke the snow in shunks and luckily it had never stuck to the stones on the path and came off clean. then I would shovel the bits he had loosened. We were surprised to find that we had been walking

a foot above the stones and in some places a foot and a half.
The rest of the snow must be nearly 3 feet deep around the house.

After all that work I thought I deserved a bit of a rest and have been looking over some old newspapers, so may enclose a few clippings. We have just finished hot cakes and sausages for supper and the news comes on soon so will not write more to-night. though I know I should look over your recent letters for questions. We went to a very good hockey game last night. The first senior game we have seen this year. It was lovely and mild to sit and watch and a good game and Banff won 7-2.

No one has been in all day, I expect the kids ^{all} at the ski races and it has given us a good chance to do things which we needed to do

Loads of love,

Catharine

Monday - 25° above but is dark & looks like more snow
hope it doesn't rain! The barometer is ~~still~~ way down.

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. Feb. 7, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

Just thought I would look over some of your letters and maybe will find the one from Tom Archibald at the same time. We are still having mild weather, it was around 20 above to-day and we somehow seem to get more done when it isn't so awfully cold. I even got some Kitchen cupboards cleaned out while Pete developed a film, he is taking a few pictures of the ski models before Charlie puts a bronze colored finish on them, but not having done that sort of photography for a time he had to take a test shot first and then one more. It also mean't dusting the dark room a bit last yesterday afternoon, then this afternoon we had to do a bit on the roof, ice had formed in the valleys and Pete chopped a channel for the water to run out while I pulled a bit more snow off. It was nice
✓ out so we didn't mind. Now this evening Br MacKenzie came for a few minutes to see if we would help with the Ski Club float to represent Switzerland in the Carnival parade. He is President of the Ski Runners this year (said to-day, never again) and has to go to Calgary to a Medical dinner to-morrow, and the committee who were to do the float have fallen through. He just wants Pete to make a replica of the Matterhorn to go on top of his car ! Actually all he wants Pete to do is to color the canvas to look like a mountain, Patsy is to lead their St Bernard dog with a keg tied under his chin etc. He said they weren't trying to win a prize but it was his suggestion that different ones make floats to represent the teams taking part in the North American Ski Championship, that is the different countries. So now he has to see his
✓ part is carried out. And how could we possibly say " no " ! Are supposed to do it Thursday night, the parade is Friday morning.

That article you sent on the Water Color Show at the Vose Gallery proved very interesting. only a short time ago Col Moore asked if we knew anything of Dodge MacNight and if he were still living, as they knew him well at Yoho years ago, and last they heard he wasn't painting, his wife had died and his son was killed in the first War. and in the clipping it said he was nearing 90 and that Vose had sold one of his recent paintings the week before. At least I think it said a "recent" work, and that he lived in East Sandwich, so I took it to the Moores and they are going to write him. Didn't recognize any in the Independent show. That Charles Heil is the one who does the lovely birds at the Guild.

You are getting me worried about all the things you are throwing away, I wish I had been there long enough to look over the things for some are awfully interesting, I know, about the past. Do be careful and if there is a question you could ask Russ or me in a letter. Sometimes in letters just one bit is interesting and you have to wade through a lot first. I thought those letters about Japan of your mothers most interesting in many ways and am so glad to have them.

Cousin Harriet seems to be getting more philosophical as she gets older and writes really remarkable letters, I don't think a person like that loses any of their brightness with age. Some people get down on new fangled ways when they get older, as Aunt Mary did, but Cousin Harriet seems to be getting even more broad minded. and Miss Annie Agge letters are wonderful too.

Do tell us where Russ and family are going in Europe and what plans they have, How they will go etc? We will be very interested to hear all about it. Hope Russ will take plenty of time to really enjoy it. Those pictures of Mr Seaton at the Women's club of Switzerland sounded lovely, I wish we had had colored film when we were on our trips, guess we will just have to go again! I would really love to go to Switzerland again more than any place I think.

Pete's Uncle Pete is still in Banff. He is Pete's father's brother and there were two of the brothers up north and another one still on the old family farm in New Brunswick. The one in New Brunswick, Uncle Jim, is still living, but Uncle Angus who lived at New Hazelton or near there, died a few years ago, think he is the one who wrote to you once. Uncle Pete is very gentle and a dear old man. He is staying with his brother-in-law, Uncle Jack ~~who~~ Campbell, who married Pete's father's sister May, and who died years ago. It is nice for Uncle Jack and his sister Mrs Tollington who live to-gether to have Uncle Pete with them and really wonderful for Uncle Pete to have an home and feel he belongs to someone.

Which is the house that they hope to buy to make a shrine for Thoreau? I like your cutting out the interesting clippings better than getting the Journal. Interesting about Ed DeForest but what an awful picture of him in the Herald.

What a time you had playing bridge at Mrs Cochranes when the damper closed and the fire smoked so! What is Madges house like, I know it will be attractive. and how very sad about Mrs Motte.

Sir Norman was never married, he has gone back to England and is renting the two camps, Skoki and Temple to Ray LeGace who has a lot of horses at Lake Louise and has worked out there both summer and winter, has a very smart wife and his daughter and Bobby are great friends. They will be the best people to run the place, being practical and of the country. The Lake Louise lodge is up for rent, but don't know who has it yet.

By the way, Mrs Simpson had to go east suddenly because of her sister Belle Reid who has cancer and was to have an operation on her lung, but they found it was too bad to operate. The other sister who is at Bow lake in the summer, Mrs Stewart went to New York with Mrs Simpson and it will be a sad trip for them both. They had hoped to bring Belle back here but she may not be even well enough to travel. Fern Brewster is not going to Boston after all, had a letter the other day and she is starting for home soon.

That book "An all Your Beauty" I think was a book I got at the Bay in Calgary and seems to me the author was to be there autographing copies and may be they sent me one of those.

I got the books in such a hurry and no time to read them myself so am not sure which is which.

Wednesday, Pete has been taking pictures of the Ski models and developed the negatives and will get some prints made which I will try and send you. We also went up to the Brewster Garage to see what was being done on the Ski club float, all Pete has promised to do is put some paint on the mountain they are to build on top of Dr MacKenzie's car ! He hates getting involved in floats but it is pretty hard to refuse. Now this afternoon Mr Roberts of the School came to ask Pete to judge the ice sculpture on the main street which the school children do each year. That is Saturday morning! He couldn't get out of that very well either. Actually the children do very well. The Gov't puts large blocks of clear green ice on that center part of the main street and the kids do remarkably well making animals out of it. This year there are several bears, a howling wolf, a sphinx, a skunk which looks more like a Pekinese and several other animals. an elephant is among them.

Mr Roberts has much to do with the library and they were very pleased with the children's books you sent and I believe are writing you. He said that already they have circulated 1000 books, some would be the same books but 1000 have been borrowed already and there are lots of people who haven't been in yet I know of, as it is a new thing to them. He said that it is interesting to see the children sitting on the floor pouring over books, kids who before only had the store magazine racks to go through I guess. He said they have a good stock of children's books now thanks to you and some others. Also if any books are sent directly to the Banff Public Library they will come in duty free. They haven't any Art books as yet. or just one so far. Maybe Miss Barrett had some in hers. He seemed rather pleased when I told him about her offering books but if it is a lot of work making a list don't bother. I don't quite know whether you have the books she wanted to give at your house or what. You can let me know about them.

Bedtime so had better not write more I found Tom Archibald's letter, I had forgotten about he and Sam walking to Conrod. Am sure both Ebbs and Sam would enjoy seeing the letter.

Loads of love,

Catharine -

Banff, Alberta.
Mon. Feb. 13, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

I am afraid that I have sadly neglected you the last few days but the Carnival has kept us pretty busy and I just didn't write. It went off very well though Allan who was head of it this year said a number of things went wrong and they got the blame, but to us it seemed to go pretty well.

Last I wrote was Thursday I think, we had been up to see if anything was being done on the Ski Runners Float but no one had appeared and Ernie Von Kushka who is head of the gargge said he wasn't going to open up the place at night for them to work on a float, every year it is left until the last minute and he was going to be where no one could find him! So we decided that they had changed their ideas and Pete wouldn't have to paint a shaped canvas on a ski rack to go on top of Dr MacKenzie's car and we settled in for a nice quiet evening. About 8 a knock on the door and Dr MacKenzie to get us to go up to the gargge with the paint and do a job on the Matterhorn. So up we went after getting to-gether all the paint brushes, cans turpentine etc. When we got there we were much surprised to find a whole lot of people and among them Ernie Von Kushka and his wife! We never mentioned what he had said in the afternoon. X Instead of a small float built on a Ski Rack they had a large affair on plywood to go on the back of a truck. Actually they had made a very good mountain out of brown canvas over boxes and what-not, but Pete didn't quite see how we could paint it, Luckily someone suggested spraying water on it in the morning and throwing snow on that which would freeze to-gether and make it all look snow, we agreed with great "alactaty" (I think they call it) and all set out for home, saying we would be there at 9.30 in the morning, as the parade started at 11 sharp. We saw a beautiful elk with a wonderful spread of antlers right beside the Banff Springs as we turned around.

Friday morning was really mild and no frost on the windows and I had visions of it not being cold enough to freeze the water and snow on the Matterhorn. We were up early and got to the hotel Gargge in time to help a little. I had made a tiny Swiss flag to go on top of the mountain out of the cover of the Junior League Bulletin which had a lovely bit of red on it, and pasted a white cross on it. We found they had a great big Freightways truck which had been driven up for a Calgary Float but no one had anything to decorate it with and so they were letting the Ski Runners use it. The Matterhorn was in the center of the flat part and the men were busy spraying water and shoveling snow on to the base. It really looked surprisingly well, and Ernie was working the hardest of all. Then they set little spruce trees around the bottom and covered them with water which made them very pretty. Patsy Mackenzie was dressed as a little Swiss girl and sat at the back with their little St Bernard puppy and then

other kids in Ski clothes were grouped at the front end. We put green paper around the bottom, but when the parade came along there were two long signs "Canadian Freightways Ltd" on either side, no sign of the green paper and just the Ski Runners sign at the back which few noticed. We thought it was sort of mean of them to do that at the last minute when the Ski Runners had done all the work, but the joke was that the Float got a prize for best out-of-town-float and in the end after it was all straightened out the Ski Runners got the \$15.00 so that was pretty good!

We took Mrs Pasis to the parade seeing it at two points and it was really very good, I think the best yet. They were to have had a band but couldn't get enough together from Banff and Canmore so in the end Annie Fulbrook who plays the bag pipes led the way and played well too.

I am sorry not to have written more often lately but we have been busy and foolishly Sunday night I wrote two other letters before this and there wasn't time for this afterwards. Will maybe get a chance to-night.

Loads of love to all

Catharine

P.S. Had a letter from Alec Bright and he is coming to Banff for next week to ski. It will be fun to see him.

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. Feb. 16, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

At last I have gotten down to continuing my letter to you started before the Carnival a week ago. With Alec Bright arriving this weekend and the other skiers flying up from Aspen Colorado on Tuesday (they are renting a plane to bring up 73 of them, didn't know planes carried that many but that is what they say) They will be practising all week for the races and the next week there will be jumpers coming so we have decided that we will be pretty busy, for it is fun to go up to Norquay when they are practising and it being a small place one meets the various ones as you never would have a chance to do in other places.

We have had mild weather for the last week and it has been very nice. up to 49 they say yesterday and most of the snow and ice have gone off the roof, with Pete's help yesterday in chopping the drains and valleys clear, while I shoveled out from under the clothes line etc. It looks terribly dirty all over town as naturally as the snow sinks the dirt is left on top. Just hope we get some fresh snow to make it look nicer. It was warm all night and we could hear it dripping but even then there is no bare ground in sight and I guess there is still a foot or more on the level. This afternoon an east wind came along and it dropped from 40 to 30 very quickly and is supposed to be colder. (10° above Fri AM.)

Well to go back to last Friday, we went to the Boy's Ski Jumping, Pete in case they couldn't get a 2nd judge, and as we arrived a rather heavy set young man came up to us and asked where the best place to stand was, so we said at the take off where we were headed for and when we got there he stood with me as Pete went to the other side. He was David Dick and a Free Lance writer and has written things which have been published in the New Yorker, one at least last summer, (must look back and see) He was delighted to find the thing so informal and a real competition, evidently is looking for material. I asked him a bit about the New Yorker (he is a Canadian and was in the Navy during the War. has a wife & 3 children and they took a house in Banff for the winter, came in January.) I spoke to him about being so sorry about Helen Hokinson's death for I figured she was just a young women, but he said " Oh no! She was over sixty he thought and maybe 70, and she was just like the women she portrayed. Used to come into the New Yorker office and lay down her drawings and walk out, looked just like the women she drew. We may see more of him but don't dare ask them to the house, they have a 4 year old who doesn't seem to obey too well, each time we have given them a lift in the car he has refused to get out of the car, wanting " xxxxxxxx " a wide " and being in tears. So we think we won't have too much to do with the little boy!

That evening was the Junior Hockey game and a very good one we thought, they won too and it was a nice mild night to sit out and watch.

X Saturday was a bit colder, or felt colder. We had to judge the ice sculpture on the main street. The school children carve animals out of great big blocks of ice, 3 feet square on the end and 5 feet long I should think. The Gov't place one block on another for a base and the clear green ice is really lovely and how the children do so well I don't know. It was hard to choose. There was a howling wolf we thought very good and a dog with much life, a penguin, elephant and many other things, even a skunk. We also watched the boys race down Tunnel Mt in groups of 4 or 5, all starting 4 at a time, and during that they held snow shoe races which the little girls we know were in. That was really why we went. Lael, Mary Lee, Susan and a couple of others, Lona too. They were really funny and all fell by the wayside in the deep snow but Mary Lee who managed to get through the finish line only to fall on her nose in a deep drift! She also won the potato race on snow shoes, so is considered champion.

In the afternoon was the Ice Frolic, where they have the fancy skating. With the cold weather and then Mrs Simpson having to go east because of her sister being so sick, they had little chance to practise, but on the whole they did very well and the tiny ones from 4 years old up were so cunning. they sort of skated nursery rhymes. They also had a few Calgary skaters which helped fill out the show. It was overcast but warm enough and there were lots there, the towns people turn out in force for that.

Saturday night was a Senior hockey game and they also won. We happened to sit near the opponents supporters from Gleichen. They were pretty sure they would win in the beginning and then as Banff piled up more and more goals until it ended 8-4 they knew they hadn't much chance, but they were good sports about it and we all had fun teasing each other. They had driven way up and had the long drive back, well over 150 miles each way and some were in a School bus which isn't made for comfortable driving.

You can see we were going fairly steadily and in between the usual things. Sunday was Ski Jumping at Norquay and we loaded up the cameras, made up a lunch and with a pack sack set out about 11. It too was a nice day, a little chilly at times when the wind blew but warm in the sun. We dug a hole in the snow off the path and tramped it down and then sat and watched. Pete got a few pictures for he wanted to try the long lens and the Jumping was very good. Just the Camrose jumpers and one from B.C. and Art Krowchuck the only local boy and he hadn't been jumping before this year. We didn't try to climb up to the takeoff as the light wasn't good enough. We saw a number of people we knew but very few local people bother to go up when it is a crowded Sunday, there is no place to sit, except when you take something as we did to sit on. and you can't get to the food counter either. That's why we take our lunch.

As soon as the Jumping was over, about 3 o'clock, we started down in the Jeep. Got to the first turn, or at least a quarter of a mile from it and could go no further. ^{a line of cars} waited about 20 minutes and 3 cars finally came up, then another wait and we crept along. down. Seems one car's chains got wrapped around the axle and

bus

they being stuck the cars got jammed. one ~~truck~~ was backed off to the side of the hairpin turn and all the down traffic moved along slowly. We must have passed 50 cars waiting to move up and several busses. We took about an hour to get home which wasn't bad. The Jack Brewsters we heard took 1 1/2 hours to get up and 2 hours to get down. Usually it takes 20 minutes. It is a wonder they manage as well as they do for there are some places on the road you just can't pass, they make everyone use chains which is something. What they will do during the North American I don't know, several have ideas of how the traffic should be handled but evidently the R.C.M.P. Sergeant in charge has his own ideas. The Modres were all up there and Ed Steel and a few others.

This week I have been trying to get the house in order a bit, especially the kitchen, have done pretty well, a little each day, the cupboards, dusted the walls, and yesterday cleaned the silver in the afternoon, would have finished it before supper but Pete wanted to get the Ski models back from Charlie Beil (we had taken them up on Monday for him to put on a bronze finish until he had time etc to cast them in bronze.) However they were still too tacky to bring home, so instead of writing you last night I finished cleaning the silver. Hadn't done it for months and some of it nearly needed it. Then this morning got the floor washed and Glo-coat put on, so it looks quite clean. Then we had a leak in the back toilet after it was turned off in the cold weather. So each time we used it ~~wash~~ or did the washing had to turn it on in the basement etc. So to-day got Steam Watt to come and fix it, asked him as he did, that if he would get us a quieter toilet for the back one we would like him to. He said he thought a new valve would fix it, so went home and came back in a few minutes with a washer for the leak and a new valve and float thing for the toilet and it doesn't make a noise at all! While we were waiting for him I started on the windows, some are smoked inside and others had drips on the outside and we got them all done down stairs, so now it almost looks as if I had the spring cleaning done!

Monday we spent a while in the afternoon trying to find out if anyone was flying from Aspen when Alec was and got involved talking to Jim Morrison who is head of the committee, It was rather interesting for he told us all about the Ski Jumping at Revelstoke where the Norwegian Team had been. the ones at Lake Placid. He said they were to go ~~thhough~~ on the train that afternoon to Calgary and fly from there. We went down thinking it would be fun to see them as one was Peter Hugsted who jumped here last year. but the train was late. wasn't coming until 9. We had Lona and Mary Lee with us, they are our great frineds. After supper Pete began to think of the Norwegians and that it would be nice to take them something to the train. That was when I was writing you. so out we went and tried to find Jock McCowan to open the Grocery for us. Went ~~to~~ the curling rink but couldn't find him there, watched a couple of ends, then were on our way to his house when we spotted another Grocery store man on his way home and he was kind enough to open up his store and we got fruit and candy for them. in two baskets. Then down to the station, the train came at ten o'clock. Jim Morrison was there too. He and Pete found the jumpers in the Day coach and all asleep, I didn't get on the train at all for I knew they wouldn't care about seeing me and also I managed to keep the conductor from leaving too soon before the others got off

though maybe I shouldn't have bothered and let them go to Canmore ! They found Peter Hugsted and he remembered having been to our house last year and then Pete met Asborn Ruud and had a nice talk with him. He said they were awfully pleased to have some one come down to the station. so it was all sort of fun. *They all woke up with the end -*

Tuesday night was the Brownies Valentine party at the skating rink. The girls, Lona and Mary Lee came in the afternoon on their way home from school to show us their valentines, they were very amusing and told me all the ones they liked and didn't like, they both like Harold best. Allan came in while they were still here, He was going to bring the Girls who had come from Le Pas, Manitoba (way up north) to tea if they came back from Sunshine in time, but they couldn't come in the end, which was just as well. Instead Allan stayed for a glass of beer and sort of relax a bit and then they all thought of the Skating party to start at 7 and it was then quarter of six and the girls had their costumes to get ready so away they went. We just had time for our supper and over to the rink.

I wish you could have seen it you would have loved it. All the little children from 4 to 12 I guess, were in costume and they skated around first until the costumes were judged. They were really very good. Donny Becker was the best I thought, dressed as an Indian and when he skated around he managed to dance sort of on his skates as the Indians do. Another tiny tot, a little boy was also an Indian and awfully cunning so he got the prize, but we thought Donny should have. Jonny got a prize too, he had a page costume on, actually the I.O.D.E. Costume they used in the parade during carnival but very fitting becoming to Jonnie. Little girls were dressed in all sorts of costumes and little Georgie Harris had a tiny dress suit on and as he is very unsteady on his skates he looked a little tight and was most amusing. After the grand parade they had races. All ages first and then a wheel barrow race where one holds their leg out in front in a sitting position and the other pushes from behind. Lona and Mary Lee won that, but the surprising part was that all the ages took part and all sizes too and some of the littlest did as well as the big kids. They had a Choo-choo race too. Four in a row, the front kid sitting on the feet of the second and each with hands on the shoulders in front. The two in back doing the pushing, as you may imagine quite a few collapsed before they got down the ice.

Afterwards I began to think how well the kids played together here, boys and girls of all ages and sizes and there was never an argument or a tear, they all had a good time and no parents did more than bring them down and maybe sat as we did and watched and most of the kids came on their own. It lasted from 7 to 9.

It is now Friday morning, Pete is going to take some pictures of the ski models now they look like bronze and in between I will get the front room vacuumed and picked up a bit. With the milder weather we have been able to sit in there more and the temperature has come up to a comfortable one, but we do hope to have the new fan before long *in the furnace*

Loads of Love and will try to answer your questions and get caught up a bit this weekend.

Loads of love

Catherine.

P.S. just got your letter of last Sunday - we feel so sorry you had a sore throat but glad you were better - about again. I wondered why we had had no letters this week.

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. Feb. 22, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

I think to-day is Washington's birthday, but to tell the truth I have sort of forgotten which day it is. We have been pretty busy this week and most likely we will be so until after the coming weekend. Am sorry I haven't done so well with letters and when you have had a sore throat too. Just hope that by now it is alright and you are feeling fine again.

Had better hurriedly tell you about this week before more happens. Sunday I spent sort of tidying up things and also made a cake which seemed to take a lot of time. Did I tell you Alec Bright was to arrive in Calgary by plane from Aspen & Denver at 5 o'clock, too late for the bus connection and we didn't think anyone would be driving up on a Sunday afternoon, but Pete suddenly remembered that Lloyd Harmon was maybe coming back then and we spent Saturday morning trying to get hold of him at the Palliser, which we eventually did and he met Alec at the Airport, took him to tea with friends and then drove him to Banff, which was nice for both of them. We went over to the Mt Royal a little after 8 in the evening and hadn't been there long when they came in. After Alec had washed up a bit we went with them to the Dominion Cafe and they had supper.

My but it was good to see Alec Again. You may not remember but Pete went on a couple of Ski Weekends from Concord and rode with Alec. He went so fast and usually got into trouble with police who he would talk out of arresting him, and most of the skiers wouldn't ride with him. Well he told us that he and the Bob Livermores hired a drive yourself car in Denver to go to Aspen and then they stayed on a few days and he drove back to Denver alone late Saturday night, about 2 A.M. he got arrested in Denver, (too long a story to tell here) but he went on the wrong side of an island and didn't keep 1000 feet from the car ahead or some such fool thing, however he again talked the cop out of going to court that night and they are to send his fine or whatever the thing is to Boston to be collected. I think Russ will be amused. Alec is just the same and looks so well, though he was pretty tired after the 200 mile drive to Denver.

Thurs. May not have time to write more in this. Last night George Eneil brought the Italian racers down an Austrian & Canadian & we had 5 Swiss in before supper. Are terribly busy. Alec at Sunshine Skiing may be in to-day. Will scribble more while Pete shops. Monday we took Alec up to Norway. a wonderful morning first real blue sky we have had. Introduced him

to all we could & left him to ski. Then in late afternoon
he came around to house & we had supper for him &
a nice evening talking things mostly. He ate 4 lamb
chops & 3 baked sweet potatoes & said he enjoyed
his meal. He wanted to ski out in the mountains so
we arranged for him to go to Sunshine. Luckily

I gave the 5 kids gingerale and what was left of the toast cookies cake etc. and they ate at the dining table, good as gold. The others had to go and Carl and Barbara drove the Swiss home. So I finally suggested to the kids it was time for them to go home to supper, and they all said " Oh, we don't need any supper we have had enough to eat here." I can believe them.

By six only Alec was left and we sat down to hear about his trip to Sunshine. Then Harold came, I guess he had heard from Jonny how the Swiss skiers had been here, for after meeting Alec and listening a while he spoke up and said, to Alec " May I ask which team you are racing on ? " this pleased Alec very much and made him feel quite young. I think Harold wanted to feel he had met someone important, for the next night when Alec was here for supper before taking the bus to Calgary, Harold came with Deets to deliver the paper, I was paying Deets and Harold stuck his head around the kitchen door and with a great wave called out. " Well, Goodbye Alec! " as if they were old friends and it was really funny, also to impress Deets I guess.

We thought we would get chinese supper and bring it here and Alec would have it with us Friday night, but Alec wanted to first see where the American skiers were and if they would like to come down to our house in the evening so we took him up to the School and he found Sally Neidlinger first but she said the boys were all billeted at the old Y.W.C.A. near the Cave and Basin and as she wanted to take her skis up there to wax, she came along with us. We spotted the Americans at the Banff Cafe when we went through town and so stopped again, much confusion for Alec went to see George Macomber and Sally with him. she came back, put her skis in the boys car, went back for Alec and the boys went off, so when Alec came back we took them both up to the old Y. and then it was getting late so left Alec at the Mt Royal to come over later if he liked as he had met other friends on the corner, and also wanted to get washed up.

We came home and had a supper of some kind at 8 and then about 9 or 9.30 Alec came with Eldred who is editor of the Ski Magazine and Jean Stewart who is out at Sunshine and who we used to know on the Trail Hikes. We had a very pleasant evening joking and talking about skiing etc. and I guess it was 11.30 when they left.

Next morning was the Men's downhill and we thought there might be such a crowd we would have to be up early. We made a lunch and started about 9 o'clock, but the crowd was disappointing and we needn't have been so early. However we got an excellent place to watch the race from on one of the corners, and parked the car in an old parking place. We could see about 2/3rds of the race and it really was rather thrilling. They ran ten ~~and~~ at 1 minute intervals and then a pause to retrain the trail for with the fresh snow falls the racers wanted it well tramped. In fact some wouldn't start until the whole thing had been sideslipped. and it was late starting. We watched with binoculars, but got a bit confused as to who was coming as someone came up the road and said they were racing in a different order and got us mixed up. But it was wonderful to see anyway and we enjoyed it.

Zeno Colo won, Egon Schopf was 2nd and Pravda of Austria 3rd. Then we all went up to Norquay itself and saw the ladies Downhill in the afternoon which ended there. The crowd was not too large but gave us a chance to see people and it was lots of fun. Syd Feuz son of one of the Swiss Guides at Lake Louise and who used to be at Temple was there and Pete could introduce him to Arnold Clattard and he met all the Swiss which was nice. and we also were able to introduce Alec to a lot of people. An American girl. Janette Burr won the Ladies downhill which was quite wonderful, Dagmar Romm came 2nd and a Canadian 3rd. Sandra Tomlinson from Vancouver.

Alec was to leave that night so after we got home and did a few things we went to the Mt. Royal, I went in to ask for him and they told me he had just gone upstairs, lucky I thought quickly and realized it would be better if Pete went up rather than me, for he found Alec in his long red underwear ! We asked him over for supper and rushed home to get the roast in and had it and the rest all cooked by six for the train was to leave at 6.45. However when we got him to the station the train was later again so we decided the bus would be safer for him. Were just leaving there to come to the house for a bit longer, when there was a " Hello , Hello, school?" and a very excitable Frenchman came running after us. so we said yes we would take him up there, He was the manager of the French team. He only spoke French and was too funny, waving his arms and the less we understood the more he shouted. We three were in the front of the Jeep and he behind , Alec asked if he knew Dr'ean Paul and he got so excited about that he started a string of French and spluttered away, Alec trying to speak what French he could. They even wrote a postcard to Dr Paul in the Jeep. and as we went up the hill the Frenchman named "Tout" was talking so loud and fast you could have heard him all over Banff and I got the giggles. We finally got him up to the school and we were all exhausted and deaf as well. The funniest things like that happen all the time.

We both saw Alec off on the bus about 8 for he was to catch the 1 A.M. plane in Calgary.

Sunday was the Slalom, we woke at 5 A.M. to hear of all things rain on the roof. It was too discouraging and rained lightly in Banff all day. Luckily it snowed at Norquay but couldn't have been much worse for a meet. We didn't hurry this time and got up to Norquay about ten I guess. the Ladies Slalom was to be at 10.30 but the 4 or more inches of snow that had fallen in the night had to be packed and the race was late starting, We stood all day until we left after five when the men's slalom was still going on and by afternoon it was snowing so hard you couldn't see the top of the course. It really was miserable and wet but not too cold. Met lots of people like the Oliver Kaddahs of Glenwood Minnesota who are here for the Jumping mostly. He was Junior Champion in the states in 1916, 17 & 18 and has jumped ever since. Norena his wife and I went part way up the Slalom course which is more interesting and Jonny stood with us.

Zeno Colo won again, and George Schneider was 2nd and Egon Schopf was 3rd I think. Dagmar Romm had won the ladies Slalom in the morning. There was one pair of flags they went through near us which most of them sort of swore at or made some exclamation, but we never did know what they said as each time it was a different

language. and one man made a swoshing noise with his mough each time he went through a set of flags. They were really very fine to watch but to the average person not a skier, it gets a bit monotonous as they look much the same to them.

That night was. - This is all I got done last night so will send it along and write you again first chance. This too is a busy weekend with the Dominion Downhill, Slalom and Jumping, the Cross country to-day which we may or may not see.

The weather has gotten cloudy again but just hope it is nice over the weekend.

Loads of love

Catharine

R.R.
109
Banff, Alberta.
Sun. Feb. 26, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

The first half of the North American Ski Championships are over and perhaps if I don't get too sleepy I can tell you a bit about it all. Its been fun and interesting too and we met quite a lot of the skiers from Europe.

I think I may have told you that Alec Bright went out to Sundshine on Tuesday morning and we saw him off on the bus at ten. Fern was going out too which was nice, she remembers José Harris and Larry Lombard when they were here years ago. We saw a number of people at the hotel. Harvey Clifford being back from Aspen etc. We had to take the Ski Models over to Harmons where they had a window display of the North American Trophies and as a background of flags of all the nations taking part in the meet. The Norwegian and Swedish ones were those I had made last year, and then as they needed one of Chile and Yugoslavia I seemed to be the only one to try my hand at it. Alec had given us a F.I.S. Book with the flags in color so I used those to go by. They were only about half the size of a postage stamp so a little hard to get the proportions. Both the Chile and Yugoslavian ones have stars and that made it a little easier. A white star on a dark blue background for Chile and a red star on a yellow star on the Yugoslavian one. The points on the stars were the hard part but they looked very well in the end. Then Wednesday we suddenly realized that we had forgotten Austria, luckily that was just red, white and red in three stripes, so that was easy. After doing that, I think it was Thursday noon, Eleanor Crozier who works at Norquay came rushing in to see if I could possibly make another Austrian one for the Lodge as by mistake they had sent Australian ones instead of Austrian. So in an hour I managed to run one up for her. One has to get the measurements so exact to look right. Suddenly we realized there was an skier from the Argentine and no flag for him. I knew it was blue stripes with a white one in the centre so made that Thursday night late and then we went up to Norquay where they had one flying to see what kind of a "yellow sun" was in the center. I hauled the flag down to find it had no yellow sun! so asked a Chilean about it, and he said the sun is only used in time of war, so that simplified that! Pete calls me Catharine Bettsy Ross Whyte.

We went up to Norquay on Wednesday to see if any of the skiers had come to practise, but they were all pretty tired that first day from the plane trip from Aspen and bus to Banff and there wasn't much excitement. When we did see the Italian Team arrive and go right up the Lift to have a run down the Downhill course. One girl who we could recognize as Celina Seghi, and Zeno Colo too. Later we went on down the road in the Jeep and found all the Italian team waiting at the end of the course. We offered as many as would like a ride, but the men decided to wait and only Miss Seghi came with us. She could speak a few words of English and naturally we can't speak any Italian, However we did

quite well in monosyllables. She is the racer who cracked her shoulder blade in the Arlberg-Kandahar race, and then to run in the Slalom (after completeing the downhill in great pain) they gave her a shot of morphine so she could hold her ski sticks. She was very anxious to do well in the slalom for if she came among the first 3 she would win her "gold K " which means a great deal. I think you have to be a winner 3 years in succession to get it. She made the first run and the timing didn't work so she had to run ~~that~~ again, but the morphine effects were wearing off and she didn't do too well, but the 2nd run she had another shot of something and made a wonderful run and got her gold K, by coming 3rd. We read about this in the British Ski Year book. We asked her about it and she said " 2 months my arm like this " and showed her arm in the air at shoulder height. We brought her to the house and she was very pleased and looked all around, and then we took her to the Summer School chalet where she is living with the other competitors. Ever since whenever she sees us she comes up and shakes hands. Its rather fun.

Then I finished the Austiran flag and we were taking it over to Harmons about six and as we rounded the King Edward corner saw several of the Swiss team there in the crossing. recognized Arnold Glattard who is their coach and who we used to see race in Europe before the war. Pete called out. " Arnold Glattard?" and he was much surprised. We asked if they would like a ride to the school but they thought they would like some beer in town, so we said to come to the house, they all piled into the Jeep. Sylvia Muheullman with her leg in a cast from a fall at Aspen, and the rest boys. Bernard and Gottlieb Perren from Zermatt and a boy from Wengen, still don't know his name. They were delighted with the house and as Pete said all felt the logs. We had the pictures we had taken of the racers before the war and even one of Arnold and he was so pleased. They didn't want to go and wanted to bring the rest of the racers to the house later which of course we said would be fine, and they said they would come the next afternoon after skiing. We also showed Arnold the Ski sticks we got in Switzerland and still use, Marked " Glattard Champion" on them. He was very pleased and the rest kidded him about it. They were all so nice. He is older now and doesn't race but is a wonderful mountain guide too. speaks good English too. We took them all up to the chalet on Tunnel Mt about 7 and then found Harmons closed and had the flag to deliver to someone so it was late when we had our supper at last. Pete was sleepy and tired after all that excitement and I think I was going to write you and suddenly there was a rap on the window and it was George Encil.

He had the Italians with him, Zeno Colo, the farmer who won the Downhill and Giant Slalom at the World Championships at Aspen and has won the downhill and Slalom here too. and two other racers none of whom could speak any English. Then the two D.P. Yugoslavians who work up at Norquay for him to interpret for us. a Canadian girl and Franz Gabl one of the Austrian Racers. They all had to see the house and even some slides in the new viewer and we had a busy time. They didn't want any beer or anything but did eat Candy. Zeno was rather on edge because of the races to come, but saw Pete's camera and that interested him very much. They stayed a while and then the Italians left for the skating rink about 10 and the ~~other~~ others

stayed until well after 11. but you know it is rather tiring struggling with a few words to express yourself. and one does a heap of hand waving and smiling etc.

That was a full day Wednesday. Thursday we were busy all morning though we had thought of going up to Norquay before lunch. and I think it was then I made the Austrian flag for Norquay, then when we did go up to Norquay we picked up the Canadian boys who were waiting for a ride at the end of the downhill which comes out near the road. Somehow we got six skiers as well as their skis in the Jeep with us. One boy I had to link arms with to hold him in, but they are nice lads and we had fun taking them up. Harvey Clifford's brother John was one and young Andy Tommy aged 17 was another (he did very well in the downhill next day coming in 15th 3 places ahead of George Macomber who was the 1st American) Tommy might have had an advantage having worked on the trail last summer though he comes from Ottawa. and one boy Georgas who comes from Owen Sound and knows Cam there.

We met a few more skiers at Norquay, one Sally Neidlinger of Hanover N.H. who I liked very much she was so easy and nice about things. We also saw Celine again ~~and xxxixixix~~ (I forgot that morning we had met the Swiss girl Sylvia at the Post Office and driven her home).

No more time
Loads of love
Catherine

104
Banff, Alberta.
Wed. March 1, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

Hard to realize it is March though someone saw robins a couple of days ago and the crows are back too. We have been so busy with one thing or another that I haven't had a chance to write it has been lots of fun meeting all the various skiers but makes it hectic too.

Better go back to where I left off and next week I will spend getting caught up on my letters. I hope !

A week ago Thursday, Feb. 23rd. We did errands and such like in the morning, met Sylvia Muhelmann (of Interlaken in Switzerland) in the morning at the post office, and Mrs Valance was there too, and as they are going over there this summer we introduced them. Sylvia has her leg in a cast so wasn't skiing and we got something for another Swiss girl with a cold and then drove her up to the Chalets where they are all staying. Nice for the European Competitors to be billeted at the new and attractive summer school buildings, they had their meals there too.

In the afternoon we went to Norquay to see what was going on and as the little Austrian Downhill champion had just run into a tree and hurt the muscles of her leg we offered her a ride home. She could speak only a few words of English and Pete a few words of German, but we managed quite well. She was married just over a year ago and has a son 4 months old, born in October I think she said. She was a top racer before and this year won the World's championship in the downhill and Giant Slalom. She is just a little girl too. We brought her to the house and made her a cup of tea, then as we expected the Swiss team to come sometime after 4 " I stayed and Pete took her up to the School stopping first to see Dr MacKenzie who was so busy he said he would see her at 11 next morning. *Her name is Trude Joham. Buser.*

That same afternoon the kids came along. Lona and Mary Lee and later Jonny, We told them the Swiss were coming and they were of course greatly interested. We waited and waited and I got some slides sorted out to show them but when it got past 5.30 and nearly six we knew something had happened to prevent them coming and after all they couldn't let us know. The kids went home rather disappointed, That evening was the one I think I spent writing you.

Friday there were snow squalls, we had really very dull weather all week, not our usual sunshine which was too bad. We made a quick trip up to Norquay to see what the sun in the *Argentine* centre should look like, and as we went up found a good many of the Canadian Ski team at the foot of the run. We stopped to pick them up and somehow got six boys with their skis in the Jeep with us and though it was a bit crowded we hated to leave just one behind.

All the boys are so nice and very appreciative of the little things one does such as a ride.

At eleven we had to pick up Trude Jocham Beiser, the little Austrian girl, to take her to the doctors. I found her busy washing out the Austrian boys shirts and she had just finished when the drying rack had collapsed landing the clean wet clothes on the floor so she was busy giving them an extra rinse and rather discouraged. She got ready and then took me over to the manager in the next chalet. Ernst Skaderarsy (of Zurs in the Arlberg) to interpret for her. He said she didn't really think Trude needed to go to the doctors as they had been putting on sloans linement etc. but she also wanted her hair washed so I said we would take her down and make an appointment for her at Mrs Boons, which we did. It took most of the morning and then after seeing Dr MacKenzie we both went to Skaderarsy to tell what the doctor had said. Trude comes from Lech where we both have skied in Austria. That sort of made a bond in common.

In the afternoon we did a bit of running around trying to find Trude to take her down, but just as we were getting ready to go out Mr Ness came to call, he is an old man and wasn't feeling well so had to drive him home and by the time ~~Trude had gone~~ we got to the school Trude had gone. However I found her at Mrs Boons so that was allright. Then there was the opening ceremony where the Superintendent spoke welcoming the skiers and they introduced the Captains of the teams and broke out their flags at the same time. It began to snow towards the end and wasn't too bright.

After that the Swiss wanted to come to the house but unfortunately Arnold Glatthard couldn't come, a meeting for him. but he got the rest rounded up and we took some of them and Barbara Whyte the rest in her car. She is the one in the post office and a great skier and we had asked her down to meet them. Also the Vallances and Lona and Mary Lee to help. They found Jonny and Billy MacKenzie and Susan Mather so the five kids all arrived at the same time, much excited. I have forgotten how many Swiss came, but Sylvia, A Miss Bleuer of Grindlewald, Miss Olivia Ausoni Gottlieb Perren of Zermatt who was here before, and several other men I don't know the names of. I hadn't gotten much ready as I didn't know if they would really come, but Barbara helped get raisin toast made and Susan was a big help too. Then I had just got all the tea ready when Pete found two deer at the back and most of the Swiss disappeared to feed them. a bit of confusion for then Carl and Laura Oakander arrived with Ethel Knight. The Oakanders having just arrived from Ottawa where Carl is in the R.C.A.F. Also Dr and Nellie MacKenzie came in, much surprised to find Billy here (their son) It was quite a party. The kids were very good, showed the slides in the viewer and passed cake and cookies etc. and never took any until all the rest were served. In the height of the party Alec Bright dropped in having just arrived from Sunshine. There were I think 21 in all. GrosJean was another of the Swiss racers who came.

Alec said afterwards he never saw people so thoroughly engrossed in things, for the Swiss made themselves right at home and were looking at books and pictures and seemed to enjoy it.

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. March 7, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

This seems to be about the first chance I have had to write you since the end of the Ski races, we went to bed too early last night to write and the evening before someone came in. We decided they had too many things going on for too long a time and I think everyone got a little tired. I don't know when I will get organized and get my letters answered etc. but would like to write you first. The Kaldahls come in from Sunshine to-night and may be over so I will just write what I can while we are haging new lights put in the kitchen.

Now of course I can't remember when I wrote last or at least what I told you about. Seems to me it was about Alec Bright leaving or was it the time the Swiss team came for tea? Maybe that was where I left off. Perhaps you had better let me know if I have missed a day! Saturday was the first race, that was Feb. 25th. The North American Downhill. We thought there might be quite a crowd so were up early but we needn't have hurried for there weren't so very many watching, Quite a few along the course who went on skis but we shose a corner on the road and could see the whole upper part of the course and then the racers were hidden through the trees on a rddge and then they came down a winding trail in the trees which was very steep and exciting to watch. The fact that the first 36 were only 15 seconds behind the first shows how close they are.

This letter is so interrupted with Cecil working in the kitchen above me and he and Pete talking all the time, and now it is nealy five and we have to meet the Kaldals as they leave in the morning early and when they have gone we can perhaps settle down a bit to do things.

Do hope you are feeling better and your throat O.K. Am sorby Cousin Jane is no better but I never realized she was over 70. The Eastland sounds very nice, We have lived in such an apartment in Vancouver where you push the bed away and it is very handy and gives one a whole room to live in, better too than some one sitting on your bed that looks like a couch. The bed is kept made up and just pushes out of the way on a sort of hinge. It is nice she will have her own bath and a kithchenette no matter how small with even a sink and frig. Then I expect in summer she will go out to the Cape where she has her own rooms.

Will send this along so you will know I haven't forgote you. Loads of love always

Catharine

Haven't read over.

106
Banff, Alberta.
Wed. March 8, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

I didn't do too well with my letter yesterday and no doubt will be no better to-day. Cecil finished putting up the new lights in the kitchen, (we have had the same temporary ones for the last 19 years) These are floreseent ones, two 24 inch ones with a very plain fixture. one set over the stove, another over the dining table and the 3rd near the door. They give more light and it is spread over a greater area. We also are having a 40 foot one hidden behind a beam in the ceiling to light the other end of the big room. One on either side and we hope it will also light the pictures on either side over the cupboards. We never have enough light to show the pictures to advantage. *They are up & are just right. make a soft light on the wall & good on the paintings*

Seems to me I must have told you all about the races for the North American Ski Championships the weekend that Alec left. He saw the downhill which was really quite a sight to see and then left by bus for Calgary, we made him supper that night when we found the train was late and then afterwards he wrote he had to wait over as it was too cloudy or foggy for the plane to land. Its too bad he couldn't have come back for the Slalom on Sunday, though it was a miserable day here. Am sure I must have written how it rained in Banff and snowed up the hill but the races went on just the same, the last one finishing at 6. practifally in the dark and I guess no spectators left.

Monday we were up very early, 6:30 A.M. even though we were tired, as we thought ~~they were~~ the competitors were to leave at 8. Went up to the Summer School chalets where they were all staying but no one was around. Some Game wardens came over to their breakfast as they are having a course for them up there this month, and as no skiers appeared we drove back down and gave Earl Pletch and George Encil a ride back up. Then we came home for a minute and by the time we went back up again the Grayhound busses had arrived and the various skiers were getting in. The buses, 2 of them were to take them to Court on the border and other American busses would meet them there and drive the skiers to Great Falls, and from there to Sun Valley.

The poor drivers had sometime trying to count them as the skiers were in and out and back and forth and few could speak very good English. Some wanted to stop in town on the way so they left and we drove George and Arnold Glattard downtown as they were still working over accounts etc. Then they took a picture of them all by the bridge and we waved them on their way. Then we tried to sheer up George who was discouraged because they hadn't had a better crowd up the hill to see them. We think there were several reasons, the newspapers took it for granted that a lot would come but there aren't many interested in downhill ^{jumping} compared to Jumping, and a good many can only afford to come up one weekend

and waited for the Jumping competition the next weekend. It was also the end of the month which means a lot to people earning a small wage. Then the newspapers didn't work up the people's interest enough with stories about the skiers etc. and they also shouldn't have had more than one weekend of skiing and forgotten about holding the Dominion Championships the same year as the North Americans.

That Monday we did a good deal of talking on the main street and errands too. Met Mrs Simpson who is just back with her sister Belle who has cancer and maybe only a short time to live, Mrs Simpson and the neice, Billie Stewart (who is an airline hostess on the trans Atlantic planes) brought Belle out by train ^{from New York} and they had a very difficult trip. The sister is in the hospital here and only has part of one lung. Anyway we asked Mrs Simpson and Billie to tea to sort of cheer them up and Oliver Kaldahl came in too. He is the ski Jumper from Glenwood Minnesota who was Junior boys Champion for 4 years in the states and used to jump up here when Pete was jumping. He also jumped this last Sunday though he is just Russell's age and will be 50 in November. He jumped 161 feet and came 18th out of 41 jumpers, not too bad. George had asked if he could bring the two Austrian skiers who had stayed over for the Dominions, down that evening, so we asked the Kaldahls and Billie Stewart to come back which they did.

George brought Dagmar Romm who won the Ladies Slalom at the F.I.L.S. at Aspen (the World Championships) She won the downhill & Slalom and combined at the North American Races and again at the Dominions. She is a University student from Innsbruck and such a sweet attractive young girl with golden hair and a lovely smile and manner. The boy was Egon Schoepf also of Innsbruck and he came 3rd in the downhill at Aspen, 2nd in the North American, being just 3/10ths of a second behind Colo the Italian. Then as he is the best Austrian and holds the record for the fastest course in Europe he was expected to walk away with the Dominion downhill but a 17 year old Quebec student from Laval Univ. won and beat Egon by just 3/10ths of a second too. *Andre Buthaud*.

The Kaldahls came over and also Billie Stewart and we had quite an evening, looking at the Indian things and some slides etc. Also the European photographs as Egon was at the Olympics in 1936 when we were. It has been fun meeting the competitors. Dagmar and Egon have a romance and I think are to be married soon. It all happened at Aspen.

Tuesday. it was -2 below and a wonderful clear day, the kind we usually have quite a few of but the last three weeks have only had a couple, very disappointing. It looked as if it might be nice for several days and as the jumpers hadn't arrived to practise we decided to do things here, like washing woollens etc. and go up the hill the next day. Oliver was down in the morning and we chatted quite a while, also Edmé came in the afternoon, wanted us to go up to her house at 4.30 as she was having the Kaldahls and Doug Haines. a C.P.R. man from Montreal who Oliver knew years ago. We went up there later on but were the first to arrive and finally Pete went and got the others and then it was

7.30

6.30 when we got back from there. We so seldom go up to Edmees when asked we thought we had better do it this time and had a good time too.

Had a late supper (our meals th~~is~~ last two weeks have been quick and at all hours) and Carl Oakander came in to ask some information we had in Ski books etc. Had a nice talk with him and while still here Jim Simpson came in to tell us that there would be a good hockey game for the competitors to see the next night, and he stayed and talked a while so it was bedtime when he left. One thing he told us which I thought interesting, is that the week of the full moon the nights are apt to be frosty and the weather good.

Wednesday, was clear and we slept late. Allan came in the morning and we got talking about Ski meets and Carnivals etc. Then we did errands as it was the day the stores close early in the afternoon, and we planned to have an early lunch and go right up to Norquay afterwards. But while doing the dishes, Carl and Laura Oakander came and we started talking and it was about 3 before they left and we were to follow in the Jeep. We did about 10 minutes later but as we went up the Norquay road we saw Lois Woodworth with a boy who must have had a bad spill for his face was all cut and covered with blood. They were sitting by the road at the end of the downhill course. So of course we turned around and drove the boy to the hospital.

He was a French Canadian lad named Raymond Houle, a student of pharmacy at Laval Univ. and from Quebec City. Several of the boys flew out to train for the dominions. and have been here two weeks in all. The boy had fallen near the bottom of the course and cut his head on the ice. He had two long cuts from his eyebrows to his hair line and a deep cut towards the corner of his eye. Lois had padded this with a clean handkerchief and torn a bit off her white shirt to make a pad behind his glasses so we couldn't see how bad it was, but it all looked pretty gorry.

We took him first to the Clinic and Pat told Pete to take him to the hospital and he would be right up to put some stitches in. So up we went and Pete went in with the lad who was an awfully good sport about it all. I waited outside for nearly 3/4 of an hour, Mrs Simpson coming along talked for most of the time. The poor lad had to be given a local anesthetic and put on the operating table but he asked for the little French Canadian nurse and they could speak French to-gether. Pete watched the whole thing which I shouldn't have enjoyed. Afterwards we brought the lad back to the house and gave him some coffee and he acted as if nothing at all had happened. Jonny came in and he was too cunning, never made any comments but went to work drawing the lad a "souvenir of Banff" and wrote on it "a Souvenir of Banff from Jon White and from Catharine and Pete also" It was a picture of a skating rink and ski jump. Then after about half an hour here we took the lad back to the house they are rooming in.

Next morning we went up first thing to see how he was making out. He had been so very appreciative of all Pete had done

and thinks the people in Banff so very friendly etc. Which is nice for a French Canadian to feel as sometimes they think there is a prejudice between east and west. He said he found the people here so clean and honest. Anyway Pete found him in bed and his head hadn't bothered him but his shoulder was awfully sore. so later that day he saw Pat and had ^{and a 35} massage. The next day he went in the Downhill Race and came 7th. Said he didn't dare fall ! How he ever raced with such a face and six stitches in the deep cut which had just missed his eye I don't know. It had cut right through the muscle too. He certainly was a lad with courage.

Seems to me that was the evening I wrote you. Thursday was the ~~lan~~lauf or cross country race but we thought we would rather go up to Norquay and see if the jumpers were practising. It was fairly clear and we thought we could at least take a few portraits. The Jumpers had come and we were quite surprised to have Art Devlin remember us from last year. He had just broken the North American Record the weekend before at Steamboat Springs by Jumping 307 feet I think it was. Art Tockle and Mezzie Barbour we also met, they are the three best Americans and out jumped some Norwegians at Lake Placid. Oliver was there and we had a pleasant time meeting various ones. Found that Laura and Carl Oakander had brought Art Devlin around when we were at the hospital the afternoon before. Too bad we missed thier visit for we never did get them down again, but expect they will be jumping here again another year. That was the day I discovered I had missed sending the First Day stamp covers of the new issue, but Ila LaCasse was very nice and said they would stamp them as if mailed the day previous. Can't remember what I did that night unless it was to make out cheques.

Friday was the Dominion Downhill Race which we watched from the same spot as the other race, there weren't many there so we didn't have to hurry up. It was fun to watch and some were awfully good. the little French Canadian boy never checked but once near the end I think they said, he took it ~~xxxx~~ as straight as he could and the course being faster he even beat the time of the Italian the week before. We went up to Norquay Lodge later and watched the ladies race, there were only 8 entries which seemed a shame, don't know why more local girls didn't try for the Juniors raced with the Seniors. Dagmar Romm won easily by 6 seconds I think and Lois Woodworth a local girl was 2nd. Then we came home giving Houle a ride down and also the new champion, ^{and a 35} who was a friend of his. We picked up two Vancouver boys at the bottom of the road and they all came to the house with us. Pete thought it a good idea to have them mix east and west. They all like the house and it is fun for them to come to a Banff house. The two Quebec boys whad to go back to study so they said.

That evening we were invited to Allan Mathers to a buffet supper for the Kaldals, the Hansens were there, the Cyril Parises and Barbara and it was a really nice evening. We all washed the dishes and did a lot of talking. It was a miserable evening as by then it was even raining and thawing. I have never seen worse winter weather, but in a way they were lucky that the worst of it wasn't when the races were on. It was midnight when we got home.

Saturday was the Slalom but we decided as the sky was nice with cloud effects we would try and get some jumping pictures while the boys were practising. Went up to Norquay about ten and up to the takeoff on the jumping hill. I tried color while Pete took black and white. We had bad luck for Pete's second film didn't go through as there was a brake in it so when he developed the roll that night there was of course no pictures on it. We didn't see the slalom but the jumping was wonderful to watch. Tom Mabratten had come from Vancouver. He was born in Kongsburg in Norway where the Ruud brothers come from and is a wonderful jumper, has been to the Olympics twice for Canada. We drove him down and then went around to have him see John Ness who's ~~xxfather~~ went to school with Tom's father. Mr Ness is getting pretty old but we knew it would mean a lot for him to see Tom. He wasn't home but his wife was, so saw her and then luckily met Mr Ness up town shopping and drove him home, visiting on the way. Mr Ness was the first president of the Ski Club in Banff when Pete was a boy. That took quite a bit of time and in the evening was the last hockey game of the season and supposed to be a good game.

We thought it would be as restful as anything to do but should have stayed home for we found a note on the door " Riley was here " meaning Dr Riley. Then beside his name " the Oakanders were here also " and below "Dagma, Egon. Geo. Ed and someone else" and next day the Kaldalhs said they came down too. We would have had quite an evening ! Actually we met George Encil down at the rink with Dagmar and Egon who were leaving next day, Ed Bryant who had the picture taken of Pete and his model of the trophy, and an Associated Screen News photographer who was to take movies in color and had no luck at all. They all came back with us from the game to the house and we had beer etc. and then took Dagmar and Egon home in the Jeep. It was the most beautiful moonlit night and promised a good day for Sunday, but at 3 in the morning I woke to find the moon hazy and if it didn't snow all day Sunday !

I think I told you Pete designed the pin for the North American Championship prizes, the winner in each event getting a gold pin with skis, the 2nd a silver, 3rd bronze and each contestant a silver one without skis or dark blue enamel. Then they made some for the officials without skis. and Pete was to get one but we didn't go to the banquet (as he doesn't like such things) when they were presented. Somehow Pete's was put back in the box when he didn't come up as his name was called and someone threw all the boxes in the garbage. George thought it was lost for sure but he hunted through the garbage and found it, so brought it over to Pete that night. and when Egon Schoph left he pinned his club badge onto Pete. it is black with a jumper in silver on it, very good looking and Pete is ticked to have it too.

Did I tell you Egon and Dagmar are engaged to be married so the full moon mean 't a lot to them! Maybe that was why Egon didn't win the race. He was having quite a time upsetting things and forgetting his hat etc. Quite funny really.

Bedtime so hope I remember how far I have gotten this time.

Might just as well finish telling you about the last day of the Ski Meets. It was the Jumping and at 8 o'clock Jonny was over to see if they could go up with us. Barbara and Harold & Jonny. We didn't go up until after nine but already the cars were filling the parking space and we were lucky to squeeze the Jeep into the last place. There were 4800 counted so that was quite a lot of people, they had to stop the cars after the parking spaces were filled and everyone else came by bus. They had quite a time trying to get all the people down in the afternoon as they naturally all wanted to go when the Jumping was over and just then a bus going down got wedged against a bus coming up as the road was very slippery in spots from snow freezing on the highway and on some of the corners the buses lean in. Dave Prosser told us later that he got about 200 people together from busses held up and somehow they all pulled or pushed and held the busses apart enough for them to squeeze by. The road is a hard one when any thing happens, so some people had a long wait to get down.

It snowed all day and only for a short time did the sun show in a misty way, no lovely view behind the jumpers as they soar through the air. However I tried kodachromes though none of them may be any good. Pete was going to take black & white. I started up the Jumping hill ahead of him, he got delayed by a lady who fell and broke her nose, taking her to the first aid and after another spectator fell and broke her leg so by the time he started up there was such a crowd to pass that he didn't try. ~~However~~ The Jumping was really wonderful to watch. Art Devlin won, Art Tockle and Mezzie Barber were 2nd and a Norwegian exchange student at Middlebury college was 3rd. Art Tockle broke the hill record set by Huggsted last year by one foot and jumped 224 feet. There was also Junior jumping on a smaller takeoff right beside the big one and several boys from Kimberley came for that. All in all it was a very good show. but such a shame it snowed. However it wasn't too cold.

That night just as we were finishing supper. Tom Moberaten brought Art Johnson a Revelstoke jumper and his wife down to the house for a few minutes before the banquet, they were so intersted in everything that they left $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour after the banquet was to start., but otherwise we had a quiet evening.

Haven't done much this week as we were rather weary from all the goings on of the last month. The Kaldahls went to Sunshine for over one night and Norena sprained an ankle the last day, so Tues. evening we were up in their room at the Mt Royal and they only got away yesterday noon. Cecil has been coming the last 3 afternoons to put up the lights but has finished until one comes for the Studio.

I have got to get busy to-day straightening up accounts and letters owed for I am way way behind.

Loads of love from us both.

Catharine -

110
Banff, Alberta.
March 9, 1952.
Sunday

Dearest Mother,

Sunday and the North American Ski Championships on but we are a little tired of ski races and there aren't even any top jumpers, so as it was a dull day and even snowed a bit at noon we didn't bother going up to stand around and watch. It makes a long tiresome day just standing watching things in the distance.

Friday they had the opening down by the river and it was really pathetic, only the contestants and a few onlookers. They should have had these races when the Carnival was on and more people here. They run too many ski races for a small place and this year with the Olympics many of the best American and Canadians are overseas and after the Games in Oslo went to Europe, Switzerland and France & Austria to race. Next week the Dominion Championships are on at the coast and any skiers from Western Canada were apt to go there as they couldn't afford two meets, and then there is a big race at Sun Valley as well. You have to get a few top racers for the others to aim at beating.

After the opening at the ice pinnacle George Enell brought Otto VonAnnen of Wengen in Switzerland and Phil Puckner of Wisconsin and Dartmouth College down for tea or beer. Cyril Paris came too and Pete Von Wagner one of the local pros. We had a nice visit with them. Funny but we had seen Otto ski in the Swiss championships in 1938 and even had a picture of him in the Slalom. He knew lots of people we did, lives in Estes Park Colorado now & Sun Valley in winter. the other boy came from Sun Valley too. Think George brought them up here. A local boy won the downhill yesterday but Otto was 2nd and Phil 3rd.

We have been fairly busy with people in and out and then last night went to Pat Costigans to see his movies taken in Dedham Boston and Concord. They weren't too steady and we only caught a glimpse of you but it was nice to see that much, out in front of the house. The ones in the woods would have been good but were out of focus. Then Pat showed a gory one of a leg operation, there they open up the whole thigh, I couldn't look at it, should have just imagined it was beef or something and maybe wouldn't have minded. They put a stainless steel ~~px~~ spike right down the length of the bone inside, hammer it half way in and then back down or something awfull. Pete looked but I only listened. He had some ~~ex~~trays too which were very interesting, slides, one kind showed how they put an umbrella shaped knob with a nail on the end, looked a bit like a darning thing. into the hip bone after the round part is first removed. It fits into the socket and enables a person to walk. One case Arthritis had eaten away the bone and in another the knob part was all smashed. Pat said he worked on the first ones ever done in Boston as some Frenchman invented the thing.

It looked like
this & was open
a hollow Pat said

This is like
hip bones
normally

They
put the
staplers
steel knob
on -

Thanks for answering all my many questions. Was glad to hear about the place that Russ and Page Brown has bought, looks as if you would get some sea air this summer. It is wonderful having that new road to go on and so avoid all the citys and towns for I always felt the drive back from Harborhead on a Sunday took away the nice fresh feeling one had from the sail.

Did I tell you about the friend of Russell's that came to see us Thursday morning ? I had just finished the wash and was going to hang it out when a strange car drove in, 2 men got out and we couldn't figure who it was, at the door the first man looked very familiar but think it was because he looked a typical Bostonian . We never did get his name straight, he is a partner of Jim Orrs and a Hochiberger skier. Seeing that he knew Russ so well and worked with him and spoke of Russ being in the same building and office down the hall I didn't like to ask his name again. The other man was an oil man from Calgary, Wilbur Griffith, evidently one of the more successful ones but not being up on the oil wells etc. His name didn't mean much to us either. We had a nice call from them and they were much amused at how little we did know I guess. The Boston man was in a rush as he wanted one run down Norquay, then back to Calgary and catch a plane for New York & Boston for the weekend. We asked why he couldn't stay longer but he had a big deal on and must get back.

In the afternoon we went up to Norquay right after lunch as it was a lovely day and we thought we would see if any skiers had come and were practising, met Ted Zinkin from the Windermere Valley who skied for Canada at Zakopani Poland before the War and Pete had gone to Temple with him once. His wife we had met here too and his mother turned out to be from Toronto and lived right next to the Forbes who are artists we used to know years ago and always hear from at Christmas. So they followed us down later and came for tea with the 2 little kids who were awfully cunning.

That was interesting about the Mother being sent to prison because ~~xxxxxi~~ she didn't want her children to be vaccinated. I told Miss Ashmole and she said it had been compulsory in the U.S. to be vaccinated for a long time and the girl who died thought she had been but the old country doctor she went to hadn't believed in it and didn't put the serum in, or something like that, so of course she wasn't really done and he had made out the papers as if she were.

Am glad they got it cleared up about the 2nd bird book , think it was just an oversight as most people would only wonder one at a time.

Do you want me to send Gales letters to you back ?

I wonder where Young Sted Buttrick is stationed ? and if Cal and Sted will go and see Dorothy. She wrote in one of her letters that this year they had had rain on the desert and the flowers would soon be lovely. It is only once in about ten years that they bloom in great masses, and it happened 3 years ago, it is the rain they have to have first at the right time. I thought they bloomed every year.

I asked Mary Costigan about the R.H.Stearns in Chestnut hill but she said it was a very small store so no doubt it is best to make a big effort and go to Boston. There was some sense in

Banff, Alberta.
Sat. March 11, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

Guess I had better answer your questions in a hurry!
First. About the books of Miss Barretts. I showed the list to Marjorie Jamison (who wrote you the letter of thanks for the Twin books) and she read the list and thought all the books sounded wonderful and some she was ppecially excited about, I suggested she take it to some of the Library committee and they mark the ones they wanted and return the list to me. It came back to-day and you can see by what she typed at the bottom that they would be delighted to have them all. I think it would be best to send them right to the Library and mark it "gift of books" and then there is no question of duty etc. Frieght is a little slower but much cheaper I should think. Do tell Miss Barrett how delighted they are to have her books, they all sound such interesting ones, and ~~were~~ are well known.

Second Please don't send the highboy ! If I remember correctly I bought it myself and it was especially made by Bacons and of course is a wonderfully made bit of furniture. Don't you remember I got a number of things with my own money to fix up my room, and you gave me a number of things too. Am not sure who I will give it to eventually but why shouldn't it stay where it is for you to use for the time being ? I never have told you what things I would like eventually but couldn't we wait until I am east again? I think of the pictures besides the one you gave us of Hibbard of the brook in the snow. the Gardener Symons one I like best. I will try and think of things and make a list.

Third we haven't heard any more of Ted Langridge except that he got through the operation and enjoyed the flowers, guess it was the loveliest bouquet he had ever seen. Mrs Langridge said the other day that he was in the out patient dep't and there for treatment, so don't know if that means he lives outside the hospital or what. He said all the doctors and everybody had been very good to him, but don't know if the treatment has cured the cancer or arrested it only or what. Will try and find out.

Right now we are waiting for Syd Vallance to drop down about a new lease for the meat market, have had Jonny and Robby Walker here earlier. Did I tell you about Jonny coming over the other day after lunch on his way to school. Will have to tell you about this later, in my next.

Loads of love,

Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. Mar. 15th. 1950.

Dearest Mother,

This is Jonny's birthday and he is nine, We have had a good many visits from him lately, a sort of pre-birthday reminder. but we kept forgetting it was coming, and finally yesterday he made a large printed sign with big printing on a piece of paper. *thing up.*
" Birthday, 15th. Jon, 9 years " We met him coming from school this noon being late going to shop and hadn't gotten some film for his camera which we mean't to get, so he was all excitement and said he would be over about 12.30, which he was, had eaten in 10 minutes. We also had ~~some~~ a set of Indian pictures, photographs that Pete took years ago and which we colored as an experiment, before color photography. sold them to a Winnipeg firm and they still sell them at the station. They all are Indian heads with a blue sky and are quite effective. So Pete had signed them all and the names on them and we had them done up too. Jonny thought it was going to be a painting book which he had sort of hinted for, but when he saw the Indian Heads he just gave the exclamation now in vogue " Holy Man ! " and that was all he said. We knew he was terribly pleased. They come in a folder with lines for the address and who from. so he thought he would fill that in and wrote to " Mr Jon White and family " we said they were for him, but he said they really should be for his mother "as she was the oldest" and he somehow felt they were too good for just himself, which I think was pretty nice. Then in the place marked " from " he wrote, " Mr and Mrs Peter White." Pete said he should put any in our name but he said Miss Pogue told him in Grade 1 that was the way to spell White when none of them knew how to spell their last names. Now Harolds birthday is next and he said if we wanted to, a book by Will James would be good for his birthday present. They are very helpful with ideas.

Monday night we did a few prints of some pictures Pete took of the trophies for you, and just as we were ready to start Jonny came to the back door, so Pete thought if he was very quiet he could come in and watch us. He was good as gold and when Pete told him not to move he would stand at attention and hold his breath, and he stayed the full hour. We began to wonder what time it was having just a watch for timing minutes, so we knew $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour had passed. Though most of the pictures were very similar he thought it " magic " the way they came up in the developer, and he said the time just flew, he just wished it went that fast in school. He was so good that I have an idea he would be a great help to us when doing lots of prints.

I was going to tell you about Jonny coming over last week one noon and asking us if he could bring some of the boys, three in his class, for a meeting. His mother was to have a bridge club that night and they couldn't mess up his house and they had to plan an Easter Egg hunt. So we said yes, we would be here if they came around after school at four. his parting shot was " better have plenty of paper and pencils ready for our plans."

The ones we expected didn't come, but Donny Becker (Lona's brother and a very bright lad, crazy about Indians) and Terry Gainer (the station agent's son, both came with Jonny. Off came their coats and rubber boots and they were right at home. Looked at all the knives and the grizzly skins, the Indian drum and even Terry had a look at some of the sketches. They love being able to handle the things and are always very careful and interested too. Then I gave them gingerale and cake and cookies, and usually try to count them out evenly so each gets the same amount of everything. Instead of an Easter hunt they want to make Easter eggs and sell them, but they never got around to the plans, they weretoo busy doing other things. even to drawing us pictures of the Matterhorn. Just as they were leaving, for when they got a little boistrous (we remembered we had to get the mail and could give them a ride home,) Donny Becker said " Gee, we never made any samples of the Easter eggs, I thought we were going to make them out of fudge and take an egg and break it and use the shell for a sort of mold. " I was rather relieved to think they hadn't had to try that here ! Later Jonny came back and drew us a plan of a stall to set up in one of the stores where they could sell their eggs. made out of apple boxes and a sign on top, a picture of an Easter Bunny with real baskets of eggs on either arm. He is full of ideas and good ones too.

We have had quite a lot of company lately, the night we made the prints as I was opening the door for Jonny to go home at 9 o'clock the two Yugoslavian D.P.s came with a young Edmonton girl who was very interested in Indian things and they stayed until after ten and we still had the prints to wash. We have also had several calls from the Oakanders and we are such fools. We got all interested talking to them about the future possibilities of Ski Jumping in Banff.

Carl Oakander was born here and used to jump as a boy but is in the permanent Air force and stationed in Ottawa and he and Laura drove here and went back to-day just for the Ski meets. Bobbie Crosbie, his wife and two small children with them. Carl is very keen on Jumping and had a lot to do with making the Jumping meet last year a success. This year there were so many who couldn't get up in time to see the Jumping, as has happened before, that we began to think if the big jump were in Banff close to town how many more thousands could see it. Also with a small jump nearby the young kids could practise after school which is the only way to get good jumpers. and we knew from talking with Tom Mobraaten, who is a born Norwegian and still the best Canadian Jumper, that he would like to bring his family here to live if he could be sure of a job and place to live and would coach the kids. We got talking and their ideas were much like ours, so Carl and Pete went to speak to the Superintendent together and I think he suggested we write out the ideas we had. so we got busy and I spent lots of time typing pages of ideas and then we showed them to several people all of who signed the letter. But we thought it was only fair to tell George Encil what we were suggesting as he is naturally anxious to have the jump at Norquay. So Pete thought, knowing George pretty well, he could tell him, as our idea was that it would help him in the end. so we left a message for him to come over last night and about 9.30 he arrived.

Such an evening ! He was tired to begin with and very

discouraged and this was just the finishing touch. He got really mad and jumped up and down and said this was just a "stab in the Back by Banff People" and such things, that he wanted the Gov't to take over the Chair Lift etc. that it was undermining his health etc. etc. I have never seen anyone get so worked up. Pete was really wonderful and as calm as could be and tried to reason with him and calm him down. He sat and bit his fingernails (I could hear them ~~saw~~ snap from across the room) and read bits of our letter and suggestins and then would fling it on the table. We talked and talked and said we hadn't mean't it that way and had no idea he was losing money all the time etc. Pete did most of the talking for us, I couldn't think of much to say, and gradually George came around and was calmer and said if we would help him get the big competition jump at Norquay he would speak for a boys jump in town, but it was after one o'clock when he went home and nearly two when we went to bed all in. *Warily*

Then this morning Carl and Laura dropped in while the Crosbys next door were packing their things in ^{the car} and we told them all about it, they were much amused and said "to think you would ^{do} got it all." Now we don't know just what to do about the letter, but will let things cool off a bit and maybe write a little different one. We had shown the rough draft to Sid Vallance Saturday afternoon and he thought it stated the case very well. I can't figure if George was just worn out and over tired, or whether that is the way he gets his own way. But it rather upset Pete and we sort of kicked ourselves for trying to help the boys get a jump, for we have ~~tired~~ before and ~~the same thing happens~~, only not quite like this. There were quite a few strongly in favor of it too. The only two days that George has paid expenses are the two when the crowds came for the Jumping and naturally he doesn't want to lose that crowd. It is a long story but what makes me a bit provoked is the time we gave to it writing it all out and all the discussing of it etc. Something may come of it however.

I can't help but think of the letters I might have written instead and to-day my mind won't work after so much talking last night. Most people I think would have gotten provoked at George and said a few things back, for after all no one asked him to build a Chair Lift here and he has done a good deal without asking anyone else's opinion, but Pete never got one bit excited. However it sort of reacts later and we both feel sort of letdown. If we only had one track minds I expect we should do better, but you can't be so very different from what your nature is, and we do get so interested in things and so many ideas about improving them.

I forgot to tell you what I used some of your money present for, some new dishes called "Ballerina" It is sort of a very plain modern pottery in 4 lovely soft shades, a turquoise blue, canary yellow, soft green and grey, they all blend to-gether nicely and you can use them mixed up or all one shade. They are very plain, ovenproof. You may see them in Concord for they are inexpensive but sort of fit in with our house and remind me of the little plain colored Japanese tea sets that Grandpa used to give me in yellow and green. do you remember them? One gets tired of plain patterns but ~~these~~ I think are awfully pretty.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. March 19, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

Don't think I have written you since the day after we had George Encil down and told him about the letter of suggestions we were writing to the Superintendent. Wednesday Carl and ~~Yd~~ Laura were in after breakfast before starting east and we felt pretty let down in a way after the night before and all the talk with George. But Thursday I think it was we saw Dr MacKenzie, for he wanted to sign the letter, (Pat did too) and we told him about George and he said that the same thing had happened with him. Dr MacKenzie is president of the Ski Runners and had to see George about the Lift and Tow rates, for the Banff Skiers just couldn't afford them, and George did the same thing, and Dr MacKenzie figures it is sort of an act. (It is very much the sort of thing Jackie does to get his own way) and the Doctor just let him talk and finally he quietened down. Pete was very quiet and calm and George ~~xxxx~~ did get less excited but still it sort of bothered us, so we concocted another letter to the Superintendent just from Pete and me saying what George agreed to and what he wanted, and how we agreed with him, ^{on some things} etc. It is very carefully worded and full of meaning between the lines! Anyway we feel better about it and ~~that~~ we could go out and get more names on the letter of suggestions.

We got several on the last three days, and several others asked if they could sign it on their own. The only one who couldn't was the bank manager because of his position. and one lad, Jackie Anderson agreed with some parts but thinks everything should be at Norquay, even ~~and~~ skating rink and bobsled run, though he didn't explain ^{with a few} what they would do for those without water. some are so impractical. I teased Pete for he gets so interested that when he hands people the letter and 5 pages of suggestions to read, he talks all the time they are trying to read it! Everyone has been very good about it but it takes time to go and see people and means a call on most of them. Pete took it to the Super. on Saturday and found he was away. The secretary is very nice and when Pete told her about George coming down, she asked if he had cried on our shoulders as he does that up there evidently. I guess it is just his way, we like him you know, but aren't used to people acting that way.

I hope once the letter is handed in we won't think any more about it and I will get some of the letters I owe written. To-day I was going to do a lot and then we went out this morning as it was very nice, and compared the snow at Norquay with that on Sulphur. But mostly to see how many cars from Calgary were up. counted 72, the water was running down the road as the warm sun melted the snow on the sides, but from there we went to the Upper Hot Springs and not a bit of snow was melting at all. It is a north exposure.

Jonny was over after lunch and we took him with us when we went for Time Magazine. Charlie Reid asked if we would

like to run through his driveway with the Jeep as it cuts the snow and helps it melt faster. so we did that and then went to see Sam and Cis who we haven't seen for ages. Sam is busy building two bedrooms in their basement as well as a toilet and wash basin, which they can rent in the summer or winter if they like. We looked at that and Pete talked to Sam while I talked to Cis.

Just as we came home the Von Kushkas came along with a Norwegian newspaper telling the Holmenkolen results, they came in and we again got talking about ski jumps etc. She is from the north of Norway and he is German and head of the mechanical part of Brewsters. He told us the wear and tear on the busses that they used on one week-end like the big one this winter ^{in Norway} was greater than the wear and tear ^{in Sweden} on a bus in summer. So he wanted to sign our letter too. It was six when they left and after supper I wrote one letter I owed and then have written this much and now think I will look at two copies of the Architectural Forum that Sam gave us.

We rather expect to have mild weather for a change. We still have snow and ice on our path for after the rain and mild spell during the races we have had cold weather and last week it was -30° below zero one morning, which I may have told you and -21° the next. I couldn't believe it when I looked at the thermometer.

This isn't much of a letter but will send it
along-

Loads of love
Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
March 23, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

Its the funniest thing but one day we will have all sorts of people and another not one. Yesterday morning Pete took the famous letter of suggestions up to the Superintendent, the one about having a ski jump near the town. There were about 20 signatures on it in the end and then we wrote a personal letter as well because of our talk with George Encil. The Super was very nice evidently and has kept the letter to read. He is going on a short vacation to-morrow so no doubt we will hear no more until he comes back. But Mr C.M.Walker who used to be the chief Engineer for the big roads and is now retired, has told Pete he will go with him later when the snow goes to look for a good hill, He also signed the paper. Anyway that is done.

We did quite a few errands, sending flowers to some sick people and such like and came home for an early lunch. We were just on our way out the gate in the early afternoon when Ules came along, so came back as he wanted to measure where the bench will go under our kitchen window. He is to make us a rustic one so we can sit in the sun in the spring! Off we went again for the mail and then I was really going to write letters all afternoon. We hadn't been back long when Dr Robinson came with a new Oil sketch to show us and to have a critique on, really it was very good of Norquay in winter, He also asked if he could bring a Montreal doctor and his wife down to see the pictures, as they were very interested in painting, so we said of course. They had to go to the Grandmaisons first but sometime between five and six. Dr Dean Robinson is very interested in Arthritis and this man is evidently the head of the Arthritic or Rheumatic society in Canada or something important sounding.

Before Dr Dean had gone Jimmy Simpson dropped in to return some books, ask if the new sewerage system they put in last fall made noises in our pipes, and also to tell us the latest news of Temple & Skoki. Ray Legace has rented both for a year but found no firewood had been left, and now it seems all the cutlery and bedding is gone and they are wondering who took it. He stayed quite a while talking about this and that and then we hustled about straightening things up abit before the others came.

I think it was about 5 when they got here and had already had tea, but we showed them the sketches and they were awfully nice people, even teasing me about my Boston Accent for Dr H.P.Wright's sister married a Dr Reginald Fitz of Brookline. I don't think I have ever heard of him. Mrs Wright spoke of how many of the Montreal friends were taking up painting and I asked if she knew Ottilie Howard who is a friend of the Panets and who was here at the summer school in 1948. and she said "Why she is my husbands sister." Funny I should have asked about her for we only met her a couple of times but I always remembered her name.

We had rather a late supper and Jonny arrived in the midst of that. Showed me a trick thing I wonder if you ever saw it. Rusty might be amused, Jonny said his mother knew it when she was a little girl. You draw it this way.
It is a whole sentence and means -
" A little darkie in bed with nothing over him "

B e d

He left, Jonny, not the dark e , and we had just read the paper when there was a knock on the door and Norman and Gwen Tabuteau came to ask if we would show slides for their couples club at the church Sunday night. They stayed until nearly 11 and were as sleepy as we were for Norman yawned a few times, I expect he has to get up pretty early for work, but we got talking about Honolulu where they had never been but were interested in, and he told stories of his father who sailed as a boy on sailing ships, one trip around the Horn from England to San Francisco in 1894 I think he said, took them 7 months, two hundred and twenty something days, and they had mostly hardtack, *etc* to eat and a small ration of marmalade once a week, which some would save and hoard for a little dab each day but the uncle, who shipped with the father, would eat his all in one meal. When it was time to go, Norman said " I don't know when I have spent such an enjoyable evening " and his wife said so many places they go everyone talks a lot but they don't seem to say anything. We enjoyed it too. but it was quite a day.

To-day Thursday, we haven't had even Jonny. I got a wash done and ironed before supper. and Pete wrote 2 letters, one was to you and after he wrote it he didn't think he should send it but I said he better in case he didn't get around to writing ~~and~~ another, I don't know why he finds it so hard to do , maybe it is lack of practise. but I laughed when he finished, for he said " thats all for another year ! " Well its lucky I don't mind as much. It is just agony for him. We also have sent off some more parcels, they should have gone earlier for Easter but I just ~~do~~ couldn't get them done up and finally got Joch MacCowan to do them at the store and hope they get there O.K. for they are not as well wrapped as I do them.

Incidentally the studios and American Artist came, it is lucky you put string around the envelope for that seemed to be all that was holding the things to-gether. Must have gone through a lot on the way west. We knew one of the artists from California, Maurice Logan, knew him years ago at O'Hara and hadn't heard of him for ages until we saw one of his water colors reproduced in the magazine.

I think I answered your questions, all except when we might visit you which I can't say right now. The last time you asked questions you said that " Russell thinks the Highball should be sent to you." That is one thing about your mistakes they are very bright ones. Please don't send the Highboy yet, Actually it would be better for us if you would leave the things to me in your Will and then there is no question of duty or any difficulty at all.

Must run. It is Friday now. Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Mon. March 27, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

I didn't write you yesterday as there were some other letters to be done and as usual only did a couple as I am apt to write too much to each. We had a quiet day, only Jonny came in the afternoon and talked a steady stream including questions while I was trying to write one letter. He was as usual awfully cunning. He found a notice in a magazine where prizes would be given for the best letter written about the three best tricks a persons dog does, and sent into Pard, a dog food. So Jonny thought he would write a letter because their dog Penny has three tricks and he would sign his mother's name and then she might get the prize money in time for Easter. I told him he better use his own name and he started the letter, you should see it, and I hope he finishes it, I am sure it would be worth a prize.

In the evening we went to the church to give the slides and lecture to the "two by two Club " I think I told you it is a group of about 30 young couples and they meet one Sunday and one week night a month, they had been to church first and sing a group of hymns to help with the service and next meeting they will work on some screens to go in the hall. They had a party the time before on St Patricks day with games. They each bring enough sandwiches for themselves and the host and hostess for the night does the coffee and provides the entertainment. They are a nice group and it seems a good idea for they get to know the wives and husbands of their friends. We showed the slides we made up of the trip around the world and all the types of transportation. They aren't colored slides, just black and white but the subject matter interested them. Dr Harold Robinson was a doctor in Canton China at one time so he liked the Chinese ones and Paul Stutz is from Switzerland and so he liked those. They seemed to enjoy it so much, and afterwards we sat and talked and it was all very pleasant.

Bob Roberts who wife is chief librarian for the Banff Library was there, and she too and so I asked them how it was going. He said to tell you that at least half of the Twin books are out in circulation all the time and there are several children who are keeping a list of the ones they have read. a good many say " I will take this book and one Twin book ." They now have 500 members and one night 117 books were taken out, which I think is a good deal in two hours. That would be about 80 people he thought as some take 2 books and some don't. They are open 2 nights and 2 afternoons and Friday afternoon is just for children and Mrs Roberts sometimes tells a story. She used to have a children's hour in Calgary. They are delighted with the books Miss Everett and Barrett are sending and now have nearly 3000 books which sounds a lot in a way. They got a lot of children's books at a sale of a Toronto Publishing Firm and also try to get the new books for adults. I think they have done a lot.

Saturday I went to a cake sale for the library fund, they gave prizes for the best cakes and bread and rolls, \$12.00 in prizes and everyone turned the prize money back in, and then they served pie and coffee and tea for 25¢ and they made \$75.00 which seemed a lot for what they had.

Mrs Simpson came over this morning as we were having breakfast to tell us that her sister had just died at the hospital. cancer of the lungs. She has been here just a month and it has been very sad and a strain on the Simpsons too. We have asked Jim and Mrs Simpson over for supper to-night and I must start and get it ready soon, just steak and new potatoes (from goodness knows where) and good cake from the sale!

We haven't been able to do much to-day somehow, the usual errands and there is so much I should be doing too. Maybe I have spring fever. ~~or else I don't do things as quickly as I used to -~~

Just now we saw 9 deer at the back of the house in the Ashies yard. The most we ever had all at once

Loads of love

Catharine

P.S. Save the envelope with the stamp as it is give the whole thing to Rusty Gabe or Hannah. They are using the stamps printed without "Postage" on them but there are only a certain number issued & will be rare some day -
no time to read over -

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. March 29th, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

We are having a nice program to-night from Sweden, it is really "on Sweden" but just now it is a re-broadcast of Swedish Choral Societies singing folk songs and though I should really be writing other letters, I can write you and listen but can't concentrate on more difficult letters. If I can only think of it I should send to the Canadian Broadcasting company and get them to send you a list of their programs for they have some lovely ones and you would enjoy them I am sure for the music is well done and no advertising on the C.B.C. ones.

There haven't been as many deaths in Banff this year but to-day we went to two funerals. Did I tell you that Mrs Simpson's sister, Miss Belle Reid, died Monday morning, from cancer of the lung. They didn't think she would live very long but it was sad just the same for she was only 57 and a very bright person. We had Jim and Mrs Simpson over to supper Monday night, think I wrote you that, and they ate a good lot too. Mrs Simpson said it was the first meal she had eaten all of for a month. One of the Yugoslavian D.P.s, ^{Mrs Reid} who has been working at Norquay this winter came in as we were eating and stayed until after they had left. He wanted some advice and I guess doesn't know many people. Seems that he spent 7 years in 8 prisons mostly in Italy, like Trieste, Venice and Bologna. He is well educated and speaks good English, went to High school, University and took a 2 years commerce course. Then to get to Canada he had to sign up as a farm worker for a year and the first fall he had a tractor run over him, doesn't know how he survived but I think it must have been because he is so thin. He was in a cast 2 months for his spine was injured, the first of it in hospital until he could get an easy job and now it seems he has to pay a big hospital bill and has no money and we suggested he speak to Syd Vallance. But it was quite an evening. *The other funeral this P.M. was an old times Mr Bill Saddington who used to be Sam's father & father of an old friend of Kates.*

Yesterday among other things we went out the west road and got some Juniper which was gray yet but had lovely blue berries and then found some lovely red leaves on a little creeper with even a few Kin-a-kin-ick berries left where the snow had melted off. I made a really lovely spray, am getting quite experienced doing it now. and even if I do say so it was lovely with a bit of spruce too and the different greens. Mrs Simpson didn't want flowers and seemed pleased with this and put it on top of the coffin with a lovely wreath on either end. They were over this afternoon too for a while as we thought it would help sort of get them out of the house.

We also saw Hutch, the Superintendent, on the street and asked about the letters about the Ski Jump. He said that the

appropriation he had hoped to get didn't come through and so there was no use thinking of it for a while yet. and when I mentioned something about "undermining" George's health, he said he had done it for some time himself, so I felt better. Funny part is no one has seen George for two weeks, since the night he was down here so hope we didn't upset him too much. Hutch thought he had gone to Jasper to look over ski possibilities there.

To-day we had a nice letter from Mr Young in Dundee (who wanted to be remembered to Miss Jean Winton) telling us about Sir Harry Lauder and in the same mail Miss Greta Lauder sent us two Scotch papers about the funeral, which was very nice of her. Mr Young has had a major operation and the weather was so bad that they didn't let him go to the funeral.

Have you seen a picture of Queen Mary's carpet that she made? I cut it out to send you ages ago but can't find it right now. It looks rather lovely.

This isn't much of a letter, I am afraid ~~and~~ we still can't answer the one question you want most to know, when will we go to Concord. I had forgotten that it was the 175th anniversary of the fight, quite a lot of excitement I expect. I think I told you that at Christmas time Col Moore gave me a book written by Ezra Ripley on the Battle of Concord and Lexington too. I asked Miss Barret about it in one of my notes to her, thinking they would be rather interested and Miss Everett would know whether the Library had it. and she telephoned and found out that they have one copy and it is under lock and key in the Concord Library. Seems funny to come by it in Banff! but it belonged to Col Moore's grandfather I guess and he lived in Framingham. It was good of him to give it to me and I must decide where it should be. Wonder would the Antiquarian be a good place as they have that model of the fight? What do you think? I would like to show it to Sted, wonder if they have one.

I think I must have spring fever for I can't seem to get anything done these days even when I plan to and try to, I seem slowed down, and there is so much I want to do too!

This isn't much of a letter but as soon as we make any decision I will let you know right away. One has to be patient I guess.

Lads of love

Catharine -

P.S. I forgot to say that it isn't a question of not wanting to go east. for we do so very much want to see you and all the others. it is just hard to move I guess. sometimes Pate doesn't feel very well - but we really will try. Love
Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.
Sat. April 1. 1950

Dearest Mother,

I seem to be getting slower or something for it is so hard to get things done, I don't know why, maybe because each year one spends in a place there seems to be more to do. The first signs of spring have come which are crows, and daffodils in the Drug store on Saturdays ! The flowers come from the coast, are very tiny this year as yet and in the paper to-night we read that they had rain 25 days of this last month, might be the reason. The flowers do look so bright and pretty and last week we took a bunch to Mrs Farie and on to old Doug McTrowe, he is an old man who used to be gate keeper at the buffalo paddock, not awfully bright perhaps but since his wife died a couple of years ago he has just steadily gone down hill. Pat says he is just worn out. He was so pleased with the flowers and that we had come to see him, for just his own family drops in. Then to-day we took some daffodils to Tully Montgomery the English Church minister. He has been ill with Plebitis(?) and we found him still in bed. He doesn't know it but we consider him our minister. He said that he would like to come down and see us someday for he thinks our house is the most peaceful one he knows, perhaps because his wife is a great person for hustling around and works hard and he has 2 daughters that are very gay. Anyway that pleased him and we got his mail etc. We really should have gone before. We also should go and see Mrs Greenham who has just had an operation, there are endless people one could call on.

A nice letter from you to-day and we don't know who the wedding invitation was from. Wasn't there a Chamberlain in Salem you know or could it be the Cook boy, Katharine Hyatt Mayor Cook's boy ? James Fielder Cook it says. I don't remember her boys names but think she had two boys if I remember correctly. If I am right I shall feel very smart !

Thanks so much for sending the books. Express will be best even if a little more and also they are careful with Express but what a nuisance the papers are, to send the box at Christmas to Russ we had to fill out 5 or 6 of one kind and 2 or 3 of another.

Am so glad you haven't given up the opera and it gives so much pleasure to other people too and also helps support the thing so the millions who listen can hear it over the air. We heard most of Boheme last week, but Saturday seems a poor day for us to listen somehow or else we forget. Frances James sang from the Pops concert in Toronto last night, every Friday with us they have an hour long " pops " and it is very good.

The figures in the Ski Models are bent over, so hard to measure but the whole thing is about 14 to 16 inches high and the worlds about 8 inches, the figures about six. We did a few prints this afternoon (with Jonny helping) and one isn't too bad of me so will send you one. I certainly don't think you should send Pete an

letter of thanks when he is so terrible about writing himself. If you could see him and the fuss he makes and then he doesn't take time enough to really say anything. Guess some family's just find it hard to write. My trouble is writing too much to each person but I get sort of chatting along as I do to you.

Hope the family have a nice trip and really it is fairer that Rusty should go this year when he missed so much last time. Just hope Gale isn't sick all her vacation but has some fun.

We are planning on a trip east, but so far nothing very definite. I was teasing Pete because he has no clothes that will fit, just one suit that the trousers are mostly worn out on and one decent pair of gray flannels. Pete said "don't you dare tell your mother or she will go right out and buy me a suit." so we laughed and he was telling Pat Costigan the same story in front of the Clinic nurse who rarely smiles much and she got a great kick out of the idea. Pete has been talking about his lack of clothes and some one suggested we go via the Panama canal and he could wear shorts most of the way. However the other day he actually ordered a new suit from the store, so things sound hopeful. Now the next thing is a hat. His old ones are terrible having been used for painting before the war and here he just wears a cap. Anything new is going to look funny. I have an awful time getting a hat as I wear one so seldom that they never look right and I put on the one I had to wear to Ottawa when Pete was in the R.C.A.F. We certainly will look like country bumkins but know you won't really mind.

Am glad you told me Miss Hurd died, (the Emerson House one) for I wouldn't have known otherwise. What will they do with the house I wonder? Am glad to hear that Marian Hudson Wilmot is to build a house on the Keyes land and be in Concord.

The money you sent was for Christmas or my birthday, I save it and use it for any special thing for us that otherwise might seem extravagant. The dishes really are nice.

Glad you got to Salem, now I should send a note to Miss Agge shouldn't I? well maybe I will soon. Think that Cousin Harriet's cotton thing to hold soap to scrub ones back would be very useful she certainly is smart. Somewhere I read that a person's mind doesn't grow old as their body does. They might not remember recent things so well but are as bright as ever really. Except of course when they have something wrong. There is an elderly man here. Bill Noble, who has hardening of the arteries of the brain and he gets things all mixed up. Very hard for his wife and she doesn't dare leave him a moment in case he wanders and doesn't remember where he is etc.

That cat of Russell's certainly is smart.

You know there are lots of interesting people here if you had more time to get talking with them. For naturally this being a new country the older ones all came from somewhere else. I was doing an errand yesterday when Pete spoke to old Mr Neilson as he walked by. He is well over 80 and looks it, from Valmo Sweden originally and Pete's father used to know him well so when he realized who Pete was he began to talk.

Mr Neilson sailed around Cape Horn twice on what he called "windyammebs" and three times on "Pressure Boats" to Australia. (Pete thought Russ would be interested in the word "Pressure Boat" for Steam ship.) He somehow got up to Alaska on one trip and went through the Bering Straits and around the northern part to the Beaufort Sea. He was also in the Gold Rush of 1898 *in the Yukon* and came to Banff in 1899 and has lived here ever since I think. He worked with the Eau Claire Logging Co. on the upper Spray River when he first came and then later drove a taxi. In fact he always bought his cars from Pete's father, a new one each year in the old days. Pete remembers him as a very slow and careful driver and at first he hardly got out of 2nd. One day he was going into the garage and somehow hit a post which was holding up a lot of lumber stacked near the ceiling and it all came down on the car smashing fenders etc. Pete told him we had been to Norway and he knew all the places and then he said we should go to Alaska as it was even more wonderful and he told Pete all the heights of the mountains and knew many like Mt McKinley and Logan and Elias. Said that in one place from Canada to the Pacific ocean was just 2 miles. Just imagine all the things he could tell of the old days if you had time to get it out of him for I don't think he talks to everyone. We haven't even had time to see much of Uncle Pete. Went there the other day but he wasn't very talkative, but did say that he worked on the boats on Lake LeBarge.

It is bedtime now so will call this a letter. I must write some to-morrow to send to England. We had such a nice letter from Claire Carruthers and a card from Alec. If I can find them will send them to you to see.

Don't say anything about the possibility of our going east until we can be more definite. we are going to try our best for we really want to go & see you but a lot depends on how things go & if Pete feels O.K. Sometimes he gets sick very unexpectedly.

Lots of Love

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. April 6, 1950

Dearest Mother,

Am afraid that I haven't written you all week, don't know just where the time went so fast, and all my good intentions with it. Don't think I have written you since Sunday. or maybe Sat. for I intended ~~for~~ writing many other letters Sunday.

Sunday morning was lovely and sunny and we set out after getting up rather late to finish up some film in the camera, started out the west road, then decided to try Norquay. found on next to the last corner all those going up without chains were stuck and we had to wait for one car to be pushed up a grade by many hands before we could go along too. They are supposed to have chains but none seemed to think it necessary and we were the only ones who had them. By the time we got up it was getting lunchtime and we were wondering if others got stuck how we would get by to get down, so turned right round and headed down again. No one seemed to be stuck on the road as we went down and we were soon back home. After lunch we had Uncle Jack Campbell, Uncle Pete and Mrs Tollington, (uncle Jack's sister) to call. She had never been here before and is a very sweet sort of person, a little like Aunt Nela's friend Mrs Lewis of Gorham. They had a nice time, so they said. Uncle Pete making himself right at home and looking at books. He tried to get more information out of him about the north but without any luck. He did say that he remembered how the Indians used to walk along carrying a gun while their squaws trotted on behind carrying everything else. He always noticed it. Spoke too about their pack train when they went north but otherwise not much that was very interesting. That evening I did write Mr Young and was going to write Miss Lauder but never have gotten it copied yet !

Monday I decided to start housecleaning, each morning a little at a time, for one has to do a certain amount in case of moths. So I began and did the bathroom as the easiest for a start. Then after lunch we went for the mail and met Allan who had a lease for Pete to sign and came over with it, but as we drove in the yard found Dan MacCowan with the Aemmers from Golden. Rudolph Aemmer is one of the Swiss guides and was retired last fall and he and Mrs Aemmer are going back to Switzerland to live, they lost their two boys, one in a car accident and the other in a chemistry explosion, or otherwise they said they would have stayed on but will go back to live with Mrs Aemmer's sister near Interlachen, as she lost her husband a short time ago. They leave the 17th. Were on their way to Calgary to present his ice ax to the Alpine Club and also they were to give him a present. The MacCowan's left them here and the Aemmers stayed until almost train time. We offered to take them to see anyone they liked but they were tired having had to get up at 2.30 that morning and they said it was really just us they wanted to see which we thought pretty nice. They made us a really nice visit and we won't forget. *We went to see the sister when we were in Interlachen.*

Tuesday I again tackled upstairs doing my clothes closet and also the laundry before lunch the ironing after supper when the news was on. but it was a really beautiful day out and too nice to be in, so we went out to take the film we hadn't taken on Sunday and tried a few puddle shots as well. Pete tried some pictures on the main street of the passersby but got so interested that he forgot to trip a certain part each time, which one only has to do with the long lens, and so missed a lot. We have had bad luck too lately, both of us losing a roll of jumping pictures. He with a faulty film and I with a faulty camera. but I did get one roll of the competition jumps during a snowstorm but they aren't very good photographically. We also had a call from Dick Pike who wants us to back a loan but which we won't do, he let us down before though we eventually got the money and we don't want to get caught again. That evening I guess we just read the paper. did the ironing and the dishes and no letters.

Wednesday was the first day it got up to 50°, and I might add the only day so far. and the snow really did melt. our larkspur are even showing an inch up and Cis has poppies coming in her garden where the ground isn't covered with 2 feet of snow. It is in the flower beds near the house. The river in front of the house showed one little dark spot as if it might open. I was easily talked out of cleaning as it was Wednesday and we did the errands and to the bank etc. in the morning, then in the afternoon it was much too springlike to stay in and ~~we went up by the Wards~~ and I sat in the sun with Cis while Pete talked to Sam about things., then last night I started a letter and Jonny came in and I didn't get it finished at all, nor to-day.

Thursday to-day was just like winter again, wind out of the north, damp feeling and a strong cold wind and the clouds way down over the mountains and before supper about an inch of snow. Most discouraging. However from the mild days we can now see a few bare places on the driveway and even the ground under the trees where not as much snow fell. This afternoon we took some flowers to a couple of people and an Easter Lily in a pot with 3 blossoms to Cis. and a box to the station for Tom Simeon to give to his old mother in Morley. were just coming home to cook chicken for supper when we saw a truck with a B.C. license in the yard and it was Mr Leighton an artist, come to see us. and he stayed until after 7 o'clock and during that time we had Melos Medic, the D.P. come down with a photo of the Planica jump for us. We will see him again later on.

+ Mr A.C. Leighton is the one who paints those extra pretty cards I sometimes send you. He is a real artist and some might say rather excentric. He was well known in England and wrote a book on watercolour painting at one time, was in Calgary 20 or 25 years ago teaching and was well liked. told us to-day that he taught the first two years of the summer school when it was in Calgary and the 1st summer it was here. Then he had anervous breakdown. (Mr Gibbon had told us about that for it happened in Montreal just before he was to sail for England and Mr Gibbon of the C.P.R. had to put him in hospital and had quite a time) Then we think he was married and his wife must have helped a lot, we have never met her. But he has times of going off again if he gets excited. It is the first time

he has ever come to see us. We saw him outside Frasers the Art Supply store in Vancouver last spring and asked him to come and Mrs Simpson said that she would bring him over some day, but he evidently came on his own. Wasn't too easy to talk to in a way but was very nice about our pictures. Some he would say " Oh. I don't like that one at all " and then the next he would think fine. He said no one in Canada could paint or in the United States except Mr Hibbard who he remembered seeing years ago 1925 or earlier I guess. He thought we could paint and should do more, which ^{later} naturally we agreed with too. Then he told us that as a boy of ten he won a prize for water colors but his father thought it was a waste of time, an architect was allright perhaps but not just an artist, and later when he won a scholarship to study somewhere in England his father wouldn't let him accept it. I believe that his struggle as a child to paint must be partly what has upset him in later life. He just paints what he feels like but doesn't do any of the selling, he doesn't like that part and it upsets him. Mr Turner in Calgary looks after it for him and he thinks a lot of him. We do too. As he left I asked him to bring Mrs Leighton down next time and he said " Oh goodness no, not if we are going to talk about painting." so I said to send her down on her own sometime! But I can see how he would have a difficult time with some people. Luckily we don't mind what people say and try to understand them. He is really very nice, just a bit excentric and he wears a soft shade of yellow hat! At the coast he was dressed in all shades of pastel colors, though afterwards it was hard to remember what was what.

He has built a place about 15 miles out of Calgary, like "4 Beckers cabins put to-gether" and no electricity or water or any conveniences, but far enough out a poor road so no one can get to him easily. He said the only way to do is to go way off somewhere and build a studio and then not let anyone know where you are! However no matter where we go we seem to get interested in people and soon they are all around us. He is now going to the coast to sell his place there *come to Calgary to live.*

It is now bedtime for we had a late supper, cooked the fried chicken after all, I sent you a booklet of the Banff Summer school thinking that various people might be interested. It is much more of a booklet this year than before.

To-morrow is Good Friday, a holiday here.

Loads of love,

P.S. Pete just met Mr Leighton at Volo when P. was driving for Brewsters - Mr Leighton remembered him as being interested in painting then. But we never saw him in between.

Loads of love
Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.
Easter Sunday,
April 9, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

Easter Sunday and I think we are one of the few places in the Dominion where they had nice weather, the coast was sunny but even in Calgary it was miserable and cold. A west wind and sun has made it nice here. The snow is going quite nicely though there is still a lot but it must be soaking into the ground which is a wonderful thing to have happen.

Good Friday was also a nice day here and mild, we slept a little late, went for the mail and then Pete wanted to see the Simpsons about Mr A.C. Leighton's call on us the previous afternoon, it seems that he and his wife were both at the Simpsons that same night and he had enjoyed seeing our sketches here. They know him far better than we do. We wanted to sort of compare notes while it was all fresh in our minds. Had a nice little call there. Then went up to Mom's but she was out and we didn't find her until much later. We had ~~at~~ ticket for her as an Easter present for we hadn't done anything to help her with her spring cleaning and she had new wallpaper put on and some work done and felt she couldn't afford a trip to the coast though she would like to go, so we thought the best way was to get her a ticket, which we did, but she may not use it until later on. We took some books to a man with a crushed hand and then met Pearl on the way back and having some English magazines for her we brought her down to the house for a while. Funnily enough Leighton had been to see them the afternoon before and left there about 4 o'clock to come down here. She said she heard someone going along the hotel corridor knocking at every door and wondered if it was an Indian for they get mixed up in which room is which, but when he finally reached their door and knocked, it turned out to be Leighton. They knew him years ago at Yoho and like him very much, get a great kick out of him too. Told them when he was leaving that his trouble was that he didn't have a great enough sense of humor and they both laughed for he really has but it is very dry. ~~He~~

Friday we kept hearing a plane fly over and so went out to the Airport to see what was going on but a big puddle of water discouraged us from going further in the Ford. We heard later that they were flying from Minnewanka and taking Alpine Club people out to Assinaboine for skiing, also their provisions. We also went to the train and found that the Stampeders and Kamloops hockey teams were going through on the train east but it was late, ~~for~~ so we went down later after supper as Pete knew one of the players who was in the Airforce with him, but they stopped just a few minutes and most of the players never even got off. However it was sort of fun and we had a long talk with Shorty Blaskin who used to play with some of the coaches and now does upholstering at the Banff Springs. He told us that they had to send down a lot of furniture to the Paliser Hotel as the Duke and Duchess of Windsor are to arrive to-day for 5 days and they are fixing up a suite for them. They are to go to his ranch.

Saturday was very mild up to 50, I cleaned a bit and we were just going out to do errands when Allan Mather came in about some things and then Dr Robinson about his latest sketch, he does very well really and we are quite proud of our pupil. Jonny and Billy MacKenzie were over after lunch, Jonny to get some money out of his box of savings to buy a present for his mother for Easter. They were off to the Kite Flying contest that the Cubs were having. We went around at 2 to watch but the poor kids were having quite a time. The wind in the mountains is a little too gusty and the kites would usually land up in a mud puddle, of which there were plenty, except for one a greek had and they certainly knew how to work the things. There was another church tea which I went to and got a wonderful cake, Mary Lee and Lona werethere and helped me pick it out and when I said "you must come down and help us eat it to-morrow" Bunny McGivern thought I mean't her, so she came down too on Sunday afternoon. We were glad she did for we have been meaning to ask her for ages.

It was a nice tea, Pearl, Edmee and Georgie Paris and Bunny all had it to-gether, including me. We did lots of odd things, got Davy some photo developing things for his birthday etc. Then after supper I was just reading the Paper when Jonny appeared, he talked a while and then said "how about those Bunny cookies you promised to help me make." and I remembered what you said about not going back on promises made to children and so said "allright we will try them." They came out in the last Life Magazine and said they could be made in half an hour. It was then nearly 8.30. So while Jonny copied out the shape the 4 pieces had to be cut I rushed about finding enough flour and mollasses etc and mixed the things up. They are very clever really. Made like gingerbread men and like concrete but surprisingly good to taste or eat. One piece the shape of a bunny, then the feet, arms and ears fit in and the whole thing sits up. Its really clever but it was after ten when the last was finished! Quite an evening and it took me a good part of the next morning to put them to-gether for bits had to be shaved off.

No time as usual to finish this but will write again soon.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Barff, Alberta.
Wed. April 12, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

Your Air Mail letter came yesterday wanting us to get to Concord by the 19th of April for the big celebration. We really couldn't make it that quick, to tell the truth I didn't realize it was the 175th anniversary this year until you mentioned it a week or so ago or we might have made a tremendous effort and gotten east for it. I would have enjoyed the Marine Band and Ebbs welcoming Omar Bradley but otherwise I am afraid those things don't appeal too much, except that a lot of people we used to know might be in Concord at that time. However we really are going to Concord to see you most of all so a little later may work better.

I had hoped to tell you to-night when we might go for we had a sudden brain wave on Good Friday. First a couple of weeks ago we had sort of thought of getting a new Ford and picking it up in Eastern Canada and driving back but then we found you can't get one as easy as that. Then we suddenly thought of a Jeep Station Wagon with a 4 Wheel drive and Dave Prosser was to find out all about them in Calgary to-day and come down to-night. However he had flu and felt too mean to come, so we picked up some of the information he got, and have been trying to decide what is best to do. In the midst of a lot of figuring Jim Simpson dropped in as he was out for a walk and saw our lights on and he has just left and it is already after nine. We still haven't made up our minds but perhaps by the end of this letter we will know. One encouraging thing, Pete has a new hat! He got it so easily at the store that I am rather jealous, and it looks very well too. Guess I will just have to wear my funeral and wedding hat and church tea one. It is only 5 years old! *I can then try Nell Ann's.*

I never told you about Easter Sunday, a nice day here though cold and miserable in Calgary. The evening before I had made those Easter bunny cookies for Jonny and spent a good deal of Sunday morning putting the first one together and Jonny came later to help me do the others. We also took Davy's birthday present over to him. Just as we finished lunch Robby Walker dropped in to return a book and soon after Jonny and Billy MacKenzie came in, they ate church tea chocolate cake while we did dishes and then looked at everything in the front room. They even wanted to see all the little things that I have in the little chest of spice draws Aunt Jane Brooks had and I was surprised to find little boys so interested even in tiny tea sets, I don't think any of them had seen anything so small before. Finally we thought we had to go out, so they all left and we had a chance to relax for 5 minutes before Susan and Mary Lee arrived with lovely Easter baskets made of colored paper, one for Pete the other for me, from Lona and Mary Lee and each with a lovely colored (hard boiled) egg with a little transfer picture on each and in a bed of paper with candy eggs round about. Susan had made a present of tiny wool dolls for me. But it was very touching. We had more cake
a

cake and ice cream, and then Bunny MacGivern arrived and we had a nice visit with her. Susan wants to hatch an egg and so spent a good part of the time "candleing" all the eggs we had hoping to find one that might hatch. They are really awfully good kids. We ended by going and getting Chinese supper for we couldn't think what we wanted to eat and met the Vallances on the street and they had been coming down but got delayed, so we must see them this week sometime. But it was quite a day.

Monday, we were fairly busy, Cecil came to put up the other light in the kitchen and at the same time Dr Riley called in as he drove by to see how we were getting on. He may go east this spring sometime too. Lona and Mary Lee were down just before lunch but not to stay, We also went up to the Tabuteaus to see if they would like some extra linoleum we have and made a bit of a call there, and I also washed and ironed. At supper time we had just put the supper on the table and Mel Medic came so asked him to stay and he did enjoy the food, He is the D.P. and wants advice from someone, we were going to get Syd Vallance to help him but luckily the next morning met him again and arranged for him to see Peter Vallance instead. so that saved a bit of time for us. He didn't stay long after supper but we had a lot more dishes to do!

Tuesday, Yesterday I tried to get some letters off and we did get a few things done, then in the afternoon went to Norquay to bring down the two big ski pictures we had loaned them. Billy and Jonny going with us and last evening all the Moores dropped in. Had an interesting talk with the Colonel and am to take the book east with me, the one about the battle of Concord, but don't want to seal it, can tell you about it when I am east. It belonged to his Grandfather. He also has the gun that his great-great-grandfather used in the Revolution when he helped chase the British back to Boston. He was from Framingham and the gun is to go there someday if they have an up and coming historical society or museum or good place for it, otherwise he said he would as soon it went to Concord.

Wednesday, to-day, has been real spring like and up to 50. We had both the cars oiled and greased after the winter driving and did a number of things. Having a few calls from Jonny too. It is their Easter vacation and not much to do but wade in puddles. The great excitement is that young Peter (Cliff's boy) is back, or was for a few hours, as he is staying in Calgary. He got as far north as Dawson in the Yukon, working his way up and back, which isn't bad for a lad who was 17 at Christmastime. He can look after himself anyway. He went with a boy who works for Ike Mills and they rode a motorcycle up and back most of the way evidently. or part way. We also saw Kenneth Campbell for a few minutes as he has come up to help Mrs Tollington house clean her house.

Thursday, A lovely spring day and the snow is going - well that's as far as I got this A.M. - now it is 2 P.M. - Pete is having a tooth filled. He has had a cough the last 2 nights. - almost like the flu going around. His voice was gone yesterday when he woke but he slept in & it was back by lunch

This morning almost the same, so he was afraid if he got coughing he couldn't take his appointment. So I'm in the car in case I have to take it instead! So will finish this letter.

X We have pretty well decided to turn our 2 cars in. The jeep & Ford & get a new jeep Station Wagon. It seems a lot of money for a car but no need in having 2 cars when we can only use 1 at a time. The 4 wheel drive that is so wonderful on the jeep is also on the Station Wagon & yet it is built to be comfortable on long drives. Another advantage is that the metal Station wagon can be locked up & even a day one needs to do that when leaving a car anywhere with things in it.

The jeep Station Wagon we would pick up in Toronto & then drive to Concord, about 550 or 600 miles. Am not sure how soon we can get it. maybe in 3 weeks. or perhaps sooner but will let you know our plans as soon as we do so you can plan a bit.

It is lucky we didn't leave until the snow has gone for last night we discovered a stream running from under the garage & shed where we store those things "we may use sometime". bits of wood, garden tools, stumps, old picture frames etc. Looked inside & the water was several inches deep on one side of the building. So we will have to get that dried up a bit first. The snow has melted a lot & almost all gone off the garage roof so should start drying up soon around the house.

We will be thinking of you the 19th of April & can imagine what an exciting time it will be. The Moores were here 25 years ago on the 150th when it almost snowed -

Loads of love
Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.
April 13, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

This is a letter just about the enclosed letter and book marker, so you will know what it is all about.

Last fall when Eleanor Campbell's mother sent a birthday box or Christmas maybe, she enclosed some presents to be given us, for Gray and Eleanor (the ones on the ranch with the 3 little boys near Pincher Creek) had written Eleanor's mother and father how much we had helped them or something to give her the idea we had gone a bit for them. She sent Pete a dear little chess game and to me a lovely little cross stitched center in blue. When I wrote back there wasn't a great deal to say so I told her about how you used to do a lot of cross stitch and how you designed things etc. and then next thing I knew she sent this little book marker she had made especially for you with the crown and all on it.

I mean't to send it with her letter as soon as I had written her but to tell the truth it got in my pile of letters and always there were others that had to be answered first, so I have only just gotten wound to writing her and feel very badly to have been so slow about it. Her adress is *

Mrs T. R. Benson
8 Kirkepladsen
Aabenraa, Denmark.

I think I also told her that next time I went east I was going to take the little doilie with me to show you. She also sent us a tiny pair of Danish shoes, little ornaments, but very pretty, about 2 inches long. She is Danish and Eleanor's father is English. They were already to come out to Canada but couldn't bring enough money to live on and now with the pound further devalued it is almost impossible for them to come. Eleanor's sister died a few years ago and so Eleanor is the only child living I think.

Can explain more when we see you.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. April 16, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

We still don't know the exact day we may leave Banff but it might be at the end of the month. Dave Prosser having a touch of flu last week sort of delayed getting the new Jeep Station wagon ordered but he said he should know by this coming Wednesday when it can be delivered to us in Toronto and then we can plan when to leave here. We got the fadders and specifications from him the other day and then Friday night he came down and we talked it all over for he has to despose of our other two cars for us too and there was quite a bit to talk over. But I will let you know as soon as I can, for I know how you love to plan ahead. There is so much I should do before we go but I can't seem to carry out what I plan, the unexpected always happens and this week when I was going to do so much I have done little.

One thing that took a good part of Friday was the Duke and Duchess of Windsor coming to spend the day in Banff and we couldn't miss the fun. Met Sam and Cis at the postoffice and we all went down to the station, with a lot of other townspeople, to see them arrive. They were in the special car Van Horne, and on the regular train, the car being here all day and being hooked on to the back of the west bound train at night. We were too far away to see much in the morning, not liking to get too near and Pete was trying the long lens. It was after noon twelve. Mr Crosby said they were to have lunch on the car and then go out at one for a drive, but the news men told Pete 1.30. so we didn't rush with lunch and went down again just at one to see them just getting into the cars and off they drove. We started in the same direction but met Ted Langridge, the man who had cancer of the throat and was in Boston, so stopped to speak to him and of course lost track of the others. Incidentally Ted is greatly improved and couldn't say enough about how wonderful everyone was to him and Dr Palmer too, and how lovely the flowers were that you sent for us.

We then went for the mail and as we came from that saw Mr Crosby driving the Windsors up the Cave and Basin Rd. but instead of following we decided to go up ahead of them to the Upper Hot Springs and get all set up for our pictures. The joke was on us for they stopped at Luxton's and spent quite a time there and people took pictures at the store while we waited a good hour up at the Hot springs. The Becker children ^{the} ~~were~~ ^{and} all in swimming and had their lunch with them, so they waited with us. Lona and her small brother and sister. Finally we got tired waiting and knowing that Syd Vallance was to come and see us that afternoon thought we should go back, and of course when we got to the bottom of the road met the cars with the Windsors all coming up! We just missed them all round! It was the most perfect day with just a few clouds and so sunny and lovely which was nice.

Syd loves to talk and we had a really nice visit from him. He had been down and not finding us guessed where we were and so said good-bye to Sam first and then came here. They leave on Monday for England and Switzerland and we wanted to tell him where we had been etc. We really talked too long and as soon as he left we went to the station to see the excitement of the Windsors leaving. Got there just as the train was coming in, but got ~~missed~~ set up so that by the time the car was hitched on to the rear of the train we were ready. The Duke and Duchess came out and were very nice and informal. I didn't have much chance to see them, trying to take pictures too, and then people wanted autographs and so they went inside to do those and the train was just starting when they came out again to wave goodbye. Poor things having to have a crowd everywhere they go but I think people were really friendly. The Prince of Wales was very well liked when he was here years ago and I am going to send Jean the newspaper clippings she may like to have them. The surprising thing to me was how young the Duke looked. His hair and eyebrows seemed quite sandy colored and he looked about 40, she is really very attractive looking and smiled all the time, their pictures don't do them justice. I just hope I got some but I am not very good at focusing quickly. Mr Crosby is our neighbor, the one who scares us by burying the grass each year. He drove them around.

Loads of Love
Catharine

P.S. Had a busy day Sunday (It's now Mon) We expected Pat & Mary Costigan down in the afternoon so I tidied things up a bit in the A.M. Jimmy came over & stayed for lunch. Then Robby Walter arrived - had dessert. Then Mrs Simpson with books & then Barbara to tell us about 2 juveniles who walked into their house a week ago, took her wedding & engagement rings & a pair out of a box on the desk & a camera & then turned up in Moose Jaw. The R.C.M.P. telephoned & asked if she had missed anything, but they hadn't so she looked & sure enough the things were gone. The boys had left things all over & said it was from a boarding house on Bear St. "Daisy" Barbara was sure lucky. Susan & Mary Lee & Davey also came in.

Bayff. Alberta
Thurs. April 20, 1950

Dearest Mother,

Just a line to tell you we still aren't sure when we will be leaving Bayff. but we might hear to-night. It depends when we can pick up the car in Toronto. but we hope to leave here in about a week & reach you a week later.

I forgot all about the 19th of April until the news last night told who won the Marathon! Rather unpatristic of me! Hope you had as lovely a day as we had here - & today is perfect too. Real spring & even some new shoots of grass have come up.

The books have arrived. last week I think & they are so pleased & said they were in such fine condition too. Think they have already written you.

Will let you know as soon as we do when we will reach Concord.

Loads of love

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Sat. April 22, 1940.

Dearest Mother,

We still don't know exactly when we can get the delivery on the new Jeep Station Wagon but we are hoping by the first week in May. They are to wire from the factory when it will come off the assembly line. Dave Brosser goes to Calgary every day to bring back cement blocks for the new building at the top of the chair lift and he drops in at Federal Motors to see if they have had word, then he comes down in the evening to tell us the news. Was down again last night and we got talking and and it was 10.30 when he left. We have made tentative reservations to leave at the end of the month but it might be a week later. I will let you know when we know.

Thursday was a lovely spring day and I hoped to finish cleaning the bedroom but couldn't get at it until after lunch so must have been working up there when Mary Royce Baker called, for when I went down later there was a note on the door that she was at the Cascade Hotel with a friend who was in bed with flu. We couldn't go over that afternoon as ~~the~~ we were waiting for the Ford being fixed and had to get tickets for Mom at the station and we expected Dave after supper, so Yesterday morning, having given up the idea of going to Calgary as was planned, we went to the hotel and Mary Baker came back to the house with us then.

I never realized that she went to the Art school at the Museum in Boston. In 1918 I think she said, She was there 2 years and then Philip Hale took her and Catherine Richardson (who's drawings we used to admire at school when we were there as they were hung in the hall as examples) over to his studio to work, as he considered them the best in the class, so she said she really missed a lot of subjects like perspective and anatomy she would have liked to have had. One of her 4 daughters went to the School the last year or two and she two has been studying again. I don't know whether her husband died or not for she never mentioned him but she has sold her house in Weston and I think has a place in Boston and also up in New Hampshire. She was very interested in all our pictures and we also showed her the sketches, she said she never realized we were so " talented " !

We were sort of hectic yesterday, had a late lunch and I put some clothes to soak and then discovered that the hot water tank wasn't heating. We have had the thing for about 16 years and guess the element has burned out, it is the first time anything has ever gone wrong with it which seems rather remarkable. So I had to heat water on the stove to finish the wash which took some time. We rather expected Gray Campbell to drive up as he had

wired Dave Prosser that a friend of his would like the Jeep we are selling and they would drive up to Banff. (We looked for him all day but now it will be Monday or Tuesday that he comes as Dave telephoned him first thing this morning)

We went over town about 3.30 and ran into George Encil who we hadn't seen since he was down here that evening and got so excited, he was very friendly and wants the models in bronze by the 18th of May, so we went up to Charlie Beil's to-gether and that took a while. Then we hunted for Cecil Phillpott to fix the Hot Water tank, he is here this morning doing that, Last night Dave came down about 8.30 and so the day was quite busy. Allan was down after supper for a short time too.

It is snowing this morning from the east, Cecil came soon after breakfast and has been putting in a new element so hope it works for it is sort of a nuisance not having hot water. It is getting close to train time for Mom so we will take her down I expect and then this afternoon we will ask Mary over to tea with her friend, Too bad it is such a poor day for we had hoped to take her for a drive.

I can see that my trip to Calgary is off, so will reach Concord in my 5 year old hat, though Dave has offered to bring me one from Calgary ! We will be busy enough with other things next week, for I want to put away a lot of the woolen clothes yet. and I had hoped to rake the yard but with this fresh snow it isn't so good.

Must run so lots of love

Catherine

Sater. We are at the station seeing Mom off. It seems to be clearing the sun coming out through the snow so maybe we can drive Mary around after all. Cecil fixed the tank putting in a new element to heat it & George Encil was down, talking art, so we just made the train.

lots of love

C.

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. April 27, 1950

Dearest Mother,

To-night I feel as if I had all the time in the world for a change, but of course I really haven't! We were all planned to leave on Saturday if we could get the Jeep Station Wagon on time, but the number never came through and now it seems that the car won't be ready until next week and we have to have the serial number etc before leaving Banff. I do hope we won't miss the tulips again but otherwise it will work much better for us to have a few extra days here, six to be exact.

All this week has been snowy, most discouraging. Mom left last Saturday and we saw her off and from then on there have been snow flurries and an inch or more of snow each night and like to-day, snowed all day though luckily it didn't stay on the ground, however we haven't been able to even rake the stuff off the lawn yet, and now it is too damp. Lona and Mary Lee came over the other day and were disappointed they couldn't rake so I suggested they take one of the last big snow drifts and scatter the snow so it would melt faster, I had done the other drifts, and they pitched in with great fury but soon got so wet I thought they better come in, so yesterday we saw them coming again and Pete went to the door to fool them, he knocked on the inside just when he thought they would knock on the outside, he did it twice and there was no response, so he looked out and they never had come to the door at all, so the joke was on him, but had grabbed the shovels and were finishing the snow drift off. They said that they hadn't been very good and so wanted to do one good deed for the day, and we were the lucky recipients. They really are pretty good kids and so willing to help.

It has been a busy week for us. Sunday Jonny and Billy MacKenzie came over after lunch and Jonny wanted Billy to see the Japanese books we have with drawings in ink (we were showing them to the Simpsons one day Jonny came in and he was much impressed) so we were carefully explaining them when Bobby Walker came along, They didn't want him to see them so we put them away and the three of them looked at Arizona highways for a bit but began to get sort of rambunctious as Robby had a silly streak on, just about then Lona and Mary Lee came along so pretty soon I got out the gingerale and cookies and we told them we were expecting company as Pat and his wife and baby were to come at 4 o'clock and off they all went to Barbaras where we heard later they spent some of the afternoon jumping on Harolds bed with their shoes on!

Pat and Mary and the 7 months old baby came sharp at four and after tea we showed them sketches etc. It was a nice afternoon and snowy out and I guess a relief to be somewhere without a phone. *Pat still has his arm in a cast when he had it broken in the last hockey game of the season. His right arm so he can't operate*

All week we have been having calls from Dave Prosser about the Jeep and whether there was any word or not. Tonight we asked about a heater and radio as you suggested and he said that if we order one from him he gets the commission so we have done that as we think they will be nice to have too. He expected Gray Campbell to drive up with a buyer for the Jeep and it was funny how it worked out, for when we first thought of selling the Jeep we have, we suggested that Gray might know of a rancher who would like one and ours is really just broken in and has been well taken care of. So Dave wrote Gray and in the meantime Gray wrote us about a young Hungarian who's mother visited them last summer and who wants to settle in the west and had just arrived, will work for Gray until he gets to know the country and ways and first thing he was to do was to buy a Jeep. Funny wasn't it? So Gray and Mihaly Zitchy were to come up to Banff Monday or Tuesday *to see our Jeep. To like Russell's*

We looked for them all day Monday besides Pete going to the dentist and doing lots of errands too, Jonny was over right after supper wanting us to do his photos for him so as the others hadn't come we did. Were just finishing at 8 o'clock when Gray and Mihaly (pronounced Mee-high) arrived. Luckily we had a large steak and so I got Potatoes boiling, new ones and my standby cooking them with the skins on, creamed onions and hot biscuits you warm up. They ate a lot so I guess it tasted good and of course we talked all at once, Gray is so full of all the goings on at the ranch and Mihaly is a most attractive young man, rather quiet until you get him started and then most interesting about things. Jonny was here for a little while and then we had to get hold of Dave to talk about the Jeep and he came along and talked that, arranging to take Mihaly out the next morning for a trial spin. and after that we talked about everything until it was nearly eleven or later.

Mihaly Zitchy has quite a story. His family evidently were big landowners in Hungary, having either 2000 or 20,000 acres and a lot of people living on the estate as well. He has been trained to ride in the Spanish style, that alone is a long story, but he has been brought up with horses and training them etc. When the Communists took over they left the family with 15 acres, a pig and a cow and that is about all. His father is still there, 82 and says he is too old to move away. The mother is an American and was wise enough to get money in the states for her children. They got to Canada last fall but the mother was here first. read Grays article in Macleans about his getting a ranch, wrote him and then came west and stayed with Gray and Eleanor for a week or two, *last summer* was a most delightful person and became one of the family, they called her Aunt Julia, but she is really the Countess Zitchy. She sent the son out and Gray and Eleanor were a bit worried at first until he arrived and first thing he did was get into old clothes and chopped wood and milked the cow etc. and enters into everything. Is a great help to Gray and of course great fun for them to have to talk to as he is very well educated and ~~and~~ can explain things beautifully. It seems that he and his wife escaped from Hungary by carrying their 2 and 4 year old sons on their backs, had to get under the barbed wire fence that surrounds Hungary and there was no guide on the other side as they expected. They were arrested twice but each time escaped and finally got to Austria and Western Germany where one of his sisters is married to an English diplomat.

Tuesday they were here all day, Gray over for a time in the morning and then just at noon Dave and Mihaly arrived with papers for us to sign for he wanted to buy the Jeep. Pete felt really badly when it was sold for we have had so much fun in it but am glad that some one like that is to have it. We asked them to supper and that gave us the afternoon. Mary Lee and Lona were down too and I was busy making pliofilm bags to put away woollens in. Seems to me everytime I think of going away a few moths are seen flying around, enough to scare me. But this time the things were well put away in airtight bags. a newplastic stuff.

They didn't show up until about six and we had a baked slice of ham, more potatoes, (they each ate 3) and asparagus on toast, ice cream and coffee. Then we talked all evening and thought they were going to bed early it was after ten when they left.

Yesterday I cleaned the little bedroom at last and very hurriedly and in the afternoon was another tea, this time at Miss Carriks for the library. Mrs Fainter paid this time, and Feral and Edmee and Mrs Noble were there too. Just for the fun Pearl read my tea cup and saw in it, so she said, that we would go on the trip east but wouldn't start as soon as we expected. She was down with a book this afternoon and said she couldn't help it that was what the cup said and about an hour later Dave came to tell us there was the delay in getting the car, funny wasn't it? However she said that I would be very happy and see lots of people (but please don't give a big do will you ?) that I would bring back two new things to wear, and when we started home we would come straight back in a bee line. Also there was a tall thin person there. So we will see.

This morning we got the kitchen floor washed and waxed so it will be allright when we come back and I also got a lot of woollens put away. Pearl was down and Dave and Jonny over at supper time.

Friday morning, Am just doing the wash. Pete wonders how we would have gotten off to-morrow and there is a lot to be done, maybe I can even get the letters all written and the desk in order now

This is a longer letter than I intended and no doubt you won't get more than a line after this.

Loads of love

Bayff.

Thurs, April 27 1950

Dearest Mother.

It looks as if we would be a week later reaching Concord. Dave has just found out that we won't know the Serial number of the new Jeep Station Wagon until next Wednesday or Thursday & we have to have it for our license & insurance & papers for bringing the car back. So instead of leaving this week end we will plan to leave next Friday night May 5th pick the car up Monday morning & most likely reach Concord by Thursday ^{May 11th}. At least that is what we will try to do.

Actually it will make everything far easier for us & we can get more done before we leave instead of an awful rush. Have had a busy week & will write you all about it.

Loads of love

Catherine

P.S. There is so much I wanted to do before we left & now maybe we can -

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. May 2, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

I wish I had all that time + thought I had the other night! We hope to leave Friday but won't know for sure until Wednesday or Thursday when the Car numbers come through.

The weekend was rather busy and we have had lots of people about one thing or another and it all takes time. I had hoped to take up the long dresses and let down the too short but it doesn't look as if I would have much time now. Do you think Annie Olson will be coming to you soon after we arrive? Say sometime from May 15th on? I know my skirts are all the wrong length and Miss Gammel here is so slow and forgets and last year I had a heck of a time getting her to do it.

We had a wonderful weekend as to weather and did a bit of raking in between times. Sunday we had papers to work on in the morning and then just as we were finishing lunch the Farquarsons from Calgary came to see us as Mom is away, other wise they would have gone there and they stayed two hours and the young ones were very interested in rocks etc. and then yesterday we had Ted Woki about the fan and young Cliff to buy the Ford and Dave Prosser about selling it to him and a couple who wanted to buy the Ford too, and Jonny and Robby to get us to see a Bonfire they had and Susan in the afternoon to help rake. and we did some photographs as well.

Already there are several good reasons why it was better we didn't have to leave last week. Pete's new suit hasn't come yet, the film being done just came back and we have been able to sell the Ford and this was a bad week for me to travel and we are going to get some of the yard raked after all.

Won't write a lot now. Oh yes we have had two long calls from Dr Robinson about his painting, and Mary and Jimmy Simpson were over Saturday night until nearly midnight telling us their plans etc. and we went up to the Wards Sunday night, and let a man try out the Ford as well. Mr Crosby has burned a good part of the grass so that is pretty well over with.

Won't write more now but just thought I would mention about Annie Olson if it was possible to get her it would be very helpful.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff Alberta.
Wed. May 3, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

Just to let you know that it really looks as if we would be leaving Friday afternoon May 5th. as we are to pick the reservations up in the morning, sold the Ford this afternoon to young Cliff and the papers are all signed, so now we feel badly about that! We have it until we leave day after to-morrow.

We will go via St Paul and Chicago and be in Toledo most likely at the Commodore Perry Hotel Sunday night and we hope to set out for Concord the next day though it may take a little while to get the car etc.

I am sure now I will need Annie Olson's help in fixing skirts etc. so if she would come to you it would be quite wonderful sometime after the 15th of May.

We are having nice weather but a cold east wind every day so it doesn't seem very warm.

It looks as if Pete would arrive without his new suit and we are plenty annoyed. There is some sort of Monday business at the store. He was measured for it March 31st. and Tommy Kelly who is the clerk in the mens wear and has been there for several years, put the order in the office to be sent in *in the usual way.* We expected the suit all last week as it should take from 3 to 4 weeks, and one ordered a couple of days ahead of Pete's came, then Friday a suit ordered after Pete's came along. So when there was no sign of Pete's suit he asked Florence to wire and see if it hadn't been sent if it could come Air Mail. She said there had been no reply this morning. Tommy and ~~we~~ both of us had our suspicions that either it wasn't ordered or else it was ordered late and that she hadn't even wired. So this afternoon Pete asked the telegraph office if a wire had been sent and they had no trace of one. It makes us mad, she seems to take a delight in doing little annoying things like that and unfortunately Jackie hasn't been in the store since last week so Tommy couldn't ask him, for he said Jackie would have looked into it. I don't suppose it will come now and its too late to get one anywhere else.

Shouldn't write more to you when there is so much to be done. Will see you soon anyway we hope.

Loads of love,
Catherine

En route
North Dakota
May 6, 1950

Dearest Mother

We really are on our way though at times I wondered would we make it. The surprising part is that now we are traveling through what looks like the middle of winter. Snow from 6 - 10 inches deep in North Dakota & great drifts. Most roads impassable with mud under the snow (it happened last night) & we've seen trucks & cars stalled in many places from the train.

It was snowing too when we left Bauff. great wet flakes & about as much as we went out of the mountains. Hard to realize it is the 1st week in May!

Everything seemed to happen as we were trying to leave. Pete got an infected ingrown toenail & Dr. Mackenzie cut both of the nails. one on each big toe & it's awful painful. so Pete felt less like getting things done than ever the day before & then as usual there were so many odd things to do. The saint never came. Barbara said Jimmy left a new coat at her house. so Pete tried that yesterday afternoon. wouldn't button over his middle or the sleeves reach his wrists! I guess you won't mind how we look!

Then Gotti came & took the fare out of the furnace to overhaul it while we are away. & there was the left over food to take to Barbara & Pete wanted a new black tea which he got and then left it in a pocket of his old coat, which he calls his smoking jacket as someone burnt a hole in one sleeve with a cigarette!

x I know we forgot lots of things but perhaps if we at least get to bread it will be something & as it is you we are going to see most of all we don't want to be entertained or eat out. Its funny but Pete seems to have lost confidence in doing things away from home - Sort of emotions or something. but he has been better about lots of things.

Will ~~we~~ if we have time between trains at St Paul. We are 50 minutes late now & have just an hour to catch our train to Chicago. 30 minutes in Chicago to catch another one to Toledo. We reach there Sunday night.

We hope the jeep will be ready Monday morning but of course it might not.

Don't know when we will reach Concord but having done so little driving this last year we might be slow. Will do our best.

Loads of love & it's a rough train right now.

Catherine.

Monday - Toledo - Well we are this far after quite a trip, have telephoned the jeep people & the Station Wagon won't be ready until tomorrow morning. It is just as well for us as the trip proved rather arduous. The road bed, due no doubt to the snow & mud & frost coming out of the ground, was so bumpy the 2nd night on the train that it felt exactly like trying to sleep on a bouncing rubber ball. In fact we found it hard to sleep at all.

We were late getting into St Paul just had 1/2 an hour for breakfast, just got up at 6.15 AM. From there we were on the last car of the Burlington Zephyr, which goes about 90 miles an hour & that was smooth but being in the last car we sort of whipped about at times. We also had fun trying the Vista Dome. That

4

glass covered top observation place which was fun but got a little sick from a man's cigar.

In Chicago we almost lost our train to Toledo as the system for having our baggage taken from the train to Parmalee's transfer had been changed the day before so our bags went to the wrong place & not knowing our way about we only just found them, grabbed a cab & dashed across to the La Salle St Station getting red lights at every crossing. Then we had to walk to the very front of a 15 car train. It seemed miles & the train was due to leave any minute. When Pete has to do something at a certain time he is a bit like you. But instead of his nervousness making him want to go to the bathroom he gets very tense & his legs won't work properly. & his toes being sore didn't help. However we made it & got into our little Komette. The 1st we've ever been in. It's like a compartment in the space of a regular seat & mighty small.

By the time we got to the hotel here the dining rooms were closed so we had our supper in the room & ate too much so this morning we didn't feel too good & it was just as well we didn't have to start right out.



The COMMODORE PERRY Hotel

DANIEL J. O'BRIEN, President
JOHN SABREY, Resident Manager

TOLEDO, OHIO

Don't know just when we will leave to-morrow (Tuesday) but maybe by late morning or afternoon. In any case driving slowly we will take 2 nights on the road so it will be late Thursday or ~~early~~ Friday morning when we reach Concord. Will try to telephone you the evening before we will be home so you can have that fish chowder all ready. The last thing Dr MacKenzie said was to eat an extra helping for him!

We hope to go to see the pictures in the Toledo Museum this afternoon for we understand they have a fine art collection.

Will send this air mail. Never had time in either station to mail it a heavy stamp -

Loads of love & will see you soon. He seems much concerned that he has changed so since all of you in Concord knew him. Having lost his hair & gotten very stout

but I tell him he hasn't changed
inside & that's what really counts. *

Will see you soon & hope the
tulips aren't all cut. The trees are
budding here. Forsythia. peach
blossoms & cherry & pear trees in
bloom. grass green. Quite a change
from North Dakota which looked
like the middle of winter.

Goads of love

Catherine.

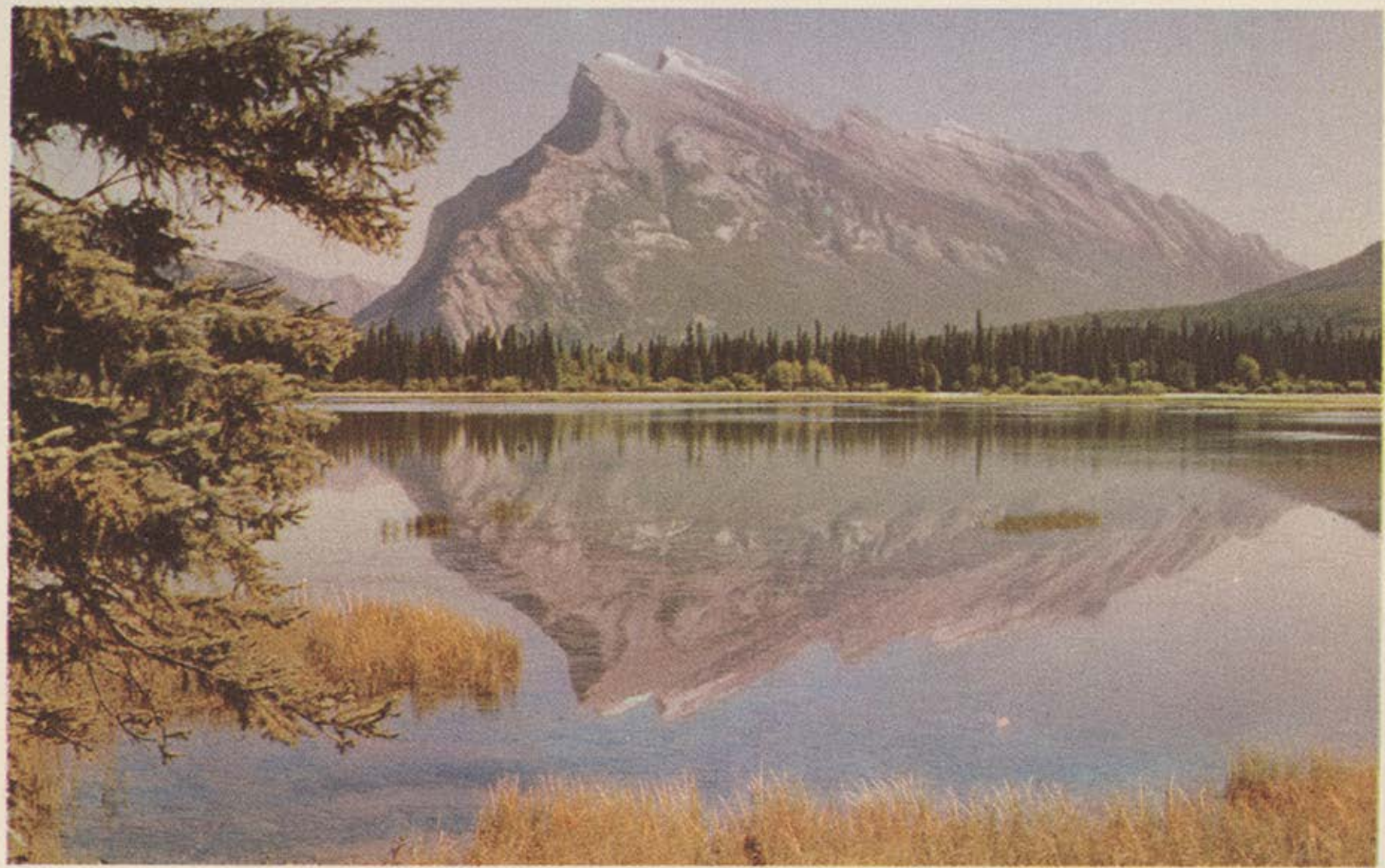
105. MT. RUNDLE (9,675 Ft.)
and Vermilion Lake, Banff
National Park.

Scenes in Natural Color
Along the Route of the Canadian Pacific Railway

POSTCARD

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BYRON HARMON PHOTOS, BANFF, CANADA

LITHO'D IN CANADA
MANN LITHOGRAPH CO. LTD., VAN., B.C.



Barnstable . June 6 . 1950 .
We had a fine day except for a
couple of light showers . Hot at noon
near North Adams, then cool & over-
cast . Sid Buttrick overtook us on
his way to Athol . Stopped to say
goodbye & also told us Fra
Waterman had died . a wig just
came . Didn't make awfully
good time but reached here
where we stayed before it was
& were tired enough to stop
Mrs. Himmman gave us a good
supper at 6.30 . & we spent
the evening talking to them
were up at 5 AM . Wednesday
to get an early start, a fine
day . The Lobster sandwiches
were wonderful & we had
them for lunch & tea . Must
be starting now I will try
to find a post box . Thanks
so very much for every-
thing . we really had a
wonderful visit ! heaps of
love from both Catherine .



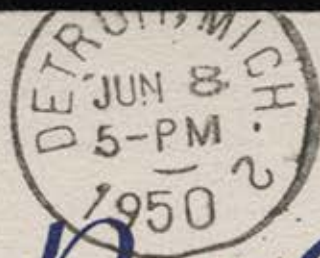
Mrs Russell Robb Dr,
Concord.

Massachusetts.

August 8, 1950 . Detroit

Dearest Mother. We are supposed to arrive in Detroit at 9 A.M. & then go as fast as possible across Michigan to Ludington & catch a boat to night. Had a quiet night though the cabin was rather warm. We are with the Boston Shrimpers en route to their convention. with crab Potatoes. Fast Potatoes, Beans etc. Actually a very good crowd but no wonder it was hard to get a reservation. There were 6 special bus loads of them & their wives. all adding to the fun. One we met knew friends of ours in Jasper Park! also saw an ambulance rush to a man lying almost dead in the street after being hit by a car. We could see it from the boat. Spent yesterday afternoon cooking in a park until we could get on board & then it was so hot in our cabin we just sat on deck. Had good dinner & slept well. Today looks clear & hot. We are going up the Detroit River now. Roads of Love. Catherine.

MRS. EDITH M. ROBB
CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS



HIRE THE HANDICAPPED
ITS GOOD BUSINESS



Post Card

Mrs Russell Robb er,
Concord,
Massachusetts.

Green Bay, Wis. Friday June 10th
we spent the night here last night.
a bit sleepy this morning. first
waiting for a thunder storm & heavy
rain to let up before going for
breakfast. Left Detroit at 9.30 A.M.
& drove the 250 miles to Sudborton
by 6.30. Very warm all day &
a strong wind. We noticed the
heat & discovered in one
place it was over 90°. Had a
choice of boats & left on the 6.30
to Kenosha. Had a nice state
room & a bath & then found it
was just a 4 hour trip! We had
thought it was over night. Landed
at 11 P.M. at home 10 Wisconsin
time & drove 30 miles to Green
Bay & found a good cabin
camp. From now on we won't
have to hurry to make boats
& so will take it more easily.
& except for St Paul have no
more large cities to go through.
Boats of Eve. Peter & Catherine.

MRS. EDITH M. ROBB

CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MAUSAU, WIS.
JUN 9
3-PM.
1950
Post Card



Mrs. Russell Robb sr.

Barnard,

Massachusetts.

June 10th - St. Paul, Minnesota

MRS. EDITH M. ROBB

It is Saturday A.M. & last night
we were in great luck. found
an excellent cabin 15 miles
east of St. Paul. & $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile
beyond the most wonderful
French place for supper. Real
hors d'oeuvres(?) served to start
with & I had fried scallops &
chicken. Yesterday we drove from
about 8 - 6. 260 miles. It
was cooler but terribly windy
so it was rather tiring. The
day before had been a "red
heat" everywhere so no wonder
it seemed hot. It rained as
we started out but cleared
soon & was a lovely day. To-day
is cool & nice. We are going
sea Glenwood where the Kallalls
live & have cabins & then on
to-morrow. We can do about
300 miles in a long day.
Goods of love Catherine

CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS



Post Card



Mrs Russell Robb es.
Concord,
Massachusetts.

Part 1

Greenwood.
Minnesota.
Sun June 11, 1950

Dearest Mother,

We are staying over Sunday with the Oliver Kaddahls, partly to avoid driving over the weekend but mostly because they just wouldn't let us leave early this morning & I guess it isn't a bad idea to have a break in our journey for it will be another 4 days before we reach Sauff.

The Kaddahls are old friends of Pete's. Oliver being the champion jumper. Ski jumper of the United States at one time & Pete used to jump with him in Sauff years ago. We stopped here on our way west 20 years ago & they were in Sauff for the Ski Championships this last winter. They have a very nice tourist camp on the shores of a 7 mile long lake & also run a large dance Pavilion where the many farmers from the surrounding district come in Saturday nights. They also have boats on the lake & roller skating too. Its quite a summer resort with many cottages & a nice quiet village. We have a cabin about 10 feet from the water a lovely light breeze blowing across the lake. The 2 children are home from college & Jeanie is leaving Tuesday for summer school in Boulder, Colorado so they have all gone to their Lutheran church together this morning & I thought it a good chance to write you.

It seems funny & very natural to be writing to you once more & as Jean would say "we are back into our usual way." Looking back on the visit it was really a very happy one for us & I hope you felt it was a real visit at last. Pete feels so much better & now that we have managed a trip east together for the first time in ten years it may not be so hard to get "under way" again. It always seems difficult to leave things undone in Bauff but once away you gradually forget the home problems. Oliver takes the Bauff Crag & Canyon & we read in the last one that a Committee has been formed to run Indian Days. So at least we have gotten out of that I hope. & if only we can get back into painting more things should be much better & we will feel better too. x

I wonder did the family get off easily for Europe. With only one suitcase each it should be easier than the summer visits to Edgartown etc where they had to take so much. You will just have time to rest up before Sam & Louisa arrive & I can imagine how much they will enjoy it all & the roses should be at their best in the garden too.

and now to tell you about our trip so far in more detail than on the postcards.

Tuesday morning before we got to Athol, I was driving at the time, & we were just going along steadily when a car started to pass but instead of going by road & stayed alongside & who should it be but Sted Beethick on his way to a directors meeting. We stopped & spoke for a few minutes & he said they had just gotten a ~~wire~~ wire from Detroit that Ira Waterman had died. I should have asked more about it, but you will have heard.


We were starting up the Mohawk trail about noon & found the loveliest picnic ground off the road & down by the river. An ideal spot. The tables all newly painted & the whole place picked up for summer. I remember how disappointed we were the first time we drove that way there were so many signs. But now there are hardly any & it makes a beautiful drive. The trees are all green now, not as lovely as when they were in bud a month ago. As we went along we realized we could make Bardsville again where we stopped before, getting there about six o'clock. They remembered us & gave us the same cabin. & Mrs. Human cooked us another delicious supper opening choice preserves. Pete had a wonderful talk with the old father.

a real character, while I helped with the dishes. Then we all sat out on the front lawn while trucks thundered by & cars whizzed past so you could hardly hear yourself. Though they acted as if they were in the quietest back country spot imaginable. After a while we didn't notice the traffic either. You get accustomed to it, like the planes in Concord. It was 268 miles that day.

We had a good sleep & Mrs. Hurman gave us coffee in the thermos, hard boiled eggs & sandwiches so we ate, as we dressed & left this Wednesday morning at 6 A.M. It was lovely & cool early but gradually warmed up, we even had a little rain. The Cherry Valley route is lovely with some very steep hills so you don't make such very good time until you near Buffalo. We were anxious to get there as early as we could to be sure to get space on the Detroit boat so drove steadily & got to Buffalo. 180 miles by noon. Nearly 11 more miles through the city limits to the boat & by then it was a really hot day.

Pete found that there were no definite reservations for us, only a letter of enquiry, but they had plenty of room for the car & an outside cabin for us. We couldn't board until 4 o'clock & so instead of sitting at the pier in boiling

then we drove out to a lovely park, one of the men in the ticket office suggested. The people there couldn't have been nicer trying to do all they could for us. We sort of repacked the car & cooled off until four & then went back to the boat thinking we would get settled on board & have a nice nap. for we had been up at 5 A.M.

However when we got into our cabin it was like entering a slow oven. It was small & shaped like this, with the bunk  in the side & a long very narrow corridor to the port hole or window. No air was coming in & the sun having beaten down on the boat all day it was well hot up. There was no use thinking of a nap, so we washed up & went on deck where a nice breeze across the water & sitting in the shade made it cool enough for my suit coat.

We sat & watched the passengers come aboard. had real fun watching some ~~the~~ negro girls taking pictures of each other & some negro boys dressed to the hilt who came along. Then the first special bus load of Schminers came ~~along~~ all wearing their Fezes & after that six more bus loads. bags & baggage & their wives & families. A very nice looking

crowd. After the busses were unloaded I suddenly noticed a man lying on the street across the way. Several people gathered & then the man moved one arm & felt his head but made no attempt to get up. Pretty soon a siren & the ambulance drove up. a doctor sprang out. & the man was put on a stretcher & taken away. We later heard some Schrimers talking later & he evidently had walked into the side of a passing car. They had seen it from the bus. But it all was quite interesting to watch.

Had a good dinner. & found the Schrimers were from Boston, en route to Los Angeles to their convention. One little fellow from Dover New Hampshire & belonging to the band, had been to Jasper. Knew the Andrews who run a small hotel there & they correspond. He said he hoped they would meet him in Victoria where they stop a few hours, & then was quite surprised when we told him it was a good 500 miles from Jasper. He also wished we could see the large bean pot they carry with them for the parade. 10 or 12 feet high & full of candy the size of beans.

We slept well considering the warm & rather cramped quarters & were up early forgetting the change in time. But

after breakfast enjoyed the sail up the Detroit River. We arrived about 9 o'clock, getting away from the pier about 9.30. We knew it was about 250 miles to Suddington where the boat left at 6 or 7 in the evening. so we didn't dare take time out to see the Waterfalls. We were thankful enough to get through downtown Detroit having to drive the whole length of Woodward Ave.

Pete drove & I watched for lights etc. Boston could certainly learn from Detroit how to handle traffic. The lights at every street corner are synchronized so that by driving at a steady speed of 30 miles an hour you make all the lights for 6 or 8 blocks at a time. The cars never piled up & about 10 or 20 at a time sailed through. It only took us about 30 minutes to get way out Woodward Ave & we were very glad to be on our way. The highways are for high speed but we managed very nicely, they avoided Pontiac & Flint & only in Saginaw when I was driving did we seem to miss every light & have to stop dead at all intersections.

Later it got hotter & hotter to us. so we stuck to things & a very high & hot wind all day. One time we stopped for gas & I looked at a thermometer on a sign but thought it wasn't working when it read over 90°. but it evidently was correct.

It was a prettier drive than going across
 Michigan to Muskegon & had it not been for
 the wind we could have enjoyed it more. It
 was record heat for this time of year we heard.
 We reached Ludington about 5.30 & found
 the boat to Keweenaw, Wisconsin would leave
 at 6.30 & they said the boats were much the
 same so we took that one. Actually they are
 train ferries carrying as many as 36 freight
 cars & put the Automobiles ~~one~~ instead
 of one or two freight cars before sailing.
 I don't know why we thought it was an
 overnight journey! but got a nice stateroom
 with a double bed & read bath. All very
 nice. As we were about to sail the Stewards
 told us we would get in at 11 P.M. 10 P.M.
 Wisconsin time that evening. too late to
 change our minds, for we could have spent
 the whole night in Ludington & taken the
 boat next morning at 7.A.M. There was
 nothing to do but make the best of it
 but we had looked forward to a good
 night's sleep. I had a bath & we both
 took a nap. ~~at~~ as it was nice in the
 cabin & woke about 20 to eight
 realizing we might miss supper we
 hurried. the notice read Supper 6-8 P.M.
 but on the door it said "Dining Room Closed"

we began to think we were doing every thing wrong. Remembered we had passed the "gallery" coming aboard so went out on deck & looked in! A very nice young lad saw us. said we could have some thing. The Chef was most obliging & we ended by having the most delicious chicken soup & a sand wich. I kept mine but as it got pretty rough on the lake Pete lost some of his! We had another sleep until after ten & then were in Kewaupee about 11 P.M.

It was a very informal casual sort of trip. No one helped much. You carried your own bags up a steep flight of steps to board. & of course we took our overnight things not knowing we were only to be on $7\frac{1}{2}$ hours. Then when we neared Kewaupee, an officer said "Come this way to drive your cars off" (though they had loaded them) & we had an even steeper companionway to go down, where we got into the jeep sort of between large freight cars. The Purser had been very nice & said there was 2 nice little hotels in Kewaupee but no cabins nearer than Green Bay - 30 miles away.

of course by the time we dashed it was pitch dark & a lot of sleepy motorists managed to drive their cars ashore around the tracks on the boat for the freight cars. The pier was several miles from town & we just followed the lights of the car ahead, up a long neck of land, across a bridge & into Kenawau where the only places open seemed to be beer parlors. One hotel didn't look very promising & meant leaving the car on the main street & being a port we didn't like the idea of that so decided to drive the 30 miles to Green Bay.

It was quite a drive over an excellent road & luckily we again had a car ahead of us to follow & the roads were well marked too. Only we had to keep the windows closed as swarms of June bugs were hitting the wind shield & we didn't like the idea of having them as passengers.

Pete asked at a garage about a cabin camp & the men were very nice. Not only recommended one but telephoned ahead & so we ended up at "the Sportsman" about 11 their time. Kind night out, but it was airy & rather a good bed so we had a nice night.

Will continue this to-morrow.

Loads of love

Catherine

P.S. We are now in Bismarck, North Dakota. No chance to mail this. The rest will follow.

2nd letter part 1.

Nashua, Montana
Two June 13, 1950.

Dearest Mother

To continue where I left off in my last. We thought we were real lucky to get a cabin with toilet at the "Sportsman" 6 miles north of Green Bay at 11 P.M. Wisconsin time Thursday night. They found they served breakfast at 7 A.M. so though we woke earlier we waited & took it easy. The cabin had a window on every side so good air but otherwise none too exciting. Just as we started putting our bags in the jeep it started to rain & came down in bucketfuls. So we waited for the shower to let up a little. Managed to get the bags in under a drip from the roof & then ran to the main house for breakfast. Tried all doors. front, back & side. none open. So thought we must have made a mistake about breakfast & started on our way. Luckily we spotted a very clean looking Cafe with one man sitting on a stool & went in there. Found they had just opened for business & we were their first customers. They had been a grocery store. It was rather funny. Also we discovered we had forgotten to change our clocks & it was first after 7 o'clock so got an early start after all!

The drive that day was ^{terrible} ~~really~~ through lovely country. lovely farms & rolling hills. It rained at first but soon cleared & was sunny all day but terribly windy. Especially at Chippewa Falls where there were white caps on the lake & the sand was blowing off roads etc. It made the drive seem very noisy. I hate wind like that to drive in. Other wise we had a pleasant trip. Didn't find another place we could have gotten breakfast had we missed the first one, so we were lucky. Got a couple of sandwiches when the oil was bump changed

in the jeep & ate them in a lovely park in Wausau, Wisconsin. The roads were good & very direct. One we measured & went 19 miles without even a tiny turn & another 21 miles without a real turn, just a slight bend. making 40 miles in all at one stretch. I've never seen anything like it.

That night we were awfully lucky, & stopped at the 1st good looking place before St. Paul. It was called Benos. room & bath & so clean the man brought out a white towel to wipe our feet on before tramping in gravel. Up the road was "Larry's". looked like another roadside place to eat but was run by French people. The best food we've had "eating out" for ages. They had steaks that came on still sizzling. frog legs etc. Pete had fried scallops & I had chicken & a tossed salad with delicious french dressing in a pitcher which was thick & never separated. also french fried potatoes. We could see two men doing the cooking. While we waited for the main part to be cooked they brought us a tray of delicious hors d'oeuvres - an old lady Susan & we first helped ourselves. There was no dessert. just coffee. In every one had eaten too much by then anyway.

Saturday morning we got an early start - around six & skirted St. Paul & Minneapolis so as to miss the traffic. We were a little weary from all the driving & the wind the day before & debated whether to call in & see the Oliver Kaldabls. knowing they would want us to stay over & get the bird who would be hurt if we didn't stop. So in the end Pete telephoned

from St. Cloud & they told us the best road (it was only 10 miles out of the way) & we got there at one. They had waited lunch. The 2 children (Jeanie & Oliver Jr.) being home from college. They have cabins right on the lake & it was lovely & cool. They insisted we stay the night & we thought a quiet afternoon wouldn't hurt. Also hate week-end traffic. In the end it was so late when we went to bed Saturday that we decided to stay over Sunday too. & lucky we did for it was over 85 & would have been very hot driving through Minnesota & North Dakota.

It was a nice ~~break~~ ^{break} & they are so informal & didn't make us do lots of things. We had meals anytime we liked too. Saturday we drove around Glenwood, a lovely lake which seems to be below the gently rolling farm land above & is fed by springs. We also called on their parents & saw their winter house etc. Didn't see the old family home which is a farm & built of oak logs. 14 children were born in it including Oliver's mother. They are originally Norwegian. They had their things to do, Nora a renting cabins & Oliver having to check up on the Dance Pavilion. & we were up until late Saturday as a Mr Kvam came in to see us.

Sunday they went to church & I wrote you. & in the afternoon we sat in the coolest parts. Watched the little children playing in the water. an ideal spot really & Oliver Jr went out on water skis behind a speed boat which was exciting to watch as he does it well & we had never seen it done before. They are fine kids. Lots of friends etc were in & out too. & then Sunday night they took

us to a sort of club, where we had dinner. A lovely spot on a high point between two lakes & you could look down & see the fish swimming by. The man who runs the place is an ex-engineer & had built the bridge in Regina & somewhere else ^{in Western Canada} & had lived in Canada a long time while working on various construction jobs, so was very interesting to talk with. Also Norwegian originally. It was a later evening than we expected but it couldn't be helped very well.

We did manage to leave next morning about 6:10 ~~am~~ It had said on the car radio (which incidentally we have enjoyed having so much) that it would be cooler & occasional scattered thunder showers which sounded nice. It turned out to be quite a day.

First of all as we drove towards Fergus Falls we noticed a train puffing towards us up a grade. As it came along the track beside us I thought it looked a little older type of engine than the first one, when we really saw it imagine our surprise to find it a real old fashioned wood burning engine pulling 2 ~~box~~ gasily painted yellow old fashioned coaches. I couldn't quite make out the lettering but it was the 1st something of the Great Northern & later we discovered it had been taking part in a 75th Jubilee celebration at Fargo, North Dakota. It was fun seeing it traveling along under its own steam like any other train.

As we left Fargo about 9.30 A.M. we could see the black thunder storms gathering in the distance. One seemed way off to the right (the worst one I thought) & the others in a circle to the left. We went joyfully along feeling nice & cool & it got darker & darker. We even noticed some cars with their lights on coming towards us & then it started to rain. Got terribly black but still the storms seemed worse on either side. Finally just as we turned sharply to the left the rain came down in earnest & the wind started blowing harder than ever. The car in front of us pulled into a funny little filling station on the corner at a tiny place called Buffalo - just a few houses! & we thought, seeing a sign saying "Jamestown", that we would keep on & run through the storm. I hadn't kept track of our direction & thought we were soon to turn right again from our map. However we seemed to be on a very straight stretch of road headed right into the blackest part of the storm. It was open flat country & though earlier there had been wonderful wind breaks ^{of trees} growing on one or the other side of the road. This section seemed to be wide open.

We didn't know quite what to do but to keep going. The rain was coming down harder than ever & the wind even stronger. We passed several cars pulled up into tiny side roads & then 2 large dairy trucks also parked to wait out the storm.

we wished we had had sense enough to pull into that filling station but one couldn't turn back & there never was another building on that stretch of road where we could take shelter. At least not until beyond where we finally had to stop. There were still a few cars creeping on following us & we all had our lights on. Then one by one we all got to the point where the storm got so fierce we couldn't go on. Neither of us had ever seen anything like it.

The fields at the side of the road were full of water. We think left over from the high spring water & the deep ditches on either side of the road were full of water too. The wind was so strong that beside the cloud burst of rain coming from above, the wind was whipping the water across the fields & across the road just like drifting snow in a blizzard. We couldn't see more than 20 or 30 feet in any direction at last, & actually before then had found a little side road & so pulled off the ~~road~~ main pavement, parallel to the road. Right away another car (closed & an old model) pulled in ~~beside us~~ behind us as if for company & soon a 3rd & 4th car were behind them. A boy got out & tried to put a canvas over his hood I guess, but the wind was blowing so hard he never got it away from his body & I didn't see how he managed to get back into his car. They must have been afraid of getting water in their engines & as one car stopped in the center of the pavement, or at least not off the road

as we had, maybe their engine had quit them. We never did see those particular cars later on.

Well there we sat not knowing what would happen. It was so dark it was like an hour after sunset. The rain beat across & the wind blew so hard that the jeep just trembled. I began to wish we had brought all the National Geographic magazines after all to help hold the car from blowing away. Was very thankful of the old letters & Pete's extra weight. We wouldn't have been ~~at all~~ surprised had the wind suddenly lifted us, jeep & all off the roadside & into the ditch on the further side of the road. It really was terrifying to feel the car sort of shake back & forth as the wind was hitting us by roadside. Pete wished we had had time to either back or head into it for we felt as if we were at sea in a bad storm. At first we thought we would eat our lunch of sandwiches while we waited out the storm. But after a try at one bite, we somehow felt when we were blown over we didn't want to be in a mess of sandwiches. I just sat & prayed we had done the right thing in stopping there & Pete was much relieved when the wind began to veer around & hit us from the back corner instead of against the ~~side~~. There was a lot of thunder & lightning too but they were nothing compared to the wind & rain. I don't know how long we sat there; it seemed about 20 minutes in all & then we saw the sky ahead lighten a tiny bit at the horizon & finally the storm began to be less fierce. I think there was an extra strap part, a bit of a lull & then stronger than ever again.

we wondered if it could be a tornado. It was like a hurricane really. - & we thought cyclones were more twisters. Later on we heard that it was a tornado that struck near Fargo. & a day today heard there were 2 together but we think we first had one which was enough. As the rain lessened we began to see the road again. The fields to the side & so started on slowly. But all the time we had not there not one car came towards us. A little further on & we could have pulled up at a filling station & I felt we might have been better off had there been a row of trees to break the force of the wind. But 30 miles later on when we stopped for gas & found a 3 foot dead tree or shrub stuck up under our back bumper where it must have blown in tight to stay so long. I realized had we been near trees or buildings debris might have landed on us. At the filling station ^(Gannestown) their metal sign blew right down the street. At Valley City the fire engines were pumping out sewars & Gannestown was hit by the same storm. 2 inches of water fell there in 20 minutes. ^{2 1/2 mile an hour wind} Anyway it did cool the air & was 64° the rest of the afternoon! but I don't want to be in a storm like that again.

Just as I'm writing this in Shelby Montana we are having a terrific thunder storm. 2 cracks that were close enough to be with the lightning.

That night we got to the outskirts of Bismarck North Dakota, got the last cabin almost in a very nice camp. Tyfers. It was really a double cabin but all that was left. 330 miles that day including our storm. Had supper at a nice little place near by & afterwards had some inspecting Trailers parked "for Sale" from 18 to 35 feet long. Very compact, the largest with living room, 2 bedrooms, kitchenette & a shower. The latter was like a large shower space with toilet & wash basin in with it. Would think it would all get pretty wet.

Tuesday we had coffee in the thermos & a sandwich & got a real early start at 5.30 A.M. & when we got a little further the time changed so it was like leaving at 4.30. The early hours are cool & little local traffic & before noon you have 200 miles driven & then we stop about four & have more chance of finding a good cabin. Tuesday was clear & the sun very warm but the air was surprisingly cool. Perhaps because of the storms, so we enjoyed the weather & as they had had rain all along it was very green. We drove 353 miles, quite a day, but thought because of the extra early start we better go an extra 30 & not have it to do today. Found a nice cabin with bath in a tiny town called Nashua. Pete had a sleep & I wrote this letter & then we had supper at a very clean Cafe called Rosa Lois. When we came back to the motel our neighbors, a young couple named Fiedler from Indiana & their boy & girl, about 8 & 12 were sitting outside. It was a lovely

evening. & we started talking about routes etc. They were from Indiana & we found they too had come through the storm we had. but had been further east. Then we asked how far they had driven & it turned out they were in the next cabin to ours at Tylers in Sismark & then in Nashua they were in the next cabin on our right again. Wasn't that strange? We also met a man from Chicago & his son who goes to Dartmouth. So all in all we had quite an evening.

To-day Wed. the 14th we made a later start having a real breakfast at Rosa Lars & leaving at 6.30, getting to Shelby Montana at 4.00. Again we are very lucky & got the last cabin with a bath (a tub not a shower) & kitchenette very modern. The funniest thing was that in a little rack they had 2 post cards advertising Shea's Motel. One with a church on it, so I took a 2nd look & it was the Unitarian church in Concord. & the other card had a picture of Lake Louise. Don't you think that's a coincidence. One the place I come from. the other Pete. We told the people who run the place & the man is Canadian born from Ontario & his wife American born but lived near Calgary & a sister is having treatment for Arthritis at the Banff Hospital right now.

It was warm today. 85° on one thermometer but the air rather cool so we didn't feel hot & to-night before supper

a terrific thunder storm which cooled the air. Now we have had supper (Mountain trout) at a cafe & will soon be ready for bed.

We nearly forgot my birthday, discovered the date when we registered last night. So opened the present & thanks so much for the wonderful candy. Never had so much all at once before & the card too. I even used the rest of the cake Flora gave us & it was still fresh & good.

With luck we hope to get through the customs & maybe home to morrow night. Cross the line 40 miles north of here. We take turns driving every half hour & haven't gotten tired that way. Usually have a bit of coke as we change. It seems the best to drink. Not too sweet. We take a sandwich for lunch & eat cookies, a little cheese or nuts & get a real meal at night. Most mornings for an early start we have a thermos of coffee & a sandwich made the night before. But out this way the Cafes open early enough.

May not get a chance to write much from Banff the first day or two. But will try to get this off to morrow.

Loads of Love to all from us both

Catharine.

Have been interested to see how much more prosperous the farms look in Montana than they did 20 years ago. Most are painted & many with new little houses & new barns. The trees too are more up to date & from the Fort Peck Dam electricity is taken hundreds of miles to many isolated parts.

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. June 18, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

X We are still not unpacked, have taken a few things out of each suitcase and the rest is half in and half out, you would have a fit to see our bedroom, but somehow there hasn't been much chance since we got back. Don't know where to start but guess at the beginning is best. Got this far yesterday afternoon and a couple came to the back door, the man a regular cowboy and the girl very young and rather pretty and they said "Guess you remember us," of course I didn't, couldn't place them at all but invited them in, thinking perhaps it was a distant relative of Pete's I had met once and his new bride, and thought of course Pete would know right away. They even said something about Weasel, which I didn't even remember. or connect with anything, and Pete I could see was just as mystified as I, so we talked for 15 or 20 minutes and I began to wonder would they leave before we knew who they were, and then he mentioned an Indian and I remembered that he had judged the bucking at Indian Days last year, but Pete didn't tumble until he actually mentioned it. They have five children, the oldest 12 so she was hardly a bride but they had just been to a wedding in Calgary. He is willing to judge again this year and thought we were still running things. so we are leaving town this week if we can make it! Probably to Bow Lake. *so as not to get involved in Indian Days.*

Now to start in on the rest of our trip. We left Shelby Montana about 7.30 Thursday morning and the weather didn't look too promising and finally it started to rain and we had a fine mist about all day. I began to wonder if the paintings would get wet when we unpacked them etc. but we needn't have worried. The American Customs just took the export papers for the Jeep and that was all there, but the man could have been the sticky type had we been going the other way. The men at the Canadian customs were all young lads and so nice had all been in the services, just asked what we had to declare and made out the form for us but never looked even in one bag. They did glance at the inside of the car through the windows but took our word for the rest. We declared the paintings and the clothes and radio but the recording machine not being with us we couldn't declare that then, will have to do it in Calgary later. For the Jeep we had to see the customs broker, a woman in this case, and wait until 9 o'clock to get that passed. There was no difficulty at all, only we had to wait until nine and then we headed for home and kept going all the way. Got a sandwich in MacLeod and picked up groceries in Calgary as we knew the stores would be closed here when we got home.

We really just made Banff in time for they had had cloudbursts the night before and it washed out several small bridges and parts of track on the C.P.R. and the wash from the Creeks with the sudden flood washed gravel and water all across the road in several places, two sections were still under 8 or 10 inches of water but we got through allright. The river in front of our house was at its highest point and over the road in a few places. Several friends were worried about our basement but there wasn't so very much water in it. *It has gone down (the river) several inches since.*

We were going to have a good supper and go to bed early, for we hadn't counted on Jonnie spotting the car so soon. but he soon came running with Harold right behind. Then Barbara came along and we heard all the goings on since we left. The most excitement was the Schriners band. Before we had had our soup Lona and Mary Lee appeared on their bikes, seems they had figured we should be here and had been down the afternoon before and then Jonnie told Lona's brother we were to come that afternoon (not knowing a thing about it) so over they had come after supper and both with birthday presents for me. each gave me two handkerchiefs and a lovely card they had made, all done up very specially, that reminded Jonnie of a card he too had made for me, so he dashed over and got that. Then Davy appeared too, or did he ? anyway there was plenty going on with their dog here as well, Penny the Dashund. *Susan was here later with another present, also 2 handkerchiefs*

Of course the kids all wanted to have a ride in the Jeep and so they helped take out a few of the things and my poor hats in the nice silk bag I found at the bottom of the pile when we came back ! What excitement there was, we had to go over and see Allan and Grace first, Allan being very busy as the water was coming higher all the time and he was putting oil drums on his wharf to hold the walks in place. Then to the Mackenzies, which we didn't get to as we spoke to Pat Costigan who was busy mowing his lawn. Then by the Wards, who were working in their garden and so we just had to see them for a short call. At that point Lona and Mary Lee were comparing books they had read with Harold and discovered he had read more of Albert Payson Terhune's dog books than they had, and he had borrowed them from Lorna Neish, ~~not~~ for they weren't in the Library, at this point Lorna came along so out jumped the little girls and off they went with her to get the books and we picked them up there. Lona has read 65 books since the first of December and Harold 48. They certainly are keen and I thought it rather interesting.

By that time it was nine and we were weary in the head for we had driven 338 miles I think it was, so we just went to bed without unpacking at all.

Friday, we were up early, as we woke early, had a look at the river, went up to see Mom who we hadn't seen since she went to the coast, then to say hello to Mrs Scott. Then to get the mail and groceries stopping to talk to various people all along the way. We saw the Moores before lunch and the Col. was so pleased to hear about the 1812 house and loved the little frying pan and the nails and all. He thinks I did the right thing in loaning the book to the Antiquarian and now is interested to find out if they have any guns or rifles used by the minute men in the Revolution ? Wonder if you could ask Mrs Aent. For that is her name isn't it ? The one who is custodian. Or you could tell me her name and I can write her. If they haven't a gun or rifle of that sort he would leave the one he has as well as his Great-great Grandfather's commission signed by John Hancock I think it is.

That morning we noticed an Indiana license plate and found that the Fiedlers who had had the next cabin to ours in both Bismark and Nashua, Montana, had taken Pete's advice and come this way, had even arrived in Banff the same time we did at 6.45 P.M. and they were just going to Lake Louise, so we told them we would look them up that evening.

There were all sorts of things to do and then after school Jonnie appeared with Billy MacKenzie and Merwin Woodworth and then Lona and Mary Lee came to cut our lawn and earn some money. We wanted to go down to the Moores so gave them some gingerale and cookies and told them to come back later on, and off we went to the Moores. That evening we were just going for the Fiedlers when Aunt Maggie Grayson came along, she is the one who is the same age as Queen Mary and had a serious operation this spring, gall bladder but surprised everyone by coming through it so well. We invited her and Uncle Charlie up to stay at the Homestead which is run by old friends of theirs, and they felt they shouldn't impose by staying more than a week but we said they just must and we would see them later on. Then went to the Homestead and told the manager not to let them leave and on up to the cabin camp where the Fiedlers were.

They were such a nice family, young father and mother and a girl 12 the boy about 8, they just loved the house and everything in it not expecting a place like this. and they looked at everything, were very appreciative, While they were still here another couple named Wilmer I think from Nanaimo dropped in. We had found a letter here from Pat Cowley-Brown asking if they could come and see the paintings and Mrs Wilmer was a student of his and had been very kind to him at the coast (Pat was the Air force artist Pete worked with in Ottawa.) So the Fiedlers left as they had an early start next morning and the others stayed until about ten, and she asked if she could come the next afternoon to see the paintings. Quite a day!

Saturday we weren't going to stop and talk to anybody when we went for the mail and errands, so set out by seeing Fern at her house for about 15 minutes, then saw the Dan McCowans as we went by there, Dan was cutting the lawn and called Molly to come out and we had to hear his latest stories and also about a tiny house they have bought at the coast for the winter months. We kept running into other people as one does here and of course it was late when we got home for lunch. Right after lunch it being Saturday and Lona and Mary Lee wanting to earn money for camp came along to mow our lawn. It was wet and heavy but they were bound they would do it and do it they did, though it rained a good part of the time. We finally called them in for refreshments and paid them, but as it cleared off a little they both went out and finished it for us. They really worked hard for us. Mrs Wilmer and her friend Mrs Cook also from Naniamo came about 4, didn't want tea just to look at sketches and were so very appreciative that we showed a few extra. They were very nice about them. Mrs Cook thought mine were very quiet and peaceful and that Pete's were painted with a twinkle in his eye. and one in particular she said she would like to own as it reminded her of the times she had been in the mountains, she used to live in Alberta. That evening we went to bed early, still unpacked as I had a bit of a headache.

Sunday we had a lovely day and were going to do a lot outside, We did get the things out of the Jeep at last, the letters and dolls things etc. Davy helping. Then we unpacked the large wooden box with the two inside wooden lamps that Earl Spencer made for us as a gift. They really are awfully nice, were just fixing those and hanging the Hibbard picture you gave me over the desk when Aunt Maggie and Uncle Charlie came to see us. Jonnie was here too but left on a picnic with Jackie. (Davy had been here earlier to show us how he played

an accor dian) We had a nice long visit from the Graysons, they are a wonderful elderly couple both over 80 and are really enjoying their visit here. In Cochrane they have no running water and only coal stoves and no one to help much with ashes etc.

By the time they left it was lunch and after that and a bit of a sit we set out to show Dave Prosser the Jeep. He is the one we bought it from. But as we went near the Masonic Hall we saw one of the funerals we thought was Monday under way, so dashed back and got our hats and coats, and as it was hot we nearly melted. Went back but most people seemed to have gone inside so we went ahead to the cemetery, waited for ages and of course discovered it was Mr Barnwell's service and he went to Calgary to be cremated. Took off out coats and hats and saw Dave and let him try out the car and examine it all over too. Then on the way back went by the Presbyterian church and a service was going on there by then, but we gave up trying to make the funerals and came home, that was about the time the cowboy couple arrived and just after they left Barbara came over to tell us the sad news about Bobbie Smith.

Bobbie was a young girl who lived at Barbaras while her husband was overseas and when he came back they both lived there even after young Robert was born. Then they built one of the first Vet houses on Deer Street and lived up there. She had Asthma very badly and that was why they came to Banff and when she had a really bad spell she would go to the hospital and Barbara often looked after young Robert. We knew she was in the hospital but had heard she was better, however she had gotten worse on Sunday and Elwin, the husband, had just telephoned Barbara that she died at 5 Sunday afternoon. It was so sad as she was a lovely young girl. The poor little boy is only 3½ and they haven't told him yet. Jonnie knows and has been so good to Robert. This afternoon the father took Robert and they have gone to Toronto with Bobbie. They may come back bringing his mother with them, but it was all very uncertain.

To-day Monday I am a little more unpacked and have washed some of the clothes too

Now it is Tuesday and have another wash in the Bendix. It is a lovely day and we were awake and got up before 7, were tempted to go to Bow Lake for the day, but then decided it was wiser to get things done here first and then pack up for Bow. We have done quite a lot like getting the furnace fan installed and adjusted yesterday after it stopped Saturday, and we made reservations for the 3 Concord girls, they will be here for the first Indian days. and numerous other errands, must get my garden plots weeded, the larkspur tied up and the hops, the screens on, the house dusted, the basement mopped, see a couple of people about several things etc.

This is quite a letter. Just read that one you gave me to read from Uncle John to Aunt Julie about a children's party in Salem, Do you want it back? I knew all the people mentioned and thought it real interesting. *Maybe Mrs Mayn would enjoy it having been there too.*

Loads of love and to Cousin Jane too for she will be with you now.

Catherine .

Banff, Alberta.
Fri. June 23, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

"The Peabody Sisters" which you sent as a belated birthday present arrived yesterday and it was a very nice surprise, thank you so much for I am sure it will be good to read. Pete has looked at it a bit and was very interested to find that you could cook eggs on a shovel held over an open fire instead of a frying pan, thinks it a good idea for camping !

The other two books came also , the Fanny Yarners cook book and the " Birds Across the Sky." The Flower book that we ordered was recommended by a botanist we met last summer at Moraine Lake, I try to learn the names of the wild flowers here but don't even attempt the botanical ones.

You sound busy and am glad that Cousin Jane is with you for a visit and you must feel you too are celebrating a college reunion with the Radcliffe and Harvard ones. How are the Manierres, and do give them our love and am sorry we weren't there to meet Louisa and see the others again, another year we may do better on seeing the relations, but think we did pretty well for our first real visit in ten years.

We have been busy doing odd things, like paying bills and seeing lots of people about this and that. One nice thing that is a great relief to us is that when we spoke to Norman Luxton the other day he told us that at the meeting to decide who should run Indian Days, he told them he definitely couldn't do it this year or ever again on account of his health and when someone suggested that we do it, he got up and said that for three years we had done more than our share and that they shouldn't even ask us to help. So we are really out of it, though they may ask us a few little things and we can give a bit of advise. It really should be run by a committee as it is too large for an individual. Any way we have the satisfaction of feeling that we helped keep the thing going.

The recorder like Russell's that you gave us has arrived in Calgary, and luckily Vincent Allan who is a Canadian Trade Commissioner just back from several years in South Africa, has helped us concoct a letter to Ottawa asking for permission to import it. He and his wife and mother-in-law, Mrs Clog, came to tea Wednesday. Pete used to know him years ago when he worked for Brewsters and Rocky Mountain Tours as a driver. He also worked as a bell boy at the hotel and the man who was his boss then is now the Canadian representative to the United Nations I think he said. He is awfully nice and lots of fun, his father lives here, worked in the store once and they are spending most of his leave here in Banff before going to Ottawa where he is now stationed.

Last night the kids were all over planning a picnic for the new Jeep. They were awfully amusing trying to decide what

the different ones should bring. Jonny started the ball rolling by appearing the other day with a blank book and a couple of little boys to help plan. They got started on something else but night before last Jonny started to list " People " and " materials " He thought he could figure the people out if we did the " food problems." Then yesterday afternoon he and Billy MacKenzie came to plan some more but got interested in looking at Ski Jumping pictures instead, so last night about 8 o'clock, Jonny, Billy and Lona and Mary Lee arrived to really get down to plans. I wish you could have heard them! They were all around the kitchen table while Pete was in the front room and I was busy around the kitchen, so they did all the discussion on their own with a few questions now and then to us. They started with the Cake and who made the best cake, each thought their mothers did, so then who should make the cookies, it was decided Lona would, but then what kind, some thought Oat meal but as it is Billy's picnic this time and he doesn't like oatmeal that brought up a problem, Then Lona remembered she had brought me a present of some oatmeal cookies she had made and there were just two left, so Billy and Jonny sampled those and Billy decided very seriously that they were good enough and would do! Our names are all listed in the copy book, and after Pete's is " Jeep" after mine " Weiner buns and weiners " after "Sam Sis " is " and car" For with just the Jeep there isn't room for everyone, so we are to ask Sam and Sis to come on this picnic. Billy had "Cups " after his but he wants to bring something better than that, so it was decided that we would all bring our own cups for the "Pink Lemonade" Jonny is to bring, as Billy said theirs were all tooth paste cups anyway. Then he thought of a watermelon, and Susan got that. Davy is to bring his Accordion for music so you see things are pretty well figured out. Then there was the great discussion of where to go and who had been where. It looks as if Moraine Lake is the place but we will settle on a spot nearer home I think, perhaps near Castle mountain. The date is set for July 3rd, the first weekend after school. They really were funny. *after Bill is written "the boss"*

We are planning to have the body of the Jeep painted maroon like the top and hood, instead of the make believe wood, as there is a very good man up at Brewsters and Ernie Von Kushka said he would have it done for us. We have been up but so far the paint hasn't come, we stayed in an extra day hoping to have it done before going to Bow Lakes and it was just as well for it poured all night and to-day, It must have snowed up high for a few flakes fell here and in spite of the rain the river has gone down. It has been up and down all week. We need the rain for grass and trees.

Will have to go now for the mail so lots of love to all.

from us both

Catharine

Bow Lake
June 26, 1950

Dearest Mother

I meant to write you a
real letter last night & when that
wasn't done, a note this morning -
to tell you we were starting out for
Bow Lake for a few days, hoping to
get started painting again. We
nearly came last week & then had
a chance to get the jeep body painted
at the Brewster Garage before they
are too busy with their own work.
The paint didn't come until Friday
& then they said they would do it
Saturday night, which they did
& now our jeep is all one color -
maroon. & it looks so much
better all one color instead of
that yellow & maple color. We
didn't want to start out yesterday
& I was just as glad for to date
there had been little time to be

up the larches & hop vines
the hops hadn't climbed around
the chimney but wound them-
selves about some larches &
it was quite a tangle. No one
had been able to water the
plots so that had to be done &
I managed to do a bit of weeding
too.

Then we had to get our
painting things together &
there is always so much to
think of, especially starting
out the first time. like big
boots, extra socks, mosquito
stuff, ink, Kleenex, etc
etc. But we got all packed
up without hurrying by noon
today. There was no great
rush getting here & so we
stopped in at Lake Louise to see
the Swiss Guides. There is a new
one, really two new ones, but

we met only one named Perren
from Zermatt. He seems the right
sort & we were glad to meet him. *

Got here about five & hadn't
even gone to our cabin when the
Superintendent Hutchinson arrived
with the Deputy Minister of some
thing or other. named Caldwell.
& Branning the Engineer of this
road who we hadn't met before.
So we all talked a bit. Now
its supper time & we have an
dinner out of the car & in our
same old cabin. Its grand to
be here & we hope to get some-
thing done this year that's worth
while.

Got a nice letter from you this
morning, written the day of the
Garden ~~Club~~ open. - & Sam & Louise
were expected. Will write more
soon.

Loads of love to all
from us both
Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.
Fri. June 30, 1950

Dearest Mother,

X Pete did awfully well this morning and remembered that it is our 20th Wedding anniversary. I would have forgotten all about it. I feel all set up too for when I called in to tell a Miss Carrick that we would be home at a certain time for her to bring Annora Brown down (she is an artist) the neice came to the door and I asked for Miss Carrick, so she went to the kitchen and called " Aunt Margaret, there is a girl who wants to see you.?" Gee, I felt quite young, that and Mr Vanderhoof in Cononod telling me that I looked exactly as I did when I was 16, maybe I looked old for my age when I was younger!

X I was going to write you night before last and did start a letter at Bow Lake and then as it was a lovely evening and we didn't particularly want to talk to a Mr A.C. Leighton who is a very temperamental artist, we went for a walk along the lakeshore instead and I never got the letter written. It was lovely and all the earliest flowers are just coming out as the season is so late this year, in fact there are still patches of winter snow around the buildings and through the woods. The willow is just coming out and everywhere are little spring beauties and the globe flower, which is white and looks much like a cowslip. Some places they are both so thick you hate to step for fear of stepping on them, in fact you can't keep from crushing them.

We had forgotten the holiday, July 1st. which is to-morrow, and Pete likes to be here then because it is a big weekend in Banff and also we hate to be on the roads. It is like a 4th of July weekend. We had thought of coming in to-day but when it was all cloudy yesterday morning and looked like rain we decided to come in then, also we were anxious to see if the permit to import the Recorder had come or not. It had, which seemed very quick and of course it was because of the personal letter Vince ~~Wade~~ Allen wrote to go with yours, We have sent the papers to Calgary for Peter Vallance to clear the thing through the Customs. Are anxious to have the recorder for Indian Days.

It was lovely the three days at Bow, perfect weather and it was so quiet and lovely there, we had our same little cabin and no one bothered us at all, we could go and come as we liked the fact is they were all too busy with the new building to have time for us. They have worked hard to get the first floor of bedrooms ready for this weekend, there are 8 large double rooms and two single rooms with shower or bath tub in all the bathrooms, and they are nice big rooms too with each a view. The dining room and kitchen below the bedrooms aren't finished at all, but they have the old dining rooms to use for the time being.

I will try and write a better letter this evening if no one comes in, we have a lot of little things to do but we did get a bit of a start painting and will go back out on Monday

for a longer stay and can settle into things more. It is always hard to get started and the higher altitude makes one sort of sleepy at first.

Was glad to hear that Sam and Louisa arrived safely and how wonderful that Sam could go to his class reunion. You didn't tell us what Louisa is like or I should say " who /? she is like.

Must go now for mail and errands.

Loads of love, from us both.

Catherine