

109. LAKE LOUISE

at Mt. Lefroy (11,230 ft.) and Mt. Victoria (11,365 ft.) Banff National Park.

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

POSTCARD

Sunday
July 20
1950

Dearst Mother
Should have written you
last night but the
needed water for
this morning. This
is called. This afternoon
the Progress. In
I wish of the
writing to
we other
we have had
this one on
and hope to
from
Tuesday
be ready to
to a week
holds. Thank
her me card
is the only one
remembered on 20



MODERN CHALET - BANFF JASPER HIGHWAY

MRS. J. SIMPSON, PROP.

NUM-TI-JAH

Lodge



BOW LAKE, ALBERTA

Via LAKE LOUISE POST OFFICE

Wed. July 5, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

Seems as if I never would get a real letter written to you. Before we left Banff there were so many little things to be done & it's been so very dry too that all my garden beds needed watering. We had the water outside turned off when east so no one could water much for us. But as soon as I got some on, the dahlias began to grow in earnest & they won't be as tall as some years & maybe not as apt to blow about. ~~On~~ the evening it is lovely out & as its light until nearly ten one is apt to stay outside.

We finally got started Tuesday after lunch. We had hoped the Recorder would arrive by then but it didn't, so they will hold it in the Express 'til we get back. There are so many things to see about, but we did most of them anyway & can stay up here a week at least, maybe longer. It's the first time in years, certainly since the War, that we have been able to come out with what Pete calls a "Free mind". There is nothing we must do for any one or concern ourselves about & we really hope to get some good sketching. It's always a bit dis-

couraging at first. The pictures are so awful, but we got a bit of a start when we were up before & today we both got going this morning. The weather is lovely.

It has been quite a day all in all. Seems this morning the cook put a can of syrup on the stove to melt a bit. Had the lid on & didn't realize how hot it was getting & suddenly the thing blew up - covered the stove with burning syrup. Mrs Simpson luckily didn't get more than her arms burned. So she was right there. & Mary had the truest fire extinguisher I ever saw. Like a large tube of tooth paste, about 6 inches long & it put the fire right out. I guess it was pretty exciting, but though we smelt a little syrup when we came to breakfast we never knew anything had happened until lunch time.

We both shelled this morning. Had lunch & had just gotten up when the girl came rushing in for Mary. A car outside with a lady hurt in an automobile accident up the road. Her nose was bleeding badly & they wanted medical attention, a wrecking car etc. Pete ran for the jeep to take Jim up to the accident. I got Mrs Stewart. Mrs Simpson's sister, who used to be a trained nurse, & Mary got the lady upstairs & to bed. Her daughter & son-in-law were with her & another man had driven them back here. When Pete came Jim & I went along up the road about 2 miles where the car was tipped over. The father & daughter were there as well as the wife of the man who had driven the others back to Saw Lake.

They are such a nice family too. Father & Mother. 2 daughters & one's husband. They are from California

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BOW LAKE, ALBERTA

Via LAKE LOUISE POST OFFICE

had gone to Chicago to pick up a new car. Driven to Jasper etc & were on the way back. On the turn had turning too wide on the loose gravel & we think that perhaps this one wheel trailer had caught, for they swung from side to side & rolled over twice & landed on their side in the road. The trailer in the ditch & all their camping equipment & tinware goods were scattered in all directions. Luckily none of them were badly hurt. The mother had her nose broken & they were cut & bruised in a few spots, but otherwise except for the shock & all, are fine. The car was a mess. The top in a sort of peak & the glass shattered in some windows. They were certainly lucky.

The Government trucks had come along & the men righted the car. We couldn't do very much but Pete stayed with the father & daughter there & I came back with Big Jim for some boxes for their things & went back up. Then we helped pack the stuff up & ^{loaded in the jeep} the daughter & father came back with me to Bow Lake. The father stay up here while she & I went back up ^{for another} road. For the son-in-law had gone back in the meantime with the man who had ~~given~~ brought the mother down ⁱⁿ the first time.

Then we four. Paul & his wife, Pete & I sat & waited for the wrecking truck from Lake Louise. The doctor & nurse from the Chalet at Lake Louise

came first, + numerous cars stopped to offer assistance + finally Andy Smith arrived with his wrecking car + then the Mounty. All of this took time so it was 4.30 when we got back down. ^{After getting back} I worked on an unfinished sketch I had started the time before but an afternoon was rather interrupted.

Now it is nearly bed time. We have been along to see how the young people are camped as the Simpsons knew they couldn't afford much. The mother is in bed upstairs + the father with her. The others have plenty of food + have a nice camping spot. They are really nice people + I noticed after the accident they picked up all the odd bits of paper etc + hid it out of the way.

Our mail is being forwarded up here so just keep writing Barry -

Loads of love from us both

Catherine

P.S. The poor 5 have to wait now until they hear from their insurance agents, which may be several days.

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BOW LAKE, ALBERTA

Via LAKE LOUISE POST OFFICE

Sat. July 8, 1950

Dearest Mother, I seem to be slipping badly in my letter writing. We have been fairly busy & yesterday spent the day taking the accident people to Banff. They were such a nice family in every way, very quiet & so appreciative. Mr. Potter was a quiet farmer type, runs a peach & walnut ranch in Linden near Stockton California. His wife I thought was an elderly lady when they helped her in Wednesday afternoon with a badly bleeding nose to mouth. But by the next morning she was down for breakfast, the cartilage in her nose had been broken & she had two black eyes but she really looked very young. One daughter Janice Fowler & her husband Paul who is just out of college after the war & they had bought the new car & were all making the trip together. The youngest daughter Edith was 13 and such a nice young girl, so interested in everything.

The Simpsons let them camp across the creek as they had their tents & sleeping bags & lots of food to eat up. They were there all Thursday. We painted in the morning & again in the afternoon until storms came up. Luckily the heavy rains were up the pass & down the other end of the lake & didn't hit here until the next morning.

Friday, yesterday it rained & looked as if it might keep up all day off & on, heavy showers. Pete didn't think it would be very comfortable

for the Potters & Fowlers in Texas & that it might be a good idea to move them to Bayff. We could drive them & Jimmy take their stuff in the back of the truck. Then they would be where they could make arrangements with the insurance people etc. about their car. They thought it a good idea too but we had to wait for Jimmy to come back from Lake Louise & it was 11 A.M. when he showed up.

The weekend before & after the Calgary Stampede are usually the busiest ones of the year & we knew it would be hard to find a cabin for them unless we got in early. We left Paul Fowler to come with Jimmy & the luggage & we took the other 4 in the jeep & started down. Pete drove very slow & carefully knowing they might be nervous. Stopped at Lake Louise to have a look at their car which was left there waiting instructions. Then on to Bayff. I guess it was between 1.30 or 2 when we got there & before eating we started hunting a cabin. Pete did all the asking & we usually could tell by his gestures what was happening, especially if he scratched his head or pointed in some direction & didn't look too happy. He finally found a room & space for that night & the promise of a cabin next day. But in 2 places he missed a cabin by 10 minutes.

Then to the Bayff where we introduced them to the manager so they would have no trouble getting money if they needed it & then left them for lunch at Parises while we went home to get a bite ourselves. We had several errands to do & things to bring back up. Mostly books for people to read who are here. Jimmy & Paul were to come to our house so as to know where the others were. ~~They~~ were to come back after lunch. So one of us stayed home & as Pete had driven all the way down I did the errands. It was so busy that it took 3 trips up & down the main street

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BOW LAKE, ALBERTA

Via LAKE LOUISE POST OFFICE

before I found a Parking Space. - & naturally took a long time. I kept going back to see if Jimmy had arrived though it was 5 he expected to come & usually found Pete in the midst of another story about fizzes or something entertaining the Potters who loved the house -

Ran into Mary MacDonald & Gordon Bell drivers who are here for a few days & they came down to the house for a short call. He is in the Air Force & off for a Radar course in Florida soon. Mary is settling up her mother (Mrs Mac's) affairs I guess. It was nice we happened to see them. Also got the Recorder at last.

Paul & Jimmy came soon after see & we all went down to the Ashleys where they had their room & helped unload the truck. Mr Potter was so anxious to pay Pete for some of the trouble. at least the gas. - & the little girl Edith said, "Maybe some day you'll come to California & get into trouble & we can help you out." Her family insisting they didn't want us in trouble, but to come & see them.

We had another funny meal at home & then about 8 set out for Bow Lake in a dumper. As we stopped for gas they happened to be coming up from the station so we all said "Good-bye" again. But it was quite a day.

Driving back there were terrific effects, dark storm clouds & the sun shining through little openings. At times the most beautiful light effects, a wonderful yellow haze because of rain, & a rainbow & later as we rounded a bend all of Mt Temple & the 10 peaks had a rosy light just for a moment.

It was dark when we got here. but half way up found another car off the road. most likely driving too fast & they got over the edge or too near & a dog culvert broke & 2 wheels went off but they didn't turn over. Young Cliff had come up but his jeep wasn't heavy enough & he was afraid the car would roll over as he pulled & had sent for Andy Smyth with his towing truck. There was nothing we could do. The 2 men weren't hurt so we came on. Found they had 35 people here - a houseful for the night. We had some pie, a glass of milk. told the Simpsons of an day & went to bed.

There are 3 nice couples here for from two to three weeks - you do meet interesting people. One is a Dr. or Prof. Woods of Columbia University - a great friend of Eisenhower's. has traveled a lot in Mexico & is very interesting to listen to. He was telling Pete all about operations the other evening. Then a Dr & Mrs Saut from Maryland I think it is. They have been back to the Rockies for years. Dr Saut was to climb Mt Olive yesterday morning, (which they did) & the New Swiss guide Walter Ferren came in the night before to take him. so we had a chance to talk to him too in the evening. He seems a fine lad, very polite & interested in all about the mountains. They were to climb Mt Balfour today from Hector Lake. That is the one My Weed made the first ascent of in the 1890's I think.

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The other couples are named Snow. I don't know what they do. Most of the people are just here over night but even if the new building is barely finished on the bedroom floor. The windows first in downstairs & the floor to be laid yet. They are using it, all the bedrooms anyway. I do hope they have a good summer.

It is lunch time, the light was too flat this morning to paint & we were late getting up as it was 11 P.M. when we got to bed. but maybe it will be better this afternoon. It is better being up here than in Banff during the summer.

Our mail will be coming up soon. The flower book was in Banff. Thanks so much for sending it. We brought it up here. so many of the people are interested in the wild flowers. birds too. The other day Mrs Gant took me to see the dearest little nest in the heather bushes above a creek. You could just see the head of the little ground sparrow sitting on the nest full of blue eggs.

Loads of love to all & hope you aren't having too hot a summer.

Catharine

P.S. The other night Polly Blodgett Watson & her husband were here. They are from Belmont & she a well known figure skater & great friend of Mary's.

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BOW LAKE, ALBERTA

Via LAKE LOUISE POST OFFICE

Sun. July 9, 1950

Dearest Mother.

It has rained all day hard & we haven't even tried to paint. I expect we could have out a window but I decided to sort out letters after writing a couple. Now I must have fifty to answer but will send cards, a good chance from here. The sun is out just now. Late afternoon & gone again but maybe it will clear.

Last night a wonderful new kind of car drove in. Looked when we passed it on our way to Banff the other day as if it were a converted milk van. It's a Ford & the body like the cabin in a boat. A door in the center of the back & when it stopped it jumped 2 kids. The mother, father & grand mother were inside. The family came from Michigan but the grand mother had joined them in Banff. A very attractive lady like Mrs. Duffell maybe. It was after supper & we were all sitting round talking but all jumped up to have a look. The kids said "Go on in Mother's inside." & they all were very friendly & showed us every thing. Even the Carpenters gathered. It's hard to describe but the body is built over the engine & right back. is rectangular with square corners. Low to the ground but you stand up inside. It's like the cabin of a boat & all one room. A door in the center of the back (you step up to enter of course) on the right is a long closet with their clothes hanging in plastic bags. Then a 3 burner stove about 2 feet square & beyond that a shelf or table with a cup board & drawers underneath. The stove used Propane Gas. Then a seat. On the left the toilet is a cup board, the little sink & a tiny ice refrigerator. Then the seat opposite the other seat. This makes into a double bed by pulling flat boards across the corridor & the backs are

rectangular cushions of foam rubber to fit in the center to make the bed. The drivers seat & the other front seat are swivel easy chairs. At least they looked like that & in front where the engine hood would ordinarily be was a large table about 3 feet deep. Then windows all around & storage space wherever there was room. There were Venetian blinds on the side windows & shades on the windshield & side doors. It was most attractive. On the flat top was a sort of bed outside with a tent like roof that would open up & cover it all in & a little ladder to get up the side of the car. The children slept up there. They told us it cost \$5000. now but they hoped to make them for 3,500. when they really started producing them. They saw the thing advertised in the Ford Magazine. Its really way ahead of a trailer & not very large. goes 60 or 70 miles an hour if you like. has a heater too.

I meant to tell you about Ted Sandridge who had the operation for Cancer in Boston. He cut Pete's hair the other day. seems very well & happy & though they gave him only 6 weeks to live before he would last he is now 80 to cured.

Did you get a card saying that Jose Harris is now manager of the Boston Office of Gaidlaw & Co at 1 State St. members of the New York Stock Exchange.

You certainly did have hot weather. Do you mean a setter dog was right in the fountain pool? Must have surprised you. I think it was not the heat we noticed so much in Concord but the humidity. One day it was humid here & every one noticed it so much.

~~Will have to let you know about the unbound geographies we would like the bound ones & if I can get the copies that are missing during the other years will have you send those. If you would like you & if its easier you could send them all & not be bothered figuring out which is which. Send them to us not the library.~~

Let us explain about the geographies later. If you want to get rid of them you could send all those in the front room but not those in the attic. Send the bound & unbound together if you like anytime & to us. Loads of love Catherine

Bow Lake

July 11, 1950

Dearest Mother.

We are still at Bow Lake though the weather is rather disappointing. Came back up the same evening we took the Fowlers & Potters down. Think I must have told you that. Seems to me that was last Friday. Saturday was very dull & a flat light. Sunday it rained hard most all day clearing briefly for a few minutes in the late afternoon. Then Monday it rained again all day mostly on & yesterday it didn't clear until four o'clock & even then we had a few showers in the evening. To-day was much better & we could do some painting though it was mostly overcast this afternoon. To-morrow may be better.

Monday when it looked anything but promising we drove to Bayff & had a busy 4 hours there. Took Dr Landt of Norristown, Pa. with us. He had been up Mt Belfair with Walter Pever ~~the~~^{two} days before & said he was all on edge after a day

2

of rest in between. but as he heard Dauff he said the ride had done him good & he felt all relaxed.

He was interesting telling about the difference in the new Swiss Guide - Walter Perren & the old ones who were very careful & cautious. The new way is to be less tense & more relaxed in trying to climb. to lean out & such like. Also the new methods of roping a person so if they fall into a crevasse in the glacier they can help get themselves up instead of just hanging on the rope. They make a sort of stirrup to put ones foot in. Dr Landt had twisted his finger in some way & as it was swollen he thought he should fend out if it was broken. He also wanted to go to Calgary by bus so as soon as we got in at noon. He left here at 10 & stopped for mail at Lake Louise.

We headed for the bus station & as we crossed the main street to the Mt Royal Pete spied Pat Costigan, so he ran & found him. Dr Landt went to see how soon a bus left & I stayed in the jeep which was double parked.

Back came Dr Landt. the bus would leave in 25 minutes. Then

Pete with Pat in tow. Pat felt the fingers right there but there was no time for an X-ray in Banff so he advised him to see Dr Riley in Calgary. Pat wouldn't charge him anything which was nice so we left Dr Sandt to catch his bus. From then on we did about 20 errands, stopped along the main street. Pete double parking while I ran into stores & vice-versa. It's almost impossible to find parking space in Banff this week.

While eating lunch at home I kept hopping up & down for different things we thought of. Our real purpose in going down was to bring back our Salamander stove, a big drum stove we used to have to heat our front room & two pieces of marble that came from the Beecher shop & we kept in the shed as they seemed too good to throw away. The Simpsons will use the stove for added heat & the marble for the new kitchen to roll cookies & pastries on.

We also ran down to see what had become of the Fowlers & they were

both fine, still at the Ashleys & look up after the renting of cabins for them while they went to the stampede. Their car is to be fixed in Calgary in a couple of weeks & they hope to pick up some work in the meantime. The 3 Potters had gone back home by train via Vancouver & Victoria & all were quite happy & over their accident.

To-night they are full up & lots of extra people for supper. Miss Keuman is here with a party of nice almost elderly ladies. a few like Miss Robinsons. nice I think in all. She has conducted such parties for years, used to go out on the trail with Jim & young ladies then. She knows a great friend of Johns & Eileen's & has seen Eileen a number of times & likes her so much but has never met John as yet.

The Castles of Honolulu are at Lake Louise. Mr Castle & the granddaughter Sibley Green are coming up for to-morrow night & Mrs Castle Friday with some friends for lunch. then they drive back together.

Goals of Love Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
July 16, 1950
~~June 22, 1950~~
Sunday.

Dearest Mother,

We are back in Banff again and the weather is still rainy and unsettled, was terrible in Calgary for Stampede week and this year they were celebrating the 75th year of Calgary and it was to be the biggest year ever and seems to me they got rained out most every night, the opening night they couldn't have the evening show and Tuesday they ran two shows at night, one at 8 and the other at 10.30, and again later in the week got rained out again. The field was so muddy it must have been awful and no cars the last night could park in the parking space or they never would have gotten out again being deep in mud, it is hard to picture when it is usually so hot and dusty. Either this is a rainy summer or spring being late we are getting June rains now!

It was so dull and rainy at Bow that we decided we might as well come home and give them the chance to rent our cabin for 4 people instead of us 2, also there is quite a bit we can do here before the Indians arrive. So we came down Friday afternoon, after lunch with the Castles of Honolulu. Mr Castle and Libby Gwen Bryant, their 14 year old granddaughter, came to Bow on Thursday and we all ate at the same table. Mr Castle used to go out with Jim Simpson on pack trips years ago and they are great friends. It was the evening they planned to move the old kitchen and dining room into the new building and it was quite an evening. The old kitchen was small and between the old and new building and they had already put up a good part of the roof that is a story higher and goes right over the old flat roof, so they had to move the kitchen in order to finish it. It really was quite an evening.

It was a full house, Miss Hinman and nine elderly ladies and a lot of other guests. Mary and Jimmy had it all pretty well planned. Big Jim had his first fire in the new tremendous dining room fireplace and all was set. In order to move the stove and refrigerator out they had to cut a large hole in the old kitchen wall which the carpenters did and then everyone started helping to move things. As soon as the guests saw the staff and the carpenters start carrying things they pitched in too and we were like a lot of ants going back and forth in a steady stream. The men moved the tables and the women the chairs and dishes and I don't think it took 15 minutes to get the furnishings moved. In between a lot of chairs and dishes there would suddenly be about ten men struggling with a big refrigerator, they carried it like a very large white coffin. Dr Wood seemed more interested in the kitchen things and I passed him with gloves on and hot stove lids, for they had had to cook supper on the stove before it was moved. That too took about 10 men and came through the wall they had cut, through what will be the entrance hall, then the curio room and then the dining room and through the big doors into the kitchen. They had

quite a time getting the stove pipes lined up properly and about five were doing that, up and down ladders, while Mary was trying to get the kitchen things put in the proper place. There was also the hot water tank to be moved and some ran out so that had to be mopped up, Pete said he built a dike so it wouldn't run into the old dining room, as it ran out all of a sudden when they forgot to cap it right away. Jimmy also had to move the sort of fountain thing where they get cold water for drinking in the dining room, and while we were setting up the tables for breakfast they were moving in lounge furniture so that when we went back into the living room part where the old dining room had been I was quite surprised to find it full of chairs and two old sofas, Jimmy had gotten them trucked up from their house in Banff. They had hung a couple of pictures in the afternoon, and the electrician had even gotten the lights up.

It really was wonderful to see how everyone ^{including the cowboys} pitched in and really enjoyed it too, there was no noise to speak of and Miss Hinman said she timed it and all the stuff was moved in three quarters of an hour, but it took until about 11 to get the kitchen all straightened out and not all the shelves etc are built yet. Big Jim was so pleased to see his dream coming true that he just stood and watched and every once in a while would let out a real laugh and slap someone on the back.

This year they will make do with what they have and then next year can get new furnishings and what they need. Instead of buying veneer to go around the cement backing the stone part of the walls in the dining room they got a large roll of brown building paper and tacked it around and as it is the color of wood no one seemed to notice. I think they have done a wonderful job and especially when they were delayed by the late spring.

Mr Castle and the lady who I think has sort of brought up Libby Gwen drove up on Friday to have lunch and take Mr Castle and the girl back, so we had a nice visit with them before and during lunch. We were late eating as we waited for the others to come in from a walk but it was nice seeing them. It was 3 when we started home getting back here about 5. Got the letters from Russ that you sent and will return them so that you can save them ^{after} ~~of read them again~~.

Jonny was over soon after we got home and in the evening we tried out the new recorder and it works wonderfully well. We played with it until about 10. Yesterday Pete couldn't wait to try it on the Moores so we went down in the morning, we pretend it isn't ready and then record the general conversation and it is always amusing to people to hear their own voice which they don't think sounds at all like them. I can't recognize mine at all.

At lunch time Mom brought us a rhubarb pie and two poems she had composed for the Old Timers and the Lady Bowlers. So before she had a chance to read them I set up the machine and we told her to read them to us while it was warming up and of course got the whole thing recorded. She was so surprised to find she was so broad scotch. Last night we went up to the Wards and got Sam to try "Albert and the Lion" and later on we will get him to go his recitations for it as they came out fine.

Vince Allan and his children were down this morning, he was the one who got permission for us to bring it in and so we wanted to show him how it works. Now it is nearly lunchtime.

Wasn't it nice that the family could spend ~~and~~ weekend with Alec Carruthers, funny that I should have written him just this last week. They will be starting back before you know it. Do tell me how Mildred is and if they found anything wrong?

Will send this along, expect we may be quite busy with the Indians this coming week and then we hope to go out again. This last sketching week was not very successful as ~~we~~ had such poor weather, though we made a few starts none of the things were much good.

Loads of love,

Catharine .

July 30, 1950

No. 45. FAIRY SLIPPER (Calypso bulbosa)

Second flower of spring in the Canadian Rockies, this dainty orchid carpets the pine woods in mid-May.

TAYLORCHROME
COLOUR CARD
CANADIAN ROCKIES SERIES

Dearest Mother:

We are in the midst of Indian Days. Fine weather for the first day. Wild really with slates on. This is the little orchid which grows in Banff in May too about this spot too.

PRINTED IN ENGLAND

has a lovely fragrance - got the first letter from Russ & will send them back soon. Hope the Korym thing won't make them hurry home. Hugs & love
Catherine

Reproduced from a natural-colour photograph.

© G. Morris Taylor, Jasper, Alberta, Canada.



Banff, Alberta.
Mon. July 24, 1950 .

Dearest Mother,

Indian days are over for another year and we can start to plan what we will do first, just now we feel like having a bit of a rest, in fact Pete is having a snooze right now and I am having mine by writing you, for I am at least sitting down.

It really went awfully well and it makes what we did the last few years to keep it going well worth while, for had we not helped Norman Luxton he couldn't have done it alone and no one else seemed to think they could work with him, This year when he said he wasn't well enough to do it himself they got a very good committee together, Claude Brewster, who runs the Trail Ride and all the horses for Brewsters as well as many other things is the head and Bert Johnson who knows the Indians well helped as well as Tillie Knight to do the books. You said that you read the book about Captain Voss, Did you realize that it is the same Norman Luxton who sailed with him on the Tillicum? I mean't to tell you and forgot and then you sent the book before I got it into my next letter.

Goodness knows when I last wrote you, but I think it was Monday night we first went to the Camp to see who had come and found a few tents up, Tom Dimian and his work gang were on hand and we spoke to them for a while. I think I washed and ironed pretty steadily as it had piled up, especially the woollen shirts which one has to be careful not to shrink. We did lots of other things as well which I can't remember now.

Wednesday we were down to the Indian camp early to see them come in but no one arrived until after lunch, ^{the cars} they came on were on a freight train so it was late afternoon when they got to the camp. We wanted to try and take some pictures of them putting up their teepees but the light wasn't too good. They had quite a time getting the big ones up and it was great fun to watch as the Squaws boss the job, even if they are real old ladies in their eighties, they use the axe to shorten poles and cut pegs and the men give a hand in putting up the poles though the women do it too. Its hard to describe but I will try.

First ~~three~~ two pegs about 3 feet long are driven into the ground near where the fire is built in the center of the teepee, this serves as an anchor to ~~tie~~ the rope from the ~~poles~~ three poles that are tied together before they are raised. They tie three good poles together about 4 or 5 feet from the top and in raising them up to form a tripod, they hold two together on one side, the single pole on the other, after the tops are above the fire place they spread the poles out like a tripod, then very carefully they place the other long poles in place

in between the others, so that they are about a foot apart on the ground. After they get the "bones of the Teepee" set up they tie the top of the canvas, which is rolled in a certain way, to another pole and raise that, placing it carefully at the back side. This is a hard and heavy job and several have to help to raise this, especially when it is windy as it was the other day. Then they carry the canvas around the set up poles towards the front on either side. They tie short pieces of string between the two front poles to make steps as on a ladder, and usually a young lad climbs up this with a boost or two from below and fastens sticks through what you might call "buttonholes" in the front of the teepee above the door. It holds the teepee together securely. Then the long poles are put into the points which make the draft for the smoke and this too is a job when the wind is blowing, Pete gave a hand as it took two to work the big pole into a sort of pocket at the corner of the flap. ~~Then~~ Before this the teepee poles inside are moved out against the canvas and this stretches the teepee tight and then it is stacked around very firmly. Then the two poles put in and the door flap put on and all is ready.

They usually pile all their stuff on the ground ^{before putting up the} ~~which~~ ^{teepee} around the center where the fire will be, trunks and bundles and then it is all inside when the Teepee is set up and they don't have to carry the stuff in.

George MacLean we found has married again. His wife and Enos Hunter died the same year and so George and Mrs Enos Hunter are now married. We were amused the way he introduced her. We were talking to him when she came towards us and George said "I want you to meet my new cook!"

When the MacLeans started putting their Teepee up they were just at the point of spreading the poles out from the inside and the whole thing blew over and collapsed. Luckily no one seemed to be in the way of it, but they had to start all over again so Pete gave a hand and I wish you could have seen the new Mrs MacLean telling Pete exactly what to do! She certainly had him working hard.

The four days were much the same as usual, a parade each morning which we saw start from the grounds and as far as the bridge, then the sports each afternoon and a concert in the evening. We took in most everything except the concert the first night and of course did a lot besides. "or people do come and see one at meal time as it is about the one time they are sure of finding a person in. I will have to tell you all about it in my next/

We have made no plans as we rather expect the Concord girls to arrive any day though they haven't shown up yet, but we have a lot of mail from them. They may want to go on a Trail trip and if so will be going to Lake Louise or Bow Lake. We will have to get our stuff together again, but I have a pretty good list of what we will want to take and it is easier after you have been out once or twice.

Will send this along now and write more to-morrow if I can. Loads of love,

Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. July 25, 1948

Dearest Mother,

Don't know how much of a letter you will get but wanted to get one off to you to-day, most likely the last one I will send to York Harbor. We have gotten several nice ones from you and it sounds as if you were having a nice restful quiet time. We wish we were off somewhere right now and hope to get away soon. We have still quite a few accounts to pay and receipts to send out in connection with Indian days and the report to type out, and there have been several interruptions and it is hard finding the time for figuring. Also every few days someone seems to be arriving and also we are rather weary and when you are, it is that much harder to get things done.

Marion Hudson Wilmot arrives in Banff to-morrow, we telephoned Mary Simpson yesterday (or the day before) to tell her who they were, and she said they were due that afternoon and that Mr Wilmot was a friend of Walter Browns (I think the one who married Margaret, who died) but they never connected them with us. So she said they would be extra nice and tell them we would see them when they reached Banff. So we will look them up to-morrow or the next day. Then Mrs Castle wanted us to go there for dinner Friday night but Pete felt too tired to attempt it. We haven't driven that far for so long and somehow the effort of getting dolled up and going that far seemed too much, so we wrote saying we couldn't come. Now she wonders if we will be home on Wednesday or Thursday if she comes to Banff. They are all the way from Honolulu so we will have to be home that day. Then the end of the next week the Rankins (at least Niall Rankin) arrives. The rest of the family can't fly over from England because of sickness in the family and Niall can only stay a day. A friend of Sam Manierres comes and then the Brookes will be back in but we won't make a special effort to see them if it is a chance for us to get out of town. You know after you have stayed home for a long stretch it is that much harder to budge when the time comes.

Last night we were to have a tiny 2 lb. roast of lamb, new potatoes and carrots. Thought we would ask Mom down as when we came home we found a wonderful deep blueberry pie on the doorstep of her make. Pete went out about six to ask her and found instead the Graysons from Cochrane, just off the bus but no sign of Mom, thought they had telephoned they were coming. So he brought them down here (both are over 80) and for supper. leaving a note for Mom. She soon appeared too as she had been to the bus but had thought there were two not three and they were on the last one. Somehow the supper did, by adding a few cooked peas to the carrots and having blueberry muffins as well as pie and they stayed until nearly ten. They are a fine couple and we had a lot of talk of the early days.

We have seen several people this week, some came to the house and some we saw off at the station like Mr Gibbon. I can't think that we have done so much but the time has slipped by. Yesterday as Pete was at the Chinese tailors and I waiting in the Jeep, a helicopter flew over, the first we had ever seen and we are sure the first in Banff, it has come to spray the trees for some bug, of course we had to dash right down to the airport to see it. I was surprised how small it seemed and it had a big round nose of plexy glass and the sides were open, also the top of where one sat. I would be afraid of falling out! It had come across from the Windermere. Will be here for a week or two.

To-night Margaret Campbell is to dedicate her life to some such thing to be a presbyterian missionary and leaves from Montreal the middle of the month for central India. She is a first cousin of Pete's, His father's sister's (who died when she was tiny) daughter, she is a trained nurse as well. The Graysons came up for the service in the church to-night. but I doubt if we will go.

Better get started on those receipts to be mailed.
So all for this letter.

Loads of love to you both.

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Fri. July, 28, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

I seem to be having a hard time getting a letter off to you for we have been rather busy, Monday Mr and Mrs Castle of Honolulu came to see us bringing a Mrs Niven of Nelson B.C. with her. They came about 11.30 and had written when they would be here. We were up awfully early that morning thinking the Indians would be leaving on the 10 o'clock train and were at the grounds at 8 o'clock, (had gone to bed at Midnight the evening before as we had been at the Moores p~~aying~~ our recording, Edmee and Charlie, Carl Rungius and the Moxi Whitneys came in and later came down to the house with us, at midnight Mom had arrived as there was a big bat in her house and she was really scared and upset. So we had to go up there and get it out, Pete did that with a big flash ~~of~~ light in the front door, I held the screen door open and we saw the thing flutter out, drawn by the beam of light. So all in all it had been quite an evening) The Indians weren't to leave until two so we said we would be back at one to give David a ride to the station. Didn't know when we would have our lunch but as we had had breakfast around 7 we ate lunch about 10.30 before the Castles came.

The Castles didn't stay very long having many errands and we got to the grounds to find practically all the Indians had left. To the station and found David was afraid we mightn't come and had gone by bus, so waved them all off. Then we had food to get and things like that to do, I forgot I cleaned the house pretty thoroughly that morning for it hadn't been done for some time. We saw Allen too and Mary Lee and the little Cornish girl were there, Guess that was after supper for we had the car washed well at the place near the boat house and then came home and went to bed fairly early.

Tuesday as we were finishing breakfast Mrs Brett came in, she said she had a young couple staying with her who knew the family. It seems that two nights before the lady who runs the Villa Hotel took pity on them and telephoned Mrs Brett to see if she could put up this nice young couple. Mrs Brett doesn't really take people in as a rule but said she could if they were stuck and then she liked them so much she drove them around Banff, asked if they would like to see the weaving as they had seemed interested in the summer school, and they said "yes" so went in there, Barbara was working on her weaving and Mrs Brett thought she had come from near Boston, so Barbara said no I was the one, so then it turned out that the girl is Rebecca Bradford's daughter, The one who was married in June and who you got the present for that day we went to Mrs Baggerson's.

We went over to Mrs Bretts right away but they had gone for breakfast, so we looked for their station wagon and found them at Parises. I had quite a chat with them then and she said

that she felt very badly as you had sent her the loveliest bowl and salad set and she hadn't written you yet to thank you, finding it hard to write on the trip. They were headed for Lake Louise that day but expected to be back in the late afternoon so we said we would be in then or later in the evening. Also suggested we make reservations for them at Bow Lake for the next two nights, which we did.

That took most of Tuesday morning and I also did a wash. Claude Brewster asked us to go to the Trail Riders supper and Pearl had wanted us to do a recording of it, so we went up there to see what the connections were and back here by 4 o'clock in case the Dick Baileys came (Patsy Bradford) However they didn't get back from Louise in time so we left a message where we were and that we might be back late in the evening. The Trail Riders was rather fun a supper served outdoors where the Indian Concert was. We talked a while with Mrs Niven and Bill Shulman and one or two others and got the recorder all hooked up ready for the POW*Wow later which was held in a tent. The young Brewster boys were good and went home for more extensions and we could just get the microphone inside the tent by Bill Shulman holding it on my coat. Before it started we got Mr Gibbon to tell a story for it and then took as much of the Pow-Wow as we could. The Mosquitos were terrible being unusually bad this year. It was ten when we got home and found a note from the Baileys that they would drop in next morning between 8.30 and 9.30. Pete wanted to hear Moores to hear the recording we had just made so we went down with that and it was Pearl's birthday so "dnee and Charlie came in and we had strawberry shortcake and coffee. It is always easier to stay up at night than get up early in the morning so again it was close to midnight when we got home and Wednesday as the Baileys were coming we wanted to be through breakfast and got up before either eight.

Wednesday Patsy and Dick got around after 9.30 and we had a very nice visit with them. She does a bit of painting and he takes very lovely photographs (so she said) artistic ones, so they were interested in all the paintings. It seems that his mother was brought up in Honolulu so we showed them the sketches of the islands and he knew parts of it well, having cruised around Kauai when he went back after the war. Then he also was in Japan and we talked of that and I told him about Grandpa and your being there etc. and got out the books " Japan Day by Day " and he was much surprised and said that when he was working at the Widener Library in Cambridge one time they were selling some of the duplicate books and he bought the copy of Japan Day by Day and liked it so much, says it is the kind of book he likes to read. They want to go out and see you in Concord when they get home in September. He comes from Weston (knows Gertrude Fiske) and he wondered if you would like to see some of his pictures of Japan? slides I think they are. After they had gone I wondered if you couldn't invite them to dinner and to bring Mrs Charlotte Brown, Patsy's grandmother with them. They are the nicest couple and we hope they enjoyed the Simpsons, they were crazy about Mrs Brett. Wasn't it funny we should meet them that way. He wants to be a school teacher and teach in Honolulu some time. Patsy knows of Sylvia Short having gone to Smith. Said she was the only girl to ever graduate Sumner Conn. State in Theater & was picked out of 2300 to go to the Old Vic.

Wednesday afternoon we were taking it easy, Jonnie was trying to make things out of plaster of paris and wondered if Charlie Beil would give him lessons for 25¢ a lesson ! So finally we took him up there and found that there is a wonderful clay for children to use made out of salt and cornstarch and water cooked to-gether in a double boiler and then kneaded on a board. Doesn't harden too quickly and is very durable and can be colored.

We were wondering when the three Concord girls would show up as there was quite a bit of mail for them and just about 5.45 they drove in. Were all settled up in the camp ground having ~~tents~~ sleeping bags and a tent. By the time we had talked a bit it was too late to get anything at the stores and so we thought it would be fun to take them up to the Chair Lift and have a chicken supper at Norquay which we did. They first telephoned their familys at home. Margot Bemis to Brooklin, Maine and Polly Edgerton to Falmoth. To-night they are to call the Shaws in Seal Harbor as all three familys will be there to-gether. We had quite a thunder storm at Norquay and they couldn't go up in the Lift, it was a dark evening and so we came back here and it must have been about 11.30 when they went back up to the camp ground. They are such nice girls and we have had lots of fun with them. At first they called us Mr and Mrs White but we notice now, that Jonny has gotten them calling us Pete and Catharine and they are right at home, help with meals and do the dishes and we all tease each other.

They were to come down early the next morning so once more we struggled out of bed. But they too had slept in a little later. We took them to the Banff Springs (after first calling on the Mounted Police and the American and Canadian Customs as they had come into Canada when the border place was closed and had to report in so we asked their advice etc) I took them all over the lower part of the hotel and Pete tried to telephone Gray Campbell to see if they could stop in there on their way south, but we couldn't get him. Then we made a cold lunch here at the house and as they wanted to ride horse back we took them up to the campground (we had arranged to have their car checked and gotten ready in the meantime) Jonny rode with them and they walked back downtown later, coming here for supper about 6.30 We in the meantime stopped at Moxi Whitney's Trailer where he and his wife and 3 young children live, drag it out each year from the east. We found out about camping places going east for the girls. Then after supper we tried to telephone Gray again without success also went to the Upper Hot Springs and around the Golf Course and back here, But we were all so sleepy they went home before 11.

This morning Pete was to call ^{Gray} again and they expected to leave for the ranch though they had talked of staying here another day they liked Banff so much. They were here about nine and Pete telephoned, then they sort of dallied a bit and we looked at maps etc. finally they said goodbye and we waved them off. They hadn't been gone five minutes when I found Polly's very special pencil so we ran up to the camp ground with it knowing they had to pack up before going. and sure enough the tent was still up. They really wanted to stay one more day and it was 11.30 by then, but having said good-bye to us didn't quite like to come back. So we told them as it was late for starting they better stay and we expect them

back for another dinner to-night. They are free to do as they like to-day and that has given me a chance to get caught up too.

We had salmon and fresh string beans last night and are going to have steaks to-night. ice cream and fruit. To make them feel better I have been wearing dungarees too but I have to remember that the people I knew at Seal Harbor for instance are the age of their parents. They think the world of Miss Wagner, said that everyone in the lower school did and that she did so many wonderful things for them. Think we must write her a card to-night. But don't tell her it is coming.

We had thought of going back up to Bow this week but are waiting for a "jet" for the Jeep which hasn't come yet. Bill Bunn hopes to get it in Calgary Monday if it isn't here sooner, So it looks as if it would be Tuesday by the time we go back out painting again.

Must get this mailed. The men are here taking the hay which Steve sythed for us, we were afraid they would forget to come.

Your letters sound peetty busy but how nice that you have had so many rides with friends. which we know that you enjoy.

Loads of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. July 30, 1950

Dearest Mother,

Yesterday Jonny appeared before lunch and so ate stew with us, then he said "Is Pete going to take his ease now?" It is again after lunch and I can hear Pete "taking his ease" in the big chair in the other room, we were going to wash the dungarees ready for our next trip to Bow Lake but will wait until a little later and maybe I can get caught up writing to you.

This must be New England week. Wednesday the Dick Baileys came in the morning, the three girls arrived that evening and finally got off for Waterton Lake Saturday morning and then yesterday afternoon Mary Curtis and Horatio Colony arrived about four o'clock, they wouldn't stay for supper (which I think very wise of them as we are eating up leftovers) as they had told Mrs Crockett at the Alpine Club that they would be there, but they came back about 8 and after talking a short time we took them up to Norquay to see the Chair Lift, they were rather glad that it wasn't running as Horatio doesn't like heights. Then back here and they stayed until after 11, nearly 12. To-day they were to go to Jasper and perhaps stop at Bow on the way back so we might see them again if they like Jasper well enough to stay over a day and we get to Bow by Tuesday night. They seemed to be having a very good trip. Came out the northern way by North Bay and Saulte-Ste-Marie, the same way the girls are heading back and said the roads were good. They are headed for Wyoming and back that way.

I think I wrote Friday afternoon, the girls came for dinner that night, steak and carrots, ice cream and fruit. Erling Strom dropped in just before supper about 5.30 so we asked him to stay but he had to talk over the radio to Assinaboine that night at 7.15 and didn't dare wait in case they were late, as they were waiting for a call to Seal Harbor, but he came back later just as we had eaten up most everything, but we managed to get a few tidbits and there was plenty of desert. He was fun and they seemed to enjoy meeting him and perhaps will go to his place at Stowe sometime to ski. He asked how you were. We expected an early evening for once as the girls wanted to retire early and had some washing to do. Erling left about 9.30 but it was after 11 when the girls finally tore themselves away.

First thing we heard in the morning was a pouring rain so got up as soon as we could thinking of the girls in the tent in the campground. However by the time we got up there by nine they had gone. Luckily the man in charge knew they had just gone towards town for breakfast, so we spotted the car and found them eating hot cakes. We offered to find them a cabin for another day so they could dry out but they were fine and as Pete remarked looked as if they were just out from Gloucester with raincoats and southwesters on. We did suggest that they telephone ahead for a cabin at Waterton for with the heavy rain we didn't think they could get to Gray Campbells as they had hoped. and by about ten they got off.

We went up by the Wards for the fun not having seen them for some time and talked of the poor trail hikers starting out for their five days in the mountains, they were to go by bus up a road the Calgary Power Co has built and later we heard they had had to turn round because of mud etc. and come back into Banff. Margaret Hemsley came here in search of rooms but though we tried we didn't get her any but she didn't come back so guess she found some place to stay. And then Mary and Horatio came as I was taking a shower. Someone came to the back door about the same time but don't know who it was, might have been Margaret again. I looked out the window just as they were driving off.

I have never told you about the week of Indian Days which is usual was a busy and full one but was much easier as we had no responsibility this year or anything to think of in connection with running it. The weather was wonderful though a number of thunder storms threatened, only one hit and rained on Saturday afternoon, but came after the people were there so didn't keep people away. It may have kept some away from the evening show, but the summer school had put on, but on the whole there were good crowds.

Thursday we went down early ^{to the camp} and recorded the start ^{of the Parade} also took a few pictures though there were clouds and it was hard to get much. The Ben Woods of Columbia Univ. had come down from Bow Lake and we met them at the bank and saw the parade with them, then they came around to the house and hated to leave but wanted to go up the Chair Lift before the afternoon performance. Dr Wood is going to tell his great friend Gen. Eisenhower about Pete's picture that he copied and which was shown in Life Magazine, they are headed for Colorado where Eisenhower is at present.

At the grounds we saw Marshall Diverty who is a great teaser as a rule, used to go on the Trail Hike with us and he said to the people with him " Oh, here is someone who knows all the Indians and will help you " as I approached. Then he took me and introduced me to his friend Mr Lloyd and added " Harold Lloyd " The way he said it I thought he was joking and teasing his friend who looked a bit like Harold Lloyd the movie comedian who used to make such funny pictures in the old days. So I shook hands and was a bit embarrassed when I found he only has half of his right hand the thumb and first finger aren't there. I met another man and girl with them and they were all taking pictures busily. Were very nice and friendly though. I told them Pete would be the best one to help find good Indians and so went and got him. Not knowing that Harold Lloyd was in the country Pete was as stupid as I, but he did introduce him to George MacLean and some others, and Saturday when he was down again Harold Lloyd came up and spoke to Pete again. But to make sure Marshall Diverty wasn't spoofing us I asked Miss MaGowan and sure enough it was the movie actor. He was very quiet and rather fun and awfully interested in the Indians, very unpretentious. It was fun meeting him.

The first day one always meets a lot of people that we haven't seen for a long time and we did take a few pictures. That night we went up at the tale end of the Concert but listened from outside. the next evening we recorded it, George and Tibby Browne arrived just as we were going to start supper so I hurriedly made some sandwiches as we wanted to be up there by seven, and we ate those in between. We put the recorder in the back seat of the Jeep. the

Microphone in the open window and we plugged into the loud speaker system. at the grounds the Calgary Power put a plug in onto one of the poles near the corral and we could get the Indians as they ride around the grounds before starting for the parade. We really were fortunate, for after recording a tiny reel Saturday morning we went down Sunday morning and played it back to the Indians and they got so interested that they wanted to try singing for it. Got a drum and took turns singing songs, each trying to out-do the others. Then we would play each one back and let them hear it before they did the next one. We had about 40 Indians around the Jeep before we had finished, all boys and men and as it was a hot morning Pete got awfully hot holding the cord to the pole so they wouldn't disconnect it by tripping on the wire, and I nearly suffocated inside working the machine with all the men and kids looking in the windows. They had lots of fun and at the end sang words to the songs which we had never heard before, we think they were improvising for the Indians listening would laugh and shout. One song near the start Jonny Beasspaw told me, " Mrs Whyte, if you were a young girl you would be very pleased to have that song sung to you. " and later he told Pete that they were funny songs but no bad words in them. However we don't know much more.

Friday we again went to the grounds early for the start of the parade and saw the parade uptown as well. Every one wanting to find us home would come at meal time which was a little hard so finally we would put the Jeep in the garage so Indians and White People would think us out. Not having to go up to the hotel we had more time between the parade and the afternoon performance. That was the night we recorded at the hotel. Then Saturday was a full day at the grounds and to the concert again when it was partly over. Sunday we went to the grounds early hoping for pictures but we found they were to have a ceremony making Ernie Kehr a Chief and we didn't want to be there as we hadn't known about it. So instead *recorded* we stopped in at the Moores and played the recording of the parade start to them and then took it down to the grounds to play it to Jonnie and Tom Simson, and by then the ceremony was over and with great good luck we got the real singing that I have told you of. *got the*

We were so pleased with that that Sunday night we again went back to the Moores and played it to them. then Jack and Merle and the Harbison Girls of Philadelphia came in so we played it again and later Edmee and Moixie Whitney and his wife and Charlie Reid and Carl Rungius came along so we once more played it off. Pearl Moore has a steel guitar and got Moxie to play that (he is the orchester leader at the Banff Springs) he played one part for me to record and then when I played it back he played the melody to go with it. Was very interested in the recorder and wants to try his band on it and see how it sounds. We went up to the hotel on Tuesday to do it but there was a convention in the ballroom but will go up again later. They all came here. the Reids, Whitneys and Carl after leaving the Moores and just as they were going at Midnight poor Mom came down all trembling as she had a bat in the house. So that was a rather late evening. We had had so many of them in the last two weeks *and they were not here* and nearly every morning have had to be up early for some reason. ^

Will mail this at the station, have Russell's letters all safe and will send them to-morrow, I want to copy the part off about Rusty for Jim Simpson to read.

Loads of love,

Catharine

P.S. If Mary isn't coming back from Nova Scotia, why not get Hanne's sister to be with you.

NUM-TI-JAH

Lodge



BOW LAKE, ALBERTA

Via LAKE LOUISE POST OFFICE

Tues. August 1, 1950

Dearest Mother,

We have finally gotten out of Banff & up to Bow Lake though for a while we wondered would we make it. It seemed as if we were always having late evenings & having to get up early in the mornings. We could have come up say Saturday but it rained so, & we knew they could use the cabin here. They too we had hoped to get a new jet for the car in high altitudes but it didn't come. So we planned to come Tuesday to-day.

Mrs Simpson has just been talking to me tales of Scotland etc. & wants to be remembered to you.

Sunday after writing you & mailing the letter we were both "taking an ease" when Mary Lee, Tona & Sonia Hoover came in with a lovely bunch of Tiger Lilies (they shouldn't have picked) for me. We had some coffee & general & then tried the recorder & they got a great kick out of it. Such giggles you never heard. It was nearly six when they left. We didn't have supper right away & when we were just sitting down Janice & Paul Fowler (the accident couple) came with two pints of ice cream & some cookies & have desert with us. It seemed a lot of ice cream but we ate it all. They are such a nice couple. Their car will be fixed by the middle of this week. She works in the dress store at a ^{soda} counter & he is on a Gov't survey.

She was nice & helped with the dishes & we were just
chatting when the John Jaeggs came in. He is Swiss &
she was Edith Ashton & they run the Upper Hot Springs
Hotel. They brought an artist from Victoria B.C. with
them Ted Goodall, who does lovely pencil sketches
for post cards & is doing some of this country. He was
very complimentary about our sketches & said he was
glad to meet what he calls "sane" artists. He is
convinced that most of the people painting these
awful modern abstractions have some "kinks" in
them & usually wobble & he says all the
reviews have been devoured once or twice! He was
quite funny about it.

In the midst of showing the sketches Mel Maddick
the Yugoslavian D.P. arrived with some photos of
the Shi jump at Planica Yugoslavia to show us.
So we had quite an evening. Mel left first, then
the Fowlers about 11 P.M. & the others never got
away until after 1 A.M. It was quite an
evening from 7 till 1 - 6 hours talking!

Monday we were rather weary. got some
laundry done but not a great deal else. Jimmy
was over to tell us about a tracing table he has
invented with a light under glass & then he
told us he was going to take up health work
this winter. "It would only cost him \$2.00
for materials ^{a glass} & water is free." He is funny.

Then last night we were going to bed by
nine at least, but Pete fell asleep after supper
"Took his ease" as Jimmy says, & before he

NUM-TI-JAH

Lodge



BOW LAKE, ALBERTA

Via LAKE LOUISE POST OFFICE

were up Elizabeth Rummel dropped in. We told her a bit about our late nights & several times she started to go but each time we would get talking about painting. She is trying it & it was 11.30 when she left! We gave her some hints for sketching outdoors -

This morning was a perfect day & we were up soon after 7. got our things sorted out, clean clothes etc. Went for the mail & a couple of errands. Then Mom came to tell us Pearl had telephoned would we be home in the afternoon as she had 2 girls to bring down. & also Mom wanted a Victory Bond she has in our Safety Deposit Box. So we set off for the moors, got them off a couple of weeks for it was the Harbison girls they wanted to bring down sometime. Of course we talked for ages - then to the bank & the key wouldn't work. So back for another. In all I made 3 trips to the bank. & then Miss Scott came down to tell us about some people in her cabin. & finally it was after three when we got all packed up - We got up here by six & now its bed time again. Do hope we get nice weather. Find that Patsy (Bradford) Bailey & Dick stayed here 3 nights & Jim spun them some good yarns -

Loads of love to all
Catharine

NUM-TI-JAH

Lodge



BOW LAKE, ALBERTA

Via LAKE LOUISE POST OFFICE

Friday Aug 4, 1950

Dearest Mother.

Last night I started a letter to you & only got as far as writing "Dearest". That start is over in the cabin unfinished. One does a lot of talking in the evenings there are so many interesting people here. We are having better weather than last time though it did rain yesterday afternoon, & a good part of Wednesday. But we pitched at the Corral yesterday A.M. & to-day at the Cow foot. As yet have turned out rather poor efforts.

To-night when we came in the Belmont Brunes were here & stayed for supper, eating at our table. It was nice to see them! Both Mrs Brune & I tried to think who it was that knew you & them & neither of us could think. Who is it? Do you remember? They live at Ross, across the Bay from San Francisco. I also found out that he is related to Mrs Charlotte Brune of Salem, as his family came from there originally, & last time they were east they met Rebecca & Bob Bradford. They asked for you.

There are also the Harrisers here. They are from Berkeley, California & this is the 7th year they have come for two weeks. They are a most attractive couple. She very vivacious & a bit like Marjorie Waterman. He quieter but both lots of fun & a good sense of humor. They always have the same

cabin. must have red blankets - many remembers every-
thing like that. The dog comes too & there is a dish for him.
Mr. Harris was on Treasure Island ^(San Francisco Bay) & in charge
for the Navy during the last war & the first evening
they were here he was very interesting discussing the
present Korean situation.

Then there is a New York couple, originally Viennese
& he restores paintings. They have been in many of
the places we have in Austria & Switzerland. & so it
goes.

This isn't much of a letter but another lady
wants to write so I'd better let her have the desk!
with the best light. We got such nice letters from
the 3 girls & will send them for you to read & return
as we want to send them to the Campbells where
they stopped at the ranch one night.

It was 25° this morning & ice on a pail
of rain water outside our cabin.

Soads of love

Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. August 6, 1950

Dearest Mother,

So much seems to have happened in the last 24 hours. We got your letter about Madge when we came back from Bow yesterday afternoon, I never realized that she had anything the matter with her that would end in her going so suddenly, though of course we knew she was far from well a good part of the time. It must have been a terrible shock to you all, seems strange that Aunt Mary Hoar goes on living when Madge seemed so well in comparison. I wonder what will happen to her new little house and will Mary Cool move into it? Your letters seemed full of deaths, with Wil's mother dying and not long ago Halsey Hanger, that was sad and hard on the three girls losing their mother, and father so soon after.

We had planned to stay at Bow over the weekend and then Friday night they had to turn people away and as we are using a cabin that will accomodate 4 it seemed sort of mean to take it for Saturday night the busiest one of the week, also Pete had a sore eye and he figured he might have something in it, and all in all we decided to come down yesterday afternoon and go back Monday or Tuesday perhaps, or if they are very busy wait for a bit. We packed up in an hour and left about 3.30 or 3.45 and got into Banff at 20 to 6 o'clock. Pete got the mail while I got enough food for the weekend, ^{at Bow's house at 6} and we saw about the jet thing for the Jeep which hasn't come yet and did a few errands like that, milk etc. Were home about 6.30. had a good supper and went to bed early.

It was a noisy night over town, the first of the month usually means they have more to spend and horns were blowing etc until we went to sleep. About one the fire siren went and we got dressed without even looking to see where it might be as the trees are so heavy we hardly ever can see any fire. But we might have this time for the minute we got out of Mom's yard we could see flames above the trees across the river. (There was a car parked in our driveway outside the gate so we had to go up the top way, which took us a bit longer turning around etc) As we crossed the bridge we figured it was up by Mrs Mac's old house but there were so many cars we had to park a long way from the fire, but even when we got there it was blazing away with great fury. It was the little red house that they used in summer before they built the log house and in recent years have rented it for a good price.

We had promised Mary to keep an eye on the place when we went by so we stayed around and watched, also to see if there were any sparks landing on the big house. Luckily there was no wind for had there been the woods might have started and goodness knows how the fire dep't could have stopped it. As it was the trees around the house were all on fire. It wasn't until later that they found Dan Foley had been inside, we had presumed it was empty, but he came up a couple of weeks ago to clean up the place and have it unlocked for people to see if they wanted to buy it. Seems that he had been downtown on a bit of a party for a lad at the fire told me he had brought Dan home in his taxi after nine. had evidently

gone to sleep and dropped his lighted cigarette, and probably was suffocated by the smoke before waking up, Janet Crosby had smelt smoke around ten in their house down the road and gotten up to look around but saw nothing naturally, and another boy had driven by the house and up to the Banff Springs just previous to the fire breaking out, ~~for~~ they saw nothing, had just turned around and headed back from the Banff Springs when they saw sparks flying above the trees. The alarm was turned in from the hospital quite a distance down the road. *So it must have smouldered for several hours before suddenly bursting out.*

It was a terribly hot fire and the whole inside was burned, Pete had a good flash light and so helped a bit as they didn't have enough spot lights after the flames were out to see around. Poor Dan was evidently half out of bed and burned beyond recognition, but strangely enough his head was downwards and his arm under him and it protected the pocket of his vest and they found a telegram in his pocket, not burnt at all, otherwise though most people felt it was him they wouldn't have really known.

Mrs Boon the hairdresser was there and much concerned about how Mary would feel, as Dan had been with Mrs Mac, guiding on pack trips and helping build both houses and really been with them for 15 years or more, and had lived down on their little ranch near the Ghost River. So we said in the morning we would try to get word to Mary. *Mrs Mac's daughter. Mrs Mac died just a year ago.*

We were up soon after seven, having gone to bed again about 2.30 and went to the police first, but the door was locked as they had had a busy night with a bad automobile accident east of Banff, so then we went up by the fire as a police man was to stay there until the body was removed, but nothing there except the water dripping through the broken pipes, everything was gone and burned up except the bed springs and a bit of red blanket and one cup and bits of the wall standing, strangely enough a picture that Dan had painted on the outside wall still showed, though a hole was through it in one place. Then we went to the man who works for the undertaker, but he had only just gone to bed and his wife told us about their finding the telegram, then back to the police who were up by then and Pete spent some time there. They knew little about Dan and we told them we would notify Mary. Then to J.D. Hansens who looked after renting things for Mrs Mac, but he didn't even know the place had burned down, then to Doctor Atkin thinking that he might do the telephoning as it was hard to know how to break the news to Mary, but he was out, and instead we saw Janet and Doug Crosby who are just back from England. Then to Dr Atkin's office and a chat with him. He thought a wire would do, then we met Mr Hansen and his son and he checked up at his office on Mary's address and we gave him a lift up to the fire and back. Then to telephone Vancouver where Pete got the house and gave the message which was really better than breaking the news to Mary over the phone. Then to Mrs Boons to tell her what we had done. This was all before 10.30 A.M. We even went up to Sams knowing he would be interested.

This afternoon we have had the coroner down asking what we know about Dan as he has no known family or next of kin. But it has occupied most of our day. Strange that we should have come down just when we did. The Neilson family have just bought the place from Mary and Mrs Boon told us this morning that they didn't know a thing about the fire when she telephoned them.

We don't know who will lose by the fire for it may be that the deal wasn't put through and some think that Mary was coming in a few days to see about things, There was some insurance but not very much. Its too bad, for though an old house it was kind of cunning, but it is very lucky that it didn't start a real big fire which it easily could have done.

We had a nice time at Bow and got a few sketches but one the mosquitoes were almost too thick and the light too changeable. The Belmore Brownes came up, think I told you about that

must go now + mail this

Loads of love

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Fri. Aug. 11, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

Haven't written for a couple of days. We had to wait until to-day for the trip to Calgary to see the oculist, Pete had an appointment for 3.15 and I for one at the dentist for 2.30. We didn't know how long it would take and thought perhaps we would even have to stay over night. Yesterday had been busy in a way. We rather expected Enid Rogers to be at the Mount Royal.

Somehow we do get into the darndest things. She is the one who was a friend of Mrs Mac's and had been out on trips with Dan Foley as guide, he being the man who was burnt to death in the fire a week ago, and it was a wire from her to him that identified his body as he was found face down and his arm over the pocket in such a way that the telegram never burnt.

The Monday after the fire Mrs Boon arrived as we were having breakfast with Enid Rogers (that was the first we knew who it really was though I had vaguely remembered a person named Enid Rogers and mentioned it when Pete said the wire was signed " Enid ") She had arrived and gotten quite a shock to find out about Dan and seemed very upset. Pete went with her to the police so that they could clear up the matter of who sent the wire, and then she wanted some money so I went to the bank to introduce her. She had been down to the house once with Mrs Mac years ago but she was a nice sort of person and we liked her. Then Pete had to see the doctor about his eye to have a Calgary appointment made so he was in there when we came out of the bank and while sitting in the car Enid started telling me her troubles. She had thought to ask Dan's advice as she said that her family wouldn't have anything to do with her as she had gotten mixed up with a Polish fellow who came out as a D.P. It was a mixed up story and Pete came back before she had finished telling me so she told him too, Pete advised her to stay and go up to some place like Bow Lake and think it out, but she thought maybe she should go back east. It was funny being asked for advice when we hardly knew her. It was like the time the New Zealand girl asked us to a cocktail party to meet a man who wanted to marry her and tell her whether she should marry him or not !

Tuesday

Anyway Enid started east and then ~~Wednesday~~ Thursday night there was a long distance call for me from Moose Jaw. Enid had decided to come back to Banff and would arrive Early Friday morning. So Friday a little after nine we went over to the Mt Royal to look for her as Pat Brewster was to go to Assinaboine on a pack trip and would take her, knowing her very well from years back. She hadn't arrived and just as we were driving away Bubby ran up with a telegram (she is delivering wires this summer for the C.P.R.) and sure enough it was from Enid from Kenora and she had decided after all to go east ? Needless to say it was rather a relief to us.

We came back feeling a great load off our minds, I did the wash and we had a nice early lunch. Then just as we were doing the dishes who should appear but Mom with a pie and Marian Stockand, we presumed on her way west. We never dared ask her a question about the family or what had happened or why she was going or where, we just talked of other things. We had had a letter not long ago wanting to borrow enough money for her father and Mother and Bette, the youngest girl, to go back to the coast so that the family could all be together and they were sure Cam could find work easily. We weren't going to get into any more of that and said we wouldn't think of helping unless Cam had a good job offered him, and never heard again, so we were a bit curious, but I had the feeling if we asked and anything was wrong she would burst into tears. Luckily nothing was said and we don't know if she left to-day or not. Jonny and Billy Mackenzie came along and that helped and they also ate a good bit of the pie.

X When we went later for the mail and a few errands we met the Morants, Nick the photographer and Willi his wife, so they came back about 3.30 for 5 or 10 minutes. I made tea and after a bit of talk we got out the recorder and played off a number of things like the Indian music. then Jonny and Billy came back and had some cake and about 20 to 6 Nick said, "How would you like me to tell you the story of the time the Grizzly attacked Chris and me?" It is a famous story and actually I have never heard it from him before, he thought the kids might make good ones to tell it to, so he started in and that took over half an hour and it was going on for 7 when they left. The kids had gone before. He is going to do it again as he didn't dare make it too dramatic in case they didn't sleep.

By that time we were weary and Pete dozed off while I was getting supper and before he woke up Steve Hope came along with three door knockers he had made out of iron, quite wonderful ones, he retires from being Government Blacksmith next year and is going to do more of that sort of thing, ornamental ironwork I guess you would call it, but few can do it these days as he is an old country craftsman. He stayed for sully half an hour, maybe more talking about the horses Pete's father used to have just as if they were people with special personalities! By the time he left we had an 8 o'clock dinner, got the dishes out of the way and went to bed.

So this morning we were both tired and it was hard getting up, we didn't have to be in Calgary until 2.30 and Pete didn't want to hurry, in fact if it hadn't been for my appointment he would have been apt to postpone his, so we were slow, I made a lunch and we put things together in case we had to spend the night and finally left about 11, telephoning first for a room at the hotel. Had our lunch on the way but it was two when we got to Calgary and we couldn't get into the usual parking lot near the office building where we both had to go. went round a couple of blocks and finally got in and parked at 2.15. Got a milk shake on the way to the Dentist and Pete left me there where he was ready for me, and went on up to Dr Dowling and by luck someone had cancelled their appointment so the nurse said to come right in. He was there about an hour or a little over and I went up there from the dentist.

So by quarter to four we were headed back from Calgary all finished, even had time to telephone the hotel and cancel our reservation! The Dr examined Pete's eyes in all sorts of ways and found that the duct (or maybe it is "a duct") was plugged as both Dr Atkin and Dr MacKenzie had thought. He said he might as well do it right then and there if he could find it, so Pete sat with three other patients while a nurse put something in all their eyes to freeze them or something, a local anesthetic. Then the Doctor opened up the duct in some way (to tell the truth, I haven't asked for details) then put something through it, ^{irrigated it,} to see if it were draining properly, a liquid of some sort, found that it did and seemed very pleased, so Pete said, to have found the plugged duct right off the bat, he even found two bits of calcium on his lower lid which he removed and said otherwise Petes eyes were in a healthy condition. he has some drops to put in for a couple of weeks and then I gues is to have his eyes look ed at again. So it was really lucky to get it done so quickly and my teeth are cleaned and no holes.

We started back and I did the driving and as we got to Cochrane we could see a big black storm ahead and soon very vivid chain lightening, soon we were going into it, the few first drops of rain and the cars coming towards us had their lights on. For the next 30 miles we went through quite a storm and a regular cloud burst near Morley, it wasn't dark as it had been in our tornado in North Dakota and there wasn't wind but for here it was a lot of rain and hail, the ground was quite white in places from hail and it was quite deep, several inches in one part of the road. Morley which is so dry, was running with water, lakes beside the road and Pete said it was running down the hills and through the trees in little streams, in the very deep ditches beside the road it was like a torrent and in one place it was rushing down the side and we wondered would it get too deep before we could get across the bridge, further on it was about a foot deep across the road but we got through, a car ahead was stalled, water in the engine, all the time terrific bolts of lightening on all sides and in front but we thought we better keep on before enough water came down off the hills to maybe wash out the road. We got through and the storm gradually lessened, but not many cars passed us after that from behind and we wondered if ~~many~~ got stuck or what happened, we were home by 6.30.

Saturday - That was evidently some storm about a mile across the river from where we were at Morley a cyclone or twister hit a group of cabins & tents & lifted the cabin a 100 feet & killed 4 Indians. one was Peter Tar we know well & hurt 6 others. Will tell you more when we get to night's paper. We surely were lucky -

Loads of love

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. Aug 16, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

You must be all excited with the family on their way home, we had a nice card from Russ in France and they had just a week more in Normandy and Brittany, This may not be much of a letter for it is time we went over town for errands but thought I would type what I could.

We started out for Bow Lake again Sunday, I had sort of planned to go Monday if Pete felt like it but late on Saturday he thought we might see if they had room and go up the next day, so we did, getting all packed up Sunday morning, it is easier now as we have two of some things like tooth brushes, and a list to go by and just check to see that all is in. a box for camera things, another for painting ones, a box of letters to look over or answer etc. We also made a short call on Mom to tell her we were off again and found her half sister Bella there and her son Murray from Calgary, so had a bit of a visit with them, had we been home Sunday expect they would have made a long call on us. Then we started in the afternoon getting to Bow about five o'clock. Had a good thunder storm before supper and spent the evening talking with the Harriers of Berkeley Cal. He is very interested in trying to paint in oils for recreation and we explained all we could and showed him our outfit etc.

That evening I felt a bit of a sore throat and by morning had a good cold on the way, it was raining and cold too and as there has been a lot of colds and flu going around Banff, Pete thought we had better come back to Banff. It seemed silly but in the cabin it is awkward to feel sick and also I didn't want to give it to everyone. Had I known it, the flu is stomach flu, and nothing to do with the cold, but I had heard that Lillian Gest had a strep throat at Lake Louise and a touch of pneumonia too and was in the hospital 2 weeks and I didn't want to take chances. So Monday after a late breakfast we again put all the stuff in the car and set off for Banff, the Harriers were coming in too to shop that day and said they would like to stop at the house for a minute. Of all things on the way to Lake Louise we had our first flat tire! Just by luck it didn't pour rain while we were getting it changed, but the jack was new and the first time Pete had changed one on this Jeep. We had to stop at Louise and have Young Cliff fix the tube, it evidently was one of the nails sticking up on the bridge that had cut the tire. We had a bite of lunch while waiting and it was after three when we reached Banff, got the mail and milk and got home.

Jonny and Billy MacKenzie were first to spot us and they were pretty cunning so we gave them some gingerale, they were just finishing it when we heard voices at the back door and it was the Moores bringing the Harbisons (two girls from Philadelphia who have been coming to the mountains 100 years and Earl had wanted to bring them down before to hear the recording of the Trail Ride Pow Wow we had made) So in they came and I got tea and we were all

listening to ~~that~~ ^{the recorder} when the Harriés arrived and we gave them tea too, Pearl and one of the Harbisons washing up the dishes which was nice. The Harriers stayed maybe half an hour and then we finished the reel for the rest to hear, so it was after six I guess when they left. Quite an excitement for my cold! Actually it wasn't too bad but I had felt very hot the first night and again Monday night in bed.

Yesterday, Tuesday, it rained hard all day, just settled in, So Pete went out in the morning to get mail etc. and saw Pat Costigan and he told me to come over for a shot of Penicillan at 2 P.M. if I felt like it, or they would come over here. So we went over after lunch and the nurse gave it to me, first time I have had it and they give it to you in the hip, but it certainly checks a cold and I felt increasingly better all afternoon. We gave Mrs Riley a ride home after first picking up two large cartons at the bus station full of vegetables and she gave us a half a cauliflower from their garden for supper. Then home, and the Fowlers called about four, Paul and Janice who leave to-day having gotten their car fixed that was so banged up in the accident. I forgot he had come around to show us the car Sunday morning. I made tea and they enjoyed some blueberry muffins I had made in the morning and stayed until George Encil dropped in. First time we have seen him since spring. He brought Pete the pin that was made for him as designer of the Ski trophies and they all left together after six. The Fowlers wanted to ask us something and asked if they could just drop back after supper, so of course we said yes. They had really come to ask us for Chinese supper but we didn't feel up to going. Pete still feels a little tired with his eye, so he "took his ease" before supper and it was nearly 8 when we started to eat and back came the Fowlers. They weren't going to stay long as they knew we wanted to go to bed etc. but it was 10.30 when they finally left! Janice helped me with the dishes which was nice and we had a good talk. they really are an unusually nice couple and Paul is very well read and interesting to discuss things with, they also wanted to buy a picture!

This morning is still over cast and an east wind, we haven't decided just what to do as the tire has to be sent to Calgary to be really fixed taking two days or so and the weather isn't too good. I still feel a little groggy for I suppose it would have been better had I gone to bed early last night and not talked so much.

Time to go out now, so lots of love to all

Catherine .

Bayff. Alberta
Fri. Aug 17, 1950

Dearest Mother,

We are over-tired doing errands so thought I would bring this along & at least start a letter. The weather hasn't been too good until this afternoon, but we may go out to-morrow to Bow. It made me mad to come in because of a cold but so many had flu that I hated to take a chance & be a nuisance too. The shot of Penicillin certainly did the trick. You know how towards evening one usually feels worse with a cold. Well Tuesday night after the shot & in spite of the Fowlers being there both afternoon & evening I felt increasingly better & now it is just a matter of blowing & coughing the rest away.

Pete's eye feels the cold a bit so we haven't tried to leave Bayff. He has to have drops in it for 2 weeks & then maybe see the doctor again for a check.

This is as far as I got over town, we have just come from the Moores and while there Col Moore asked if I knew who was head of the Concord Antiquarian Society. Do you know? I think that Mr French used to be but don't know who it is now unless it is Mr Kettell? Col Moore is considering leaving the gun that his ancestor used in the Revolution and in the fight after the bridge at Concord and the British were being chased back to Boston. He has also discovered that one of his ancestors, a great grandfather Roger Brown, moved to Concord from Framingham and died there and he thinks may be buried there. Maybe Dr Bartlett could tell you who would be the best person to write to. I thought perhaps the President of the Antiquarian, and not the custodian, someone who will be really interested! For it is a much prized relic. He also has the commission signed by John Hancock. Dr Bartlett might tell you. Hope I have explained it alright, sounds a bit involved.

You will be all excited with the family home so I won't write a great deal. In fact there isn't a great deal to tell. We have been seeing friends off each afternoon on trains, there is a threatened railway strike across Canada to go into effect on Tuesday and if it does happen it will be very serious. Because they don't usually have such things here, no one takes much notice, but people are heading back by train who don't want to be stuck in case the strike comes off. It could be very serious.

We haven't done much lately, that is during the last few days, it's rained quite a bit and we have seen to a number of little things which always takes time. Any errands or shopping

takes time in Banff for you run into so many people to talk to. The other day a lady fall or twisted her ankle in front of the store and Pete helped pick her up. Her two little girls were with her and they were very concerned. Pete went and saw the doctors who were so busy and had to rush on some call that they couldn't see her, so we drove her up to where she was staying and it turned out to be a sprain in the end so everything was alright, but they were such a nice family and the dearest little girls you ever saw.

It is time to go to the train. I have so many letters of yours to answer and the pile grows. Must send that stuff for children to model. It was the Charlie Beils who gave it to us and it came out of a Sunday school paper. Looks like white fondant when kneaded but not at all sticky and hardens really hard and can be colored. *I'm not sure what kind of paint but could find out if you want to know.*

Loads of love,

Catharine.

P.S. Think it was the lady who had the classes for children (David Newberry among them) who wanted the recipe. She could experiment a bit first. Its very cheap & after the children modeled little things they can keep them as they don't break as plasterine does.

Bow Lake
Sunday.
Aug 20, 1950

Dearest Mother,

This threatened
Railway Strike has us all wonder-
ing what will happen. That is
if it will really take place or
not. It does provoke one for it
is spoiling the tourist season.
People have been warned that
the last train is Monday & they
stay at their own risk etc.
& naturally a lot have headed
for home to be across the line
before the deadline. They have
organized buses across the
country to carry food & mail
but if it lasted long it could
be rather disastrous.

It's been an erratic
summer with the Korean

war news etc.

We really should have come back up Friday but Thursday it looked like a storm so we waited & then Pete sort of felt the light & cold on his eye so ~~we~~ didn't want to hurry him. & yesterday being a lovely day we decided to come up this morning.

Dr Riley came last evening & brought us a large cauliflower & some lettuce. (I forgot about them for we were going to give them to the Scotts! too late now but perhaps they will keep until we go home) He also told us that he is planning to go to Boston this fall in

connection with Cancer. He is the head of the Calgary Clinic. wants to see the method of operating that was done on Ted Langridge so will be seeing Bob & I expect will want to see you. His lots of fun. Entirely different from Pat or Dr Macenzie & is like an over grown boy. Loves to play jokes on people & always is giving us presents! Will write again when we know when he is leaving. It won't be for a month anyway.

This morning we gave a lift to 2 Toronto girls who were hitch hiking on their day off. When we said we were going to Ban

Like they decided to come too.
I had a couple of sandwiches
so we let them get a ham-
burger at Louise & ate ours
there too.

They are University girls
& this is their 3rd summer
as waitresses at the Bayff
Springs. They said they
bring them from a long
distance & they aren't as
apt to quit & go home
early! They both are
school teachers now. Are
to have supper here & then
Jimmy will give them
a ride to Bayff when he
goes in to-night. They have
been for a walk & it will
make a nice day for them.
It started to get cloudy but
has cleared again.

5.

We probably will be here
until Friday - if all goes
well. Pete has to have a
check with the doctor then.

Supper so all for now

Loads of love

Catherine .

Seeing you can't wire us, you can still telephone to Banff 140
will reach us. Better write Air mail seeing that you are in
for a strike too.

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. August 23, 1950

Dearest Mother,

Back in Banff again after two nights up at Bow Lake, it seems as if something always happened and we come back sooner than we expect. This time it was because Pete all stuffed up on Monday and both eyes watered so that he was not only very miserable but couldn't do anything and we were a little afraid it might be bad for his eye, so we drove back Tuesday morning. ~~Ray~~ cleared up as soon as we got back. At first we thought it might be the Calcium chloride that they put on the road to collect the moisture and lay the dust, as, it had been so dry the last while the Jasper road was very dusty on Sunday, and we also suspected the willow which is just going to seed now and is all around the cabin at Bow. We left the windows down and took all the dust going on the way back to experiment and feel sure it wasn't that, ~~add~~ tomorrow we have a bunch of willow in a jar outside and will bring that in the house and see if Pete notices it. Dr Atkin says he thinks it is the willow as one of his daughters is troubled the same way. Pete's eye seems to be acting as it should. It really isn't the eye but the tear duct that had to be fixed and the Dr told him it would be two weeks, (which is up Friday) before it would feel just right. I guess we should have just stayed put in town instead of trying to go out.

The train strike is on, though lots of people never thought it would go into effect. There isn't a train running in Canada and the telegraph too is effected being operated by the railways, also some hotels (not those in Alberta which come under different unions or something) and the ferrys to Vancouver island and to Prince Edward Island too. It is causing a terrific loss all across Canada, many industries have to close, it has ruined the tourist season for one thing, and things like fruit can't be shipped etc. Parliament is to meet on Tuesday which means a week of waiting but some think that they will make new legislation about strikes in public utilities, outlawing them. The general public is getting rather annoyed. It is only a comparatively few who are striking but the engineers and conductors etc. can't work without the others. So far we haven't noticed much difference in our way of life, the mail comes by Grayhound from Calgary, and plane the rest of the way. Milk is trucked in and meat as well, we have corn from Alberta and quite a few other vegetables but expect fruit will soon be scarce unless it is trucked in from the states. and they say gas will be trucked up too, in other places they expect shortages ~~where they are~~ *now dependent on things coming by rail.*

It was lovely while we were at Bow, nice Sunday the day we went up and perfect on Monday, I laid in a sketch while Pete sat in the sun for his eyes watered too much to paint. They were full except for one room the nights we were there but expect it may fall off now. They have a few reservations if the people come by car. Some awfully attractive people, one couple a Dr and Mrs Johnson from Johns Hopkins have been there a whole month and went out on a pack trip with Jimmy.

Jonny hasn't discovered that we are home yet and to-day was rainy all day so we have been rather quiet, I have started mounting slides and have heaps to do. The Morants were down for tea this afternoon and comparing lenses on cameras etc. They are always interested in the things we are.

Made lots of letters from you to answer, ~~yes~~ I did bring out the little ^{doll} corner dolls "what not" that was yours, but will send it back if you want to give it to the Antiquarian. Remember I gave them the fancy dolls furniture that belonged to Aunt "ela and it would set up into a wonderful room for them. You could even use the room you had as a child and put the windows Grandpa painted back in. Then I could send you the dishes that are left to go with it. There were a number of pieces in the set Aunt Nela had. ^{its too bad you haven't} any of your furniture and goodness knows who you gave it to or you might get it back, the old pieces that is *of the doll house furniture.*

That was funny you meeting the lady who knew Mabel Gage, ~~was~~ Did I ever meet her? I remember her name very well. She wasn't the one who lived near Worcester and liked iris?

Speaking of fires, one of the waitresses who we gave a ride up to Bow to on Sunday, told Pete that there was smoke one night when she and another girl went back to the staff quarters, they called a C.P.R. police with a pass key and went into every room, at the end of the corridor smoke poured out ~~when the end~~ of one room when the door was opened and they found a girl lying on the bed unconscious and even part of her hair burnt, ~~they dragged her into the hall and~~ *this was no game.* first aid brought her too. She had been smoking in bed and fallen asleep and suffocated almost to death. So we think that is what happened to Dan Foley. It was strange that he was so badly burned and yet the telegram wasn't. It seems that he was found head down with his arm across ~~this~~ chest and over the pocket of the vest or shirt with the wire in it. Also the water or chemical might have soaked that part. Pete saw the wire and it wasn't even scorched. I think sometimes that a person who smokes a lot isn't so apt to notice smoke as the rest of us do, I often wake in the night and smell it and always get up to look.

How hard about Aunt Mary Hoar and then ~~Madge~~ Madge who was so active to go so suddenly. I don't wonder that you ~~miss~~ miss Madge for you saw a lot of her when she lived nearby.

Thank you for sending Adele's letter, do you remember she wrote about writing a bit about some of the "ewburys? She would have been just the person to read those letters I brought out! Has she sent you what she wrote?

We were awfully interested to hear that John E. is working in Boston and that they will move up soon, or maybe have already. Do tell us more of what they are doing. I saw Miss Hinman again and she is here until she goes up to the Peace River which she is going to come down in a canoe, quite an adventure for anyone.

Looks as if you are to have a rail strike too and ours will last a week at least. It just seems terrible. Haven't answered many of your letters but all for this time.

*Lots of love
Catharine*

Banff, Alberta.
Mon. Aug. 28, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

I really thought there would be lots of time yesterday to write you but on the whole we had a rather busy weekend. Saturday was a perfect day, in the morning I cleaned house while Pete went over to have the radio in the car adjusted, a heavier wire put on or something so it now works much better. Then we went together for errands and met Lillian Gest who has had Pneumonia and only just beginning to feel well and Miss Hinman, so we asked them to tea which they thought would be fine that afternoon. took them up to the Alpine club where they were to have lunch and then in the afternoon before they were due the two girls who we had driven to Bow Lake the weekend before dropped in.

Now that I think of it it was in the afternoon that Pete went about the radio for I had just finished a shower when the girls arrived about 2.30 and they were still here when Pete came back and didn't leave until 3.30 when the others were due. We gave them cake and a cold drink, the others tea. The two Coronet girls are School teachers and they thought that the recorder would be a wonderful thing to use to teach children to read with expression for if they recorded their voice and then played it back the children would realize the mistakes they were making. Wonder if the Fenn school uses theirs that way, to teach children to read with expression.

Carolyn Hinman and Lillian Gest arrived before four and were here until nearly six when we drove them home, they too were interested in the recorder and also Miss Hinman having been to Bali long before we had was very interested in our pictures and the music we have. She had a letter from her great friend in Pittstown and the friend told her about John and family moving to Concord for the winter anyway, that they have rented their farm land etc. Where are they to live in Concord? no one has written about that. The friend is going to miss them terribly evidently as she thought so much of John and Eileen.

Yesterday we thought would be lovely too and started out by cutting the lawn, for the man who usually cuts it has missed it for three weeks and it is too long to wait anymore, we had barely gotten underway when clouds began coming up and it was very oppressive, I managed to rake up what Pete did cut and then a thunder storm came up and we had to come in, it just poured. We made a short call on Mom as she hates thunder and then it was lunch time, I did write one letter. After lunch it was still raining and dark as could be and Pete thought we might sort out photographs so while he looked over the prints in the boxes I tackled the drawer full and we worked on it until nearly supertime. It cleared off perfectly by then and we went out in search of mushrooms, got some fine ones and then thought it would be fun to get Sam to record

his recitations, but when we got up to his house they were out. Went to the telephone office and ran into the Hugh John MacDonalds of Edmonton (he was a school principal here once and now is a Chief Justice for the Province) and the George Nobles, so Pete asked them down and they all came and stayed until nearly midnight, the MacDonald daughter too. We played some recordings and looked at pictures and they were interested in everything.

So now to-day it is lovely again, I have washed out the woolen shirts and Pete has been about having the new Jet put into the Jeep engine but they will have to do it this afternoon. The ~~train~~ Railway strike is still on, a week to-morrow and we thought we wouldn't go out until it was settled. Pete's eye is allright now and he has to put a drop in just once a day. It was the tear duct that was plugged going from the corner of his eye into the back of his nose.

We got your letter about the family coming home in record time, 2 nights and a day Airmail. Must be nice for you to have them home.

The mail goes just once a day now around noon so had better get this off.

Loads of love to all.

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. Aug 30, 1950

Dearest Mother,

Goodness, September day after to-morrow ! Thought I might answer some of your recent letters but first must tell you what happened yesterday as it was rather amusing.

In the morning I washed out the woolen things and then we went for the mail etc. Parked the car near the bank and Clinic as Pete wanted to ask Pat about Mario, so while I was doing the shopping Pete stayed by the car, when I came back I noticed that he was talking to a very nice lady and two girls in a big car outside the clinic and next to ours but as Jimmy Simpson came along just then I started talking to him. Then a very fine looking man came across the street and his wife introduced him to Pete. And then we all met. Seems that Pete had noticed the North Dakota license number 1 on their car and thinking that maybe they had been in an accident or something and one was in the clinic he spoke to the lady and asked if there was anything he could do to help. She said her husband was over getting information at the bureau, and when Pete remarked what a low number they had, she said he was the Governor of North Dakota. Pete had stepped into it that time! They were a real nice family, and wanted to go to small places to get away from people and not to the big hotels, after talking a bit (Jimmy had left by this time having to meet someone else) Pete suggested they come over to our house and see a Banff house which they did and they couldn't have been nicer. We showed them the pictures and Indian things and then when one girl said she had big Norwegian feet I asked if their families had come from there, and it turned out that his name is Fred G. Aandahl and his grandfather came from Aandahnes (I think is spelt Aandalsnes now) which means that they were the original family there, It was the place we liked best in Norway and stayed quite a while in the Romsdal valley. The picture you have that Pete painted in Norway is near there and the one Russell has, a rainy one, is of the harbor or scenery from the hill in Aandalsnes. It also was the place where the British made their last stand in Norway so I don't suppose there is much left of the part we knew, as it was bombed by the Germans. The Governor said that his grandfather had built a big hotel and went broke, and that was why he came to America. We think it might be the hotel we stayed in. They have none of them been there so were very much interested.

It really was quite a visit, the girls were most attractive, college age I should think. The Governor told Pete that we should come to Bismark before November when his term of office expires, for then ~~his~~ he is going back to his farm, but he said they would give us a wonderful time if we would go and visit them in the Governors mansion ! Can't you see us? He is not the political type, a little like Stasson. It was rather fun though.

I feel quite set up this morning for I find when I wrote the other page last night it was Tuesday and so have gained a whole day. However I didn't get any of your letters looked over as I had hoped , we went to bed at 9 o'clock instead as we were both tired. Pete having been out all day getting the car fixed and seeing people and the evening beffee Edmee had been down.

Now it is time to go out this morning so all for another letter, The strike should be over this week.

Loads of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Sept. 3, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

This is the Labor Day weekend and it is almost the sunniest and warmest weather we have had all summer, lots of Alberta cars in town and people sprawled out in the sun. We decided it was one time to stay off the road and so are home but it is almost too hot to do much around the yard, though we have cut the lawn and clipped the edges and Pete even got some thistles sythed until the arrival of Dr Riley (who is on vacation) this morning. After talking to him a while we never did get back to those thistles. He invited us up to tea as it is their 23rd Wedding anniversary and none of their 3 children are around this weekend, so they feel it is very quiet. We have just come back and Pete is ~~having~~ "taking his ease" as Jonny calls it, so thought I would start a letter to you as I think I have missed writing for several days. It must have been 80 to-day.

weeks

This highlight was a picnic to "Maureen" Lake. We have promised Billy Macenzie a picnic for a long time and thought while we had a chance to get it in before school starts next week we should try. The weather seemed fairly well settled so Wednesday we thought we had better try it next day, of course none of the kids came around that morning or afternoon and we couldn't find them anywhere, found later we had missed them all round. Instead we saw Bubby who was out of a job as telegraph delivery girl because of the strike and took her with us up to the Upper Hot Springs Hotel. Pete wanted to try out the car as Bill Bunn had installed the new Jet we have been waiting for all week and which finally came Monday. The Jaeggis have done a lot of work on the inside of the Hotel, putting cedar siding inside all around the dining room and new lobby and one bedroom. they hope to do more later on but it really is the greatest improvement. They insisted we stay for tea, which we did and then as Bubby hardly ever comes over we asked her for supper. By then Jonny and Billy had caught up with us and plans for the picnic were on. I will send you one of the written lists of Billys so you will see how things are organized.

Bubby came for supper but had to leave for the show at 7.30, but Billy and Jonny were back and Donny Becker and soon Lona and Mary Lee came along so they all sat around the table and planned, who should bring what. It was to be Billy's picnic this time and so he was head man and made the last decisions. You wouldn't think they could spend so much time just planning, but that is part of the fun, thinking of things to bring. Billy said his mother would make the cake and Lona could make some quick cookies when she got home and Mary Lee would bring potato chips as they sell them at the boat house. Donny thought Grape A&E would be the best to drink, as Jonny said he wouldn't bring Pink Lemonade unless his mother could come and as it was Billy's picnic his mother had to be asked first and there was also the question of whether Patsy and Susan should come, with only one car there is not as much room as we had before with both the Ford and Jeep. Actually we could have asked both Nellie and Barbara, as Patsy and Susan both had jobs and the kids all wanted

to sit in the most uncomfortable spot, on a cushion in the very back where the luggage goes. Nellie had a sore back and didn't come and we didn't think in time to ask Barbara. Anyway the kids were here until after dark Wednesday night planning who should take what. Moraine Lake was to be the place and we would start at ten from here, though they thought they might get here sooner.

Thursday was a lovely day and Jonny was over as we were finishing breakfast at nine with his contribution. Chocolate bars which he had bought the night before. One had started to melt so he said he had had to eat that one but he didn't think Pete would care for one anyway and so there would still be enough. We had to hustle round to get the weiners and buns etc. and they were all here before ten. There were just the 5 kids, Jonny, Billy, Donny and Lona Becker and Mary Lee Mather. Then as we left town we picked up two nurses from the hospital who had the day off and were hitch hiking to the Peyto Lookout, it was then I thought of Barbara. We took them as far as Lake Louise filling station.

We stopped at the Chateau and took the kids over to see the Swiss Guides, only Walter Feuz was there as the others were at lunch, he now looks after the renting of boats. They have been studying Switzerland at school. As we were leaving Mary Lee asked if she could take a picture of Walter as he stood in the gate way to the boat house, He obligingly stood there and later she confided to me, "Did you see that sign saying canoes 75¢ an hour, that's why I asked Walter to pose so I could take a picture of that sign to show my Dad." Her father Allan runs the boat house in Banff.

We got to Moraine which Jonny and now Billy calls "Maureen Lake" and which they all nicknamed "Meringue Lake" as I had made some Meringues to take along, and made lunch in one of the shelters. The girls helping with lunch while the boys were off over the rocks exploring. I brought a large thermos of hot water as it takes so long to boil water at that altitude and soon we had the weiners warm enough. It is an easy kind of picnic with rolls the right size. We had chocolate milk to drink too and they all ate enough. Then we cleaned up while they went off to play a bit and we also saw Mrs Shaw and Mrs Dunn who run the Lodge where we stayed quite a lot last summer. They have had a busy year and are ready to close by the 10th. being tired of people in general. We started back about 2.30 and were here soon after 4. The boys all wanted to go to the movie and had to telephone for permission, while Mary Lee and Lona stayed and cut our lawn (it had to be gone over again as there were ridges left after cutting it when it was too long the other day) They both wanted to earn 15¢ for the show and as soon as that was done off they ran also to telephone home for permission. They all had eaten so much that they didn't feel the need of supper. But it really was a good day and next picnic is to be everybodys picnic and we are going to make it when the color is nice and Dr MacKenzie can get a Sunday off and Sam Ward too can go.

They were quite interested in "Consolation Lake" beyond Moraine. When Donny called it "Condensed Lake" Lona corrected him and said "its Constellation Lake." We will have to walk there some day when there is more time!

This week we have been busy seeing to things. The light seems to bother Pete so we didn't go out painting, had the Jet fixed and also Jim Watt came two days to fix the pump in our basement. Tuesday and again yesterday, as he didn't get the trouble. Both times he came around tea time being a Scotchman and enjoying a cup of tea in the afternoon and knowing we would give him one. He is very interesting to talk to, came originally from Perth. Looks as if we would have to get a new sump hole lining made. There is always something to be fixed in a house isn't there.

We have also been busy seeing various people about changing Janitors at the store. Allan looks after it but we had to do a bit to help as Mario is so loyal and faithful and doesn't really want to stop, only he is over 70 and the lifting of ashes is too hard for him. It is a long story, but is about getting the people who are in his house out so that he has a place to live etc. We have done a lot of talking about that, with various people.

This week the Treaty money is paid to the Indians at Morley and we always seem to miss it so are going to try and go down on Thursday if nothing happens to prevent it. Had thought of going back up to Bow as Pete has something to help if the willow bothers him but may not until later on if we go to Morley. Then too we had thought of a trip to see the Campbells, having promised to go for so long to see the ranch, and here it is September and the summer almost gone, though it is so lovely and warm now it is hard to believe. This has been the best week all summer.

Now I should answer some of your letters. The one to-day was about the Air Force officers that Russ helped entertain, it must have been very interesting, Wasn't one the man who lived with Russ one summer in Washington? We would love to hear more about it. Also the letters from Harold Colton. I don't remember seeing his name in the Arizona Highways but haven't had time to read them as carefully as you do. I remember the Coltons very well, as well as anyone, and think I would even recognize their voices. He was very short and I remember their yacht and the house with the figure heads and the path up from the pier. We spent a day there and I can even remember the house. Think Aunt Alice was with us. Mrs Colton was a little like Mrs Bartlett only taller and thinner. It would be fun if we did go to Arizona some winter to look him up. It was Greenings Island they lived on.

The vase you sent to Cis Ward was the blue one that you gave to Kitty one Christmas or birthday and you asked if I would like it. I got several tall vases as wedding presents and don't have flowers in the house much as it often stuffs Pete up, but Cis always has flowers and you said "Why not take it to the Wards." which I did. It just matches the rug in their living room and she was tickled to pieces. If they go to Bermuda I imagine they will fly direct from Montreal or Toronto, its only about a day from here that way, 24 hours or so, but I will suggest they stop off and see you.

Am glad Mildred is well enough after that accident to go to things, Wasn't she lucky to get out of it as well as she did. She does have hard luck or has had recently.

Monday. Had company last night. Tom Jananaugh a Norwegian who worked for Peter's father in 1903. Stayed until 12. Love Catharine.

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CONCORD, MASS.

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We have noted that your car, a . . . 1948 Willys is often left in the Railroad parking area for the greater part of the working day. By taking advantage of our new service you can have your car washed, waxed, polished or lubricated during the day when you are unable to use it — which means you do not have to forego the use of your car on your days off. Our dependable service is widely known in this area.

Our station is conveniently located at the end of the parking area. Because we realize that commuters quite often just make the train and have no time to call at a service station to leave instructions and keys we have provided a locked box at the edge of the parking lot which borders our station. The box is prominently marked and will be checked by us several times daily.

The enclosed envelope has a printed check list on which you can mark the services required. Merely check those items which you wish us to attend to and upon your arrival at the station, lock the car, place the keys in the envelope and slip it into the above-mentioned box before you board your train. WE DO THE REST! For waxing or polishing we require a short advance notice to prevent an overload on any given day. A phone call to our station between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. is all that is necessary. Our phone number is Concord 5523.

It is our belief that this service will be to everyone's advantage. We want your business and we know that you will be satisfied with our service.

STEVENS JENNEY STATION

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. Sept. 6, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

X haven't written you since Sunday. The Labor Day weekend turned out very sadly for us. Little Donny Becker who was one of the kids on the picnic with us less than a week ago, died Monday morning and we all feel so badly for he was one of the best kids in town. He was a very adventuresome and knew no fear, a good sport in every way and a great leader among the boys Jonny's age. It was all very tragggic for they found him hung in ropes from the support which held the swings next their house and no one knows exactly what happened. X It was about nine in the morning and he had been playing alone, the rope was tied on the cross bar between the two swings and Dr MacKenzie thinks that he was probably experimenting with knots, The kids had been playing Robin Hood the afternoon before. It was all very sad.

We heard about it when we went for the meat Monday morning and could hardly believe it was true, so when we came home I went to ask Barbara, knowing that she would have heard and in the meantime Allan came over to tell Pete. They had a tourist come in who had been passing the house at the time and a lady rushed out and they took her to the hospital or something, but Allan didn't connect it with the Beckers until Lona was brought down to stay with Mary Lee as they are great friends. Donny was Lona's brother and then there are 3 more children younger, a girl and 2 boys, the youngest a baby. They are such a fine family and always had such good times to-gether.

X Monday being Labor day we didn't go far from home as the streets were just jammed with cars, mostly Alberta. They had Cadet boat races on the river in the afternoon and we watched those. Then Nellie MacKenzie came by and about the same time Billy and Little Gordon Standish and Josey Neufield who haven't been here before. X Billy was very troubled for as he said several times " I were the first friend Donny had in Banff when we went to kindergarten to-gether! He often says " I were " instead of " I was " and then again " I were Donny's best friend." They were to-gether a lot and Jonny too for they are all in the same grade at school. We got gingerale and Cookies and Pete was awfully good talking to the kids for they wanted to know all sorts of things. Nellie said that morning Billy had followed her around the house asking questions and then he said, " you know Pete and Catharine are going to feel awfully badly about Donny. " and she said " but they don't know Donny as well as you, " and Billy said " no, but they thought an awful lot of him. " X

Pete finally got them off the subject and told them all about Banff when he was a boy and he must have talked over an hour while the three kids all sat on the bench being bitten by mosquitoes. Jonny had gone for the day on a bus trip to the Columbia Icefields and as it turned out he happened to hear it on the news when they were waiting between busses at Lake Louise. "All the kids feel it, though they don't say much, just are quieter than usual.

We had told Allan to send Mary Lee and Lona over if they would like to come and they came after the boat races. I was so glad I hadn't unpacked the dolls for I got out the box and they played until supper time with Sarah and Rosie. They dressed and undressed all the dolls and fixed Sarah's hair in various ways and had a lovely time sitting in the front room. The other kids went after a while over to Barbaras and Pete was pretty well talked out. Then we had a call from the Javanaughs from Wetaskwin. Tom Jananaugh came from Norway in 1903 and worked for Pete's father for several years and knew Pete as a baby. He came down Saturday night about 9 o'clock and stayed until 12. Had a wonderful time talking about old times and Norway and where he was born etc. and wanted to bring his wife and daughter and husband and their child down the next day. We had looked for them all day and they came about 4 for a while. So it was quite an afternoon. Barbara was over later for a bit and then in the evening Davy came to show us his new camera, as he left the next day on a trip with Jackie to Yellowstone Park and to see some of the big dams as well. Harold went too, Jonny was rather disappointed not to go but Jackie thought he talked too much, so we are sending Barbara and Jonny up to Temple for this weekend.

Yesterday we were tired. Saw Allan and various people and about different things and spent most of the afternoon waiting for Jim Watt to come about the pump as it still doesn't work right. But he never showed up. Instead Mary Lee and Lona came. Funny but one of the Indians made me a buckskin coat and it came yesterday so we showed it to the girls. I thought Mary Lee was so cunning for it fit her quite well, was too small for me in the arms and fit Lona just right. So we all agreed that Lona should have it, and little Mary Lee sort of winked at us as much as to say she thought it would be nicest if Lona could have it as she was having such an unhappy time right now. So we gave it to Lona and she was ticked to pieces.

Later we went up to see if the Vallances were home and as they were out just then saw the Phillippses, when the Vallances came we all went over there and tried to record some of their trip while it was all fresh in their minds. Sven Hansen had borrowed a sleeping bag for a fishing trip and so brought us 6 trout which we have enjoyed.

To-day we picked some Juniper and Kin-i-kin-ic to make a wreath for Donny and now it is time to do the dishes, wash up and go to the funeral. So I won't write more now.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. Sept. 10, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

Seems as if the nicer the weather the less we are able to do with it for one reason or another. It has been lovely all week, the best weather all summer.

Wednesday was Donny Becker's funeral, maybe I wrote you about that, we went and got Juniper with the loveliest blue and green berries and Kin-i-kin-ic, little red berries of all shades from a cheery to salmon pink and made a really lovely wreath. The funeral itself was very sad as everyone in town felt so badly and an awful lot of the young people went, the cubs and scouts. Jonnie and Billy didn't go which I think awfully wise and the little ~~Baker~~ kids went to Mrs Boons while the thing was going on. We thought some of them might come here later but they didn't.

Do you ever notice how deaths often occur in threes. It invariably happens that way here, and Wednesday Llyle Currie who lived in Field and worked for Brewsters for years dropped dead. Pete has known him (and worked for him) for 30 years or more and so we were down asking Col. Moore about it. Pearl had gone over to see Mrs Currie that day.

We had thought of going to Morely for the giving out of the Treaty money on Thursday but in the end decided not to. Pete didn't think it would be worth it and we might get involved doing things for the Indians and as he said we had seen them all Indian days recently. It was such a perfect day, so in the end we decided to combine a trip to Bow Lake to see Jimmy before he goes on a hunting trip and Mary too, as they had wanted to talk over a few things with us. Tom Link was due in from O'Hara any day and we thought we would check up on him at Deer Lodge at Lake Louise so as to see him on his way through. and as it was so lovely we thought we would ask Mr and Mrs Greenham to go with us. They are now retired and don't get out very much. used to run the Mountain School that Jean Lindsay went to. *Strange enough Mrs G. taught Lucy Garris at Mary's College before they went to Art School with us.*

They were delighted to go and we decided to leave after lunch. We had talked to Barbara a bit as she is going up to Temple with Jonny and Billy MacKenzie to sort of make up for Jonny not going to the ten days trip with Jackie and Bubby was to go to Calgary for the weekend. Then to the Moores to find out about the Currie funeral etc. a long chat there then telephoned Mary to say we were coming and might bring another couple. (Mary thought by the way Pete spoke it was to be a honeymoon couple so was really surprised when the Greenhams came with us, and pleased too as she went to school there as a little girl and Mrs Greenham and Mrs Simpson are great friends.) Then we asked the Greenhams and they said they would be ready at two. Then we had to rush a bit in the end having talked to so many people all around town.

We had a really nice trip and drove very slowly as

Mrs Greenham gets car sick. Stopped in at Lake Louise and saw Walter and found out that Tom wouldn't be in until the next day, in the meantime had had a letter from him that he would go through on Saturday morning. Then up to Bow by 6 o'clock. The Greenhams are such nice people to take, appreciate everything so much and hadn't been up there for 3 or 4 years.

There were only two others there, the Mainwarings from Vancouver, he is vice President of the B.C. Electric and very much interested in photography, does all his own printing. Was also the head of Civilian Defense in Vancouver during the War. They have been at Bow for over a month and their family and friends too. They had just come in from a 4 day pack trip, her first and Mrs Simpson had gone along to cook, her first time on a horse for 8 years, I think she did awfully well. We had a pleasant evening talking.

Next day Friday the Greenhams took a walk in the morning while we talked to Jimmy and Mary and then as the sky turned over cast we didn't try to take photographs. Took a picnic lunch, Pete thought it would be more fun and it was sunny when Mrs Simpson made the sandwiches ~~but~~, but as soon as it was ready it clouded over, however it didn't rain and wasn't cold and we ate our lunch by the Crow foot and the Greenhams loved it. Then we came straight home. Found another friend had died that morning, a Mr Ross who worked at the hotel and has been very ill so it wasn't unexpected. His funeral is to-day but we won't be going as we don't really know them that well.

Jonny was over Friday night with Penny but we were tired and went to bed early. In the night Pete woke with his hand badly swollen, he had spoken of one finger feeling funny the day before and wondered if it were something in it or a bite. So first thing Saturday morning we saw Dr Atkin and he said the best thing to do was to soak it in water. 1 qt. hot to a tablespoon of Epsom Salts. and do it for an hour several times a day to bring the swelling down. So after seeing Tom Link go through on the train at ten Pete soaked it. Later just at noon when we were out he saw Pat and showed it to him and just in case it was a bad infection which it looked to be at the time, he gave him a shot of Penicillin as well. I think that helped most for the swelling started to go down and is better to-day. We were supposed to see Dr Atkin first think this morning but over slept and so missed him as he leaves the office at ten. However as it is no worse we will wait until to-morrow. They thought if it didn't go down they might have to open it. I never knew any one like Pete to get things the matter. It must have been some sort of bug like yours but wasn't itchy until yesterday afternoon.

At one o'clock we went to the Banff Springs and recorded the dance orchestra for Moxie Whitney. We thought just for an hour at the most but were there until 3. The boys really respond and like to hear the recordings played back and how their instruments or voices sound over it. It helps them too. They react much as the Indians did and kept wanting to try different things, Moxie was pleased as it is hard getting them to practise. He has already written to see if he can get a recorder for himself.

We had a quiet ^{afternoon} ~~evening~~ after that and then at 8.30 Pete thought it would be fun to take the recording down to the Moores and let them hear it, which we did. As they were much interested the last time. ~~It came out very well. they are a fine orchestra.~~

To-day we went by the Vallances but they were away so stopped in to see Sam, and while he and Pete talked, I helped Cis in the garden, and she gave me a Caniaster to plant near our house. Now it is after lunch, Pete has been soaking his hand and I have written this much and think I should plant the shrub now and maybe do a little weeding. Seeing it is Pete's right hand he can't help much!

Will send this along. Loads of love

Catharine

P.S. Mary Lee & Lona have just come. we will mail this
have peaches & cream (we are still getting fresh peas)
& then perhaps cut the grass.

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. Sept. 13, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

We are still having the most perfect weather you ever saw, in fact I doubt if you've ever seen anything like it in New England. clear blue skys with a lovely fall haze on the mountains and a hot sun but cool east wind that feels like an ocean breeze. We are thinking of making a trip down the new Forestry road that is being built close to the mountains between Kananaskis and the Crows Nest Pass, which is just west of where Gray and Eleanor are. We should really have gone say on Monday but until Pete's hand was better and the swelling gone down it didn't seem a good idea to drive.

The hand really was better on Monday and he only soaked it once more, we had various things to see to, and then yesterday the Mainwarings, who were at Bow Lake came down in the afternoon for tea. He is vice Pres. of the B.C. Electric Co. at the coast, guess I told you that, anyway they are a wonderful couple and have all their 4 children married and so can do more or less as they please. They are at the Chamber of commerce convention and we thought would only be able to stay a short time, but they came at 3 or soon after and stayed until after 5. listened to the recordings which they were very interested in and looked at Kodachromes etc. Had a nice visit. Had they not been here most of the afternoon we might have gotten ready yesterday to go, but then we had to see Sid Vallance about one or two things and he hadn't returned from Calgary and we also had to decide about the Janitor at the store. So did those things this morning, Sid came around at noon and we are rather expecting Jimmy and Larrie Simpson (she is just back from New York where her grandmother is very sick.) The Walkers were also, in as their son sent us some Aluminum foil, and last night we had Jonny and Bobby Walker for most of the evening. They both still talk about Donny Becker every little while. We also had Barbara, Jonny and Billy MacKenzie just back from Temple where they had gone for the weekend, that was at noon. and on Monday we had ~~Lona~~ and Mary Lee down at four after school to cut the lawn. So all in all we have had a number of people dropping in. Also Monday night Br. Riley came for a short call.

I must answer about that picture of the little girl sewing that belonged to Father. I don't know what to say exactly for I don't know if anyone has much feeling about it or if it is really interesting. Its old of course and yet is it valuable as an antique for a place like the Antiquarian? If they had a children's room as they do at the Gore House in Waltham ~~they~~ where they could hang it that would be one thing. Why not lend it to George's granddaughter and then if anyone wants it back they could get it, that is if it were for some special place. I don't think I ever want it again. It only has sentimental value to me and I guess Jean has as much about it as I do.

There is a lot to do so all for now and will write

About the trip when we get back. I don't seem to have had time lately for letter writing and am as usual way behind. We will probably be gone 2 nights or 3 days unless we have to
Loads of love, camp out on the way.

Calharnie

P.S. Did I tell you the vestuff came for washing woolens.

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. Sept. 17, 1950

Dearest Mother,

We are back from the trip to Cowley to see the Campbells but don't know if I will have time to tell you all about it to-day. The weather is still perfect and we are just wondering how long it will last. This has surely been a grand September.

I had hoped that we could get away on Wednesday but with the Mainwarings coming down Tuesday afternoon we didn't get packed up enough and also there were a number of things to see to on Wednesday so we decided to make it Thursday. Saw Jimmy Simpson and Syd Vallance as well and talked to Allan and Mario who wants to stay on as Janitor though we were afraid he was too old, and did a good many things. Lona and Mary Lee were over in the afternoon and Patsy and Susan too I think. Anyway we didn't get any packing done until after supper. Pete had some film to load in the Speed Graphic and I had to help and in between I tried to think of all we should take. Pete just couldn't seem to get ready until next morning and I knowing how much there was to remember tried to think of as much as possible. It was late when we went to bed and then hard to wake up next morning!

Thursday was still lovely, Pete was a bit slow as he had a little trouble with his nose but we did manage to get our things together, the mail, see Mario again and Louis his son and leave Banff by 10.15 A.M. We had telephoned Gray the night before to ask if we could come and also tell him that we were going to try the new forestry road they are working on between Seebe and Coleman. That is from where one leaves the mountains near Morley and right through mountainous country until you get to the Crows Nest Pass 150 miles south and just west of Cowley. We had read in the newspaper that the two ends of the road were surfaced with gravel but the center part just graded, so we thought one might get through, also other people told us they could.

Mr Wardle, who is really in charge of all the big road projects in Canada and who was out here this summer inspecting the road, told us in August that no one could get through with a car, but we rather thought that he didn't want people down there and the accounts in the newspapers rather mislead us into trying it. Anyway off we started, taking plenty of food, our sleeping bags and a tent in case we got stuck.

At Exshaw, just as one leaves the mountains on the main road, 30 miles south of Banff, we gassed up for the last time then filling station man told us 132 cars had come over the road

from Coleman over Labor Day so that sounded as if the road were quite good. Next person we met this side of the Wardens was in a truck, he thought cars were getting through so on we went. Had been told we must register out so went into the Wardens and met the man there, 3 months out from the east but he said one just signed out when we came to a box beside the road where the Forestry road starts. Told us that he had driven the road over Labor Day weekend and it took them 7 hours for they stopped to take pictures and got off the road a number of times. It was 140 miles to Coleman from his place, which was about 36½ miles from Banff. So on we went.

Pete had been as far as the Intournament camp during the war, it is now a Forestry station or something, and when we got there we asked a man in a truck, he was hurried by a coal truck approaching (there is a mine up the same road) but told Pete a little, I didn't hear it, but one thing, don't take any of the roads to the right. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ He hadn't been over the new road but wondered if we were going to Coleman why we didn't take the good paved road via Calgary! The Forestry road is being built to make it easier to get into some of the mountainous country in case of fires in the forests, there have already been a lot in the past and the country was only accessible by trail before.

Well on we went over a rather narrow road, but not too bad up to the right hand turn to the coal mine, from there it got a lot narrower and when we came to a fork and there were fresh tire marks to the left on a little road leading up towards an open pass we took that. Got two miles up and it petered out entirely. It was evidently a wood road and the Calgary Power had used it to put up a new power line. We had our lunch up there as by then with all the stopping asking the way and talking it was nearly one o'clock. We finally retraced our steps and went on towards Kananaskis lakes, a very tiny road making us wonder if it really was the right one. There are no real maps of the country that one can get without writing to Edmonton and we had nothing to show the country, just vague ideas from heresay.

By the time we had gone about 18 miles from the Game Wardens and it was 1.45 we hit the new road. It was where the Forest preserve starts. There was a little box in the shape of a house on a post and inside a form to fill out in duplicate, one we were to take with us and turn in at the other end but we never did find the place to hand it in, though we tried.

The road from there was a good gravel road and the country which was very lovely and entirely different from anything around here we really enjoyed, it was a perfect day and the road was high up out of the valley and we could soon see in the distance on our right on the otherside of a wide valley the Kananaskis lakes. a smaller road presently turned off down the hill in their direction but we kept on climbing for 19 miles. The fall light makes long shadows and it really was lovely. We then came to a nice cabin and men working on the road. The first man we stopped and spoke to, wondering if we could get through, he said the engineers were ahead of us and they were planning to go on through that night and he didn't see why we couldn't. We had noticed a sign saying "closed" but no one seemed to think it was, and as there was no gate or

or barricade we thought the signs were just to discourage people and show that they passed at their own risk, so on we went. We still climbed and there was a bit of grading going on, we got up into larch country and that is usually around the 7000 foot mark. Later we found that particular pass was 7300. It was then 2.40 and we began going down towards the Highwood. The mountain peaks had been a bit like the Saw Back range west of Banff and wonderful shapes. they were less interesting later on but it was all rather grand and lots of fun for us.

Half an hour later, and ^{now} 30 miles from the start of the Forestry road, we came to a road camp, so slowed up and stopped in case they didn't want us to go further and out came the ^{head} engineer who turned out to be Cornish who used to be in Banff. His daughters have both been to the house, Penny and Heather. One Mary Lee's age the other Susan's. So we asked if we could get through, and they looked at the 4 wheel drive and our clearance and said they thought we could, Asked if we hadn't noticed the signs but we said at the time we had been admiring the scenery. They were very nice and told us about one place further on where we would have to go down off the grade and onto a little tote road as they were to build a bridge and we found later there were 3 creeks we had to ford. They went ahead of us but faster, we tried to follow their tracks and did pretty well, finding the tote road allright. Only their distances were a bit out. *The Contracting Engineer was with Cornish.*

Again we found them at a road camp and the second time they had thought of other directions to give us, and this time I wrote them down which was lucky as it is mixing where the country is unfamiliar, no one to ask and no signs of any kind. We went down into a valley with a wide river bed, the Highwood. They had warned us not to keep on the good grade which went to some mine further down the valley but instead to turn down by a Stockman's cabin, cross the bridge and take the first left turn which we did and came to a tote road up the Cataract which they thought was 8 or 9 miles long. It had been 24 miles from the Summit in the larches to the crossing of the Highwood, and then the next 9 miles of tote road was just like the road to Temple, narrow and up and down and round corners, had just been bulldozed along a side hill through trees as a way through. It took us a good hour to do that and then we picked up two workmen who were on their way walking down a hill and back to camp. They were very glad of the ride and even offered us gas at the camp but we didn't need any having still a half ~~gallon~~. It was then nearly quarter of six, but the men said that there was only a few miles more of tote road and then the grade and most of it graveled the 65 miles to Coleman. So on we went. Found the heaviest construction ahead so far. There had been some before we reached the Highwood which we just got through as a tractor backed up. They have a good deal of big machinery working, but being after six all the tractors had stopped working and we could get by without interfering which we were glad of. However we did meet an oil truck and just by luck there was a place to turn out. We wondered what we would have done had it been on most of the tote road where it was too narrow to pass anything. The oil man was evidently servicing all the Caterpillars and was the friendliest of all, but all the chatting did take time. We got through that part all right, some parts were just being cleared, a watchman was

looking after a few small bonfires, and then we soon struck the grade and it was pretty good. By then we were over another summit in the woods this time and we went down towards what is known as the Gap. The road from Coleman to the Gap was opened for the public over Labor Day so we thought that would be real good, but much to our disappointment a great part of it was scraped so that there was a high ridge of loose gravel down the center of the road and in the half light it was hard to see and one had to drive very carefully. It is dark soon after 7 now. *There was a narrow layer on either side of the gravel & we had to watch the edge of the road carefully.*

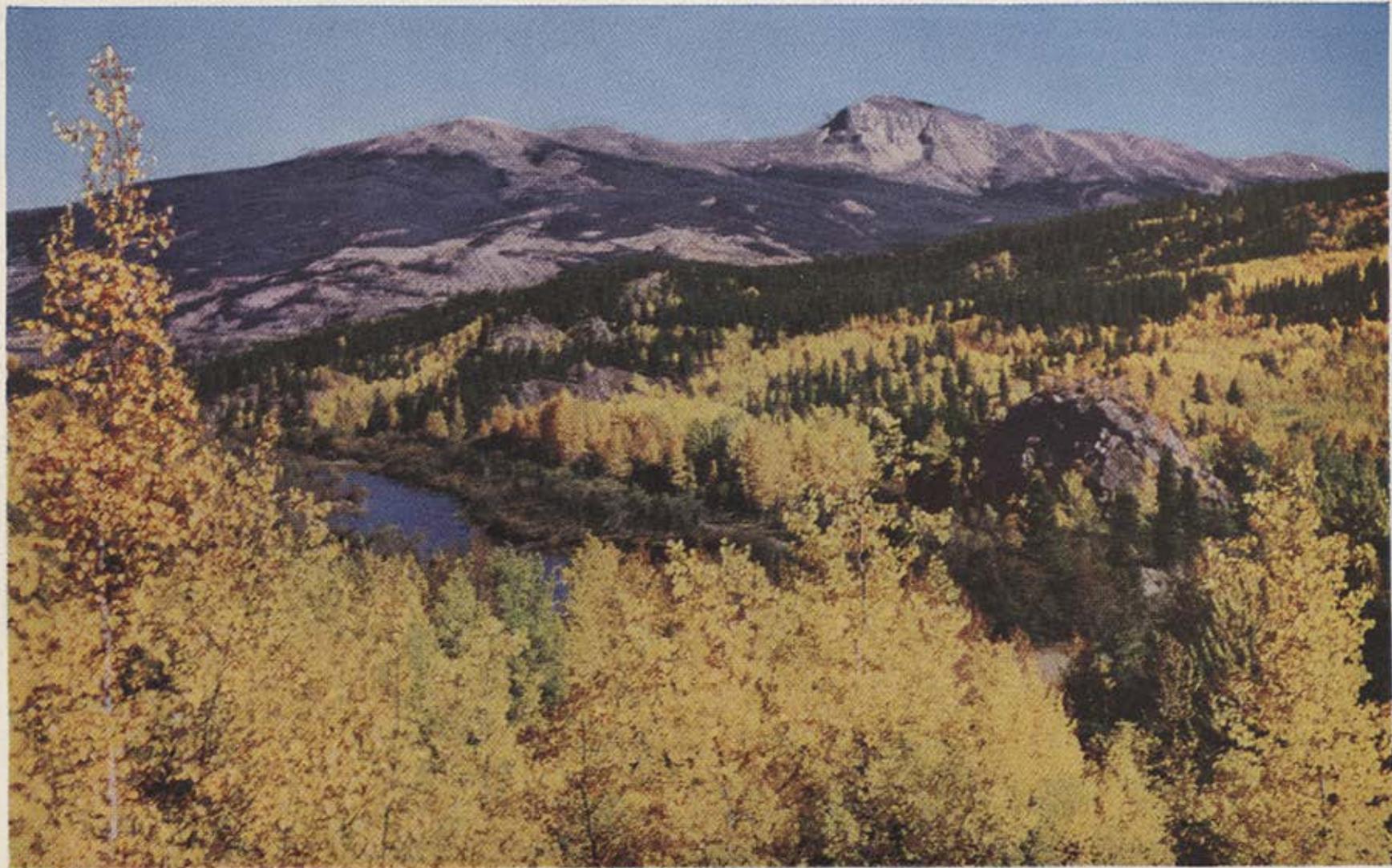
We had a bite of supper before dark but thought we had better keep on until Coleman. We came to what looked like the Warden's or Ranger's cabin, it was lit up but though I knocked no one came, and we didn't like to just leave the form we had filled out in case it wasn't his cabin. There was a road camp near there too and we had a bit of traffic. There was no wind and the dust hung after we passed anyone so we almost had to stop it was so thick. (They really passed us) We couldn't make any time as the road twisted and climbed all the way and the ridge of gravel kept us going very slowly, for fear it would swing us off the road. Don't know what the scenery was like in that part but there seemed to be a good many trees. It was 9.30 when we finally got to Coleman, a mining town in the Cross Nest Pass and we tried to telephone Gray first but the exchange was closed. We should have tried more for I believe we could have gotten through somehow. Anyway we didn't want to stay in a hotel and a man said the best cabin camp was at Blairmore or Frank further on. So we drove another 3 miles and stopped at a filling station. The man was very nice and ~~xxxx~~ telephoned to the only cabin camp open, but they were full up. We decided then to sleep in the car as we had our sleeping bags and were beginning to be tired and knew it was too late to drive another 20 miles to Cowley, and there was no place to stay there, so the man phoned again and the cabin people said we could park the car near them. ~~xxxx~~

So at ten that night, 12 hours after leaving Banff we pulled into a fenced off area called a trailer camp, and turned in. Pete insisted in curling up on the front seat and I slept on the back one. It was more comfortable than I expected and we were warm in the sleeping bags and really slept quite well except for a few kinks towards morning. The place was a cafe as well and we had a good breakfast. Called up the Campbells and they said they would come and meet us in Cowley as they had to drive in anyway, and guide us out to the ranch.

Friday was quite a change in the weather and it was very cloudy. looked like rain though it didn't actually where we were. It was lucky we hadn't gone further the evening before for the road part way was under construction, we had quite a wait in Cowley as Gray had had the Jeep and was working on his road with the help of neighbors and Eleanor couldn't reach him, but we didn't mind for we were amused watching the local people shopping. Soon Eleanor drove up in their Jeep with Timmy and Ian along, then there was their mail to get and errands and the school teacher's supplies etc. and the Jeep to leave to have a valve fixed and off we started in our Jeep for the ranch.

It was lots of fun. Its 12 1/2 miles north from Cowley

*will continue in my next
loads of love Catherine*



Banff, Alberta.
Sat. Sept. 23, 1950

Dearest Mother,

I certainly have neglected writing to you this week but with the weather still perfect, (not a cloud until this afternoon) one doesn't stay indoors much. Also we went up to Bow Lake for a night and the kids have been in a couple of evenings and by ~~for~~ the time they go home we feel like going to bed. I haven't even told you about the rest of our trip to the Campbells Ranch, ~~xxxxxxx~~ so had better start with that.

After getting to Coleman at 9.30 P.m. last Thursday we spent the night sleeping in the Jeep at Frank, back of a cafe in a fenced off area which was really built for people who have trailers, but we were the only ones there. We were quite comfortable in a sleeping bag each and curled up on the seats and after a good breakfast went on to Cowley. Pete had telephoned Gray and Eleanor said she would meet us in an hour or two at Cowley as she had to come in and then could guide us back out to the ranch.

We had a bit of a wait in Cowley but enjoyed watching the people. Eleanor arrived in due time with Timmy and Ian in their Jeep which they left to have a sticking valve fixed and we all drove back out in ours. Our Jeep wasn't going too well either after the rough roads and didn't seem to have much power on hills, until later Pete had a look and found the Air filter had come off on the rough roads of the day before.

Y
Y It is 12½ miles from Cowley ~~for~~ the ranch, and after crossing the C.P.R. Crowsnest tracks you head for Squaw Hump which is a pointed hill with a few trees on top and stands out above other hills around its foot. Their ranch is in a little valley below it, for you can't see ~~it~~ when you get to the ranch. We went one mile north, 1 mile east, another mile north and then down ~~into~~ a hill to the river bottom, across the Old Man river and up a hill on the other side. From there the road winds up and past the occasional ranch, usually a cluster of small buildings and most of the farm buildings very old log ones. We crossed another smaller bridge and then at a crossroads with a ranch on the right and left we turned right onto a smaller road and climbed up quite a way. Met a man coming along on a new tractor who was their neighbor Bill Legarde, a wonderful character with a heart of gold, the boys are just crazy about him. He is really french and his mother speaks little English and never leaves the ranch. He lives about 4 miles from Gray in a log house he built, and from the hill where he goes to get his horses he can see their house, and if there is smoke he knows Gray and Eleanor are up! He is always helping Gray and Gray in turn helps him. They swap help in that country doing favors for each other.

Then we came to the little one room school house and had to stop with the groceries for the new teacher. They feel

fortunate in having a person who is so keen on the children and has the most sparkling eyes. Teaching is her whole life evidently. They have moved a two room shack in to fix up for her to live in as the house that was across the little gully from the school is so delapidated that it seemed better to use a newer one close to the school. The other teachers have been boarding around previously. *They have a nice new barn at the school for the children's horses. Better than the teacher's get*

From there we went up one hill and down across a valley with a wonderful crop being harvested, all golden color, one ranch on the right of the road where the Mauforts live and then Gray's land starts, but it isn't until you round another hill that you can see the ranch up about the middle of the little valley. The farm buildings of log first, then the dam and small pond and then the house looking very cosy and a nice lot of trees all around the fenced in area near the house. Gray was across the valley loading feed onto a wagon and gave us a great wave. He came up later with the full load.

Of course there was so much to be shown and told about and the farm buildings to inspect as well. Eleanor made coffee, and a wonderful loaf of bread, sort of a tea loaf almost disappeared, the fresh butter was just wonderful on it. We talked and then as it was cloudy, (wonderful effects all day with streaks of sunlight shinning through) Gray thought he better cover the load in case of rain as it did start to hail once. He also had the team to unhitch and feed while El made dinner. Have forgotten what we had but know we ate a lot. Seems to me it was cold meat and salad and new potatoes and carrots. By then it was rather late in the afternoon for we had been late getting there and almost time to watch for Dane coming from School. As we had forgotten to give the teacher some fruit we had brought from town we decided to go along with that and ask Bill Legarde for supper at the same time, also could see Dane who would be looking for us.

Dane will be 7 in November, is still 6, yet he rides the three miles to school everyday and back in the afternoon. He takes all care of his own horse, feeds her and saddles her and looks after her at school and when he comes home, also on the way home at night he drives the cows in for milking. Pretty good for a little boy. The Mauforts who are the only people he passes on the way say that he is usually galloping when he goes by and it only takes him about 15 minutes for the trip! We met him about half way and off the horse, his hat had blown off and he was trying to find it in the long grass by the road. Pete found it, Gray helped him back on the horse for otherwise he has to find a place to mount and away he went, riding very much like an Indian does.

We saw the school and met the school teacher who showed us the new methods of teaching etc. Also helped Gray carry the big milk pail of water into her present house, as they have to take the water to her, they also give her butter etc. each person in the district donating something. Then we went on the Bills. met his mother and saw some of the game heads he had shot and stuffed. The house was really something, not too tidy looking but I am not one to talk for you should see ours right now. Had a nice time there and then back to the ranch.

Gray and Eleanor have a little one story house, you go into a nice back shed where the cream seperator is and where the water pails are and where one washes, then into a lovely bright kitchen which Eleanor has made most attractive, painted the walls pale blue, red checked curtains at the windows and a red bookcase on one wall, a lovely shinny cookstove, (coal) a big dining table with chairs and a bench, one morris chair and a rocker and the radio, It is where they live most of the time. Off that near the shed is a nice pantry where Eleanor keeps all her cooking things and dishes and washes them there too. So as she said none of the mess is in the kitchen and she can just close the door to the pantry if she likes. on the same side of the kitchen as the pantry is a single room which they have us ed for a hired man or any single person staying with them. On the other side is a living room that isn't used much and on the front of that and down a step their bedroom and on the back side the boys room. All very compact and Eleanor has painted it all to look neat and nice.

Then about 100 yards and away from the house is a nice cabin where the Rhodes son and daughter-in-law lived and where Gray and Eleanor lived the first summer. We had that, a big room with a cook stove and a bedroom off it and a big closet for storage. It makes it nice, We also had our own privy. The view from both the cabin and the house are the same and lovely, You look out the foot of the little valley and across miles of pattered fields to the distant mountains, The Waterton Lake Gap and even the mountains of Glacier Park. Their farm buildings are in the foreground. *It looks across the country of Picher Creek.*

The little boys were awfully cunning. Ian just walking and talking of 18 months and Timmy about 3 or 4, very much a boy. They have a tame bossy who stays around the house like a dog and they feed it, so later each boy will have his own cow and when she has a calf it will belong to the boy, he will take all care of his own cow too and get the proceeds from her so to speak.

They also have 2 dogs and a cat. I don't know how many cattle for we didn't really see them or how many horses and cows.

Bill came over for supper that night and it was a real meal with a wonderful lemon pie to top it off. We talked and talked and told stories and though we were tired and wanted to go to bed early and did start at ten it was nearly midnight when we finally went!

Next day we slept until nine and then ate a tremendous breakfast of hot cakes with fresh butter and maple syrup we had brought. Pete was anxious to start back to Banff though they wanted us to stay over, But he had promised George Noble to take him to Lake O'Hara and knew the car would need fixing as well. so we started back by eleven. It is ~~242~~ 243 miles via Calgary and the paved road all the way so that it was 7.45 when we got home. It was a lovely day again and a good trip back.

Sunday we were rather weary, called on Mom and found she hadn't been well, a sort of dizzy spell one night coming home from church, Saw several people while getting milk etc. Tried to get the Graysons to come up and stay at the Homestead for a visit, but though Pete

called several times we couldn't find them in. Maybe just as well as it would have been one more thing to do. But they enjoyed their visit in the spring so much and the Gammons at the Homestead close this week. Saw Lona and Mary Lee and Leslie Mather and then to Dr Riley and saw the pictures he had painted while on his 2 weeks vacation. He said it was the first holiday he had ever taken when he didn't want to go back to work. We also had Jonny over when he discovered we were home and again we recorded the Hawaii Calls program from Honolulu and later took it to the Moores to hear. It comes in very well. Barbara and Jonny were here when we did it.

Monday a wire from Roland Davison saying he was going through on # 7 that morning, so we went to the train and saw him and Amy his Japanese wife. Pete met him in Japan in 1929 and we saw him in 1934 and they came here the first years of the war and to Temple skiing. Have been in Montreal but want to come west to live. It was fun seeing them again and they may stop off on their way east.

Sunday. It is clouding up & looks like a storm.
 Will write more later. It must be 3 weeks at least we have had clear weather, never saw anything like it.
 Loads of love.
 Catherine .

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. Sept. 26, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

I seem to get worse in keeping up with the news, To-day was a rainy one and I did get the kitchen a little tidied up and the desk cleared for action but otherwise am not much further ahead. We really had a wonderful spell of weather, a whole month with one clear day after another and even lately with smoke in the air, it only made the mountains a little hazy, most of it went east to darken the countryside there, and to-night they say that the smoke even reached Scotland. It was evidently a freak wind that took it so far and it is because of the muskeg burning in northern Alberta that the smoke is so dense. The rain to-day may help put out some fires and dampen others, it will help here for the woods are terribly dry and we are just lucky not to have had serious fires in this part too.

Guess I had better go back a week where I left off in my last letter. Monday we saw Amy and ~~and~~ Davison (originally of Kobe, Japan) on the train going west and in the afternoon we met Armie Hess and Pat Murray over town, both up from Calgary and asked them down to tea and to hear the Indian music we recorded. Pat Murray is the daughter of Dr Murray I think, anyway she was brought up on the Sarcee Indian Reserve or lives there now and knows a lot about Indians and has even been to a lot of their Pow-Wows, and she said she had never heard them sing the way they did in the recording that we have, that is songs with words. They thought them wonderful. Were here about two hours I guess, for we also played some other ones. Jonny and Robby Walker came in that evening.

Tuesday we had the Jeep fixed up and greased etc after the Cowley trip, Mary Simpson was in town and came over in the afternoon and talked quite a while, we gave her tea before she started out for Bow Lake. She said the color west was fine in clumps and the larches were starting to be good, so we decided to maybe go to Lake Louise for a few days and try to get some sketching, we might go to Bow Lake for a night, as we had to see Sid Vallance about a paper and then Mary, However next morning we found that Sid was at Louise with a friend for several days and so Wednesday we packed up in the morning and left right after lunch for Louise. The evening before we couldn't do much as Bubby and Jonny came over and as Bubby had never heard the recorder we did her voice etc. She was anxious to try out her French accent and now it looks as if we may have to record the French class! It would be a great help for them to hear how they sound. *Alan Mathew was also down that evening.*

It was still lovely on Wednesday when we set out and though Sid wasn't at Deer Lodge when we got there we by luck caught sight of them walking back from a climb and so had a few minutes chat with him. Then on up to Bow Lake, We got there at 7 o'clock after numerous delays. The color of the aspens on the way to Louise were better than we had expected and so stopped to take a few

pictures, then after seeing Sid and Mr Rushworth we called in for the Simpsons mail and express and gave Mrs Asling a lift down the road and got gas and all in all took quite a time, because one has to chat when doing such things. It was a beautiful evening though and we got to Bow just at dark.

The Simpson's are really closed up, just Big Jim, and Mrs Simpson doing the cooking, Mary figuring out the accounts, Bill and Mrs Stewart (she is Mrs Simpson's sister) still helping for another week, and otherwise just a young couple who were guests. An awfully attractive couple from Cleveland, we thought they were honeymooners but they had two children at home. They had been there ten days and because they were the right kind the Simpsons let them stay on. They were just finishing supper and we all had our breakfast in the kitchen. We spent the evening talking around the fire, and also next morning we talked a lot longer than we should have. As they were so nearly closed we thought we had better not stay there and most of the cabins at Louise were closed too so Pete thought it would be better to come home and go out each day from here. Which we did until the weather changed on us.

Actually we had promised to take George Noble, and his assistant Bill Jamison to O'Hara for photographs after the camp ~~there~~ closed. Mrs Jamison was to go too never having been in and that was one reason we came back from Cowley as Pete wanted to get the car fixed before attempting O'Hara on say Wednesday. When we saw George on ~~xxxxxxx~~ Tuesday we found that Bill and his wife had gone on holidays unexpectedly so the O'Hara trip was off, otherwise we might have planned differently. Another idea was to try a trail with the Jeep from a the Saskatchewan crossing on the Jasper Highway to a place called Nordegg, and thought Jim Simpson might go with us as he would know the country well, but when we got to Bow Lake we thought better of the idea as the camp where we would leave the highway is now closed and if anything happned on the trip it would be hard to get help, so we gave up that idea.

Anyway we came home on Thursday, Jonny was over to tell us that Davy and Harold were back from their trip with Jackie to Arizona and Nevada, and later we had some papers to look over. *connection with his father's estate.*

Friday was still lovely and we took a lunch and went to a lovely spot of color we had noticed the day before at Hillsdale, 12½ miles from here, We both made a sketch but the light was so bright that it made Pete's eye water a bit. He saw Dr Macenzie again to-day and he told Pete he might have trouble with it watering for a little while yet. It is rather a nuisance and the heat of the sun or a cold wind also bothers it. We came back early in the afternoon and I washed and then we had Mary Lee and Lona and Harold over. Later called on Sid but he wasn't back and we stopped in to say hello to Bill and Mrs Noble. Bill is in his 70's and has hardening of the arteries and it has effected his head and he doesn't know what he says or does. Terribly hard on Mrs Noble, they were awfully glad to see us and we sat outside for a bit and she picked me all her sweet peas. These we later gave to Mrs Paris! Then that evening Jonny and Robby Walker were over to see us.

Saturday we went out again, just a couple of miles and tried another sketch, back for lunch. In the afternoon we met Bob Svarre

and his wife Phyllis who dislocated her hip skiing last spring and still has to use crutches. He is very interested in modeling and we gave him some plasticine last year, they were in Phoenix Arizona last winter and going to San Francisco this year, he may be called back into service, flying for the marines, as he is an American. They stayed a while and we got out the Brenda Putnam book and had a nice visit. It clouded over a bit, mostly smoke and we did errands which takes forever when you go Saturday afternoon as you run into so many people, like Mrs Hammond from Nassau in the Bahamas (she used to be here every summer) and Rene Wilson from Nordegg etc. That evening Robbie Walker came over looking for Jonny and stayed and helped me do the dishes which I thought very nice. He thought a few pieces of candy more than enough in return. The kids are funny.

Sunday was cloudy, the first cloudy day for ages ,so we didn't go out painting. it was too dull. I cut the larkspurs and then wethought we would take Mrs Paris and Ada Wilson to drive. *which we did around the golf course. Mrs Paris is badly crippled with arthritis.*

Didn't finish this last night, it is Wednesday and cold out, fresh snow on the mountains and overcast but we might get Indian summer after this, we hope so as a lot of the trees hadn't changed though those that had may lose their leaves.

Will mail this and continue in my next, also will send the letters from the three girls which I think Miss Wagner will enjoy feading too and the ones from Russell which I didn't send during the Railroad strike in case anything happened to them but will mail to-day.

Loads of love,

Catharine .

7-5. Will like the girls letters back sometime .

Banff, Alberta.
Fri. Sept. 29, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

This has been a busy week, the one that I thought

I would get so much done in because it was cold and overcast and it turned out to be our week for entertaining, and now this afternoon a wire from the Roland Davisons (who used to live in Kobe Japan) saying that they would be here tomorrow afternoon for two nights and I guess 2 days, so looks like a busy weekend.

And now to try and bring you up to date. Think it was about last Sunday I left off in my last letter. It was the first cold dull day for a month really, had been a little cloudy the afternoon before but otherwise warm. We took Mrs Paris and Ada Wilson who is visiting her just now, for a drive around the golf course and up to the Hot Springs and back. We wanted to see how the color was anyway and they really enjoyed the ride as Mrs Paris gets out so seldom and Ada is the one I used to visit with on my way back and forth in Tofino for she lives in Alberni in the winter, is postmistress at the Chateau ~~in the~~ ^{the same} summer and a typical old maid. We were late getting back for our lunch and as we were finishing Mom arrived with her half sister Bella Farguarson who lives in Calgary. She had come up with her eldest son and his wife (who live in her house and look after it since she had an operation for cancer and can do little, she has her own room there) and the new Granddaughter. They had left the baby asleep up at Moms and just came for a minute. The daughter in law is really awfully nice and I took to her somehow she was so pleasant, we hadn't seen the son Roy for years and he had never been to our house, they were so interested in everything and the poor baby was crying by the time we all went up to Moms until they left in a tiny English car for Calgary. The baby in a sort of clothes basket on the back seat. We had barely settled down after that when Peter Vallance and his wife drove in and they didn't mean to stop but wanted us to see their 6 months old baby (the other had been 3 months) so came in, and as he had gotten the Recorder through the Customs for us, we showed them that and they made quite a call. Then we recorded Hawaii Calls direct from Honolulu, and later after supper went to play it to the Moores. they weren't home but at Edmees so we went there and the Painters came in and we spent quite an evening. We are all "early to bedders" so when ten o'clock came we all went home.

Monday. it rained at last and did a lot of good. We went up to see Sid Vallance in the morning about some papers that he had to look over for us, then to the bank which took ages. Saw the Simpsons come in and said hello to them and helped unload a ~~truck~~ ^{small} load of stuff Mrs Simpson and Bill Stewart had brought in. ~~A truck~~ ^{the} load of their furniture was to come in that afternoon and Mary was to leave the next morning for Omaha for the winter. and the n Mrs Simpson would go back to Pow to be with Big Jim until they come in for good. We were home that afternoon and then after supper first Bill Hommes arrived with a message about Cliff, he is Young Cliff's best friend. then Mrs Simpson, Mary and Bill Stewart

and we had a very pleasant evening. Mary had to go home and pack but they were having such fun with the recorder and listening to the things we have recorded that it was after ten when they left.

Tuesday it hailed and rained most all day. snowed quite low on the mountains but we still hope to have Indian Summer after this spell is over. I tidied the back hall and kitchen a bit and tried to clean up the desk a bit, such piles of letters, most discouraging! We expected Sid Vallance at four and about 3 I looked out to see old Mr Neilson coming along the drive. Pete had asked him to come down and see our house hoping to get a recording of his days on wind-jammers and "pressure boats". He is an old bachelor, almost a hermit, while I hurried around and got the recorder set up Pete coaxed him in, he didn't want to come as he said his clothes were in rags and they really were, where he had carried in wood on his shoulders, He is 86 and lives alone and looks after himself. He came in and sat down in the big chair and we got him to talk quite a bit, a whole half hour in fact and about all sorts of things and then I made him some coffee and he had that and a doughnut and some cake and then left. We are to go and see him some day and may try again to get him to talk. He had barely gone when Sid and Doris Vallance arrived for tea, so after coffee with Mr Neilson I had tea with them. We played them the recording and some other bits and then Jonny and Billy MacKenzie arrived and Davy too I think.

Wednesday was overcast and cold, I washed in the morning, (haven't tried the new stuff yet but will soon.)

Saturday now so will have to mail this. Yes I got the books that Cousin Harriet's friend sent and will write her about them, they were written by Ruth Noble, the daughter, and I paid her mother for them the day we called on Cousin Harriet. The thing is very well done.

Loads of love

Catharine

Mon. Oct 2, 1950

Dear Mother,

A new stamp for you too!
We had a busy day yesterday. The Davisons
were here Sat night for dinner, then to the Moores.
They came around yesterday A.M. at 10. Had
no sooner left at noon than George Euell
arrived to talk Ski jumps etc. Then Jimmy-
& Mom to say Aunt Maggie broke her hip
& she's over 80. George left about 1:30 & Mom
nearer 2 when Jackie came for her. We got
lunch & Jimmy was back with Billy for dinner.
Steam with the plumber came to fix a tap
& talked shrimp until 4. At 6:30 we had
Chinese supper with the Davisons & Mrs
Barney over town & they all came back
here until 11 P.M. Loads of love Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. Oct. 3, 1950

Dearest Mother,

At last I have a new ribbon and it should make it easier for you to read my letters. It was ordered a while back but never came.

What a time I have had lately writing you, I always start each letter a good week behind. so I had better go back to last week Wednesday, Tuesday we had had Mr Neilson and the Vallances in the afternoon and Wednesday I washed in the morning and then as it was overcast and cold and not very nice Pete thought we should maybe ask Fred Stiles to come down. He just knocked his eye out with a wrench, a fan belt broke and knocked the wrench in such a way it put out his eye. He was at the McFields Chalet at the time and they took him to Jasper, but the doctors couldn't do anything much there and so he had to be driven to Calgary. This was a couple of weeks ago and he is out of the hospital and around but a bit nervous and it gave him something to do. Mrs Stiles and her sister-in-law came too, and we had tea and played them some recordings and Fred got so interested that he told the story of the time that one of the Brewster Drivers, a big Swede, parked the bus outside the fish hatchery while the passengers went inside to look at the little fish, when they came out they found the brake hadn't held and the front of the bus was in the big fish pond. head first. The Swede went for Fred, who was in charge of all the cars and buses and keeping them in mechanical shape, and he told the Swede that he had gotten the bus nose first into the pond and he could jolly well get it out. Somehow they did pull it out with a tractor and worked a little on the engine, it went and the Swede drove off with his bus load of passengers! Fred said at one point when the Swede was putting a line under the bus he had to get under the water himself, and would duck down and attach the line, when he came up he was draped with the slimy green stuff the fish eat!

That was Wednesday afternoon. the kids were in too as the Stiles left and then we had a quiet evening until about 9.45 when we started to bed. We had recorded the Louis Charles fight as an experiment and listened to it. I was already upstairs when I heard Pete talking to people and we had company! Seems that Mrs Zandmer and her brother-in-law Herbert Zandmer and wife Oola, had come to see us. They are from Los Angeles and the wife goes to the Otis Art Institute where Pete went one winter when he was 18. She didn't know that, but she brought a message from Leonard Richmond a well known English artist, who is now head of the school, which we didn't know, and who was out here when Mr Hibbard was here painting years ago. in 1923 I think. He told Mrs Zandmer to be sure and say hello to Pete if she got to Banff. in fact wrote a message for Pete which she lost. *The other Mrs Zandmer lives in Banff as her husband is in Oil & these were visiting relatives.*

Oolar (don't know how one would spell it) was most attractive, came from Berlin originally and I guess is a displaced person. The Mr Zandmer who lives here is interested in Oil and has struck it with George Encil. We talked about painting and the movie people who had been here years ago and they were much amused by Pete's stories. It was midnight when they finally left and we were rather sleepy. They had listened to the prize fight first and Oola had promised to see Pete before she went back to her Art school and Mr Richmond and they were leaving the next day. *That is why they came so late.*

Thursday was again overcast and we slept late and I did a bit more wash, having gotten behind. Sid Vallance came down about something and we talked quite a while. He loves to talk when Mrs Vallance isn't here to hurry him away. That was the day we voted for natural gas in Banff. it was 644 ~~in~~ ~~against~~ in favor and 1 against. so it looks as if they might bring it in another year. for heating as well as cooking. We aren't apt to change at our house but it would be wonderful for the store. We also went up to see Asta as we hadn't seen her for ages and then met Agnes Hammond and her sister Edith Hilda Miller and her little boy Torchy, so asked them to tea. Tilda hasn't been to our house since she went to India to marry an army officer and since then has been all over the place, last winter they were in Churchill, up north. She told us they measure the cold by the amount of wind with it, as that determines how it feels and it usually blew hard so that the poor little boy couldn't play outside at all. Now they go to Ottawa this winter.

Agnes raises Dashunds, *on a ranch near Cochrane on way to Calgary* had four with her in the car and has 18 altogether. One of those with her Tilda expected to have puppies any minute but they weren't supposed to come until next week. We looked at slides and showed them the recorder and had tea, also showed Agnes the Jeep which Tilda thought would be just right for Agnes and the dogs, for as she said quietly to me " Its almost impossible to go anywhere in Agnes car and arrive without being covered with hairs and smelling doggy." Pete noticed that there was hay in the back to make the floor more comfortable for the dogs and they were all over the upholstery too of course. It was funny when we were standing by the car, the dogs apparently asleep, and Pete told them how sturdy the Jeep was, especially the metal and he tapped our door and then tapped Agnes car, such a barking you never heard all four dogs rose up and yapped at him at once. We couldn't help but laugh. Jonny was over too and had to go and get their Dashund. Penny, to show Agnes.

That was the afternoon and again we were all set for a quiet evening and just reading the paper until the news came on at 8 when Norman Tabuteau dropped in to tell us how they had done this summer at their cabin camp. We got talking about hunting trips he had made, the reserve army when he and Pete were both in it at the start of the war, his experiences in the R.C.A.F. and then Pete's. and it was nearly midnight when he left ! Such late nights all week !

Friday was our quietest day, seems as if someone was in but can't think who it was, Lona and Mary Lee were over. We got a wire in the afternoon that Roland and Amy Davison were on their way back from the coast and to make a reservation for Saturday and Sunday. We did and also told the Moores they were coming as they had met

them years ago. That was when I wrote you and we went to bed early.

Saturday was still poor weather and snowy and I tidied the house up as best I could and cleaned a bit in the morning and then we did errands in the afternoon and got enough for dinner. met the 5.15 train and the Davisons were on and they came to dinner that night. We broiled a steak for them, a nice thick one. After the dishes were washed up and we had eaten too much, (as Roland had brought us some Danish Pastry that comes from Field and we had sampled that on top of dinner.) We all went down to the Moores and had a nice evening there until around 11. Had a good deal of talking about strange food we had eaten. Amy said Chicken feet, (not the legs) were the hardest that she got used to in China. She is part Japanese but brought up in a convent so is more Canadian in her ways. Her mother is Japanese and still lives in Kobe. Her father was white.

Sunday was some day. It snowed a little all day and looked cold and miserable. We were up at eight as we knew the Davisons would be over early. They came about ten and stayed until noon mostly talking about prospects of investing money in a cabin camp in the Rockies. They had entertained Mrs Harmon in Kobe years ago so Mrs Harmon was going to call for them at 3 in the afternoon and we said we would meet them at 6.30 in the evening and all got for Chinese supper at the Dominion Cafe. They had just gone and I had n't even sat down when George Encil came in. Wanted to show us a new poster for the Chair Lift and get out advise. Then Jonny came and he too was in on the conversation about George's future plans of a 300 foot Ski Jump at Norquay and with freezing pipes under the landing hill they would have summer ski jumping. crush the snow from ice. At the foot of the landing hill he would have a summer ice skating rink etc. Great ideas. Would cover the rink with snow while the jumping was on and then sweep it off and hold a skating show! Jonny was very interested. The funniest part of all was that George gets so interested in expounding his big ideas that he strides up and down, waves his hands and if he happens to see a box of candy will just help himself to one when ever he feels like, it as if emphasizing a point is his discourse. I had two bunches of Concord grapes, partly for sentimental reasons and partly as decoration on the table. He just took them. plucking them off the stems a few at a time, talking all the time. The rest of us never said a word just watched. Soon he had a bunch bunch in his hand, ate all but the seeds, skin too. Then as Pete said, he even removed the oranges to get all the grapes that had fallen off. Again he strode back and forth, this time he helped himself to the chocolate peppermints, Jonny just looking wideeyed and never asking for one himself. Later as he strode back and forth he plucked a peach from the window sill and bit into it with great vehemence. None of us said a word. Mom had come in by this time and she was greatly amused. Finally there was only one peppermint left in the box and George dipped into it for the last time. Jonny showed he was concerned, as he had had his eye on that, and George seemed to realize what he had done, so finishing the last peppermint he said he would get Jonny a whole box of them later.

He finally left about 1.45 and I began to get the lunch. I had just started to think of at noon. Jonny went home and Mom stayed until 2 to tell us that they had telephoned her that Aunt Maggie

Grayson had fallen on her back steps and broken her hip and was being operated on in Calgary that afternoon, as she is over 80 it is rather serious. She is Pete's favorite Aunt, the one who lives in Cochrane and comes up quite often. Was here in the spring.

Next thing we knew Jackie, who hasn't been here all year, was driving into the yard, presumably looking for Mom, and we figured we couldn't cope with a conversation anymore having been talking about so many things all morning from ten until 2, so I tried to explain at the door and Mom went off with Jackie. Before we had lunch cooked Jonny and Billy were over but we told them to come back later which they did, and helped me eat up ice cream and peaches. They were awfully good and much of the conversation was in surprise that George Encil had just helped himself to things without even being asked!

They were still here when Bob Watt arrived. We had had a washer in the tap upstairs that suddenly leaked badly and asked Mrs Watt to send him over when he came back from Sunshine, but in the meantime, early Sunday morning Pete had fixed it himself, so Bob (who we thought awfully good to come on a Sunday) fixed the other one and then stayed for a glass of beer and a long talk about skiing. It was 4 o'clock when he left, Pete had a snooze and we didn't go out until it was time for the Chinese supper at 6.30. We met the others at the Mt Royal, Mrs Harmon coming too and then went to the Dominion. They didn't have anything ready of course but Freddy Wing made us a wonderful supper when he found that Roland had lived in Hongkong and knew what Chinese food was, and we ate for a long time, my but it was good. Roland said he hadn't tasted better in Montreal. There were several big dishes and all different and then you have rice and help yourself to as much of each of the others as you want. Just lifting a bit off here and there, of course when you see a little left near the end you are tempted to just have a little more and we all ate too much. drank quantities of tea and had to end up with " wet ginger " the most delicious you ever tasted. not sugared but like a preserve and a bit syrupy. ~~The~~ We had first thin soup with mushrooms and other vegetables and meat in it. really a meal in itself, then the main dishes were a plate of pancake sized omeletes, with onion and other things cooked in it, a plate of cold chicken cut quite thick, then pork very brown about an inch wide, 2 inches long and a half inch thick and nuts on each slice in some way. Then a couple of dishes of mixed vegetables in a Chinese sauce and also a dish of shrimp *fixed.* it was all delicious. We came back here about nine, all feeling rather full of food and talked and worked the recorder and again it was nearing midnight when they went home.

Monday Mrs Harmon drove them up to Norquay and the Hot Springs which was nice as it was a lovely day, they came around first to tell us where they were going and we would see them about two in the afternoon, they were to take the afternoon train. We did errands and I went the first Day covers away to stamp collector friends and we did various errands and found out how Pete's Aunt Maggie was etc. Then they came around about 2.30 and we drove them up to see Norman Tabuteaus camp and the various designs of cabins.

The very first one we went into, Amy spotted the lamp and went over to look at it more carefully, seems that when they first went to Montreal she had nothing to do living in a hotel and so got a job advertised in the newspaper coloring vases and lamps, as they said they wouldn't have been so bad if they were made of pottery but they were made of plaster-of-paris and then colored according to their designs. and sure enough the one Norman had was one of Amy's. He had bought ten lamps the first year and these were cheap and plain and goodlooking shades on them. but wasn't that a coincidence ?

Roland had to meet the Superintendent at 3.30 so we left him there and Amy came back with us to the house and we had tea when Roland came. He had found that there was a site for a cabin camp that was up for tender and wanted Pete's opinion. He has so much money to invest and wants to leave the C.P.R. and put it into something that will give them a livelihood etc. We had a great talk and then Mrs Harmon came in for tea and we got discussing the pros and cons and the first train left and soon the second and they decided to stay another day. Mrs Harmon drove them up to look at the site and we didn't see them until after supper, for it was too late by then to get much here and also Pete gets tired talking so much. We got a wire from the Campbells that if a good time they would come up Wednesday for a few days, so we telephoned to tell them to come along. That is to-day now and it looks like snow after two fairly nice days. The leaves have all gone dirty and half never turned yellow.

The Davisons came over about 8.30 Monday night and we talked until after 11. Then yesterday morning they appeared about 11 and we got some Crabs and I had some baked potatoes in the oven so we had lunch here and then Amy wanted to see a couple of stores which we did and they had tea here before we saw them off on the 5.15 for Calgary. Mary Lee and Lona came down yesterday (Tuesday) afternoon at tea time, were very cunning.

Now must get ready for the Campbells, so loads of love

P.S. Thanks for the Swiss Calenders, when the first 2 come will see how many we would like. I think it would be 3 more of the " The Alpine Calender " with the lovely colored photographs

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. Oct. 5, 1950

Dearest Mother,

The Campbells arrived last evening and we have been rather busy ever since. To-night they decided that they should go to bed early, and see one or two people so they didn't come for supper, and thought while I had a chance would start a letter to you.

First of all, before I had no sooner mailed my last letter to you than the "Alpine Calenders for 1951" arrived. It seems as if the pictures are lovelier than ever, they are the truest in color of any of the mountains I think. If not too expensive we would love three more, that makes 5 altogether. 1 for us, 1 for John Jeggie who runs the Upper Hot Spring Hotel and is Swiss, 1 for the Swiss Guides at Lake Louise, 1 for Sid Feuz at Golden and 1 for Sid Vallance who much admires ours and has just returned from Switzerland. It is the right calender and thanks so very much.

Yesterday was Wednesday and I managed to wash up a few silk things before we went over town for the various errands. Then we had barely finished lunch when Mickie Maynard came in. Her husband did a bit of roofing for us and also borrowed some money and she only found out about that last year. They live at the coast now. She was much upset, seems that Bob ran up bills all over the place and wasn't business like at all, kept no receipts and things were all mixed up. She being the opposite kind is now trying to straighten everything out. He is about the hardest worker one could imagine and yet didn't manage the business part well enough. So she wanted to talk about that and we talked until after 3. Then as we wanted to take some food up to Gray's cabin at Norman Tabuteaus (Norman's wife is her sister) we took her home. Billy and Jonny and Garry Macullough, another little boy their age, came in after school and wanted to sing some songs for the recorder which we did so that it was five o'clock before we started on the luncheon dishes and soon after that I began getting potatoes and onions ready for the Campbells supper when they came.

We didn't know when they would arrive and it wasn't until 7 o'clock that they drove in. Pete and I had eaten some soup first and milk and really had a meal, which was just as well for then we could get their supper better. They have a little Jeep like Russells and out of it came Gray and Eleanor and their friend Bill Legarde and the 3 little boys, all a bit stiff from the long drive from Cowley. They had left at 9 after milking the cows and other chores and had stopped at the zoo on St Georges island in Calgary for a stretch as it is a long time for the boys to drive. We still had the hot soup for the boys and some sherry etc for the grownups and in half an hour I had the things cooked. We broiled a thick steak which seems to come out well with least fuss, and they ate a good meal, boys and all, topped with ice cream. The kids were awfully good I thought. Ian being 18 months and Timmy about 4 and Dane soon 7.

It was 10 o'clock by the time we got them up to their cabin and after 11 when we got to bed. We heard later that it was near midnight when they all settled down as the kids were too tired to sleep well in strange beds. and this morning Gray made breakfast and the little boys carried it in peace meal to El so she could have breakfast in bed!

They really are awfully good kids. Dane brought us a paper Jack o lantern he had made in school, he is very shy but much to their surprise is taking so well to school that they can't stop him working on his lessons, when he comes home he has to show them all he learn't and then they find him in bed at night scribbling on a blackboard he has by the light of the candle. Timmy is quite funny and this morning when they were here he asked me if we had any children and I said "no" so he replied, "we will be your children and you can look after us," I think he would have stayed right with us.

Bill Legarde was so interested in everything we had, from the Grizzlies on the floor to the Indian shot gun. Pete had to show him everything. He had never been in a house like this and just loved it. He is a wonderful character and devoted to the kids and they will do anything for him, makes it easy for Gray and El to have him along, as this afternoon he stayed while they took naps and they went calling.

We were pretty tired last night and late getting up this morning, for we have had more people the last two weeks than we had all summer. We were just doing last night's dishes (they wanted to wash them the night before but we thought the kids should get to bed) when Gray, Bill and the kids came in. Pete showed Bill more things while Gray wiped dishes and the kids ran between. They are so well behaved you aren't afraid of them touching things. Then they went back up for Eleanor and called on a friend while we picked up the mail, some fresh salmon etc. for lunch and they were back here about 12.30 for lunch. It was nearer one by the time it was all ready and then Gray stayed again to help with dishes while Eleanor took Bill and the kids up to the cabin, left them there and came back down. It was 4 by the time they left and I was just starting to write a letter for the train when Lona, Mary Lee and Margot White came in, just for a minute or two, they had no sooner left and I written a couple more words when Billy, Jonny and Garry came along with some new songs for the recorder. I told them they would have to wait until I finished the letter and gave them ginger ale and tarts, sat down again, another knock and this time Susan and Fatsy MacKenzie. I expect it was the poor weather outside for it was dull, raining a little and very smoky, horrid smelling so we must be getting some of the smoke from the fires.

We recorded a bit and they were very amusing. Then off to get the letter on the train and the mail and supper and back home. Only one interruption this evening when we saw a car back up to the Indian Cabin and Pete went to investigate and it was Mickie Maynard with Wally Thorpe who is to buy some of Bob's materials he had stored there. Pete is snoozing and I think I will read the paper now until bedtime.

Loads of love
Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. Oct. 8, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

Our company left this morning and both Pete and I were really tired, its been nearly two weeks steady, people to tea and later nights and this last week with the Davisons and Campbells every day. While we were washing up a good stack of dishes this afternoon (we cooked our Thanksgiving turkey this noon for lunch) Pete said not only was his head tired but his legs felt weak, and my head was so tired this morning that I lay down for about an hour, which is very unusual for me. However we are both feeling better now and only Dr Riley has been here to-day, (just as we were ready to sit down for lunch) Jonny was here for a short time before that. but otherwise it has been fine and now is just pouring out so no one else is apt to show up.

We enjoyed the Campbells and the kids were unusually good for little ones, but we were tired when they came and got increasingly so as the visit went on. They came Wednesday night and we made supper for them which I think I told you, they stayed around a bit afterwards there was so much to see in the house and then went up to the camp with them. They had a cabin with two tiny bedrooms and a couch in the sitting room, with fireplace and then a tiny kitchen to cook in.

Thursday Gray and Bill were down with the kids early. Think I told you that too, they saw a few other friends in between coming here. They all came to lunch that day, which is quite a meal with 8 of us and they all have hearty appetites including the kids. Then Bill's baby sat with them while Gray and El went calling in the afternoon. It was 4 when they left here to call though, and they said they wanted to go to bed early so ate their supper at their cabin. Later we heard that Bill had quite a time looking after the children. He is a great big rough looking man but kindness itself and the kids just adore him. As Gray says he has a way of explaining things to them that makes them understand, even to Santa Claus and religion. He never swears or uses bad words but has his own way of expressing things. Sometimes he takes the kids out and shows them how to track animals and such things, something that you couldn't pay to have them learn. He is a great hunter and has wonderful stories. He had never been in a house like this and thought everything wonderful, in fact he has never been to many places though, has covered a lot of country hunting, all the district through which we drove on the trip down. *to Coleman he has hunted in -*

When he was left with the kids they slept for a bit and then woke up and wanted to go to the bathroom, He hunted high and low but couldn't find where El had put the little potty that she carries with her (it was in a paper bag) so he just told the kids to come outside and they would do as the Indians did, and off they went up to where the trees are quite thick back of the cabins. He was about worn out when Gray and El got back at six.

We expected to have a quiet afternoon but some than they had gone than Mary Lee, Merwyn MacCullough and Sonia

I get mixed, though actually it doesn't really matter much. But Thursday after lunch the kids were so sleepy that El took them up with Bill to the camp and then came back here at 4 for Gray. In the meantime Gray helped us wipe dishes and then he and Pete went to see Norman Luxton for a few minutes and then Gray met El here and off they went. They were hardly gone than Mary Lee, Lona and Margot White ran in for some money (they keep their savings here on our desk in boxes) they had just disappeared in one direction when Jonny , Billy and Garry MacCullough came to see Dane Campbell, as he wasn't here they asked if they could record some new songs they had ready, I had a letter I was trying hard to write to mail on the 5.15 train to Uncle Charlie Grayson, so said I would have to finish that first. In the meantime before I had much more written Susan and Patsy arrived. So got them all consuming gingerale and tarts and did finish the letter , then recorded the songs and then to the station in time. It poured that evening and as we finished supper rather late we saw car lights over by the Indian Cabin. Pete went out to investigate when the lights went out, but only found that it was Wally Thorpe's truck , he came back and we tried to figure what it was doing there and couldn't. Wondered could it be stolen, when the lights went on again and people with flash lights were moving about, so out Pete went again and it was Mickie Maynard with Wally who was taking away stuff that her husband Bob had left stored there. So after that we went to bed early. *We hadn't heard her say she was coming*

Friday, I washed early, much to the interest of the kids when they came soon after 10. They were to go swimming with Mr C.M.Walker in the afternoon and having had a big breakfast didn't think they really needed lunch, so I suggested soup and buns (the bake shop is very good) and El thought that would be more than enough. They went off calling and we went to get supplies and to be on the safe side picked up cold meat and tomatoes etc. and did the errands including the bank etc. Were back just in time to get the soup etc. They made a good meal in the end, tomato soup and the cold meat, etc. milk for the kids, tea for the grown ups and when Mr Climo and Mickie came to take the rest of the stuff from the Indian Cabin we asked them in, as Gray wanted her to sit with the kids that night while they went to a good Air Force movie. So they had coffee and then Mr Walker came too while we werestill at the table. They were having the Jeep serviced and he took them to the Hot Springs and up to Norquay later and other places which was nice. Had it been a good day we were all going for a picnic to Bow Lake. They felt badly leaving us with the dishes, but we just ignored them, went for errands and got back about 4 or a little later. Mom came down with a message from Uncle Jack Campbell and while she was still here Mary Lee, Merwyn MacCullough and Sonia Hoover all dashed in being chased by Harold who was teasing them. Mom didn't stay long and I asked the girls if they would give me a hand with the dishes which they did and were really a great help wiping. It took us no time at all.

That evening was a quiet one, we knew that Gray and El were at the movie , and as Bill Bunn had brought their Jeep around here for them to pick up afterwards we waited up for them. I guess it

was nearly ten when they came and seeing our lights still on gave a gentle knock. We had some beer and cheese etc. ~~Hamff~~ and then as the kids weren't here Gray thought it a good chance to let Bill record and tell some of his hunting yarns in his own particular way, which he did and we got a whole hour of them, for one yarn led to another. so it was nearly midnight when they left.

Saturday morning we were up fairly early and Gray came along as Pete had arranged for us to pay for the servicing of his car and Gray didn't think he should etc. We again said we would like them to have lunch with us and they were going to the Mt Royal ^{for supper} with the Walkers so wouldn't eat much. However we had plenty and I don't know but they ate more than usual ! We also called on Carl Aungius to see if he was to be home that afternoon as he is just back from his hunt, but he had others coming. So back with the groceries and more soup, some fish, all the salmon they had and tongue for the kids, they liked that and two vegetables instead of potatoe. Again it was around 2.30 by the time we were through the meal, El helped with the dishes and then they went up to the camp to make the kids take a nap. Ian slept here for a bit but Timmy wouldn't lie down. So we did a number of errands and saw to things and back here for supper. ~~They came around~~ We had Mary Lee and another friend the Stee-ves girl from Field came running in on a treasure hunt looking for a picture of a wreck which they knew Pete had, an old one, also a piece of Gray thread and then ran off again to get a pair of chicken feet before the butcher shop closed. We had supper and then Gray and El stopped on their way from the Mt Royal to ask us to go up to the cabin and take the recorder. We went about nine and the Walkers were also there and we played half of Bill's stories and also some Indian ones and then the Walkers left and we soon after about 10.30. So again it was late when we got to bed .

Mr Walker was the chief engineer in planning the Foresty road to ~~Cine~~ Coleman but retired last December because of ill health. Funny but he took Dr Atkin down the week after we went through and they couldn't get up onto the grade in one place, had to back a half mile and finally spent the night at one of the camps. So guess we did better than we thought ! Bill knows the country so well that it was interesting hearing them talk.

Its now evening and we have had rather a quiet day. only went out once just before supper as Mom had told us Uncle Pete was to go to Calgary to-morrow to live in some place his sister has found. He is getting older and failing quite a bit and Uncle Jack has looked after him all summer and last winter, but someone has to be with him pretty much all the time. *We went to say good-by*

Now I think I will look over some of your letters, I like to go through them for one can enjoy them as much a 2nd time as the first. I just read about your visit to Mrs Mayor in Annisquam, why don't you ask her to visit you for a few days so you can really see each other. Also the letter about the foreign students. Most interesting and I can imagine how they enjoyed going through the house and seeing how people live beyond the living and dining rooms.

In one of Mildred's letters she mentioned " Guy " dieing. Is he the one who came out with Cousin Harriet the day of the garden

Club ?

I didn't realize that Charles Hovey Pepper was just about your age, born in the same year. Did you ever see the biography of him that it mentioned. I suppose they would have it at the library. Its Called "Charles Hovey Pepper" by Joseph Coburn Smith, Southworth-Anthoensen Press 1945.

I don't know myself what the Jet for the Jeep really is. (the thing we were waiting for the first part of the summer) I think it has something to do with feeding gas into the engine.

How is Miss Chatarina Agge getting on ? It must be so very lonely for her without Miss Annie and how you and we too miss her letters. I didn't realize she had been sick until you wrote that she had died. I expect if Miss Chatarina has another stroke it might be the end for her but being the youngest she could live quite a time yet. Growing that old can be very sad and lonely. That is one good thing about you, you have so many young friends like Miss Wagner and Mrs Bordman & Eleanor Short, and you can do as much for them as they for you as friends.

Isn't it nice that Cousin Jane can be at the Eastland and among friends. Don't you think it is the best way for a person who is alone like that. ~~Now~~ If she isn't well there are plenty of friends near and the maids in a hotel like that usually are very kindly and will do all sorts of little things to help. Do you know if she has a stove with an oven or just a burner with say 2 electric plates ? Find out if you can, for if she hasn't an oven I know of a fine one that fits over a burner and will bake potatoes or anything like that, pies etc. or heat up things you might buy already cooked. *Not large. Just a ring & a cover that is about 6 inches wide high & round 1 1/2 inches across maybe.*

Dr Riley came to tell us that he is going to Boston in about 2 weeks time, He is head of the Cancer Clinic in Calgary and is going especially to study the operation that Ted Langridge had. Ted is about town and looks fine, it is remarkable. Dr Riley will look up Edith and Cob and said he would like to go out and see you. so perhaps he could go out over a weekend. He would love it and is lots of fun, quite a character, reminds me a little of Dr Woodworth the dentist in looks. He paints very well in oils, takes excellent photographs, and is a good cook. Has all sorts of interesting stories to tell about the wind in Saskatchewan and doctoring Indians etc. He is a little older than we are, maybe 50. He is trying to reduce but I think he loves good food. Will write Russ about him too. His name is Bob Riley. He would enjoy meeting Dr Piper I think.

Nellie MacKenzie went to Edmonton for a check over and they operated on her the next day for something that would have to be fixed some day if not then, and Duncan had a thing removed from his forehead so in 2 weeks they are going to the coast and take a boat trip even if it is a rainy time of year. Just to get away.

Did I ask you about the exhibition of water colors at the Art Center and how it was ? They used some of of the money I gave them in memory of Mr Keyes, to put on the show, thats why the notice was worded as it was I guess.

Did you get one of the booklets on the Berkshires written by cousin Harriet's friend Ruth Noble, daughter of the lady that was at Cousin Harriet's the day we called. It is very well done and I will send it to you to read and pass on to Gale if you haven't already seen it?

How is Aunt Mary Hoar getting on?

How long will Bert and Alma Newbury be in Montana? I sort of wondered if they would drive up here but the weather lately has been awful, I hope they got that good fall weather early in Sept. Bert and Annes trip must have been fun for them.

It is Monday - Canada's Thanksgiving Day - so a holiday. The sun is trying to shine but its only about 40, was 55 yesterday.

Am trying to clean up the desk.

Loads of love

Catherine

Duff. Oct 13, 1960

No. 10. LAKE EDITH

One of numerous brilliant lakes in
broad Athabasca Valley near Jasper.
Colin Range in background.

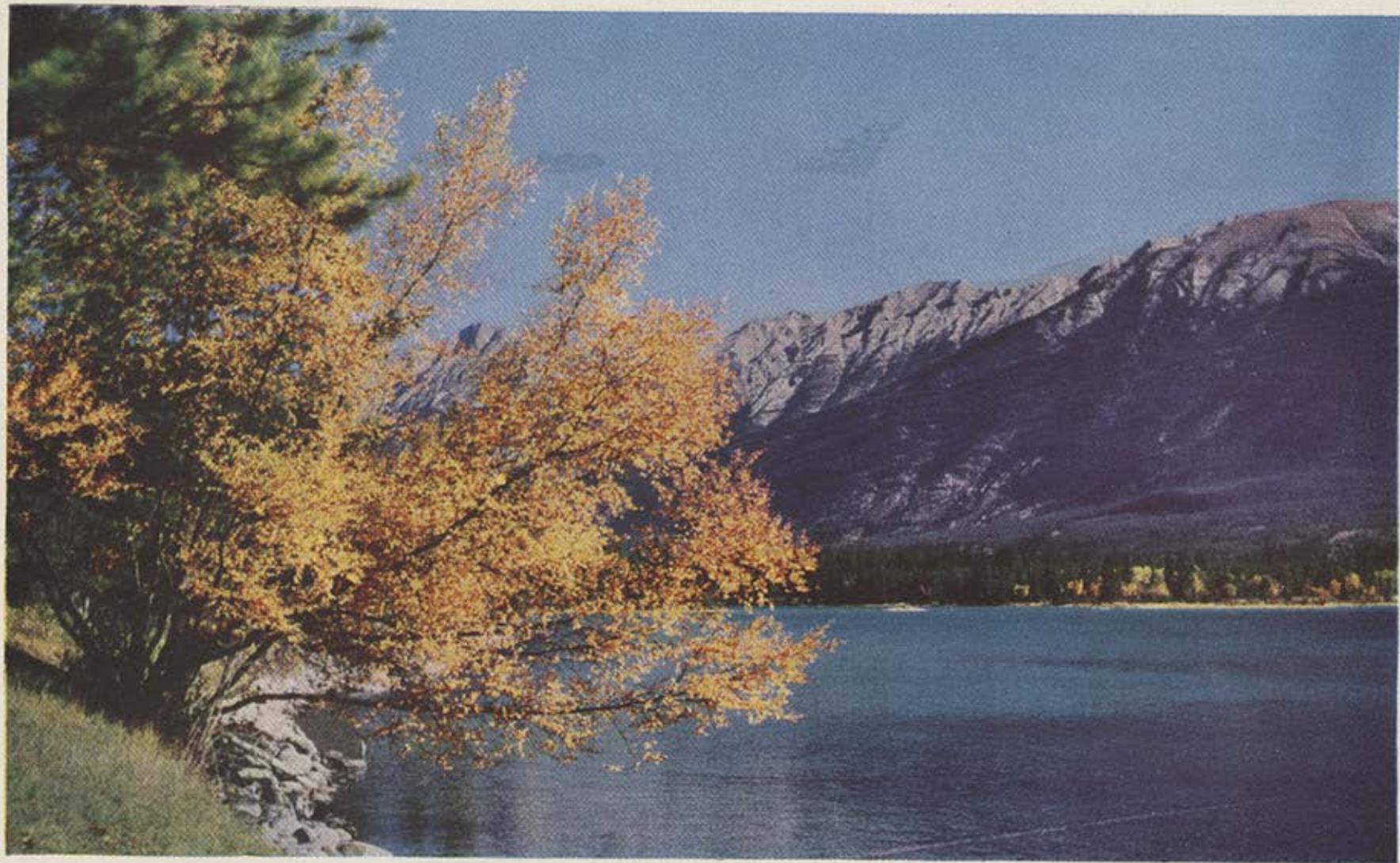
TAYLORCHROME
COLOUR CARD
CANADIAN ROCKIES SERIES

Dearest Mother

I haven't written just a card
we have had a quiet one
with no kids coming home
from us but I might spend
the weeks & let the no one
I am again behind in writing.
I will tell you all we have
been doing in a letter.
on the weekend. Today is
the first night & some snow
day all month. So I'd
don't blow up a cold with
I'd try to write this. We
had 2 dead bears in our
garage at noon. One opened a
can of food full of stuff then
the other with the bones of one
was killed out early after
the kid they don't care for
much - this time is how
hard to be but the bears were
dead this year. Loads of love
Catherine

Reproduced from a natural-colour photograph.

© G. Morris Taylor, Jasper, Alberta, Canada.



Banff, Alberta.
Sat. Oct. 14, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

It is about 8.30 in the evening and I have just made the bed, shows what kind of a day we have had ! It hasn't been such a busy week in some ways but quite a lot has taken place, so in order to bring you up to date will go back to Thanksgiving when I last wrote a real letter.

That was Monday the 9th. It was overcast and some rain as it has been all week (except for yesterday which was nice and warm and quite sunny, only I never did get out to do anything around the house) Well anyway we stayed home Thanksgiving, slept in rather late for once. Jimmy Webb a young Engineer just married came to see us just after lunch and brought a wonderful big box of walnuts and a large jar of delicious jam made of apricots and peaches etc. from the Potters. They were the people in the accident at Bow Lake, and the son-in-law Paul Fowler got a job on the new Trans Canada survey and so became friends of Jimmy Webbs. Jimmy and his young wife went to call on them and ended by staying a whole week with them at their farm at Linden Cal. near Stockton and had a wonderful time, even being taken and shown San Francisco. Its funny isn't it how one makes friends. So the Potters wanted to send us the walnuts and Jimmy brought them right down, also stayed for quite a visit. Then Allan Mather came for a short call just back from his trip to the coast via Sun Valley and later on Mr Oxborough appeared to ask about garage space for his car for the winter in one of the sheds. So that took most of the afternoon and we went to bed early. ~~Jimmyxxxx~~

Tuesday Pete went to see Dr MacKenzie about his eye as a funny long sort of stringy thing came out of his nose very bloody, most unpleasant, but it evidently is a result of the eye tear duct being opened up and since then he hasn't been troubled, and is the natural thing to happen. It seems a long time since it was done but I guess takes a while to heal inside. I did write some letters and we began talking of our winter plans and where we might go to get away from here during the coldest months and the darkest. more of that later.

Wednesday it was cold and rained. We gave Carl ~~Ranquin~~ a ride home from the postoffice and made him a short call, he was almost packed up as he left this afternoon. He seemed in fine spirits much better than earlier in the summer and had shot a ~~maxim~~ ram on his hunting trip with a 40 inch head, the record is 48 inches. It is measured from where the horn comes out of the head and around the circle to the tip. It looked a bit gory to me. We also took the Ski Models up to Charlie Beil that afternoon I think, for him to cast in bronze when he comes back from a trip to Arizona and New Mexico and Texas. (this is the season everybody in Banff seems to go for a holiday and mostly to California or the coast.) We made quite a call there seeing the work he had been doing. In the evening we started up to the Camerons, saw a lot of cars outside so ended up

at the Wards and strangely enough Cis was just changing her dress to come and see us. We got Sam to record some of his recitations and of course stayed longer than we meant to, after 11. They are thinking of Bermudez as they hear there are plenty of cottages to rent since the Americans have closed up the base there but there isn't any building going on and I think Sam thought a little of work. We are all talking of places, now that Canadians are allowed to take \$500. a year instead of \$150.

Thursday showered, we hunted for Jim Watt to put the new copper lining in the sump hole in the basement as we can't ~~do~~ go anywheres until that is fixed, he likes his afternoon tea and so arrived about 3.30 and will come Monday to really fix it. We had tea and got talking about Scotland where he came from Perth, and strangely enough when the Earl of Stair came over to Canada with the Scottish Curlers in 1934, he as president of the Curling club drove him around. He is the father of Lady Jean Rankin who was out here skiing on her wedding trip and we were at Skoki, and we stayed at their castle in Scotland. So we told him the funny things that happened and he told us other stories and of course tea went on for quite a while. Mom came down with a telephone message and also had tea. That evening we went to the Moores, Merle and Jack Brewster came in and we stayed until 11 there or 10.30. Read letters from Elaine from Fiji and one from Lucy Kerr who had been to Switzerland and visited Rudolph the Swiss guide who has gone back there to live, She is the one you met in New York ~~when~~ and I think we went to the theater together.

Friday I ~~finally~~^{finally} got the house vacumed, it was so dusty I had to empty the vacuum twice. Then we looked for the LeCasses to fix us some shutters for the windows, paid bills and got talking with Jack Ashley too long, had a letter and tried to find Dave Frosser about that etc. a lot of running around and then Lona and Mary Lee appeared, first time for quite a while and Mrs Painter with some books to return, we took her home and got Chinese supper on the way back as the Chinese restaurant is closing soon, for the winter.

To-day the usual Saturday shopping and I got 5 parcels to do up for overseas etc. We had an early lunch and then Alpha Legace came down to see if we could help them until they open up at Temple and Skoki. They have it for 3 years and are really making a good job of running it, being hard workers and practical too, We had a long talk and she will be back on Monday, while she was still here, Leonard Legasse came to measure the windows for shutters and then Sid Vallance came, he was awfully amusing this afternoon and told the funniest stories one after the other. About buying a horse years ago from one of the Indians for young Peter to ride in the summer when they had a cottage at Minnewanka, then he let the Indian take it back to the reserve and boarded it there all winter for \$1.00 a month. (he paid \$12.50 for the horse in the first place) then when he wanted the horse back in the summer the Indian said it had died, and he had no way of telling if it really had or not, that was just the end of it! So the 2nd summer he bought a better horse from a man in Banff for \$25.00 and at the end of the summer the man claimed he had only rented it to him not sold it, so he lost the 2nd horse. For a lawyer we thought that pretty good.

Do you see we have had quite a busy week on the whole.

Loads of love,

Catharine

P.S. I forgot the rest of the story about the Vallances horses. One day three little kids got on one of the horses and started down the road, it was a Sunday and quite a lot of traffic for those days, Suddenly the horse sat down in the middle of the road and the kids all slid off his back but couldn't make him get up again. A little later a man appeared at the cottage very frantic, the horse wouldn't get up and a whole line of cars was lined up waiting to get by and Sid had to run out and move the horse.'

Another story was about the Privy at the Cottage, when they left at the end of the summer the maid they had evidently dumped the last ashes from the stove too close behind the privy and after they had gone it caught fire and burned up. So Sid went to his insurance agent to see if it was covered, but it wasn't really, but the insurance agent was a friend and Sid had quite a lot of insurance on the house etc, and he said he would see by writing to their head office in Toronto if he could get "compassionate insurance" for him. Back came a letter to Sid, very formal saying that they would pay him \$90.00 in Compassionate insurance for the loss of the privy and that they were enclosing a booklet for his perusal which they thought would be very helpful when he erected the new building and the booklet was a copy of "the Specialist." Do you remember that book and how funny it was all about Privys?

Will send this along. Its a lovely day to-day, Sunday.

Loads of love again.

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
October 18, 1950

Dearest Mother,

First of all I have just sent to the Can. Broadcasting Corp. for a list of the programs to be sent to you this winter. France James told us there was some such thing one could subscribe to, so I hope it reaches you alright and don't think it an ad and tear it up! Wednesday nights they have a whole series of things, concerts, a play or maybe 2½ hours of an opera put especially over the air. Friday night there is a pop concert I think. I thought that Cousin Jane when she comes could help you find the station that you can hear these C.B.C. programs over. for I am sure you would enjoy them.

This morning we woke to 4 inches of snow and it seems altogether too much like winter, we got spoiled during that fine spell of weather in September. I would like to have raked the leaves off the lawn but there are still some on the trees to come off yet. It seems to be trying to clear but promises more snow tomorrow on the radio.

We have been busy the last two days getting the sump hole in the basement fixed. When they built the basement it was so near water level that we put in a tin set down below the level of the floor, and in that is a pump which when the tin gets filled with water turns on and pumps it out. The tin was not a very good one and got eaten through so it leaked all the time and we couldn't leave it that way all winter and go away. So ordered a copper one that the soil won't eat through and Jim Watt was to come and fix it in the whole in place of the tin one. We waited for him all Monday morning but he didn't show up until 3 that afternoon with his helper. As soon as they got the tin out of the cement, the hole filled up rapidly with muck and water, The Helper had to chip out cement to make a larger hole for the copper and they had to pump it out as they worked. Then when they set the copper in and tried to pump the water out through a hole in the bottom (which they plugged later) it still stayed up to floor level around the outside. *between the copper & cement.*

Jim Watt worked hard all afternoon and came back later in the evening and the pump had to work all the time to keep the water from coming up over the floor. Then yesterday he came back and managed to cement it around the outside of the copper and the pump has to go until it sets. We hope that there is no leak and that the cement holds. But it has been a bit of a worry.

I have been trying to do up overseas parcels but haven't gotten very far. We had a letter from the coast, from David *Strand* this time and it took most all day to figure out an answer. We do get so provoked over the way they do things but if one doesn't help at times they get into a worse mess! The hard part is knowing what is best to do *not to do.*

We had Jonny and Billy down yesterday and Billy asked all sorts of questions of Pete, Whether he thought Adam and Eve were the first man and women or were they snails and dinasaus (can't spell it and haven't time to look it up as we must get some letters in the mail.)

Have written Russ about Dr. Riley, he should be in Boston for two weeks after the 22nd of October. Hope he can get out to Concord for think you would enjoy him very much and he you. Am so glad that Patsy Bailey took Mrs Charlotte Browne out to see you and you would like her husband so much, his mother was brought up in Honolulu and he has Grandpas book, he bought it once.

Loads of love,

Catherine

Those round things on the stamps are stretched skins
it is to commemorate the fur traders.

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. Oct. 22, 1950.

Dearest Mother,

I am still trying to clean out the desk and such a job. Jonny was over yesterday afternoon and was rather disgusted at the amount of stuff we kept, he was anxious to help but I am not sure I did so well with all his questions of " what's this ? " "Why do you want to keep that ? " etc. He sorted out the postcards I have accumulated and counted 58 ! So don't be surprised if you get a few instead of letters. Out of the 7 drawers 3 are tidied, but I must confess some of the things went in on top of the other 4, maybe if I wasn't interrupted so often I might do better.

This week has gone pretty fast, we have been thinking of going away for the three coldest and darkest months of the winter, leaving here about the middle of November and coming back the end of February. We would take the Jeep and start off by driving down to California, haven't made up our minds just which way to go. Right now we are so busy thinking of the things to do here before we leave and also what we will need with us. We are planning to make the Jeep sleepable in case we want to camp out anytime to save U.S. dollars. We had an ~~old~~ large box a foot deep and about 3 feet square made to fit the other Jeep so that we could store things in it and Pete has hinged an end on it to lock and by taking out two of the back seats and ~~put~~ folding the single one forward we can put the box in the back, and with this lid lifted up on a level with the box and two seat cushions at the end by the tale gate it makes a nice 6 foot bed. Mr Nudd is to make a canvas to fit over the open end ^{at the back when we sleep} and we have air mattresses for the bed. Then we can slip out suitcases etc, under us inside the box when we are sleeping and they won't be in the way. Pete has also had the primus stove out to try that and we are trying this time to get things planned ahead. I will let you know more later.

Jimmy Simpson was down one morning ~~xxxxafternoon~~ telling us all about ~~How~~ Lake and what they plan etc. and then later he brought us a wonderful great big piece of venison. My but it is good, we cut off a steak every day and it is just as tender as can be. We could roast it but we like it cooked as steaks best. So we have been living well.

Mt Watt was down the beginning of the week to fix the sump hole and has the pump going hard all the time to keep the water out until the cement around the copper has dried. He was down again yesterday and usually plans to get here about tea time and then of course we have to chat and tell stories for a time, yesterday it was all about teeth, Jonny was here too and very interested. Most of the stories were about false ones.

I also got 11 parcels off for overseas. ^{at the store} They put ⁱⁿ the various things like. 2lb. of bacon, 1 lb of lard and 1 of butter, 1 of raisons, 2 lbs of cake and this time I sewed cotton bags for

each 5 lbs of sugar then a tin of salmon, 1 of hamburgers and the rest jello, chocolate and anything small to fill up the corners. They are all 20 lbs. It takes a while to fit the things in just right and then I do them up well, I found that some didn't get there in very good condition from the store, I have some more to do ^{this week} ~~and~~ when the bacon comes in they ran out of the tinned kind.

We also had a call from Charlie Beil one evening just before supper, he goes away for a trip to Arizona and New Mexico this coming week. But on the whole we haven't had many people dropping in and so have managed to get more done. *The Sequoias were here too Friday afternoon. They will be operating Temple & Skoti.*

I am sure there was lots to tell you and can't think what it was so will send this along as there really isn't time to-day to answer letters. though I want to soon. I like to read them and then sort of chat to you about them.

There is a good concert every Friday night over the C.B.C. (Canadian Broadcasting Corp) The Simpson hour and it is a whole hour of Symphony or Pop concert from Toronto. Then Sunday nights there is a program " Singing Stars of to-morrow " and each week 2 singers, a boy and a girl sing 2 or 4 selections, or maybe it is 4 singers singing 2 songs each, then the audience picks the best or maybe judges do. Later on the best from each week sings against another singer and finally it gets to the finals and the best boy and best girl singer gets a scholarship of \$1000. each. It is really quite interesting to see whether someone you think awfully good gets into the finals or not. It used to be the middle of Sunday afternoon but is now in the evening here.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. Oct. 25, 1950

Dearest Mother,

Maybe I should be writing notes to-night but it is getting near bedtime and I can't think well enough and it is always easier to write to you than to anyone else, So don't worry if I seem to write more than I should to you for I wouldn't be using the time to write other letters anyway.

We are having such funny weather, It snowed last week 3 or 4 inches and it never melted, yesterday in the sun it went a little and then was warm all night and up to 50 to-day and though rather cloudy it seemed like spring and the snow is all gone, now to-night it is raining hard, it might easily have been snow, I hope it dries soon, enough to rake the lawns which are covered with leaves. They never fell off in the good weather and no chance to tidy them up. *Plus A.M. Grand white again with snow. but melted later.*

Ules LeCasse and his son Leonard have been working for us finishing the low one rail fence across the front of our property and Barbaras. They did as much as they could last fall but Ules has been too busy with other jobs to do anything until now. they are also taking out more trees to give us more light and one hardly notices there are any less.

We have been busy with all sorts of things to see to. Pete was at the dentist Monday while I did errands and was to meet him later but really wasted a lot of time for he was longer than we expected and the store where I was to shop was closed. Then to-day I went to the dentist and evidently have about 5 tiny fillings around old ones to do, luckily there are two new young dentists who have just come to Banff and opened a clinic and you don't have to wait a week or two for an appointment. We also took the Jeep over to ~~the~~ Nudd this afternoon to have him measure it up for a canvas that will fit over the back when it is open so that we will have more room to sleep inside. He used to make car tops so is good at that sort of thing.

The kids came down yesterday at noon, Lona and Mary Lee to ask if we would be in later after school, they are making Hulu costumes for the Hallowee'n party. We started something when we recorded "Hawaii calls" Sunday afternoon, for Patsy MacKenzie is to dress as a Hawaiian and now Lona and Mary Lee have the idea. Jonny and Billy are to be a donkey, I can just imagine them for they are apt to get the giggles. Mary Lee and Lona were really awfully cunning, one had forgotten her blouse (they both had shopping bags full of crepe paper etc. they had left here at noon) so had to borrow one of mine, They will wear white sweaters underneath for Hallowee'n they go from house to house for Hallowee'n apples. But the rest of their costume is more like a Hula costume. They have green grass skirts made of paper and little sleeveless pink tops. Then a wreath of roses in their hair and they have the leis to

They have done it all themselves.

make. They put on the costumes and took off their shoes and stockings " so they could dance better " It seems that when they go to the hospital they usually do something in return for the apples, and have recited something other years so this year for a change they think they will put on a dance, even if there is no music. I don't know what the nuns will think of a Hula being danced, but actually they danced very prettily. We played Hawaiian music and they made up the dance as they went along. Jonny and Billy we kept quiet as best we could as they wanted to be in on it too, but we told them it was the girls who had come first. It was quite an afternoon.

It is now Thursday night, and this letter has been interrupted a good many times. We were going to Calgary this week but haven't made it yet and want to get our Christmas card drawn before going down. We also wanted to see what we could do to help the Graysons. But Aunt Maggie's leg hasn't healed as rapidly as they thought and so she will be one more week in the hospital, Pete telephoned the doctor and I think we will help them get a room in a hotel there, for a few months anyway. *She can't put her weight on that leg for 3 months. Is over 80.*

If only people would do things when they say they would we wouldn't waste so much time waiting! Jim Watt was to come Tuesday afternoon and we haven't seen him yet. It means we will have to try and find him at his house at noon or night. Then we were to have something done on the car this afternoon. between 1.30 and 2. when we went there was a note on the door, " had to go on a rush call, leave the car " but Pete wouldn't leave the car on the street with the key in it, and kept going back every so often. About 4 he found the man who had had to go to Exshaw to claim a stolen article or something and it was too late to do anything by then, but Pete could have been working on the car. Now it will be tomorrow morning. I had a dentist appointment and it took me about 1 1/2 hours, The dentist is young and very careful which I like, but the new filling stuff takes 4 minutes to dry and there were two little holes so that took quite a time and then another 10 minutes for them both to dry enough to take off the rough edges, So my afternoon was shot. The "eCasses worked away on the trees and cut up the wood with their machine in fireplace lengths and will pile it for us. They are good workers and we are getting a lot done in old trees coming out. They haul the branches off to the dump and clean it all up.

Yesterday we took the Jeep over to have Mr Nudd make the top and we no sooner arrived than he disappeared to find Geham the plumber who is so hard to catch, and it was about 20 minutes before Nudd came back with a new stove pipe length Gehman had made, Actually it was as well for we changed our mind how we wanted the thing done and decided to take the little seat out, just keep the front seats in. Gives a lot more room in back.

Bubby was over twice to-day, asking us to take the recorder to their French class, they are each to read a certain paragraph and see how their pronunciation is, the teacher wants the school to get one.

Better get on with my thank you notes. Did I tell you we got a whole box of walnuts in the shell from the Potters in California.

The ones in the accident & a jar of fruit. Both delicious.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. Oct, 29, 1950

Dearest Mother,

I must write you a letter to-night for this has been a Red Letter Day, for we met Alec Templeton, the one who does those wonderful take-offs on the opera, and will make a beautiful composition out of four entirely different melodys, (or whatever you call them.) Is totably blind and has been since birth I think. Am sure you must have heard him on the radio. He used to have a program of his own. Very clever, and awfully amusing. He has one bit of a person tuning a radio dial and all the different programs running into one another. and a trip down the corridor of a music school, with singing in one room and a piano in another etc. In the opera things he takes the part of all the singers and also the announcer who sounds exactly like the one for the real opera broadcasts. and whenedo you think we met him? At the Garbage Dump!

We are still having poor weather, a bit of snow on the ground most every morning, and this being Sunday and we having a load of stuff for the Garbage from the shed, we thought we would take it out to the dump as no one much would be there, and we don't like to put a mess of stuff out on the road by the gate. So out we went about 9.30 or 10 o'clock. We ~~xxxxxxx~~ found a beautiful big Elk picking over yesterday's dumpings and he wandered up, just as we were in the midst of throwing stuff over the edge a big black car drove up. Looked at the Elk and then slowly made the circle to near us. I looked at the liscence to see if it was a local car and saw the letters A.L.E.C. on the liscence plate and suddenly remembered having read in the Calgary Papper in an article about Alec Templeton who had just given a concert there Thursday, that his Connecticut Liscence had just "ALEC Ct." on it. So I said to Pete " It's Alec Templeton ! "

We had spoken about his being in Banff and Pete thought he remembered having seen him on the street as he is blind. and we even mentioned that it would be fun to play him the Indian recordings. so when they came to a stop near us looking for bears Pete spoke to them and we talked for a bit. The Manager, Stanley North, and Mrs Templeton were in the front seat and Alec behind looking very tired and weary, but he brightened up as Pete talked and when Pete wondered if he would be interested in Indian recordings he was awfully pleased. The Manager got out and came around to the side of the car to look us over I guess and both he and Mrs Templeton said they hadn't much time, were going to swim after a drive out to Minnewanka and in the afternoon go to Lake Louise as well as another swim in the Hot Springs, So we told them if they had time and wanted to, to come to the house where we lived and they thanked us very much. We said we would be home all day.

Of course after that we didn't settle down to do much. Having neglected dusting I ran around with a duster and picked things up, for though the dust didn't show very much I thought if they did come and he felt things it might seem very thick.

When they didn't come before lunch we made a quick one and got the dishes out of the way. Susan and Patsy came about 3 o'clock and showed us the celophane skirt Patsy had made for her Hula costume for Hallowee'n and we fitted Susan out in an Indian dress, moccasins and all, after ginger ale and cake they left. Then we began to realize that after all the Templetons didn't know what kind of a house we lived in or anything about us and probably wouldn't come at all. So we started getting the Jeep cleaned out in the back and swept it up. Suddenly noticed a car similar to theirs drive by, so thought they might be looking for us and would go round the block. Pete moved the Jeep and we were all expectant, but no one came.

I had gotten the Indian recordings all set up on the Recorder so we wouldn't waste any time if they did come, but when it got to be 4.30 we decided to try and record Hawaii Calls at 5 as they wouldn't be coming. Mary Lee came along about then to show us a Lei she was making out of paper for her costume and we gave her gingerale and then she curled up and read a book while we recorded the Hawaiian music. The oven when it went on baking some ham made a noise on the radio so I turned it off and at the end of the program had to turn it back on, had just come back into the living room and was sewing some bags to hold the paper ones of sugar, at the same time reminding the recorder when someone wrapped on the front window. It was Jimmy Masterson from the Upper Hot Springs. I rushed to the door and sure enough, there was Alec and Mrs Templeton on the front door step!

X They couldn't make us hear their knock and so Jimmy seeing a light, came and wrapped on the window. They said they could hear the Hawaiian music and she looked in and thought Pete's portrait of Mable the little Lei Girl was a real Hawaiian standing there.

✓ They could only stay about 10 minutes, had evidently let the manager take Jimmy Masterson home for in about ten minutes he was back and blew his horn. "e sent Mary Lee out to bring him in too and they all stayed an hour till 6.30 !

At first Alec Templeton seemed sort of nervous. They have been on a 2 months tour and are all tired. came here to rest for a few days but have to drive 300 miles to Lethbridge and give a concert their to-morrow night. But as soon as we had started the Indian music he got tremendously interested and his whole face sort of woke up. Pete got the Indian drum warmed up and showed him how they hit it and he held that and sort of kept time to their music. We also played some of the Hawaiian things and he got all keyed up on those. They had been there last summer, (not this), and before that he hadn't thought much about their music but thinks it perfectly wonderful now. He also asked if we knew Chick Daniels, and he was the first Hawaiian that Pete was told to look up by Doris Jack in 1929 and we even painted a portrait of him in 1934. So pretty soon we had a lot in common. It was wonderful to watch his enjoyment of the music and especially of the Balinese records, and his wife seemed so pleased to see him so happy. We really had a wonderful visit.

As they were leaving they said something about how fortunate they were to meet us - and I said the funny part was that we met at the Garbage Dump. and Alec Templeton thought that terribly funny, and he laughed and said to Pete, "I thought there was rather a peculiar smell about the place" I guess he didn't know where they were exactly.

They hope now to come back to Banff for Indian Days and if they do will get in touch with us and we will get the Indians to play and sing for them. It really was lots of fun and Mary Lee was so cunning about it all, she was supposed to go early but I am sure will be forgiven for staying over the time.

You know it is funny how things happen. If we had met them at a reception somewhere given by Mrs Vanderbilt, we would have been just two more people, but they probably will never forget meeting us at the Nuisance Grounds! They said it made it so much nicer knowing someone in Banff who belonged here.

Monday. We still haven't recovered from yesterday's visit and can hardly believe the Templetons were really here. It is the first time we have had a blind person in the house and it was interesting the way his wife sort of left him in front of a chair. He turned around as a dog sometimes does before sitting down, as if to get his bearings. The first time he turned around he found he wasn't near a chair and so just stood, but the next time he made the same circular movement and then sat down.

At first Alec Templeton was rather nervous, kept moving his head and sort of stretching his neck and sort of moved his fingers and clasped and unclasped his hands, but in a short time he became more relaxed and when Pete gave him the Indian Drum he seemed more at home with a musical instrument in his hand and sort of beat time to the music and once or twice sang as the Indians did. His face lit up and it was quite wonderful to see his enjoyment and interest in the music. I think He liked the Balinese the best and would like to get a gamelon, not an easy thing to acquire, so I gave her the name of Colin McPhee's book to get as it tells so much about the Balinese music in that. *He has an album of Bali records.*

Must go to the mail no,

Loads of love

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Fri. Nov. 3, 1950

Dearest Mother,

I don't think I have written you all week, not since last Sunday night. It took us quite a while to recover from the visit of Alec Templeton, for we have listened to him as often as we could over the radio and never expected him to be in the house.

Monday was almost as bad, can't remember just what we did but know we were busy all day seeing to this and that. met George Encil over town and he asked if he could bring a newspaper man from Sweden over at 8.30 that evening as John Poutham of the Calgary Herald had suggested he bring him down to our house. We had two Swedish correspondents last year, who came with George, one a photographer and the other a writer and they were young and very interesting. So when George came early at 8 o'clock and introduced the "Vicomte du Guerny" (we discovered his name later in the newspaper as he gave a talk in Calgary) I was a bit taken aback, for he is the first Viscount we have had here!

At first he was a bit difficult to talk to, He is really French, born near St Malo in Brittany and speaks English without the trace of a French or Swedish accent. and is the Stockholm Correspondent for the London News Chronicle. He was in Finland during their war with Russia and then Sweden and one of the first in Norway after the liberation. When we got on that subject he was more talkative and very interesting but ~~it~~ took ~~a~~ time to warm up. and poor George was so sleepy that I finally made him a cup of tea to keep him awake, the Vicomte drank three bottles of beer during the course of the 4 hours they were here, but would eat nothing, and smoked a pipe and quite enjoyed himself after the first two hours. I guess he didn't know what to make of us, but later felt right at home.

He was a large tall man, very English, wore Finnish calf's leather high boots with curled up tops, we all admired those. When he came in, first thing he spotted was the old camera that belonged to Pete's grandfather Curren, a museum piece with wooden bellows and later he was very interested in the lenses for the Leica. We also played some of the Indian Recordings which he enjoyed and he also said something over the recorder which was amusing. About any story he has read in Time Magazine that he knows anything about is usually wrong. I felt like saying that was true of things in the newspapers too but didn't like to! He said they send out their correspondents to cover certain things or subjects, which they do well, but sometimes it is so long afterwards when they use the material that it isn't all ~~truly~~ ~~etc~~ or they re-write it and give it the wrong meaning. But some things are of course well done.

We also got out all the Indian things and some slides too. It was quite an evening. Towards the end when he really warmed up he told us about the real Finnish baths. How they usually when re-building their war damaged farms and houses would build the bath first it was so important to them. It is a room about 10 feet square I should think with sort of tiers or shelves around the walls that you sit or lie on, the top shelf being the warmest spot and you can stretch your legs up and put your feet on the ceiling if you can stand it. The fire is fed from the outside hallway I think he said so that you don't get the smoke. (It must be like an oven) If it gets too hot you throw water on the hot ~~stone~~ stones I think he said. and of course you perspire like the dickens. It gets to about 150 on the top shelf. After you have been in the place a long time then you run outside and jump in the snow and roll in it. The most exhilarating feeling, or into a cold brook running outside. Even at 30 below you do this. I may not have all the facts just right but that is about what he said. *the temperatures are correct.*

He also told us that when he was in Helsinfors before the Germans invaded Norway, that they knew two days before the plans of the Nazis to go into Norway but that no one would believe them in England. At the end of the German occupation he was just lucky and got across the border at a small place from Sweden and was one of the first in, if not the first. He said that he had been warned to take 4 days supply of food with him and when he got into Norway there was literally no food to be had. The people in Oslo were living on raw herring and that was all. He also told us about the sailing ships and how a few of the remaining ones are kept going, more out of sentiment than anything else. He also was very interested as to when the King of Sweden died for his wife is looking after things while he is away and he says at a time like that the newspapers want the news before you can get it almost, for deadlines etc. so he was quite relieved to find it was a Sunday and his wife would have time to do it fairly easily. He was on his way to the coast and California.

We were going to Calgary on Tuesday but Pete didn't get the Christmas card done in time and also after their staying till midnight we knew we would be too tired. so put it off until Thursday. It was as well we did for yesterday was a lovely day, only 6 above in the morning when we left at 8, but clear and nice in Calgary. There was snow until Canmore but to-day has been warmer and it is melting thank goodness. A little discouraging to start winter in October, for snow has been on the ground over a week now.

Hallowee'n was Tuesday, only a few kids came here. Lona and Mary Lee to show us their costumes, very cunning, Hawaiian made of paper and all their own ideas. Patsy and Susan came with little Sandra MacKenzie, who is about 3. She had a pirates costume and was awfully cunning. They hadn't theirs on as their party didn't start until 9 I guess, the younger kids started about 7.30. They keep the kids busy with a party. Patsy won a prize we heard later. Poor Jonny and Billie both got the mumps and so couldn't be seen a donkey.

We are just hoping and praying that we don't get the mumps for Billie was down Saturday or Sunday and wasn't at school on Monday and Jonnie was here with Robbie Walker Monday night and had them Tuesday morning.

I have been to the dentist 3 times this week too, and we had company Wednesday night, Marmie Hess from Calgary with a lovely bunch of oak leaves, treated in some way to make them last in the house and also toned a dull red. Knowing them in their natural shades I am not too keen about them but they are effective. Luckily she and Margery Crosby left early so we got to bed by ten.

Guess I had better do some bills and wrap up some more parcels, the last ones for overseas I think. We were busy to-day with Syd Vallance coming about Pete's will after lunch and Mr Watt to fix the sump hole in the basement. He was to have come Monday, then Tuesday and later Wednesday, evidently came yesterday and then we got hold of him this A.M. If people didn't keep you waiting we wouldn't take so long to do things!

Will be answering your letters(perhaps ?) over the weekend.

Nice that Cousin Jane is with you, do give her my love and while I think of it, I never have seen that Ski book she wrote about, illustrated by the songs of a friend of hers.

Loads of love,

Catherine

7.5. The Calendars have come. Thanks so much.
 I forgot to mention that the Viscount spotted the little clay figures you gave me years ago of the 5 Brittany figures sitting on a bench "gossips". He said his nurse used to wear a cap like the women on the bench. & he also spoke of how they all wore wooden clogs when they were kids children.

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. Nov. 8, 1950

Dearest Mother,

I don't seem to find time to write at all but I know you understand. Will send our San Francisco Address either at the end of this letter or enclosed in it. We will be there at Thanksgiving time so you will know where to think of us and ~~xxxxx~~ at least we hope to arrive there two days before.

We had to make another trip to Calgary yesterday which was rather annoying. Seems that with the new American regulations about aliens going in they are not sure what applies in each case. As we will probably be on the states over three months Pete got a Canadian Passport to be on the safe side, then in the papers there were articles about when Visas were necessary etc. The C.P.R. agent wrote and telephoned the consulate in Calgary and they wrote Pete a letter saying it was not necessary as he is a born Canadian to have any of it. Then we went to Calgary last Thursday about the Christmas card and a new hat for me (I got one that is really comfortable and looks very well I think, even stays on without an elastic, for \$5.98 so was very pleased) and a gray lace dress for the odd evening, not long but a little dressy, (called a Cocktail dress) for \$22.50 so thought I did pretty well. It seems a shame to spend a lot on something you won't wear very much, though of course in 5 or 10 years I do get into it a few times ! I got these on the first tip. Well we no sooner got back from Calgary, the very next day than the C.P.R. agent came around at supper time to tell us that Mrs Kennedy had been to the consulate as she is going to visit her daughter in Honolulu this winter and she had to have her finger prints taken and all sorts of rigamarole, so they thought that Pete had better do the same on reconsideration. So we had to drive down yesterday.

Davidson had made an appointment at 2.30 for us and as we hadn't really much else to do there was no use hurrying so we decided not to make too early a start but leave about 11 as Pete didn't want to get in before lunch and then have to wait for the consul to come back from his around two. It snowed again the evening before, (just when all the snow had gone once more) and there was about an inch. It was about 30 but was melting in the sun and was terribly slippery, have never seen it much worse. Where there was still snow it wasn't too bad but the water on ice was awful and you couldn't go more than about 20 or 25 the first 40 miles. One just didn't dare. We had lots of time we thought but never expected to have it so bad underfoot. In some places it must have hailed for the ice was pebbly. We reached Calgary about 2.15 and by the time we had parked the car and got into the Consulate by just steady going, we got there one minute before 2.30 having left home ten minutes before 11. We did stop a couple of times for tea and a sandwich. but otherwise kept moving. Did a few errands in a half hour and then headed back. It was better

for a good deal had melted since morning and the rest was frozen but in the half light around six it was hard to see the icy spots. We were back at 6.30.

The joke was on me in regards to the dentist. Pete didn't go all last year until just before we went east, and only had one tooth to fill. I had been to Calgary to have mine cleaned in August but Dr DeRanzy is old and doesn't want to be bothered with little fillings, so Pete suggested I try the one here who is new. and he found a lot of little holes around old fillings mostly, and I have already gone 4 times and have to go to-day and Friday. He isn't very quick but awfully nice and careful but you know how a dentist appointment just cuts up the morning or afternoon.

We are still getting ready, trying to make our baggage as compact as possible and yet have the car arranged for sleeping and camping in if we want. We are doing pretty well getting things planned out, but last Saturday afternoon we had just backed the Jeep up to the back door and had the box in that we will sleep on and the back canvas fitted when Susan and Patsy came along on their bikes and were so anxious to help. They did try out the air mattresses etc. but it is all the chatter and questions that we find a bit confusing and finally we gave up and decided to come in. Poor Jonny hasn't been over for a week as he and Billy have both had the mumps.

Tell Russ that I will write him as soon as his letter comes about the Codicil to my will, or if he doesn't send it I will write in the next day or two anyway. We won't need any money in San Francisco and I will send him the Income Tax information and all soon. *his wife came today*

Better get started on a few things. Loads of love and once we start I might find more time to write.

*Loads of love
Catherine*

Tues. Nov 14th '50

No. 39. CARIBOU (Rangifer caribou)

These shy, though curious, animals are found in the remote Alpland meadows of the Rockies.

TAYLORCHROME
COLOUR CARD
CANADIAN ROCKIES SERIES

Dearest Mother

We are nearly started. Hope to get away by now but there are always so many last minute things. I will write in a day or two.

Got yours + jeans in mail. Forget to write Russ on his birthday and thought of him yesterday
Soads of love

Catherine

14/11/50
G.M.

