

Banff, Alberta.  
Thurs. Jan. 3, 1951

[1952]

Dearest Mother,

This is Russell's and Kitty's wedding anniversary and I always forget it, happened to write up my diary and so remembered. Your nice letter written Sunday just came and we are so glad that you liked the little Pewter vase, I think it is Danish or Swedish, a girl here imports lovely things from there and the pewter is especially nice, I had a hard time picking which shape to send you and then thought this might be different for flowers. We hope the viewer works well and is easy to manage, we have one that is similar but this one sounded easier to use and we thought when people dropped in and you had a few slides you maybe wanted them to see that they could just slide them through, no screens and lights etc. to bother with. Of course I am hoping to get a lot of our slides sorted out and mounted and then send you the duplicates. But you will have to be patient. Right now we have so many thank you notes to write. Just yesterday three new presents came. a lovely soft scarf from Jessie Brown to match the gloves she sent before. Shetland Isles Or Fair Isles, lovely colors. I wore it last night as it is short and narrow and just right on cold nights. Then we got a nice big tin of Short bread from Greta Lauder, Harry Lauder's neice, and a book from Mr Young in Scotland. They all like to send something in appreciation of the parcels. *Was there duty on the vase?*

We had quite a busy New Years in the end. Of course I can't remember when I last wrote, these holidays have me all mixed up. must have been Sunday I wrote. We called on Mrs Moffat in the afternoon, the dearest, brightest and cheeriest little lady and she loves to have us come. Then to the Vallances at Home which was very nice, just the right amount. We were all supposed to drop in for a short time but most of us went early and stayed until after six, we all had a good time and the people were all friends. May have told you this. It was very cold and frosty, had been -35 or -40 that morning.

Monday was still cold, we had the usual errands in the morning and then Jonny came over and on the way to the mail he told us that John Ness was in the hospital so Pete went to see him and though very ill he brightened up on seeing Pete. He went again yesterday but old John was just sitting in a chair and didn't know him at all, Pete said he looked as if he were dead. He is a Norwegian and so deaf now the family couldn't make him hear. It is sad. Then we went to the Wards but Sam was out and we didn't stay long but said we would go back later. Then we thought it a good chance to drop in on Nellie Noble. She is nearly 70 I would imagine and had years of looking after her husband Bill Noble who had hardening of the arteries of the brain and didn't remember things and had to be watched all the time as he would wander away. People knew him and would bring him back but it was all very difficult and in the end he imagined he was back in the first war and he would tear down the curtains and throw things etc. He finally died last spring and poor Nellie was just as



thin and old looking as could be. She went to the coast for a while and got a rest but she still was pretty thin. Then this fall some friends she met either here in summer or on a boat going to the old country, asked her to come to Chicago for a visit, and with a bit of urging she went. Seems that the brother of these friends is a millionaire, so Nellie says, and she had the most wonderful time you can imagine. It really tells like a story book, she speaks with a real Lancashire accent and drops Hs and adds them and is most amusing. She sees the fun in things and I can just imagine what fun the people had showing her things and making her laugh. She told us in all seriousness that she had memories of the visit that would last her a lifetime and all she had to do was just think back on them. "Why" she said "we lived like millionaires, on pheasant and quail and partridge not just chicken" and they took her to night clubs and we had all kinds of Cocktails", She calls them "Cocktiles" and in her words, "Howard would say, 'ave another Grassopper, Nellie!" Evidently this was a kind of cocktail. She was really a scream telling about it all "Last thing Howard said was, 'We'll be seeing you in Florida next winter." and he evidently has bought a 60 foot yacht that will hold 8 people and intends to cruise all around near Florida. It really is like a dream for her after the years she had with Bill and he was the kind that when they did go places they never saw much. We had quite a call there, Jonny consuming great quantities of candy.

Mom was down and had supper with us that night and then we spent a very quiet New Years eve going to bed early and hearing the New Year in when Tully Montgomery rang the bells on the Anglican Church where they have a carillon, it did sound nice in the frosty air.

New Years day we cooked a goose, starting it at 9.30 with apple stuffing which is quick and easy. Jonny and Billy came in about eleven and wanted to try the snowshoes, so Pete helped tie them on and they were in and out the rest of the day. There was a strong cold west wind so they got cold but ran fast enough to keep warm, both were to have supper in the late afternoon, or dinner and looked so hungry as the goose smelled better and better that we just had to ask them for lunch, there was plenty, just mean't a little more potato and turnips. We didn't do much but go and call on the Scotts, Mr Scott having had the same thing Pete did a real bug going around. I wrote three letters but otherwise basting the goose and watching the kids occupied the morning. As soon as lunch was over about 2 o'clock, Jon and Bill were off on the snowshoes again and then Garry MacCullough arrived and the three of them took turns, always one and maybe two being in the kitchen watching the other making a new trail.

We were still washing dishes when Verne Castella dropped in and I let Pete talk to him while I finished up the pots and pans but before he left the Lou Luxtons came to see us, they had never been down before, at least she hadn't. they are Olive Beils parents. They were so interested in everything, even the little figures. Harold came about then and the kids all had gingerale and fruit cake in the kitchen and really looked after themselves pretty much. Garry said he was going skating but that this was much more fun. Before the Luxtons left Jimmy Lamb came for just a minute and stayed until six. The kids had gone, Jon at 4 for his supper and Bill and Garry at five. When they left they called, "thanks Catharine for a swell time and thanks for the refreshments."



We never went out as we had planned to see Edmee, or to a cocktail party we hadn't wanted to go to, and went to bed early.

Yesterday there were errands to be done and we went round by Edmees in the morning but they weren't up, so went back in the afternoon ( as well as 2 trips to the bank ) and made quite a visit there and saw their Christmas presents. Then to the Wards and again Sam was out. As we came home Freddy Crosby told us Marmie Hess and Betty Newton were looking for us and we met them on the road so they followed us back. Had come all the way up from Calgary to see us, return two books and bring us a lovely box of red Chrysanthemums, and Croton leaves which come from Honolulu, but which they had never seen before, ~~and~~ they are all variegated colors and used for table decorations. are flown over.

They stayed until six looking at the new books and the little figures etc. Jonny came over with Barbara as they had left the flowers with her when we weren't home and as Jonny had met Betty before they were old friends. He is so proud of the little figures and really had you sent them specially for him he couldn't have been more pleased.

When they left we had to put the car away so took some of the Hawaiian leaves to Pearl Moore at the Mt Royal and she wanted us to go up to the Wards that evening ~~for~~ so we said we would, had a quick supper here and then drove her up and Edmee joined us later. We had a nice time and everyone was pleased. Pearl said she had really enjoyed it as she doesn't like big crowds any more.

So that brings us around to to-day. We have the tree down and will have to get busy straightening up the house.

Have you seen the book on birds gotten out by the National Geographic ? I sent for one for Jean Vallance and now Miss Ashmole wants one for a nephew in England and we would like one for ourselves. It is so nice now there are no restrictions on sending money across the line and so I am going to order two copies to be sent to you, one to send on to us as soon as it comes. the other for you to look at and read before sending to us. There is duty if they come direct. They are the loveliest and most interesting pictures. am sure Dr Bartlett would like to see them and the reading part is interesting too.

Do hope you will feel better soon, Mildred wrote us such a nice letter and seemed to be enjoying the quiet time and was hoping that she could entertain you a bit for a change , like reading aloud etc. Lots of people here have had colds too.

Loads of love,

Catharine.



Banff, Alberta.  
Sun. Jan. 6, 1952

Dearest Mother,

Two nice letters have just come from you and so glad that you are better, you didn't exactly say so but your letters sounded so. We are so pleased that the viewer for slides works so well and I must get busy and mount some to send. We have one too but an older model and you have to push a handle in and pull it out in a certain way and sometimes the things catch, but otherwise it is quite wonderful and we find for two or three people it is the best way to show them a few slides.

We are interested in the Concord Football team but didn't know much about it until you told us they went off to play etc. That was a very nice letter to read.

~~arrived here~~  
The Wrangler you sent of Erling Stroms we usually get but didn't this year, maybe it got lost in the mail, The reason it was sent to Russ or you is because of the help you gave Erling when he bought the place at Stowe. Remember you lent him some money as I couldn't at the time due to Foreign Exchange regulations and he paid it all back. Russ ought to go up there some time and see the place at Stowe.

We are having a nice mild spell, it was up to 22° above to-day but after the cold around Christmas and New Years it seems real warm, has been sunny and bright and we have just enough snow to make it pretty. Were up to see if they were working on the Ski Hill this morning but they weren't, so went to say good-bye to Sam and Cis instead. They leave at 8 in the morning by Grayhound bus, spend a night in Calgary and then go to Great Falls, Butte Montana, Idaho falls, and Salt Lake City, then Las Vegas Nevada and Los Angeles and San Diego. come back via San Francisco and the coast route maybe to Victoria, expect to be gone until March I think. It is just 4 nights to Los Angeles, for they stop over where they like for the night.

I forgot about the National Geographics, you can send them anytime you like to us in Banff. The customs is in Calgary and they sometimes hold them there, write to us and ask what they are, and then release them and they come on here. We don't have to go to Calgary at all.

I am sure by Mildreds letter that she was enjoying her quiet stay with you, you know it is a pleasure for people to just be in the house and look at books and things and eat the good food without cooking it !

The Campbells didn't mention the books <sup>you sent</sup> to us either but the only word we have had since Christmas was rather hurried and since then they have been snowed in, so I expect you will hear later, but in any case I will ask when I write, if of course I can remember.



Betty Newton's address is - 2513 5th.St.West. Calgary, Alberta.

She told us that she had sent you a book about Banff or the country round here, sort of as a Christmas card. She really did appreciate all you did for her.

I never thought of the Root girl as the one making those little people, we would love another set. Are they very expensive? Mary Lee and Lona would love them for their birthdays, What are the other months like I wonder? Everyone who comes in admires them and Jonny boasts about their belonging to him.

Jon was here for lunch and then later we went up <sup>again</sup> to see the Ski Hill and only one man was working to-day but we will go another afternoon, Now Lona and Mary Lee are trying on old Ski pants which are too small for me and soon we will take Susan to the train as she goes to School in Calgary this term. Great excitement.

So will send this along now.

Loads of love,  
Catherine.

P.S. So, glad you sent the letter from Mrs Brown about Patsy Bailey I didn't realize that she hadn't gone to Honolulu yet and what a time they had with the baby. I should have answered her letter way back in the summer but didn't until our Christmas note.

Forgot to mention the bird feeding station at Hospital in memory of Elizabeth Parsons. Its the loveliest idea. a nice design.



Banff, Alberta.  
~~Wed. Jan. 9, 1952.~~  
Thurs. Jan. 10, 1952.

Dearest Mother,

It looks as if our mild spell is over and cold air coming in from the north, you could see sort of frosty clouds around Cascade Mt. It snowed three inches last night, nice fluffy snow and has been overcast all day, and now at four is snowing gently again. The birds are very busy at the peanut butter and the turkey and Goose carcass we have hanging from the eaves. Mostly chic-a-dees and nut hatches, a few Clarks crows and one woodpecker to-day.

We were awfully interested in Capt. Kurt Carlsen on the Flying Enterprise, for a while this morning we were afraid he and ~~the~~ Kenneth Dancy, ~~the~~ mate from the British Tug Turmoil who went aboard to help him a few days ago might go down with the ship. Wonder did you listen to it on the radio? Last night we heard a man speak from a Lancaster bomber flying over the boat and describing the waves washing right over it. even then it would be at a 70 or 80 degree angle at times, and I think it was night before last that the towing cable broke. Then this morning they said that the Capt. was to send up a flare in the night if they wanted to be taken off but they were still there this morning. At last they signalled that they would have to leave the ship and a British Helicopter with special rescue winches left an English airfield but had to turn back because of the gale blowing. and finally the radio gave the news that the two men had been taken off by the tug Turmoil. We listened to the British News at 10 A.M. and they said the Enterprise had just sunk, only a short time after the men had abandoned her. It was listing so badly that they walked up the funnel and then jumped into the sea from there with life belts on, were in the water just four minutes before being picked up. Then it said "both men were in good condition when they were brought aboard the tug and ~~have~~ were given rum each and then went below to change their clothes." It sounded as if they had gone to dress for dinner!

Jonny and Garry MacCullough have just been here after school. Jon with a bruise over one eye. I asked how he got it and they said that Victor had given it to him. Seems that he was following them down here and they didn't want him to come as only the members of the Peter Catharine Club can come, so Jonny hit him first and Victor hit back a fairly good crack. Jonny didn't seem to mind and they were laughing about it. I guess that is how these exclusive clubs get their start!

*Didn't finish this so will just send  
it along with maybe a clipping or two.*

*Lots of love  
Catharine.*



Banff, Alberta.  
Mon. Jan. 14, 1952.

Dearest Mother,

I always think I will write so many letters over the weekend and then of course never do. I did get a note off to Jose Harris. Did you by any chance get a card from him showing the family, such an attractive looking wife and her children look so nice too. Will send you ours and then will you please return it as we want to send it to Lucy Kerr in England who knew him years ago out here.

Yesterday was a lovely day, sunny and bright and hardly any wind from the west. We went up to see how the clearing was coming on of the new Ski slope, got there about eleven and stayed two hours. About 8 men and two women came and several little boys and they did quite a bit altogether. Some chopped, others knocked off the branches and the rest put the green branches etc. on the fires. It is quite hard work but most of the ones there were school teachers or dentists or indoor people during the week and it is fun for them. The men are like the little boys and all want to chop trees down but no one enjoys the cleaning up part. We were weary enough afterwards to stay home in the afternoon. had showers and took things easy. We missed the girls I think who came while we were both upstairs and Jimmie Simpson too with Larry. We thought it was the kids come back again and as neither of us were dressed we didn't answer the door and then looked out the window when we heard an engine start up and were just in time to see their truck drive away. Soon after Jonny and Garry came along and they kept us busy until it was time for them to go home for supper.

Saturday there was a fire alarm in the midst of my cleaning efforts. Bert Davies loader caught on fire when he lit a fire underneath to warm the parts before starting it! We then did errands and right after lunch at 2 PM. was Mrs Ness's funeral.

The afternoon before we had the kids all in after school, first Lona, Mary Lee and Harold and then Jonny and Garry. and while they were still ~~here~~ looking at books etc. Tully Montgomery came along and stayed until after six, he said he was sorry to delay our supper and expected to be scolded when he got home!

Am so glad that you enjoy the viewer and we are going to find out how to send slides for you to look at and then return. Like our Hawaiian ones.

We are going out now, It is so dark as a north wind came along in the night and changed our lovely weather into a cold stormy day. misty looking with frost in the air and drifting snow, the birds are so busy. By the way I ordered the bird books at the national Geographic to be sent to you in Concord. You could send us one copy as soon as convenient and the other one show to the Bartletts and look at yourself before sending it along as there is no real hurry for it. The reading is interesting too.



Pearl Moore is flying to Jamaica Thursday I think. leaves Banff by car for Calgary, flies to Toronto by late night, then leaves the next noon from Toronto, stops a short time in Nassau and is in Jamaica that same night.

Time to go . Loads of love,

Catharine .



Banff, Alberta.  
Sat. Jan. 19, 1952.

Dearest Mother,

I have a feeling that I haven't written you all week and you can guess the reason why, we have been rather busy, now it is Saturday afternoon and if a lot of kids don't drop in I may get a chance to catch up on what we have been doing.

Sunday morning was lovely and we spent two hours up on the new Ski Hill helping, a late lunch and then we washed up etc. before Garry and Jonny dropped in and were rather amusing as usual. That evening Pete had cramps in his stomach again and made the frequent trips back and forth ~~the~~ to the bathroom which evidently was a return of the flu bug which has been going around. Maybe it was lifting rather heavy logs which started it up again for he had felt fine and eaten a good supper when all of a sudden it started. However it didn't last as long that time, just enough so that I did little that evening. *We saw Mary Costigan & the children after lunch. just back from Boston.*

Monday the usual errands and things to see people about and did a wash too, then just after lunch Bill Jamieson came to borrow some film and stayed a while to talk of the library etc. and then as he left Ronny Duke dropped by to return an oven we had lent them, full of freshly baked rolls. He stopped to tell us about a new job he hopes to get for the Calgary Power Co. We had a letter, just recieved, asking advise about selling photographs and funny they should both drop in who could answer the questions. So as soon as Ronny left, I wrote Gladys the information she wanted. Mailed that and forgot to go to the ceremony when the old little wooden Catholic church was to be given for a Scout, Girl Guide & Brownie and Cub hall, the Government donating the land. But soon Jonny appeared in his cub uniform quite cold from the ceremony so made him Hot chocolate. Then that evening we recorded Churchill's speech from Ottawa which was very good and when that was over went to the Mt Royal about 9 o'clock to see Pearl Moore who left for Jamaica on ~~Wednesday~~ Thursday morning. She was waiting for the dressmaker and so we stayed a while and then waited until the hem was raised or lowered and didn't get home until about 10.30 I guess. Pearl hadn't known what she would do this winter and then a couple named Kennedy who were there when the Moores went before wrote that they were going back and urged Pearl to go with them. Another friend spoke for a plane reservation from Toronto on the same plane as the Kennedys, even before Pearl knew, and then she got the last single room in Shaw Park in Ohio Rios where they had all been together before. *We are glad she has gotten away & is to be with people she likes.*

Tuesday was real cold again - 25° below. We did a few more cards to try and finish them all up, as people like them during the summer often. Also saw Pat Costigan after lunch as he had just come back from Boston. drove in 4 days, alone. too much. but guess he is young enough. They are glad to be back but enjoyed the stay there so much. Then I tried to write more thank you notes,



I feel as Jean does and almost wish the friends wouldn't send us presents it gets such a chore to write them back. Jonny, Billy and Garry dropped in, <sup>show us their report cards</sup> for with the cold weather there is no skating and they have no good place to go after school. Jon said they call this the "Rain and Sleet Club" as it is such a good place to go in bad weather! We had Chinese supper that night and then went to see "Royal Journey" the National Film board's movie of the Royal Tour in Color. It lasts about an hour and we thought it very well done, but what awful weather they had. you should see them leaving Newfoundland in the little boat to go out to the Empress of Scotland, looked like a channel crossing. If it comes to Maynard do go and see it, and if you do, remember that the coach they get out of at the Calgary Stampede is the one that Sam Ward repaired and the man who conducts them is a friend of ours, Jim Cross of Calgary. In one place I had to laugh as he started to take the Duke of Edinburgh by the arm and then realized he shouldn't and pulled his back before he made a mistake. Of course it shows very little of each place but must have been a hard thing to take with such awful weather. We weren't going to stay for the feature picture with Frank Sinatra and Graucho Marx and then did and of course it was 10.30 by the time we got home.

Wednesday was supposed to be a ski outing in the moonlight and we were to do the fire and make coffee and cook weiners but it was so cold the night before they called it off, and then of course a west wind sprang up and it was much milder and they could have gone, but we were just as glad figuring we would have one early night in the week. We did the morning shopping as it was Wednesday a few cards before and after lunch being something easy to do, and then Jim Simpson came in to borrow a book and stayed quite a while as he hadn't been in since before Christmas and there were lots of things to show him and we even got rid of an old painting we had up stairs, a copy of a Charlie Russell but by Old Man Vic a friend of Jims. I think I wrote a letter or two, but soon Jonny and Garry arrived, again, ( we probably won't see them again for a week ) and after the usual gingerale and cookies and a bit of chatter we said we must go over and say good-bye to Pearl Moore who was leaving early next morning. It worked well as Edmee was to pick her up after taking Charlie to curl at quarter to six, but it was nearly 6.15 when Edmee appeared and we had been sitting talking downstairs in the hotel with Pearl. We had a late supper and I usually plan to do the dishes while we listen to the 8 o'clock news and News Roundup which Cam is sometimes on, so was reading the paper when Miss Ashmole from the hospital dropped in to return a book and stayed until nearly eleven. There is always so much to talk talk about as she has lived in so many places and traveled all around the world. She told us one story of being on a boat going to Singapore, and ~~some~~ American girl got quite sick after they left India and she seemed to be the only who could help the girl in the hot weather. rubbed her back which seemed to ease her. The doctor didn't know what it was she had and finally decided to isolate her and Miss Ashmole with her. She said the girl was terribly sick and all alone and they were in a little stuffy 2 cabin part with the sun beating down all day. When they got to Singapore they entered with the quarantine flag flying and a doctor came aboard, a native one I gathered. He just looked in and then went away and ~~then~~ all the passengers went ashore, but the girl and Miss Ashmole. Finally a white doctor came and moved her to hospital but said all the passengers should be called. back and inoculated I think. *The girl was very ill by this time & broken out in spots.*



Miss Ashmole

~~She~~ had been invited to go to some place by a friend and asked the doctor if it was allright if she went and he said yes if she washed her hair and herself as she had been inoculated again. It turned out that the girl had caught black spotted fever(?) one of the most deadly diseases and died a few hours later. and later they discovered that when she went to her old family doctor in the U.S. wherever she lived, he hadn't been a believer in inoculation and so had pretended to give her the small pox inoculation but had only scratched her leg and gave her none of the serum stuff. We thought Miss Ashmole awfully lucky that she didn't get it but she evidently wasn't afraid, just another experience. *but a very sad one -*

That got us to Thursday with none of the Wednesday dishes done. We knew that about 20 students from Austria were due to arrive on the noon train to give a concert that night and so we went down with others to the station to meet them, after first *doing dishes* recording Churchill's speech before Congress in the morning. We had told one of the Banff Jaycees in charge that if they wanted to bring them *Austrians* to the house we would be glad to have them, but he said it was doubtful if they would have time as they were going to take them to the Upper Hot springs for a swim, to the Banff Springs Hotel, the Hospital and maybe the school, so we just left it that if they wanted to come and see a Canadian house they could.

We met the train which of course had to be late, and sort of spoke to one or two *late* as they could only speak a little English. Then back here for *late* lunch and a great doing of dishes and a hurried tidying up of the downstairs. I had picked up a cake and cookies over town and some raisin bread to toast in case they wanted tea. Then we sat and waited from 3 until 4 with the kettle on the boil. I wrote a few letters quietly and was beginning to think we need't worry as they probably none of them would come, when Fred Wonnacot who was taking them around in a bus came by the back door and said they could come in for just a few minutes, all 18 of them. and in they came. 18 is quite a lot all at once, boys and girls, and so we just said to make themselves at home, which they did, taking off their things and sitting anywhere they could, looking at books or just sitting as they were all tired from their trip on the train from Regina. They are traveling cheaply in a Colonist car where they can cook and make up their own sleeping arrangements. Not too comfortable a way. Pete spoke to them while I hustled around to get tea and coffee in the 5 minutes they had to spend here!

Had we known for sure they were coming I would have had everything ready but they were so uncertain, so one girl very kindly helped me and cut the cake and passed the tea and coffee, some had milk too. the swim gave them a good appetite and they ate two whole cakes and several packages of cookies and there was no time to toast and butter bread before they had drunk the tea. (had I only thought to just butter the bread, stupid of me. never thought of that until just now) Of course once they had sat down they didn't want to leave so I showed them some of the Indian things and they reacted just like the Hawaiian group and wanted to have their pictures taken in the headresses, and there was a great rushing in and out of doors and much excitement as the leader of the group tried to get them started away again. In the midst of it all Lona and Mary Lee and Harold dropped in and were awfully good, helping to pass things and talk to the various ones.



and Harold showed them the way over town as they all wanted to shop before the stores closed at 5.30. They were here for an hour. It was sure quiet when they all left and the hall and kitchen floor nice and wet from the running in and out, but we were happy that they enjoyed it. They told us later that it was the highlight of their trip, and it is fun going into a private house. Oh yes the girls asked Pete where a bathroom was so he sent them upstairs and the boys down, and of course I had never tid~~ed~~ upstairs!

The kids had their refreshments after the others left and then Mary Lee said "You have an awful lot of dishes, I think I had better help." so she and Lona both helped and we had them all done up in no time. That night was the concert at 8.15 and it was lucky we went at quarter too as the hall was full by 8. I have never seen so many at anything in Banff. But it was something gay and appealing.

It was a good show, they are students and teachers on a Goodwill tour of North America and sponsored mostly by Universities. They call themselves Amateurs, a Dr Susanne somebody or other is head of the group and acts as Mastriss of ceremonies, comes out and is very bright and amusing in front of the curtain when she explains the little plot of going visiting in the mountains and during the 4 seasons manages to get herself a husband. The rest is all singing and dancing with a little side play, mostly old Austrian songs and they wore just native costumes. It was great fun and the audience just loved it and gave them great applause.

Afterwards we were invited to the Summer School (where they all stayed) for a reception and that was very nice and gave us a chance to talk some more with the various ones. The different <sup>Banff</sup> Germans and Swiss or any who could speak their language were there too. The joke was on us, with the limited parking place we couldn't get out until near the last so had to stay until midnight.

We were tired Friday morning but went over and got fruit and cheese and crackers, cigarettes and candy for them to have on the train for to save money they just bought a few things to eat on the train. Then we went down to the station at 11.45, trains were late again and it must have been nearly one when they left on the 2nd train. By then we had several old friends, one girl who helped me get tea gave me a whole lot of Austrian stamps and I am to send her some, and she kissed me good-bye, then several of them stood on the steps and sang us a parting song ~~inx~~ which made tears come to our eyes. It was all great fun. Afterwards someone asked Charlie Beil where they could get Indian things such as they saw at the "Farm House" by the river. Charlie was awfully amused, he said if they could only see a typical Canadian Farm house. no fireplace, electric stoves etc. Then one told Pete that the "Housefrau" was so good to them. That was me!

That was yesterday and we managed to have a call <sup>in the afternoon</sup> from the Rev. Tully Montgomery about the lights they are getting for the church, and Robbie Walker with his little girl friend Paula Duke who had never been here before and noticed everything, pictures beaded belts and things some people never see. Robbie had his beading loom such as I used to use, to show us. Last night was a skating novelty night, fancy skating by the little girls and a hockey game by Billy's age, so over to that we had to go. another late night. So we are a bit weary to-day.

Will send this long as it is train time.  
Louds of love  
Catherine.



Banff, Alberta.  
Tues. Jan. 22, 1952.

Dearest Mother,

We are having a real cold spell but it is warming up to-day, after lunch, and already - 15° below. It hasn't gone so very low but was never warmer than - 20° Sunday and Monday. It is bright and sunny to-day and that helps.

After our gay week we have been rather quiet this week. Sunday Mrs Simpson came in about 3.30 and then Mary Lee and Jonny but that was all and I have gotten some of the overseas letters written but in the meantime have received more to answer, most discouraging. I can't see why I seem to get less and less done each year, or perhaps we try to do more!

Yesterday Mary Lee, Lona and Harold appeared after school. They are really amusing. Harold and Lona are pretty keen on one another but Mary Lee and Lona are best friends, and unless Mary Lee lets Harold come along too she doesn't see much of Lona. Harold doesn't seem to mind going around with the two girls and only teases a little. In fact they are very good to-gether. On Sunday Mary Lee discovered an old packet of compositions and stories I wrote in school years ago and started reading them when Jonny came in. We could hear them both giggling on the floor as they were sprawled out on the polar bear rug, the one they found most amusing was when I misspelled so many words and the teacher wrote on it. and yesterday they had to be read to Harold and Lona!

Am glad that Gale is O.K. and how lucky she was to have it all over so easily. I know here people are up practically the day after an appendix operation and out in 5 or 6 days walking and when I had it I came home in an ambulance after ten days!

Who is Aunt Julie going to be with in Florida, any one we know? It will be a nice change for her and warmer weather. I think she is very wise to sell the house when she is still able to do it all herself, but it will be a piece of work. Where does she intend to live? perhaps nearer town where she will be within walking distance of things. I often thought it is a house that would be divided easily, making a kitchen in the den and one side using the front stairs the other the back and making the dining room into a living room for the back half and perhaps the butlers pantry into a kitchen with the back clothes closet. But there again Aunt Julie would have the care of the whole and the grounds, and stairs too, whereas if she could get a small place on one floor she could go and come as she liked.

Must do the dishes now and then go out about one or two things. Loads of love

Catherine



Banff, Alberta.  
Sat. Jan. 26, 1952.

Dearest Mother,

I wrote Mildred about the calender, When I thanked her for the nice box of caramels I forgot all about the calanders with the funny monkey drawings until it was sealed and posted, so stupid of me to forget, but I have written her again. I also told her that we really don't have as many callers at odd times as it sounds in my letters, for of course when I write it is often after a number have dropped in and at last I have time to catch up and it sounds like a lot in my letters.

Well I mailed that letter to her yesterday afternoon,   
X Pete thought we should take up a plaster skier that Charlie Beil was to cast for him and also ask Charlie if he was going to judge the Carnival floats with us in the parade, for we wouldn't do it unless he did. This would only take a minute, we wouldn't stay, so I had visions of coming right home and really tying into something, like the back hall or the work shop or finish a letter I started a couple of days ago. Charlie was working but just ready for a rest and in the kitchen we must come, Olive his wife had just finished washing up the dishes etc. and we all sat down for "just a minute" of course.   
X we had to tell Charlie the latest amusing thing we had thought of. They have built what is supposed to be "Silver City" the theme of the Winter Carnival, by erecting some spindly trees in a row on the ice in front of the Simpsons, then they tapped a water main and have been running sprinklers on it making a top heavy looking effect of ice cascading down. each day it seemed to tip more to us and with the wind and the water freezing more on one side than the other it had quite a list on Friday, then to us it looks as if it were slowly sinking for it is a heavy weight on the river ice. So Pete calls it "the Flying enterprise" and we are wondering how long it will stay upright and above the river ice! Charlie was much amused too and then he wanted to ask Pete all sorts of questions about a new Leica camera he had just bought, so by the time we got away it was after three thirty. We mailed the letter to Mildred and came home. 2

I made myself a cup of coffee and wondered just what ~~it~~ I would do first. It was after four by then when a knock on the door and Mary Lee and Lona came in. So as they were here decided to make some frosting and they had books from the library and started to read quietly, which looked conducive for me to write, when Jonny arrived, soon after Linnie Becker, Lona's little sister. This made it a little too confusing for me to do more than make the frosting and give them gingerale and then Robbie Walker, dropped in. He has a way of acting smart if he has an audience of other kids and is so silly they get disgusted, he also gets noisy, with us alone he is fine. Well by this time Pete had retired to the front room and I did my best to quieten them down and then get them started for home, The girls left and then finally Robbie and Jon. So we sat down to recover, when another knock and it was Harold to show us a very special Nylon ~~Prkka~~ he had just bought for \$16.00 marked down for him from \$19.50. It is a very nice one. So we had to admire that and hear about the skiing etc.



By this time it was nearly six and time to think about supper but Pete said "don't let's hurry." so I didn't and had cauliflower in cold water washing and some left over ham heating in the oven when at 6.30 there was a knock on the door and five Indians! Bill Maclean and Charlie Bimeon who were here before with their wives to hear the recording of the previous time. So that mean't tea and toast and milk heated for the little girl aged four, and they listened to the recording and then wanted to sing a bit themselves. Will alone and finally the two girls. In the midst of this about quarter to eight, another knock on the door and Miss Ashmole to call for the evening. She loved the Indians and music and about 8 o'clock they left. Pete giving them enough money to buy dinner over town before the drive back to Morley. /

Here it was 8 O'Clock and we hadn't eaten at all, so made some quick soup for us and Miss Ashmole had coffee and cheese and we ate in the front room. She was talking of where to go in New Zealand on her way to Ceylon from here and we had an interesting time. One of her stories last night was when she asked whether the Indians had a good sense of humor and then told us in the Lebanon one of the native women hurt her ankle and they gave her treatment for it. (She is a physiotherapist, gives all kinds of treatments to enable people to get the use of broken or injured limbs back into shape) After treating the Lebanese women with the injured ankle all her friends wanted to come for treatment even if they hadn't hurt themselves, and to keep them happy they arranged to give them all the same exercise to-gether. They sat them on long trestles or benches on either side of a room facing each other and the last one to come in was rather a large girl and as she sat down on the end of this trestle the whole thing sort of disintegrated and all the whole row of girls landed on the floor in a heap. But no one cracked a smile or laughed at all. ~~was~~ <sup>was a</sup> was so convulsed herself she had to leave the room and have her laugh before going back, for she daren't hurt their feelings. Perhaps that is what is wrong in the middle east right now they haven't a sense of humor.

It was 10.30 when she left so in the end I thought of Mildred and maybe we do have quite a few unexpected visitors! This morning we were nice and sleepy but I did get the upstairs cleaned and was just starting to vacuum the downstairs when Claude Brewster came to see if we had any photographs on Indian days and stayed a good half hour talking and of course we said we would make him some. looked out some films (which were well marked luckily) after lunch. Jonny was over and we all shoveled snow after I had finished the vacuuming. Had met Ruth Becker, Lons's mother, struggling through snow with the youngest son in a baby carriage and Brian aged 4 on a tricycle going to the skating rink. We took the baby buggy and bike in the back of the Jeep and left them at the rink and then they came back here for us to drive them home. Pat Costigan brought them here from the rink and nearly got stuck in a drift but we got them all home allright. It was warm for a wonder to-day, up to 30 and so heavy going for a baby carriage.

We are to do the Indian photos if nothing prevents to day Sunday.  
Loads of love  
Catherine  
P.S. Thanks so much for giving us  
a life membership in the Science  
Museum. we had a nice letter  
from Bradford Woodburn.



Banff, Alberta.  
Wed. Jan. 30, 1952.

Dearest Mother,

I started a letter to you last night but Jonny came in to copy a poem that he and Mary Lee found among some of my old school papers that I brought out two years ago, they also took great delight in reading my old school compositions and making remarks on the teachers corrections! Jonny read most of them aloud to me while I ironed and of course I had forgotten most of them, then when I thought I would wash the dishes he was most helpful and asked for a towel to dry, as he said "I will take over Pete's job to-night." I was so pleased, but this morning discovered that the glasses especially were very sticky on the outside, plates as well so it is questionable how much help he really was.

We have been having the loveliest mild weather ever since last Sunday. Monday was sunny and nearly 40° out and didn't drop below 30° above any night. It feels like spring but we know it can't be. We went over town Monday morning intending to do the photographs for Claude that afternoon, and met him on his way down here. Seems he wanted the prints of the Indian Days to mail that afternoon, so we had an early lunch and Pete had the chemical mixed and we went right to work and did 18 for him. They were glossy prints but with the help of an electric heater and small fan we got them dried after the washing and I was just spotting them when Verne Castella dropped in for a few minutes. He is quite a talker and between He and Pete I wondered would we get away, but we did and Verne started up the drive by Mome ahead of us and when we got there found in the melting snow that he had swung off into the deep snow at the side. He didn't want us to stop and help but we did and pulled him back out. It was quite funny for he drives in a very determined way and spins his wheels which is the worst thing he could do. We got the prints to Claude in time.

In the evening we went to see "Bird of Paradise" a movie taken in Hawaii and we knew some of the boys in it but of course had a hard time recognizing them. It was in color and the music was nice and it wasn't too bad but a little disappointing.

Tuesday was lovely and sunny, I did a wash both days as it is nice to be able to hang the clothes out without their freezing hard, and also washed the inside of the downstairs windows did the upstairs to-day. They get a film on them from being cold and the smoke sticking to the glass. We also chopped a bit of the wall, it froze from a rain before Christmas and then drifted from the west and the snow is packed solid 5 to 6 inches thick and has to be chopped to the stone. Then when we felt lame we took some newspapers over to the skating rink and the kids were all coming from school so we stopped to watch a while, they are too cunning, especially the little ones. and when they try to fancy skate. Mrs Becker was down helping Lona and Mary Lee waltz and little Linnie is really good. I had no idea how good, but she jumps and spins and is a natural born skater. Mrs Becker herself is awfully good, she learnt in Calgary as a girl. She had



Brian aged four with her and little Stephie about 2 or 3, as broad as he is long in his snow suit. He had to be carried about as he didn't appreciate being left alone, but Brian can look after him self pretty well, though he can't really skate as yet. Harold was most helpful and skated around with Stephie in his arms while Mrs Becker helped the girls, and 2 boys Harold's age took Brian around with them. We didn't mean to stop so long but Pete got an idea for a picture and really I wish you could see them. We stayed to take Mrs Becker and the baby carriage home, and when we got all set at the end, 5.30, found that Harold and Lona had taken Stephie home. Somehow we would have liked to have seen Harold wheeling the baby carriage. He is 13 but would pass for 16 and Lona is tall and lythe. They are too funny going to most everything to-gether.

To-day Pete didn't feel very good, had his sinus trouble and his hip was very painful so he felt pretty sick until noon. Of course doesn't know whether it was standing watching the skating or chopping the path or the weather or what. This afternoon two young girls Alice and Bert, one works in the grocery and the other in a radio shop, came over to ask advise about going to England this summer and trying to get a job. Bert is Swiss and wants to go on to Switzerland, they have saved up quite a bit evidently. so we took them down to see Fred Davidson at the station for he can really tell more than we can. Then Harold came to see if he could borrow two swords for a play, but Pete thinks ours too sharp to fool around with. And now we have just finished Chinese supper.

What I really started out to write about were two things. First, Do you know if the Henry Laughlins are in Concord at this time of year, or in Ireland? Cal might know.

Second, about those party dresses of mine that you asked about. I was just going to write to say to keep them until I can look them over when the letter came saying that you were giving some to Gale for dressing up in at school. Could you describe the ones you have or shall I tell you the ones I would like to keep? One especially is the lovely cherry pink one that was a bridesmaids dress at Helen Buttrick's wedding, I would like that, and the blue silk crepe party dress, and the one of different shades of soft green. the skitt shades from dark to very light green. I don't know if you kept the lace one with iridescent beads? I am sorry I didn't look them over when we were last in Concord but at the time you said they weren't in the way and could stay.

If you could only get someone to describe the things you are giving away. Maybe Frances would list them or Jean could tell me, then I can tell whether I want them or not. I will enclose a clipping from last night's paper, rather apropro!

Guess I had better get on to other notes.

Loads of love to all and don't tire yourself out on the attic. Couldn't you just leave it as it was and let others worry about it. It would be far easier to look things over all at once when a decision has to be made, and in the meantime as different ones want different things there would gradually be less to bother you.

More love.

P.S. Before I had another letter written Catharine & Barbara Brewster came to  
10.30 PM

The trunk of magazines is in Calgary and should be here soon.



Banff, Alberta.  
Mon. Feb. 4, 1952.

Dearest Mother,

Didn't seem to get a letter written you over the weekend, we somehow got behind and there was lots to be done too. I started writing in the Jeep while waiting for Pete to see someone but he was quicker than I expected so got no where.

Can't even remember what we did last Thursday but Friday morning early we were just getting up about 8.30 when Norman Luxton came along to tell us that Mrs Jonie the little old Indian mother of the Chief, who Jean will remember, died and they wanted us to go to the funeral at 11 o'clock. We got ready as quick as we could taking tea and sandwiches, had to get the oil checked but were started by nine thirty. However the road was icy to the Park gate, then some clear road but icy patches in hollows. Later Norman told us he just steps on the gas when he comes to a patch of ~~ice~~ ice and drives right through, however Pete is more careful. We got to Morley just at 11 and found Norman and Bert Johnson waiting for us rather impatiently, seems that the funeral had been the day before but as it was so difficult to dig the grave they had put off the burial until Friday. Tom Kaguits came along about then and jumped in with us while Norman and Bert ~~went~~ started off in one car. There was little snow, just in drifts in Morley and the day was lovely and warm and sunny, like spring. We skirted one slew which had flooded and frozen and a bulldozer was buried under the ice. Then across the main C.P.R. line and off towards the east to Chinicki siding and then across a field to the cemetery. A few graves in a gravel hillside under a hill of popars. There were wooden crosses and some stones as head stones and we noticed one Christmas tree with decorations still fluttering from it. It was stood by a child's grave, a little boy who died two years ago. *A mis'idea.*

*about 50*  
There were quite a few Indians, men and women and as we got there they were putting out the fires used to thaw out the gravelly soil. The coffin was a plain wooden box which to me is far nicer than those gray kind most people have. It was lowered into the grave almost immediately. Jonny Bearspaw came over to greet us and beckoned us to follow him. Pete to stand next to Jacob Two Young man the son and younger chief, and I followed not realizing until too late that all the women stood on the left and the men on the right. I thought it would be more conspicuous if I moved back, so just stood in the back as much as possible. Norman Luxton and Bert stood near the women so it sort of made up. The minister of Morley read the service and after each sentence Dan Wildman would say it in Stoney, it was very simple and nice. then a prayer and every Indian went up with a handful of earth and threw it into the grave when that part came in the service. After it was all over every Indian we knew came up and shook hands and one women. Eliza Hunter spoke to me quite a lot. Mrs Jonie was her auntie so she said, and she told her that Pete was ~~Mrs~~ Mrs Jonie's adopted son. She had been sick about a week and really died of old age as she must have been over 90 and hasn't been able to walk for several years, only crawl on her hands and knees, she was a wonderful person, and great

*as the dirt was mostly gravel it was rather noisy as the small stones hit the wooden coffin.*



hunter and one of the really old time Indians.

After the Service we started right back, Tom and Mathew Hunter coming as far as the store with us. We got back about 2 and picked up some food and the mail and saw Walter Ashdown who wants a room over the store that is now empty. We thought we would have a quiet afternoon but instead were very busy.

X I didn't tell you, as they said not to mention it to anyone, that Gray Campbell started to write the book in earnest before Christmas, but it was hard then to get on with it, and lately with Henrietta doing most of the chores around the ranch, and Grandpa Benson helping to entertain the children at his cabin so it is quiet in the house. About two weeks ago Gray wrote us to see if we thought it a good time before he went further for us to write Henry Laughlin (who Pete had spoken to when we were in Concord 2 years ago about Gray and the book he might write) So we wrote as best we could, taking a good half day to concoct the letter. Then I began to wonder if the Laughlins were perhaps out of town, but when we went for the mail Friday there was the nicest letter to us from Henry, enclosing one from him to Gray too. That they would like very much to see what he had already written and hear what he intended to write, so as soon as we had had lunch about 2.30 we did up some photographs of the ranch in case Gray wanted to send any of them with the first chapters, and a short letter to Gray and got it in the mail in time. Then we tried telephoning Cowley for we were pretty excited ourselves, but we couldn't get them, had to wait until ~~xx~~ later. The kids all arrived in the meantime but we told them we had to go out and tried telephoning again. this time we got Henrietta and seems Gray and El were in Lethbridge, tried the hotel there but they hadn't arrived. so in the end sent a wire to say we had mailed good news. To-day we called Cowley after lunch and El said Gray had gone to mail the stuff and a letter that he had spent 3 hours ~~on~~ writing and she has written us. We do hope they like the sound of what he has written so far for we think it a wonderful story of how they got the ranch and it is all true.

We were tired by the end of the day and went to bed by 8.30. Saturday there was the usual cleaning and errands and then as there was the University Ski Races Sat. and Sun. and the Reddy race would start on the river almost in front of the house we went out in the Jeep and sat and watched most of the afternoon. It was very restful, the Jeep was warm inside, especially when the sun shone and no one could really ~~bother~~ on us. Miss Ashmore came along and joined us, for the wind was chilly and we had a very nice time. then Jonny spotted us from across the river and soon joined us and told us all that was going on. We then went for the mail and back home. At supper time Young Cliff and Bev dropped in. Cliff has got a new job, as the man he was working for the last few years driving and servicing Bombardiers which they used to drive people up onto the icefields, didn't get the concession he expected and there was no real future in it. He was lucky and got a good ~~physical~~ job as a mechanic for a big company surveying the oilfields. Started to work in Calgary and now is to be sent north to Peace River and places around there. He works 20 days long hours and then gets 10 days off and those he could spend in the town of Peace River with Bev, but one can't get a place to live and they want to get a trailer



to live in. Her sister who's husband was a bank manager up there, lived for a year or two in a trailer and they want to get the same kind. If only they had known they could have gotten theirs but it was sold. Her family is helping too and so we said we would for Bev is not a girl that stays idle and will work too and they are both good bets. The trailer looks pretty nice. even a frig and gas stove and they are throwing in a washing machine, a tiny one like the one her sister had and still uses. It is just a two room one 18 feet long. and Cliff has his own truck to tow it up, all the places up north which have grown fast have trailer parks to live in. *They both have lived & worked up there before so know what to expect.*  
Well Saturday night we had to go and see Harold play hockey as the kids do appreciate it if you go and help support them. it began at 7.30 was warm out and was over by 9. *Buff was beaten.*

Sunday we planned to do a lot and not bother to go up to Norquay to see the Univ. Skiers as we knew none of them and it mean't standing around a lot. They had nine colleges represented. Alberta and B.C. for Canada and the State of Wash. from Seattle and Pullman and Wenatchee and Walla Walla and from Bozeman Montana too. It is a yearly event. We had just washed the dishes when Eldon Walls and his young son aged 4 came to see if we could fix Eldon's boots onto some Skis that Pete was lending him to try. So Pete spent the rest of the morning and most of the afternoon trying to make skis, boots and bindings fit and then we took them over when we went for the mail. Later Bev and Cliff came for tea and we had a really nice call from them. It is hard to realize how old we are. Pete would ask Bev is she remembered something and she would say "that was 12 years before I was born." most disconcerting when you don't feel so old. She said she was so excited she couldn't sleep the night before and can hardly wait to haul the trailer up to their door and start putting some of her wedding presents in for it will be their home for sometime. Much better than paying high rent for some little room or suite. Last night I worked over accounts and bills, must get at the Income taxes too.

Today it is still mild, washed and Pete got Harbidge to come right after lunch to take piles of old magazines to the Legion. they said a couple of weeks ago they would call for them but never did, so now he can get at the workbench. Then we moved the filing cabinet from the studio into the store room etc. and when the kids came they worked. Lona, Mary Lee and Harold for a good hour sorting out the Life's we have, into years and months, we are going to store those in the shed.

Now it is most bedtime and I haven't answered your letter. I did send for two bird books but had to get a bank money order so will check on that to-morrow and then write them about it. I expect they were so used to having an order for just one that they didn't think. If people did things as they should the first time it certainly would help !

Loads of love

Pete & Catherine.

*Pete didn't mind you & Jean forgetting his birthday ahead of time. I nearly always do -*

(over)



no Kitty didn't write us after Christmas but Russ  
did so we thought no more about it. We enjoy hearing  
from her but tell her not to bother writing unless she  
really wants to. Sometimes one would rather not  
get Xmas gifts its such a chore to write.



Banff,  
Alberta.  
Wed. Feb. 6, 1952.

Dearest Mother,

X The King is dead, long live the Queen ! Ever since we woke this morning and turned on the radio in the midst of a news broadcast at 8 o'clock, gathering from the way they told the history of his reign that he must have died, ~~we~~ we have listened to nothing but somber music and news reports and announcements.

First thing the Canadian Broadcasting Company did was to cancel all commercial programs for 24 hours, they are the government broadcasting company and most stations followed suit. We had special broadcasts from London and a good deal of organ music in the morning but by to-night they had organized special concerts from right across the country in tribute to the King. The Toronto Symphony has just played Bach for half an hour and now the Little Symphony from Montreal is playing, before that was a Choral group from Winnipeg and after the 8 to 8.30 news we are to have a violinist from Vancouver.

We also have heard how Canada was the first nation in the Commonwealth to proclaim Elizabeth as Queen, even before Great Britain. ~~then~~ Then the Prime Minister paid a tribute and many others, we heard how the news was recieved all over the world and to-morrow Prime Minister Churchill will speak which you too will probably hear.

X It is rather interesting to hear History in the making. The flags were all at half mast when we went over town, The Mt. Royal having difficulty getting theirs to come down at all! X The veterans and service men must all wear black ties but otherwise there is no noticable difference except most people have mentioned something about the King's sudden death when you stop to talk.

It came as a great shock to everybody and we feel sorry that again a royal tour of Australia has to be postponed. This is the ~~3rd~~ 3rd time it has had to be given up and when one thinks of all the preparations made and expense too, and of course the great disappointment. Also our new Queen seems so young it is too bad she couldn't have had a few more years before the great responsibilities, but am sure she is quite equal to her Queenly duties.

Can imagine England to-day and to-night as we were there when King George the V died, and everyone feels it as a personal loss, I think King George the VI was even more highly thought of, and with radio and television and movies people felt they knew the royal family better.

Saturday, Mean't to get this letter off before now but we have been busy with the usual things, visits from Morley Indians, the kids over a couple of afternoons sorting magazines after school and we also have been cleaning old wax off the kitchen linoleum in the places where we don't walk and it doesn't wear off. Susan is



home for the weekend from the Convent ( one thing she is sure of right now, she isn't going to become a Catholic ) and she was here yesterday afternoon and then we have listened quite a lot to the broadcasts which we find interesting. Even got up at 3.30 yesterday morning to hear the Queen Proclaimed in London, but it was such poor radio reception that we could hardly make it out and no good trying to record it, so went back to bed and listened there, we couldn't understand Australia at all and then they switched to Ceylon and I said to Pete, " the static is so bad it sounds more like a train coming in." and he said " Why that's not static that's native music . " and then I realized there was some rhythm to it and it did get clearer. They read the proclamation in two different Indian languages and then followed it by playing the native music which was most interesting and then in English with " God Save the Queen " followed by the Ceylon National Anthem. However we didn't get up to record it at 4.15 A.M. and sure enough in the afternoon there was a re-broadcast. But in that they never gave the native Indian part which was too bad, but had Wales and Scotland's proclamation instead. We couldn't get Churchill either, it was all garbled and they only re-broadcast part of the speech. Overseas reception has been so poor *this week. In Ceylon the sun was first setting & here it was 4.15 A.M.*

It is still mild, in the thirties each day but the other morning we woke to find 9 inches of fresh snow. It is the first real fall for ages and the other snow was getting rather dirty so its nice to have it fresh and clean looking for Carnival next week.

The magazines are through the customs, no duty and the key is back so they will be arriving here any day *from Calgary.*

It doesn't matter which month for the "Little People" This month would be good or whichever is the most interesting. The fight wouldn't mean much to them here. It is the little girls who would like them most.

I have written to the National Geographic about the other book for I did send them enough for both. and they may have just slipped up and sent only one.

Had a very nice letter from Gale in which she said that they wanted to use the dresses for a play, in which case that would be alright, no matter which ones they were, but from your first letter I got the idea they were just going to fool around with them. They are fun to have for dress up parties or plays. The Carnival this year they are trying to get everyone to dress as in the 1890's to make it more fun, but don't know if people will.

Better get his off.

Loads of love,

*Catherine*



Banff, Alberta.  
Tues. Feb. 12, 1952

Dearest Mother,

The trunk of magazines arrived this morning in very good condition, it must be a very strong one, Haven't untied or opened it yet but am sure all inside will be O.K. Charlie Harbidge was alone with it on the truck but by skidding it along our pathway with one end on the snow shovel he got it to the door by pushing and then put it on an old doormat inside the back door and skidded it along the floor, I had visions of some difficulty when you wrote it weighed 350 pounds, but nothing could have been simpler. and we can use the trunk in the new store room under the eave. But will empty it where it is !

The bird book also came to-day and as I said I have written about the other one and hope it doesn't take too long to clear it up. I sent them \$15.00 and perhaps as most people only order one of a kind, they just without checking sent the one. If you want one for yourself why not get Cousin Bert to send for it and then there would be no mix up, he could have it sent to himself.  
*You needn't send the 2<sup>nd</sup> one until yours that you order comes.*

The Carnival started to-morrow and they say the weather will continue mild, if it is like to-day or yesterday it will be perfect. Was 20° above this morning and now by noon is 32° out and the sun feels so warm, it is dripping a bit off the roofs. This year the Carnival is based on the theme of Silver City, an old mining town 20 miles west of here which had 2 or 3 thousand people in the 1880's and 90's. but there wasn't really silver there in any quantity and so the people moved on to other finds and there is nothing left of the town at Castle Mt. where it was located.

Here beside the ice throne or pinnacle ( which we called the Flying Enterprise because for a time it seemed to be sinking into the river ) they have six tents erected with their backs to the river bank from the foot bridge to the skating rink (which crosses in front of the Wimspons house) down to almost in front of our house. They have a small rink cleared and several tracks up the river, and evidently most of the novelty events will take place in front of our house, so we shan't miss much!

We have been asked to judge the floats, three first prizes, best float, best commercial float and best outside float all judged for originality and the way it is made. Hope it won't be too hard. Because of the Kings Death and until after the funeral none of the Boy Scouts or Girl Guides, cubs , I.O.D.E. or army, Navy or Air Force or any other group of that nature are allowed to take part in a thing like a Carnival. So the Air Force Band that was coming and going to give a concert one evening won't be here, they are getting the Lions Club band instead. Friday, the day of the Kings Funeral and a day of mourning in Canada nothing will be held.

We have had over two weeks of mild weather so expect you will have the same and maybe an early spring. *They always sort of blame Canada for the cold that comes from the north. Hope they give us credit for this nice mild weather.*



Did I thank you for giving us a LIFE Membership in the Science Museum, Bradford Washburn wrote such a nice letter, a personal one and we were interested to see the various pamphlets. ( spelt wrong ) etc. It must be a fascinating place.

This isn't much of a letter but I can't seem to think very well. Have been cleaning old wax off the kitchen floor, for in the places where we don't walk it has gotten thick and we have tried various ways of getting it off. Have Bert Davis cleaning the snow off the driveway as it drifted in too hard to shovel and he has an over head loader which is wonderful and scoops the snow up, then he wheels the little tractor thing round and dumps it off to the side. He has a black dog and it rides on the machine with him, standing at his back all day long. *The snow left off in great cakes having packed hard at least a foot deep.*

Loads of love and will really try and write a better letter next time. I did get my Income Tax information done the other day and a few letters written but still have lots I must do. Oh. Dear there never seems enough time, maybe we are interested in too many people.

More love,

*Catherine*



Banff, Alberta.  
Mon. Feb. 18, 1952

Dearest Mother,

I foolishly thought that I could write you last evening and then Carl Oakander and his step father came to see us. Carl is in the R.C.A.F. the one who brought us the Polar Bear Skin from way up north. A boy in his plane crew was killed at Goose Bay recently in an accident and he came to Red Deer for the funeral and down to see his mother on the way home. It was good of him to come around and see us, we had gone upstairs and couldn't figure who was banging so insistently on the door and luckily went down. then took them home at 10.30 as they have no car.

The Carnival went very well considering and even if we didn't go to all the events, still it kept us busy. I am afraid I have neglected you and just when I should have been writing more than usual. Do hope that your ankle won't give you trouble and that it no longer pains you, how annoying to have it hurt and we know you try to be careful.

Am glad you sent us Aunt Julie's letter, it sounds just the right place for her to have a good change and rest among pleasant people and surroundings and am sure she will be much better when she returns. Do hope she can find a nice apartment when she does get back.

To-day it was zero when we got up but is very clear and sunny and so much nicer than yesterday which was Sunday. There was a cold north east wind and fine snow and must have been cold up at Norquay for the ski races and Jumping. We didn't go up as one gets tired standing around and it makes a long day as one has to go early and stay till its over. We did go for the mail and to see Georgie Paris and Edmee, the latter was out but came here about tea time to bring back the clothes she borrowed the other night. She left this morning by plane for New York and will meet her mother and then come back to-gether.

Have just had Cecil Philpott to oil the furnace fan and so I haven't been able to write much after all,

Will try to write again soon.

Loads of love,

Catherine



Banff, Alberta.  
Tues. Feb. 19, 1952.

Dearest Mother,

Do hope your ankle is getting on better and not too painful, I do think it was too bad that that had to happen.

As Jean would say " we are getting into our usual way " after the Carnival. Thought I would get a lot done this week but so far haven't done too well. We always seem to have a lot of unexpected things to attend to. For instance the fan on the furnace started squeaking and we had to get Cecil Philpott to come, then it did it again over the weekend, seems to always be worse on Sat. or Sun. when one can't get anyone very easily. So we got Cecil again yesterday as it evidently wasn't entirely oil it needed, and he came and it never made a sound. We sat and talked about half an hour and he had just gotten up to go when luckily it started again so he went down and moved something which seemed to help. But that took quite a while. Then we had to see Ernie VonKuschka about paying for the models Pete made. He and two others came down about it on Saturday morning, but he wasn't home, we found him after two trips ~~yesterday~~ this morning.

On the way back from there yesterday we met the <sup>wife of the</sup> new superintendent of the park. (here for about 2 years, not permanently) Mrs. ~~Elm~~ Coleman. She was out walking, is very friendly but doesn't know very many people, most she has met only at parties but always speaks to us and so we asked if she would like to come down to the house to see where we lived. said she would love to and came along with us. It was too bad she caught a chill the first day of the Carnival so didn't see much of it. She was interested in all the Indian things and the house and then when School was over Lona and Mary Lee arrived. Lona was much upset because she had given her mother's special mitts to Terwyn MacCullough to wash for her in school, in laundry class and she had evidently shrunk them a bit and then tried to iron them and scorched the wool and Lona hoped to be able to wash them out. Mrs. Coleman was having tea by then and was much amused by the girls, then Harold appeared and soon Ronny Duke dropped in, had a cup of tea too. he had come just to look at a few Art Books, ~~xxx~~ Pete started to take Mrs Coleman home and met Jim Simpson at the door. It was quite an afternoon for us! We had planned to have Chinese supper which was just as well as the kids left just about quarter to six. It is so light late now that they stay longer. Mrs Coleman told ~~her~~ <sup>me</sup> it was the happiest afternoon she had had.

Mrs Simpson said she would bring over some skating programs for us but in case she forgets will send you this one. It is a drawing that Pete made for the figure skaters that came to Banff last year for the day and this cowboy on skis was on the invitation just for fun.

This is an awfully stupid letter but will send it along and try to do better next time. Your letters are wonderful and we do enjoy them.

Loads of love,

Catherine



Banff, Alberta.  
Fri. Feb. 22, 1952

Dearest Mother,

Washingtons Birthday and a big weekend in the U.S.A coming on a Friday, we hear too that there is 9 inches of snow in New England so it will be fun for the skiers too.

We are having lovely weather, - 10° at night but the sun feels warm though it hasn't been above 32° this week, nice and sunny and ~~bright~~ bright. I don't think I would like Vancouver in the winter, last month they had something like 8½ or 9 hours of sunshine for the whole month, I guess broke a record for dullness!

This week in between we have been trying to get some of our cupboards varnished inside, especially the new one in the workshop. I knew if we didn't get the raw wood covered before putting things in we probably never would. So we both worked at it and put a coat on the other afternoon in spite of Barbara coming in with both their dashunds (she wanted to tell us the difficulties Dr MacKenzie and Pat have gotten into with the Clinic they run in Camore. They have a very capable doctor down there who had a share in it with them, has a nice family, wife and 3 children, and just recently they discovered that he has been living off the hospital, evidently thought it was the thing to do, would take a case of canned food when he wanted it, order new mattresses etc. through the clinic hospital and of course Dr MacKenzie and Pat pay their own bills, never get things that way. They are quite upset about it as everyone likes the doctor in Camore and yet they can't keep him on now very well.)

We got the 2nd coat of varnish on yesterday as well as sanding down the sides etc. Will wax the tops and sides just put the two coats on the doors and shelves. Then when all is dry and ready will move down the camping equipment from the studio, giving us more room up there. Also we have one tiny narrow cupboard to hold tins and bottles of this and that which will give more room to work on Pete's work bench.

We also are still scraping old dried wax off the <sup>kitchen</sup> linoleum and nearly finished that this afternoon only Mrs Painter came way down to ask us to tea with the Valances, Pete didn't want to go and we had Nigger Bill cleaning up the basement and carrying out dirt that caved in in one place, and we didn't want to leave him working. So I went and we will finish the floor next week I guess. The basement has a scum over the floor and we never get around to scraping it up ourselves so got Nigger Bill who is a good careful steady worker. He is Banff's only colored person, black as can be and his wife who looks white. Has been here 48 years anyway. after he finishes we will get another man to work with him and put in cement blocks to hold back the dirt in one place where it breaks off.



It was quite amusing to-day for both the Valances and Painters are having a little trouble with the furnaces and we are with our fan in ours. I said at least it was more interesting than listening to people's illnesses! But it was funny when we all started comparing notes, on workmen instead of doctors. Mrs Painter said last week they asked the Wakelyns to come for bridge, first time they ever had, and they had barely stepped inside the door when she heard a noise and water started pouring from the ceiling over their bed. Mr Painter shut off the water as quick as he could but it still poured down for some time, Mr Wakelyn trying to mop it up as it came through with towels, you can imagine the mess, soaked into the mattress and all through the bedding. But as Mrs Painter said it was wonderful to have a plumber who would come right away and fix it, Bob Watt came as quick as he could and I think they even played their bridge. Afterwards when I told Pete I thought what if the pipe above had burst when they were asleep or when they were out of the house. It was an elbow that broke.

Miss Ashmole was down last night and we took her later to see the curling as she had never really seen any. She will be leaving soon to go to Fiji to visit a doctor friend who works for our friends out there, the Cruikshanks, not such a large world after all.

We also have had the kids each afternoon after school, Jonny and Garry two days and Lona, Mary Lee and Harold yesterday. I should try and get some pictures of them to send you, if I can only remember for the sun stays out later now.

This was to be a letter answering yours and I haven't done it at all, maybe I am getting too sleepy.

Do hope your ankle is better, it was too bad you had to slip and injure it.

I wrote Gale to keep the dresses she has of mine and to write which they were and then I could tell her whether or not I wanted them back again. They are to use them in a play I think.

Loads of love,

Calharvie .



Banff, Alberta.  
Sun. evening  
Feb. 24, 1952.

Dearest Mother,

Now if no one comes in this evening you have a good chance of getting a long letter answering some of yours. We have just had Chinese supper and are listening to "Singing Stars of To-morrow" a good program. a young student boy & girl have a chance to sing one classical & one popular song. they are judged and at the end the prizes are scholarships for more study. Some of them are remarkably good and as they are auditioned carefully to get on the program at all, they are all fairly good. They come from right across Canada. the one singing now is a girl from Quebec who studied last summer in Banff so it said. She has a lovely voice. Jenine Perron from near Montreal. *Of course having a chance to be heard on the air often gives them opportunities in concerts etc.*

Don't worry about your writing, it is just fine. Am glad that George is feeling better, it must be hard not having him. You should just get Bill whenever you feel like going out.

I guess that Queen Elizabeth hasn't much say in government matters but in a way has a great influence. She chooses her councilors, those of her household like private secretaries etc. and then she takes advice from her advisers, but there are a lot of things she has to approve of, like the period of mourning and when the coronation shall be etc. Naturally her advisers would recommend certain things but I believe she has quite a bit of say, but what a life!

Am glad you got in to see Edith's house. It sounds as large as the other one with so many bedrooms but I expect she can sort of shut off the top floor when the 3 oldest are away. I think that quite funny she lives so near Eunice Pepper, wonder does she see much of her?

Did you listen to the opera Saturday, we usually forget until after the noon news and then turn it on and try and guess what it is. We enjoyed Madame Butterfly and then last Saturday a woman was singing, didn't like her too well, it sounded as if she weren't letting herself go, after an hour and she was still singing (we realized why she didn't let herself out in the first part) we decided it was Wagner, a man sang a few bits but we had finished lunch and washed the dishes and wanted to go out so never did find out what opera it was, it was too much for us.

Sam and Cis Ward were at Laguna Beach for a month but are moving around now and told us not to write until they let us know where they would be. Wait until they get back and write her here if you like as it might get lost otherwise.

Do you ever go to the new shopping centers like Sterns in Chestnut Hill etc. You could park so much more easily than in Boston. Mary Costigan said that in Dedham the girls she met all had a certain day each week they did their shopping at one of these centers. They had a wonderful one in Honolulu we used to go



to on the way to Waimanalo near a new residential district.

What kind of little dogs has Russell and Kitty?

Yes. we often see Grandma Moses paintings, they are really good for a person her age and amusing and fun to look at.

Pete's mother went to Calgary last week to see her younger sister Bella who has cancer very badly and only about 3 months to live, but she is just wonderful about it and Mom says stranglely enough she looks fine but her arm is badly swoolen and she loses a great deal of blood. Mom ~~has~~ went to the doctor to see if she could get new glasses and he told her that she had small cataracts I think in both eyes, Its too bad but the doctor thought they might grow very slowly as he saw the start of them a year ago. There is nothing one can do and he said to just go on and use her eyes as much as she liked. but it was rather upsetting for her just the same.

To tame a Chic-a-dee you have to be very patient and I guess where they can get other food it might not be so easy, If there was no food on the shelf and you held your hand out they might land on it. You just hold out your hand very still with a peanut on it and don't move when they land. You also have to sort of whistle to them to encourage them a bit. we feed ours at ground level so they are more apt to come to us.

There is never any duty on presents from you.

We only have a goose at Christmas, never see them otherwise.

The pictures of the garden are lovely, so well reproduced and the one of Sam and Louisa too. I thought the Science cards quite wonderful too. *from the Science Museum.*

Eleanor Campbell's father is English and her mother was Danish. He is with them since last fall and has a little 2 room cabin near by for his own which is nice, but guess he eats with them, except maybe breakfast.

Did I tell you we had a nice note from Mrs Allen French thanking us for our Christmas card, but she doesn't believe all the animals come around, so if she comes to see you show her the slide of the Moose at the back door.

We haven't unpacked the National Geographics yet as they take up less room as ~~they~~ at present. The Morants are moving from an apartment in Montreal and are to build a house here this summer so are little by little sending out his 18 clocks, her glass collection etc. to various friends and we already have 3 parcels and their "granddaughter clock" is on its way to us, don't know how big that is. One good thing after they take their things away we will have an extra bit of storage space.

You asked about a camera that took pictures and after a minute you pull out something and the picture is all developed. A boy here had one last summer, and they take very good pictures. but of course you have no negative to make more, would have to copy from the one print.

You said in one letter you never heard of Ma-ro-de-la-roche, I think she still writes and a new one came out not long ago. *all about the same family or members of it at Jalna*  
*Monday no one came in & this was as far as I got. Pete talked part of the time but I did look over a lot of old letters. Loads of love*

Catherine



Banff, Alberta.  
Wed. Feb. 27, 1952.

Dearest Mother,

Now I'll see if I can make this a short letter and to the point. trouble is that once I start writing there is usually quite a bit to tell you and I seem to be long winded. If I could write as Grand-pa did it would probably be far better. Don't think I write you when I could be writing other people for lots of times I can rattle off one to you when it would take me ages to compose a letter that should be written to someone else.

This morning for no real reason we got a terrific mail, letter from Gray thanking us for ours of encouragement to him. This waiting to know if the publishers think his book any good or not is awful and so we have tried to write when we could, he has finished a few more about [redacted] Nick Morant about a one from Jean Vallance. She was so pleased she birds they see in Vancouver as they live near the University and a wooded part. One from Susan Mather, 4 pages, at the convent in Calgary. evidently we are the only ones to write her much and so as soon as we do she answers right away. Also one from Cousin Harriet about Laura Coomb Hills dieing, I didn't know that Cousin Harriet knew her. It is remarkable that she still painted at 93 and really well. And last but not least the very nice one from you with the clippings. Interesting that they had a memorial service for the King in Boston. We didn't know that Russ had land near Coffin's Beach and Annisquam. Has he had it long? and are they going to build a place or what? Isn't Coffin's Beach where Miss Roberts painted so much and aren't the marches near there the lovely ones that Miss Agge Painted. Rather interesting after all these years if Russ has land where you were familiar as a child.

We have been busy the last two days having a dirt wall in the basement built in with cement blocks. We should have cemented it in the first place but until the basement was built it couldn't be poured very well and only the last few years could one get cement blocks, otherwise it was quite an undertaking to build the forms and pour the cement and had to be done when it was dry. We found that Mr Fairless was out of work just now and Nigger Bill to help, so they came Monday long enough to assemble the materials. We went over to Unwin's to ask them to ~~dump the~~ unload the blocks down the back way so it wouldn't be far for Bill to move them to the door at the very back in a wheel barrow. We did a couple of errands, came home and there was a big pile of blocks right at the back door we use! Such is the way things are done. They worked all day yesterday and are here to-day and are making a careful neat job of it. We are going to get them to seal off the old coal shoot too while they are here. The water seeps through in the spring from the underground water pressure and of course cracks off the earth, I don't know why we didn't board it up in the first place, but these cement bricks will hold the earth back and most of the water.



Here I go on another page, you see I can't write a short letter. Didn't Mary Abbott make a lot of strong drawings of that trip down the Grand Canyon River (the Colorado isn't it?) some time ago. I think she and Cal would enjoy a pack trip out here sometime for I bet they have never seen better scenery than in the rockies.

We saw in the paper here what a storm they had in Portland. We have had very little snow since Christmas, but here 4 or 5 inches will stay on the ground for a month or six weeks without going, unless we have a real thaw. There is none on the trees of course but no bare roads either. We get the odd light snow of an inch or less and that makes it all clean on top.

While the men are working I have been cleaning the china cupboards, never had done the top shelves since Sam and Verne were working last fall and planed the doors and sanded a bit and scraped off the old stain to make them lighter, so they were full of shaving etc. Rather embarrassing when a lot came for tea like the Austrians and [redacted] to wash it. Maybe [redacted] this afternoon and [redacted]

Nothing  
is read  
over  
Yesterday we went up to see Don Becker who is in the hospital with a disc out or something, he is in a traction frame with weights pulling on each foot and has to lie flat. We cut a lid of a box so that you could lay a book open on it, then when he hangs it from the frame over his bed he can see the pages through a square for the page on either side. He was very pleased as other wise his arm would get tired holding the book up. This way he only has to put his hand up to turn a page.

Last night they had a Brownie Scout Costume party, such fun and a warm night, though it snowed hard for about 5 minutes during the thing. Kids from 4 years old up and all in costume, they skated round and round while the costumes were being judged. It started at 7 and we came home before nine. They had a few races and hot dogs and chocolate etc. sold. Some little girls were in long dresses of their mothers, sweeping the ice. Hoary Brown's little girl of 4 was dressed like a fairy a silver crown with big star, and a wand with another star, a silver bodice and full bright turquoise skirt of paper. She has little button eyes and was about the thing I ever saw. Her brother and sister were here but she skated around the rink on her own at her own pace half a dozen times. They were all home made costumes except for a greek costume that the little George boy had brought back with him from a trip last year.

Now you see here I am a long letter just rattled off waiting for Pete before lunch and letting my food settle afterwards.

Loads of love,

Catharine .



Banff, Alberta  
Mon. March 3, 1952.

Dearest Mother,

I should have written you yesterday but we were rather busy doing other things and now of course I can't remember when I wrote last. Friday we had lots of odd things to see about and do. The men were still working in the basement and finished that afternoon except for coming Saturday morning to smooth off the cement a bit. They did a very neat job and one we are glad to have done before Spring, when the basement is dry. Now.

We always have so many things to see to and I know how you feel about looking after a big house, something always needs fixing somewhere. Eldon Walls called us in there about one or two things in connection with the store. Jackie and Florence are building a house to live in and will be vacating their suite in May. there are several who want it. Then there was the bank etc. In the afternoon we went up to see Don Becker with a radio thing to eliminate noise and stayed a little longer than we intended as no one else came in just then so we sat and talked. Then Cyril arrived and we gave him his birthday present which we had in the car. a scarf I had knitted a while back for him. He was born on Leap year about 48 years ago but has had only 12 birthdays so everyone teases him.

Then Barbara came over for the first time in ages to show us some weaving she had done and stayed and talked about several things so that delayed us a bit. We also telephoned Gray & El who we knew were to be in Lethbridge where El was having treatment for her back but it was too soon to find out how it was. We are all still anxiously waiting to hear from Houghton & Miffelen, though it is still pretty soon to expect them to reply what they think of what Gray has written. In the meantime he has been writing more chapters. He seems to think our letters give him encouragement which puts a bit of test on us to keep ~~xxx~~ our letters cheerful! As we came out of the Telephone office we met Mrs Coleman (the superintendents wife) who was killing time while her watch was being fixed, and in talking said something about the firehall and in the end we all went in to see it together. so that took a bit of time. Then there was a hockey game that night with Harold playing and Billy (though he didn't get on to play while we were there) Very few went as there was some show on over town which the kids all went to, so we were glad we had gone to encourage the boys a bit. It ended in a tie.

Saturday we did the errands in the morning and then came home early in the afternoon to get glo coat put on the workshop cupboard before moving things into it, for once in you never get around to varnishing etc. to make it easier kept clean. Linnie Becker came all by herself to see us. She is about 8 and told us that her mother had said we must send her home if she was in the way, but of course she wasn't. Pete showed her how to win speed skating races by taking the corners right and drew it out for her on paper, and then they ended by drawing pictures for one another while I finished the cupboard!



Then about 5 Mr Lonsdale the United Church minister came to see us. Seems that they are trying to raise money for the organ fund and Jack Douglas at the Bank is challenging them to a game of curling, each paying so much to play and then they are to make it quite an event and dressing up in funny clothes etc. Pete had suggested they should get Mom's organ down there for music and evidently Mr Lonsdale liked the idea and even talked Mom into it and so he came to see if we could arrange to get it down to the rink! So this morning we had to find Harbidge to move it. Luckily he entered into it too and will do all the moving back and forth. *but we do put our foot into things which take lots of time.*

Then after supper Miss Ashmole came to spend the evening and we talked so hard it was nearly 11 when she left. She is leaving in 2 weeks for Fiji and hasn't met the Simpsons so we arranged to have her go there Sunday afternoon with us.

We slept late Sunday, then moved the stuff into the cupboard and re-arranged a bit. saw the Simpsons, went to the Mathers as Grace was to go to Calgary by train that afternoon to take a typing test for the civil service, but the trains were late so in the end we nearly gave Mary Lee a ride to where she is staying while Grace is away. We took Miss Ashmole to the Simpsons and had a real nice time there. she is going to New Zealand and Mrs Simpsons youngest sister lives there so they may have a chance to meet in Dunedin.

~~Then~~ Then Jonny was over last evening, as he came in he said "I have a whopper of a good idea." I of course asked about it and he is going to make a schol with something special for each month of the year, starting with the Old Year kicking out the New Year. I don't know what kind of schol he has in mind but expect he will be showing us soon.

The end of this week is the North American Ski Championships but don't know if any outside racers will be here or not. They are mostly in Europe.

We are having a little colder weather, down to zero but the sun is nice to-day.

Loads of love and glad your ankle is well and that you enjoyed having John and Jean with you so much.

More love,

Catharine

P.S. What an interesting letter from Mrs Bartlett. I remember you & Bill were over at noon Saturday wanting to earn money for the show. 15% each. So we decided to let them unpack & sort the Nat'l Geographics. They played at table until we had eaten & got a place ready for sorting. Then of course they got so interested looking in the various copies that in the end I did most of the sorting!



Banff, Alberta.  
Wed. March, 5, 1952.

Dearest Mother,

Just a short note to-night as there are the dishes to do and have just brought the laundry in to iron, It seems nice to have it light enough to see outside at 7 P.M. now. We haven't done much of interest to write about and to-day the school ski races were on so no kids down here. They have the whole day off and teachers run it with the non skiers help and all ages race. We were glad it was mild and sunny most all day for sometimes they have a storm. They take their picnic lunch and make a day of it. We did NOT go up as Pete finds it tiresome on his leg and hip if he stands too long, instead we did quite a bit here, It took us most of the A.M. to pay bills and see one or two people about different things.

This afternoon we dropped in to see Grace Mather as she was in Calgary taking a typing and shorthand test in order to get a job at the Government office here. She passed the shorthand but found she made too many mistakes in her typing, as she said she was nervous and in writing things like " with " would mix it up and write "wiht " I know I do that ~~some~~ nights. Don't know what she will do now for she may not get the job. It is hard for her as the house they live in belongs to the Boat House company, which ~~was~~ <sup>belonged to</sup> Allan, Leslie the brother and two sisters living at the coast, they all had shares in the company, now the Royal Trust have it to look after and they are all agreed to sell the business but if someone doesn't buy it then the Mathers will have to hire a manager to run it and he would need the house probably. Grace said she just can't seem to realize that she has to give up the house and I do think it is hard. To tell the truth she has never gotten quite over the shock of Allan's death, it was so awfully sudden and he must have looked after most things and taken all decisions etc. Grace said if she can't get the job here she will move to Calgary and get work there, but we know that Mary Lee would rather do anything but that. But I guess things will work out and she would be near her sister and aunt and brother who all live in Calgary.

We also sorted magazines into years and tied them together and funnily enough in one I found a lot of negatives that Pete's mother gave us one time to make prints of, they are of Pete's father and we never could seem to find them after. Must have slipped them in the magazine to bring down ~~but~~ <sup>and</sup> they were placed on it when open and got left inside. I have hunted high and low so was awfully glad to find them. Negatives are hard to find as one has to hold each one to the light to see what they are.

I didn't tell you about Monday night when Jack Douglas the bank manager challenged Mr Lonsdale the Minister to a curling match for the organ fund. Jack and his team of 3 each paid \$15.00 and Mrs Lonsdales \$10.00 each or something like that, and no matter who won or lost, the money went to the fund. Then the choir, including Mom, entered in, and the 2 by 2 couples club too. The men were all dressed up in funny costumes and Mom and 3 other ladies were mean't to be wives who periodically came out and dragged the men off home



and they had to ~~pay~~ pay to get away. The organ that Mom has was taken down and people paid I guess to play it and in many ways they took in a little here and there. They would offer a shot in curling to an onlooker for a dollar if they wanted to try it during the game and if they didn't, then they fined them \$ 2.00. We saw Mr Lonsdale yesterday and they took in one way or another \$250.00 and as he said there was no real expense or preparation except dressing up and the food, and yet the minstrel show they put on in the fall which mean't rehearsals and no end of time and effort only cleared them ~~xxxixxx~~ \$150.00 It was to give the organ fund a boost.

Better get on with the ironing.

Loads of love,

Catherine

Thurs A.M. Johnny came in last evening until nearly 10. is very interested in the old National Geographies. I forgot to tell you we had almost an earthquake at 5.10 A.M. Monday. It was like a sudden jolt & a noise. woke us both up. parried things off shelves in some houses.

This morning before we went out. I was first going to hang out laundry. 2 men drove up, one looked very Boston like & turned out to be a Hackberge & friend of Russell's. a partner of Jim's. but didn't get his name clear. They he was with an oil man from Calgary. Wilbur Griffith. They made a hurried call as he flies back to Boston from Calgary to night.

More love

C.



Banff, Alberta.  
Wed. March 12, 1952.

Dearest Mother,

We really were lucky with the last storm, Sunday was not too nice, dull and later a snow squall and by evening it was blowing from the east and a fine snow drifting, but by Monday, which was miserable all day, there was only 2 or 3 inches of fresh snow and yesterday morning it had cleared off and was really fine and to-day lovelier still, whereas in Calgary it has snowed and been dull and foggy to-day and they have 15 inches of fresh snow! Don't know how it missed us, but just as well for with a little warm weather now ours will probably go.

Had a busy evening last night. Miss Ashmole came down soon after supper as she leaves in a week for the coast, then sails for Fiji the first week in April via Honolulu, will be there a month and then go on to New Zealand, work in a hospital for 2 or 3 months then take a holiday with the proceeds, go on to visit friends in Australia and eventually to Ceylon to visit other friends and so back to England, she hopes to come back here in another year or so as she likes Canadians and thinks Banff has more interesting people for it's size than any place she knows. She hadn't been here long when Jonny came in and he sat and read books most of the time. Then Joe Kingman one of the skiers from Minneapolis came down bringing Limie Smith from Chicago with him. His wife had gone to bed early with a sore throat. They have been skiing at Sunshine and are on their way to Temple for a week or so. Am glad they will have good weather. We had a pleasant evening until nearly 11.

Yesterday we ran into all sorts of extra things, met Grace over town in the morning and she has gotten a job as stenographer at the Administration building for the Government and so is now looking for a suite to move into. I forgot Barbara was out exercising the dogs in the morning and stopped by and spoke of Grace and how hard it was for her to make up her mind. Barbara said she would make a suite in her house for her but was not sure that she could get along with Grace there all the time. Barbara is very quick and Grace is evidently a person who is slow making up her mind about anything, so as Barbara put it, she would rather keep Grace as a good friend than have her in the house and maybe run into trying times. I think she is very sensible. There is a trust company looking after the selling of the boat house and evidently they are honest enough and reliable in every way but not at all aggressive in selling the business and if they don't sell it this spring, then they will have to get a manager and you know how hard it is to get the right sort of person to run anything like that. So we did quite a bit of talking to this person and that and Grace was looking for suites.

We had a card from the Wards and they are as far as Vancouver and expect to be home this week sometime.

Better get lunch ready so all for now.

Loads of love,  
Catharine.



Banff, Alberta.  
Sun. March 16, 1952.

Dearest Mother,

Should have gotten a letter written to-day but it has been rather busy, we have had a full week and so many different things to think about, don't know if I can even remember them all.

We had a card from the Wards from Vancouver saying that they would be home this ~~week~~ last week so as there was a Greyhound bus strike on we got the idea they might come by train, so thought when convenient we would just meet the trains from the west. It mean't going out a little earlier in the mornings for the 10 o'clock one and a good excuse to get rid of the kids for the 5.25 one. but the joke was on us for they came by bus after all and got in Friday night and we never knew til we saw their blinds up Saturday morning.

Thursday before we went out Charlie Beil came in the morning with the last payment for the Ski Trophies which the Ski committee had given him, he didn't stay long is working on an 8 foot fireplace relief and had 150 pounds of plasticene to put on, his kids and wife have been working hard kneading the stuff to the right consistency, that's a lot of plasticene. Then we met the train and did the errands, and I think that was the day Mom came down to tell us that Wilbur Griffith who came with Russell's friend Jerry Hunsaker last week, had phoned her and asked if she could give us a message, "he wondered if we would go to Norman Luxtons and see if he had a good grizzly skin. So when we went up for the mail we called in ~~there~~ and spent about half an hour talking besides the message about the bear skin. We also spoke to Grace Mather about what she is to do and whether she found a place or not etc. Then we came home and started to clean up the rest of the workshop which got in a terrible mess when all the men were here and there was lots to throw away and sort out. Jonny was over that evening and I think I also got most of the ironing done, and we met the trains in the late afternoon.

Friday we got quite a bit more done in the workshop as well as meeting the trains and then in the afternoon we began to get involved, We had just decided to sit down about 4 o'clock & I had a cup of coffee when we heard voices and it was Jonny, Billy and Robbie Walker and Marjorie Crosby, the latter with a message from other friends. by the time I had coffee made for Marjorie and she had spilled it & I had wiped her skirt and gotten gingerale and cake for the kids, Lona Mary Lee and Harold had arrived, they didn't stay longer than to have a bite to eat seeing so many people here, and then a little after five we had to go to the train, so they all left. The first train hadn't the Wards but a group of South Americans got off, they looked a bit like old fashioned opera singers, one large man with what we call an "elephant hat" on, a toppee or what they wear in hot climates, never saw anyone arrive here in winter with one before, two "good lookers" as Fat Brewster called the two ladies. The Mt Royal Hotel is having it's bus fixed, meets the trains now with just a large passenger car, and as they just expected a couple on the train these four others were extra and they had a great pile of bags, so Pete offered to take the



bags up in the Jeep. The four got in back of the <sup>Mt Royal</sup> car and the couple in the front seat and we took most of their baggage. I never saw such large or heavy bags, each had a big one and one smaller one and we somehow got them all in back with the tail gate down, so I had to sit in back to hold them on. It really was funny for the Mt Royal Man was rather stuck as the taxis had gone before he knew so many were getting off, and we had to drive very carefully so as not to drop a bag off into a big puddle or get them splashed as it was melting fast on the roads. When we got to the Mt Royal the four people were just going into the hotel and I guess thought we were the hotel truck. After we were unloaded we went back to the next train, then on the way home met Lully Montgomery who we felt had been down to see us which he had, as some lights for the church (which we are helping to get) have arrived. So took him home. Then met the last train. We were just getting supper when a knock on the door.

It was a young Calgary boy, <sup>named Clive Lewis</sup> we had never seen before, a very nice looking lad, he was staying over at Barbara's for the weekend and had seen Pete's jumping skis which Harold had borrowed, and wondered if he could use them for a jumping competition on Saturday up at Norquay. He was so nice about it Pete said "yes". Then the boy asked what he should put on the bottom for wax, and Pete said the best was shellac in two thin coats and rubbed down in between. Of course the stores were closed so we looked out the shellac we had and a tin and a brush, and off Clive Lewis went. We had a late supper and were just thinking of washing up the dishes when Mr and Mrs Coleman came to see us. He is the Government man acting as Superintendent but really higher than that in Ottawa, to do with the historical sites etc. Mrs Coleman has been down and this was his first visit. We had a very pleasant evening showing him the Indian things and even the house as they have a log house in the east. They stayed until midnight. The Calgary boy came back with the shellac & brush too.   
It was here a short time.

We slept so sound that we woke fairly early and got up before 8 so I did get some of the upstairs cleaned and the floor and carpet vacuumed before we went to the first train. However we got there a little early so went around by the Bus depot to see if there were buses running and they said there were, so drove past the Wards and sure enough their blinds were up. Went in and they were just thru breakfast as they had come straight through from Vancouver, left at 11 P.M. one night and stayed the 2nd night on the bus instead of stopping over a whole day in Nelson, and had gotten home at 6 the Friday night. We then took Sam to get their groceries and the mail and round here to pick up mail we had and back up. Came back and were just starting lunch when Jim Simpson and Tom Kaquits arrived.

Jim borrowed a book and left, but Tom wanted to ask our advise, Seems that the lawyer they used to have to look after things for the Indians personally had died. Tom said he was talking to him in the morning and E.L. Smith dropped dead that night. But strangely enough he had said to Tom that he wasn't well and that if anything happened to him this a young man in the office would look after things for them. Tom couldn't remember his name and he wondered what we thought, so we said we would ask Sid Vallance and meet him at the station at the six o'clock train and tell him what he said about it. He also said that they would like to go to Morley & make him a blood brother.



I wish you could have seen Tom, he had the most fashionable brown striped suit on, a new cut, and broad breasted, really very natty for an Indian and a black hat, which we would call a Homburg such as Diplomats wear. As Pete says Tom is always in something different. Perhaps the clothes belonged to the lawyer who died so suddenly!

We finally got lunch and then started out on our errands, had stopped in in the morning to see Mom and found her low in spirits but I suspect she has been doing a little too much housecleaning. and ~~then we had to stop in in the afternoon~~ and she gave us some books for the library to take over, then we went to the Vallances too and he was out but was to take Mrs V, to a tea and home cooking, (where I had dropped in too) and so we asked him to come down here while she was there, which he did bringing the little grandson about 2 who was really very good. We had tea and he gave us good advice for Tom saying that any of the lawyers in A.L. Smith's office would be good for the Indians. and then before supper Clive Lewis came again to bring the skis back. We asked how he had done and he said he came 1st. in the jumping. We were awfully pleased, but he said it was really the ~~same~~ surface Pete had told him about, for he had only been jumping a month and jumped further than the boy who has been giving him lessons! Pete was really pleased about that.

Then to the train to see Tom Kaquits and back here for fried chicken for the Rankeillors were coming at 7.30 for a short time to ask about routes and maps as they are driving to the coast. They came on time but stayed two hours in the end, looked even at the basement and we had a nice evening, they are very Scotch. He is the head engineer at the Banff Springs Hotel. *to be retired in another year.*

Today we were a bit tired, but made a trip to the dump with a lot of the old paint etc. cleaned out of the workshop, had several boxes of stuff we wanted to get rid of. Then hung the big Hibbard in the big bedroom between the little windows, the Wave of Woodwards over by the bed and the smaller Hibbard over the bed. As you know hanging pictures takes time, I would like to have the room fixed a little more before taking pictures of it.

More chicken for lunch and just as it was cooked Jonny appeared. They have a waffle and late breakfast Sunday and no lunch so he knows where to come, but we divided it up pretty well. Wrote a letter and then we went for the mail, a nice letter from you about last Sunday. Then to Graces with our Red Cross donation and a bit of a call there. As we came home we met the Von Kushkas, he is the president of the Ski Runners, a German by birth and she is from the north of Norway. We asked them back and they went home first and got some books of ours and came down for a nice talk about skiing, were here until six o'clock.

Now it is bed time

Loads of love,

*Callamie*



Banff, Alberta.  
Fri. ~~March~~ March 21, 1952

Dearest Mother,

Think I shall have to go back to writing every other day if possible, for otherwise two days go by and maybe a 3rd. and 4th. and then I forget when I last wrote and what I told you about! No, you didn't tell us about Russell's and Kitty's trip to Southwest Harbor. Just that they were going up.

We found out the name of the friend Jerry Hunsaker who was here, having heard from the man he game with, Wilbur Griffith, who wants to get a grizzly skin.

The last few days we have been re-arranging the work shop and cleaning it a little at the same time, though it really should be well vacuumed and some of it scrubed. Sam came down Tuesday afternoon for a bit and cut the wood boards from under the stairs in the workshop, it had formed a cupboard but one had to lean way down and reach way in for the boots we kept there and the mops were in front and invariably things fell over and there wasn't time to pick them all up so they got all in a tangle. Now we have cut about 3 feet more away and Sam put in 3 shelves, enough to hold all the boots & overshoes and they are now easily got at. Also with one of the new cupboards built last fall we don't hang coats under the stairs any more. That night I should have written you but we were late getting supper and did the dishes and then read the paper and went to bed.

Wednesday Sam came in the morning and afternoon to finish up as he hadn't done a great deal the afternoon before and Cecil Philpot was down too, or maybe that was the day before. Anyway it took most all Wednesday to get everything done as he was late coming in the morning and delayed after lunch too a bit. But he put in some little shelves between the wide shelves that were built for his tools and thing and also put up hooks and helped us figure things out a bit. And then we heard all about their trip to California as well.

That evening I really expected to write and Miss Ashmole came as her boat to Fiji doesn't sail as soon and she will be here a bit longer. We had an interesting evening as she is fun to talk to and it was after 11 when she left. So yesterday morning we were a bit sleepy, then Annie Von Kuschka came in about something and we talked to him a while. In the afternoon finished cleaning the workbench. Had lots of bottles of oil, keroses, solvent, etc. so we had a smell of each and combined some in one bottle and marked them all, which we had never done before. It all takes time.

Last night was a hospital board meeting and 11 when I got back from that.

This isn't much of a letter but will write again soon and also answer yours. It is time to go out now.

Loads of love,  
Catherine



Banff, Alberta.  
Sun. March, 23, 1952.

Dearest Mother,

We are having the first real mild day, up to 40° in the shade and the snow is going. In Calgary it said that the tulips and daffodils were peaking up. Here it is usually June before tulips bloom but then they do show quite soon. Robins have been seen too.

I am having my first head cold of the year, a real stuffy one too, Guess I picked it up from the kids or someone as it has been going about. It isn't bad but makes me feel lazy so we have been looking over old magazines this morning, cutting out the things we want to save.

Thursday I had to go to a hospital Board meeting which lasted until 11 P.M. The hospital is doing a bit better than last fall, a few arthritic patients coming back finding the new wonder drugs not all they are cracked up to be. Funny part is that they are skimping on everything and then the sisters serve us lobster sandwiches and elaborate little cookies. They always give us good eats at the end. Eldon Walls was there, being a new member and Mrs Unwin which is a help.

Friday we were up at the Wards a few minutes, Sam was busy painting the woodwork in their bedroom, having spent the day before stripping wall paper off, now he has that to do. put on the new paper. But he is pretty good at anything like that.

In the afternoon besides other things Pete thought we should try and move the electric Hot Water Heater we had in storage in the old buggy shed and which we are going to put in the kitchen beside the washing machine maybe the middle of this week. He thought it would be far easier to move it on a sled while there was still enough snow on the paths rather than in the wheel barrow later. It is five feet high and two across and all smooth white enamel with nothing to hang onto. You would have laughed to see us, for it took a bit of scheming. 1st we found an old sled in the shed, a wooden one, then we had to pry the buggy shed doors further open so it would go through as there was a post between the doors, we just made it. Then we had to sort of edge the thing over by rolling it as you do a trunk. Of course if you are handling things like that every day it isn't hard but we didn't want to dent it or damage the 2 or 3 connections protruding in various awkward spots. the cold water pipe, and hot water one and electrical connection. We got it on the sled after first putting 2x4's under it, and then found it was very unsteady on top of the sled, so we got a piece of wood along each side and then it was fairly firm. We pulled it gingerly through the door, then as I pulled, Pete held it on. To really hold it you would have had to put your arms right round in a sort of bear hug but he somehow kept it from falling



off. To get it and us under the sagging clothes line over a bumpy but straight course was a bit ticklish but we got it to the back door. then ran the sled and tank onto a few old door mats and have it in the back Hall still on the sled & pretty pleased with ourselves. Now we hope Steam Watt can come when he said he might! It is the tank we bought when we planned to divide the house for Pete's mother and is larger than what we have, which isn't enough to do the wash with hot water all the way through.

Robbie Walker ~~wed~~ down after supper all dressed up, his mother said this was the only place he could come until his bedtime, I guess she thought he wouldn't get dirty here.

Jonny very kindly told us it was Mary Lee's birthday yesterday so we took something round there in the afternoon. Grace had made a huge cake. a beauty and was struggling over some 7 minute frosting which was a new recipe and not working just right, So I gave a hand with the beating and Jonny too, he said it turned out alright. They were going up to the Beckers to dinner *Grace & Mary Lee. which was nice.*

I had thought of answering your letters to-day but we are going for the mail soon so will just send this along. The reason one of my letters might have been quick is because all 1st. Class mail in Canada goes Air Mail, but 1st. class mail in the U.S.A. still goes by train, So ~~Exxx~~ mail from here for the U.S. must go south to Montana or Minnesota and then across the states taking longer, about 4 days and perhaps one letter got into the bag for Montreal or Toronto and then down, which would speed it up 2 or 3 days.

Loads of love .

*Catharine .*



Banff, Alberta.  
March 25, 1952.

Dearest Mother,

It looks as if we might have a busy day to-morrow so will write a bit to-night if no one comes in. "e had a very quiet weekend, both having head colds, so except for going out for the mail we sat upstairs most of the day looking over old magazines and taking out the things we want to keep. Pete isn't too good at it for he gets so interested reading them all he gets few looked over. One I found was rather a coincidence, it was "Outdoors" something or other, and as I thumbed through it, found an article about a petrified tree in Red Deer by Douglas Leechman, the man from the National Museum who we met last summer and on the back of it was a picture of us on Deception Pass at Skoki in 1932 ! That was I guess why we had saved the thing. It was a good idea being quiet for we both got rid of our colds in record time. In fact I never had one for such a short time.

Yesterday looked as if it might be mild so did a wash and promptly it started to snow and cloud over. However it was only flurries and the clothes dried O.K. That is one nice thing here they always dry quickly, sometimes just half an hour or so. We were up to see Sam and how he is getting on with the bedroom. Found he had half the paper on and thought he might be through to-day but he was just putting the border around and then thought he would do the clothes closet which had never been done. On two walls facing each other they have a large middle piece of very pretty lilac patterned wallpaper surrounded by gray, then Sam is to put a tiny wooden frame around the flowered part to set it off. It is rather nice not having too much pattern. (We were also up at the Phillips where they had 4 men painting for two weeks, Mellie Williams and then DeMone who was here finishing our woodwork. They were very pleased and had all the six rooms done, the bedroom with two walls different, I still don't know if I care for it or not.)

We had seen "Steam" Watt who was is to put in our new Hot water tank and he said he would be over to-morrow or the next day so we need Sam to put a few 2 by fours under the tank to allow for a cold air duct already in the floor. So that was why we went up to Sam's to see if he was nearly finished. I sort of hated to ask him when there was still a lot of work to do, so when he said he was going to put a strip of wood around the pattern I suggested we take him to the lumber yard, knowing they haven't their car out yet, and then we brought him around here for just a minute and he said he would come first thing to-morrow and just put the 2 x 4s in, so we may do better than we expected. However we have to get all the china etc. out of the Welsh dresser in order to move it.

How do you feel about having friends of ours drop in to see you ? The young California couple who's car tipped over 2 summers ago on the Bow Lake Road, with the father, mother and sister of the girl, and who we helped get in to Banff and saw a lot of later, are in the east. They are living in a trailer at Bramford



Conn. Paul Fowler is taking a course in traffic engineering at Yale, I would say he is a very promising young engineer, was in the Pacific during the war I think. Janice the wife is a laboratory technician and has a job this winter, She worked a lot in Canning factories in the laboratories testing, is a smart girl. They are both so nice and am sure you would like them too. We had a long letter which I will enclose and you can return later, telling about their trip last summer from California to Yale and they hope to drive back via New England and Canada and come up this way too. I thought they probably would go through Concord on their way and would enjoy meeting you and seeing the garden. Frances and Gill would like them too. Paul has an awful lot to him.

What I don't want to do is wear you <sup>out</sup> with friends of ours dropping in, so just be honest and tell us how you feel.

We have been trying to figure what would work best for us to do and think perhaps we will try to drive east this fall to see you and spend a while in Concord. At first Pete thought we might go this spring but he has had trouble with his hip & knees and we don't always get as much done as we think we will. There is so much to be done here in spring and if we don't come back early there is not much summer, so we thought maybe if we went in the fall we wouldn't be so hurried. Then we might try driving across to Arizona or New Mexico & California for the winter months and back here after the coldest months are over. Of course it all depends on lots of things but those are sort of our plans now. Spring is a lovely time to be in Concord but also it is a more cheerful time for you and there are plenty of people coming and going, whereas the fall is a good time to visit.

Let us know when you return the Fowlers letter if you would like to see them and I will write them and tell them about you. They are really a most attractive couple, both from California and we liked them so much. They and her family the Potters wanted us to visit them near Stockton. Cal in Linden and would have liked us to stay there, as a young couple from here who were on their wedding trip looked them up and ended by visiting them 10 days and the Fowlers and Potters took them all around and gave them a wonderful time, ~~was~~ the young married couple hadn't much money from Canada to spend. *so it made a lot of difference to their trip.*

It is Wednesday and Sam did get down this afternoon morning and made the platform for the tank. We were up early and moved the dishes etc. so as to shaft the Welsh dresser enough to get the tank in and had everything ready for Sam, now we are wondering if Steam Watt is coming or not. It is lovely and mild out. though windy. 45° above and a warm sun so the snow should go fast now.

Loads of love,

Catharine

*couldn't figure this out myself! What I meant was, with luck I can get some cup boards done, maybe not? Then I added later "Did not, Charlie did come" that afternoon.*



Aunt Mary's bonnet after all, it was in style for a good many years and her dresses were always much the same as I remember them.

I don't know what I mean't by writing " Did not Charlie Beil come" either Pete was sitting beside me talking which he often does as I try to finish a letter, or else I mean't someone else. Charlie is the sculptur here. I am curious, what was it in connection with I wonder? Maybe I am just breaking up.

No. I haven't painted your large pciture yet, but don't give up all hope.

Shall be interested to hear how the trip to Southwest Harbor was, it must be sort of fun to go in winter.

Thanks for telling me about Mrs Baldwin I must write Nell.

The doctors have cleared up the trouble in Canmore. The Atkin Clinic here belongs to Dr Atkin, Dr Macenzie. Pat Costigan and the Canmore doctor belonged too as the Canmore hospital is run by the Atkin Clinic here, Evidently the Dr they had in Canmore had gotten away with all sorts of things they never suspected, but it is all cleared up now and he has left and a new doctor just come. But it makes it hard for Pat and Dr Macenzie as they have had to run back and forth the 16 miles to operate etc.

I didn't realize that Aunt Julie has cattaracts on both eyes, Do they trouble her very much? I hope not. I knew she had ear troubles. Am so glad she is enjoying Florida so much this winter, and what an interesting time the Bartletts have had in Mexico. We thought that awfully amusing about the Palmers losing keys to cars. Like father, like son.

Am so glad you enjoyed John and Jean so much and am sure they had a wonderful time.

Didn't realize that you had gotten a hearing Aid, How does it work? I know people say it takes time to get used to it.

It was interesting so many attended the Memorial Service to King George in Boston. Thanks for the clippings.

Those sterioptican pictures that Sted showed you have to be taken with a special camera which takes two pictures at the same time, side by side as your eye sees them, then when you look through a special viewer they look real.

It is nearly supper time so guess I had better stop. It has been a nice quiet day and no one coming in, but one never seems to get a s much done as one expects to even with more time.

Loads of love,

Catharine.



Banff, Alberta.  
Fri. March 28, 1952

Dearest Mother,

First of all, No, we don't want the maps from the National Geographic as we get them with our copy. Am sure the Fenn School must like them.

We were awfully interested in the letters you sent of the trip west in 1916 and I would like to see any others you find of the same trip. I remember more than you wrote about but wasn't sure whether or not we spent a night at Field for instance. I can remember going for a ride in a pony carriage with the Leonard children in Seattle and a lot about San Diego, the exposition there, and the Grand Canyon and the Indians there. I remember quite a lot. Do send the other letters

What a shame about Cousin Harriet falling, lucky she didn't break the hip but they do such wonderful things for older people these days.

Would love to hear more about Frances trip and ~~where~~ they skied, not that we have been to Mont Tremblant but know a few people around there and of the different places. We hadn't heard about Mrs Erling Strom breaking her pelvis and shall write. Must have been hard and just in the midst of one of their better seasons.

I wrote Russ as soon as we heard he was going to Bermuda, for the Wards friend there ~~Peter~~ Hans Pedriloni runs one of the best places to eat. He married the daughter of one of Cis' sister's best friends and they were all in Bermuda together the first time, before Doris married Pedriloni. At one time they had one of the hotels but sold that as it was such a worry, the staff problem, and so now they have the Number One Parliament Club. Cis said they call the restaurants clubs and the dark people don't go to them. Seeing that Russ and Kitty enjoy good food it might be fun for them to go there and try it. He is Swiss I think.

Am glad that you were able to get the men to stay and help in the garden, for you enjoy the fresh vegetables and flowers so much. I don't know how it is in the U.S.A. but expect it is the same ~~here~~ as here. The cost of living has doubled since before the war and so have the wages, for otherwise how would the people live. Sam never used to charge more than a dollar an hour and it is hard for him to figure he should charge over two. I think his rate is \$1.85 and yet inexperienced men who have never been trained to the trade expect at least \$1.85 and most get over \$2.00 like stone masons and painters and plumbers etc. When this house was built over 20 years ago some men were glad to work for 45¢ an hour, but then other things were correspondingly cheap.

I have to clean out this desk sometime soon and then after that perhaps I can start sorting out slides. I think I may have to re-mount the ones I send you, do they stick at the corners? The way I used to mount them they went into the projector O.K. but stick in our viewer. Do the ones we sent you at Xmas stick? If not I can



send some already mounted ? If they do stick I will re-do the corners. We don't get ours back in cardboard but in long rolls. Will try and take some new ones if I can.

What a day we had yesterday. Found that Bob Watt the young plumber could come at nine in the morning to install the new and larger electrically heated hot water tank in the corner of the kitchen by the washing machine. We got Cecil Philpott to come too but it was a little after nine by the time they got here. We were all ready for them. and from that time on hardly sat down all day it seemed. Not that we had to do such an awful lot but there are always things to decide. Then about 10.30 Betty Hewton dropped in. She and a friend had come up from Calgary to go to Sunshine and just missed the bus here for the Ski camp, so the friend went to Norquay & she came to see us. Pete asked her to lunch so that meant a hurried shopping trip for me, got fresh salmon that was very good and frozen string beans which was easy. Then left her over town & she came back just as we were ready to cook lunch.

*No time to send over*  
She left about 1.15 to catch the bus to the Hot springs and from then on we were pretty busy washing up with heated water as by then the old tank was drained. Then Bob thought he should take the old one out upstairs which meant moving the shelves with all the towels, medicine etc. in it out from under the eave in the bathroom. There were various interruptions, when I happened to hear water running back of the washing machine as the water from the tank upstairs didn't all drain down some backed up, I grabed a pot on the stove thinking it empty ~~forgetting~~ to catch the dripping water, and forget it was full of water to be heated for the dishes, so sloped that onto the stove and it ran down and that all had to be cleaned! You know unexpected things that keep on hopping.

Later Bob thought maybe we should try and move the old tank out. If we had only thought to do it when Cecil was still here to give a hand, but only Bob who is very skinny, Pete and I were here to help. It was in an awkward place, under the eave in the bathroom and had to be lifted higher than the toilet seat and bathtub to get it out and so little to get a hold of. That meant a plank across the top so as not to damage it, and rubber mats to protect the enamel. These I had to run downstairs for as Bob was under the eave and Pete in the tub with the tank sort of balanced. The mats had mud on them and so did the plank, then when Bob & Pete rolled the tank on its side they discovered the water hadn't all drained out and ran over the floor, so like men grabbed the first bath towel they could reach to mop it up and I ran for a basin. We somehow got it out of the bathroom even if the top of the casing fell off and spilled a bit of the fiber glass insulation on the floor. It has gritty little balls of glass all through it which feel like walking with sandpaper soles and have much the same effect on the floors.

Anyway we got the tank which is about 2 feet through, (round, in shape) and four feet high and quite heavy for its size. The drain pipe came right out of the very bottom and was so tight Bob left it sticking down about six inches so it wouldn't stand up. We got it on its side on a small rug and then pulled it without much trouble into the bedroom and through the studio to the back stairs which are straight up and down. Then we got a rope and tied it onto the hot & cold outlets and Bob being the strongest



went downstairs backwards holding it as best he could while we let out the rope gradually, and it got down with only a couple of dents on the back stairs. Then we got it onto a mat, on the sled and out the back door. Pete and Bob holding it on the sled and pushing at the same time and I pulling the sled backward through that it now mostly mud until I felt icy snow go down the back of my ankles and I had backed into a snow drift! It was really rather amusing how we managed and we were very pleased with ourselves. The job was finished and we were all tired and it was 4 O'clock so I found a last bottle of beer for Bob and he had just sat down to relax and enjoy it when Ules LeCasse came along to see if we had any trees to take out. He is stronger than all of us put to-gether and would have been just the person to help had he come about 20 minutes earlier.

We had a good chat to-gether and somehow got on the subject of that trip we made in the West Indies and brought out the pictures etc. and Bob told us some interesting stories too and we had a good talk.

Then Jonny and Robbie came but that was a little too much so we said we had to go out for we wanted to see if Charlie Reid would like the tank, which he would and had the Kingman to see on their way from Temple to Minneapolis, ~~which we did on the train.~~ So it was nearly six when we came home.

~~xxxxxx~~ Pete thought it would be nice to put the Welsh dresser back against the wall and a few of the piles of plates back inside and we had to sweep up the glassy insulation and mud etc. before we scratched it into the floors upstairs and by the time we sat down to supper to eat a fresh crab (boiled) we were both so tired we could have gone right to sleep I think. At 7.30 we went upstairs and very shortly heard a knock on the door. We just couldn't face a long evening and Pete thought it might be Robbie and I thought it was Miss Ashmole and she stays until 11 P.M. often. So we just never answered.

We haven't done a great deal to-day. Washed up and cleaned up this morning

Loads of love

Catharine



Banff, Alberta.  
Tues. April 1, 1952

Dearest Mother,

Can't remember when I last wrote, wonder was it on Saturday? I should get back into writing less every other day and then I wouldn't forget so.

Thursday was our full day getting the new Hot Water tank put in. Bob Watt & Cecil Philpott coming at 9 A.M. and we were on the go most all day. Betty Newton of Calgary coming and staying for lunch. I think I wrote you what a day it was and about 4 we and Bob got the old tank out of the bathroom upstairs and outdoors onto a sled. Charlie Reid is to have it. We even went to the train and saw the Joe Kingmans on their way from Temple. By the time we were eating supper we were so sleepy we nearly fell asleep and went to bed at 7.30. Just as we got upstairs we heard a knock on the back door and I was afraid it was Miss Ashmole but later we found it was Robbie Walker. Poor kid he saw the light go off as he came along and thought we didn't want to see him. We were in bed before 8.

Friday we were a bit weary so took it easy. I did vacuum the mess upstairs as the stuff used to insulate the hot water tank had dribbled out when the top fell off and is gritty stuff on the floor. We also saw Eldon Wallis about a few things. We met the Scotts going over to the Clinic after lunch so gave them a ride. Poor Mrs Scott is pretty frail, just worn out from a large family and they do come and visit as the old house has lots of room. They live in the old White house. So twice a week Pat gives her some shots. (the nurse gives them) and she can walk just very slowly. We got them over alright and it was getting very dark in the west and we could see it was a snow squall, pretty soon it blew and the snow came scurrying along. Suddenly there was a flash of lightening followed by a good loud clap of thunder. Somehow one doesn't associate it with snow. We went to the P.O. and on the way back saw a man with 2 canes and no overcoat crossing the bridge. He was a Workman's Compensation man, one of Miss Ashmole's patients, said it was the first time he hadn't worn his overcoat but it was quite springlike when he set out. The sudden squall was a surprise to everyone. So Pete took him home and I stopped to tell the Scotts to wait until Pete returned, which they did. When we got home Harold, Lona, Bill, Robbie and Jon were all down, maybe I wrote you that night.

Saturday I did the usual cleaning and then we had several letters to answer right away and see about. Got a letter from Gray and Houghton & Miffelen wrote that they couldn't offer to publish Gray's book as unfortunately they aren't very interested in Canada in the U.S.A. Not enough for an unknown author. Luckily Leo Walmsley an English author had written his publishers, Collins, and they want to see the manuscript as there is great interest in Canada in England. so just hope they publish it. We tried to telephone Gray but their line was out. We decided to ask Miss Ashmole to supper as she leaves to-night, and she seemed glad to come. Gave her steak, She came a little after six and stayed until nearly 11 when we took her home. She is very interesting to talk with and we enjoy her.



Sunday we were tired but did want to get a letter written to Gray and Eleanor as we knew they would wonder how we felt about the book not being published by Houghton Mifflin, so I struggled to type a letter before train time, knowing the 10.15<sup>AM</sup> train would catch the night train south. Pete went up to the Scotts and to Mom's and then we dashed to the train just in time. Met Jim Simpson walking along the river road on the way back and I suggested to Pete it might be a good chance to get him to tell some stories for the recorder. It was rather a miserable gray day anyway and think he was glad to come in, the dog too. We warmed up the recorder and I don't think Jim knew exactly what it was, for he sat in the big chair and talked for a whole hour. We sort of led him on once in a while asking him questions and he told about the old days and early climbers etc. We were awfully pleased as it is hard to get a person in the right mood.

It was after 12 when he left and we began to think of lunch, had a bit of a sit first and next thing we knew there was a knock, Billy and Robbie to see us after Sunday school. All dressed up in their best clothes. We knew they were hungry and most likely no lunch at home as it was Sunday and most people have an extra big and late breakfast and an early dinner about 5 o'clock, but little boys get just as hungry when noon comes along. We had plenty of steak and other things, brocoli and potatoes and pineapple which they both considered a great treat, so they had dinner with us and were just as polite and good as gold. Looked at books until the meal was ready. We had only finished a short time when Jonny appeared and we could see he was a bit hurt to find them there and he not. We never let on that they had had a whole meal for they had said they better not tell Jonny about it. A little later they went along but Jonny stayed so I gave him some pineapple and he was quite satisfied. Pete and I had all the dishes from lunch and the evening before and it was quite a dose. Then we went for the mail and took Jonny with us and he went home after that. We were glad to sit down for a bit. But our day wasn't over for Davy appeared after supper wondering if he could try his saxophone on the recorder. We have put him off so many times and hadn't the heart to disappoint him again so even if neither of us enjoy the saxophone as a musical instrument we let him go ahead and first play a bit, then listen to the way it sounded and sometimes playing the 2nd part to his own first part.

Monday was a lovely day and I decided to start a little spring cleaning, so washed the bathroom in the morning while Pete went over town. Was going to finish in the afternoon but it was one of those days when one runs into all sorts of unexpected people like Mrs A. C. Leighton the artists wife, and Bill Stewart who came up with her to the Simpsons and Merle Brewster who we took to the P.O. and Mr Walker who we talked to while waiting to see Pat about Mrs Scott. Eldon thinks that they may find the old house too much for them and also Mr Scott may not go on being employed at the boat house. Then when we got home Sam came about the floor at the meat market he is repairing, and as Harbidge hadn't arrived to take the old tank over to Charlie Reids we three loaded it onto our Jeep and Sam followed in his car and we three unloaded it at Charlie Reid's back door. Of course having waited since Friday for Harbidge he came about an hour later! but we were glad to get it over there before it stormed. At 4.15 we had arranged to meet Miss Ashmole and take her to meet Norman Luxton, which we did. The patients had just given



her a farewell party, doughnuts and coffee, flowers and photographs and a present of a brush, comb and mirror set. She was awfully pleased about it. The men are mostly miners and people hurt in various accidents and are sent up here for Physiotherapy, she says they are a very nice lot except for one or two no one likes very much. It worked just right and she met Norman who sailed to Fiji in an Indian Dug out canoe years ago and she is on her way to Fiji now. Jonny was over after supper as Barbara is away to Edmonton on an ~~XXXXXX~~ I.O.D.E. <sup>annual meeting</sup> convention and to see Bubby. There are just the 4 boys at the house but it is all arranged for Davy and Jonny to cook and wash up one day and Harold and Percy (the boy boarding there) do it the next. So to-night I guess Jonny is busy washing up!

And here I was going to write shorter letters, well I guess I enjoy writing you what we do. Your letter came yesterday with the others about our trip in 1916. We are really interested in the letters and it is fun to know when we did what and where.

You asked what we thought of the Studio. We agree with you, it is getting less and less interesting, all the Art magazines seem to gradually get full of the crazy looking modern things, and there are so few pictures one is really interested in that it hardly seems worthwhile taking. We had the enclosed notice about "The Artist" a magazine also published in England and it used to be very good. I have a copy of one which I will send you, we don't want it back. You could give it a try for one year if you like., and let the Studio lapse.

Thurs. forgot to mail this yesterday. Am sorry to be so late with a letter.

Loads of love  
Catherine



Banff, Alberta.  
Sat. April 5, 1952.

Dearest Mother,

You will be glad to see I have a new ribbon in this, should have done it before.

We had our first really spring day when it got almost to 60 above and with a gusty warm wind which just licks up the snow. There are just a few piles left and the river is opening quite well. An awful lot of puddles and the ground too soggy to do much but we are anxious to get raking it for when the winter snow goes there is such a mess of stuff left where the animals strew the garbage about and papers blow around and this year such a lot of cones from the spruce trees.

I was busy vacuuming upstairs this morning when Mrs Simpson came, seems they had left a notice of a wire for us at their back door. So after her visit we went over to see what it was. A man from the C.B.C. Talks Dep't in Winnipeg is coming to Banff tomorrow with Betty Newton and wants to see us, I think it may be the recordings for he is on radio programs. We met Walter Ashdown the Brewster driver who drove when Pete did in the twenties and still is their best driver. He is the one we would have liked to go and help you. He got a chance to go with the Wils Mellons down to California and back. They were here one summer when first married and lived in Mackie and Barbara's house the year Bubby was born. Are evidently very wealthy now and bought one of the cars that the Princess Elizabeth and Duke of Edinburgh drove in and Walter said it was the best wheeling car he has ever driven, a Chrysler limousine. Mrs Mellen wasn't very well, had had a slight stroke previously so they took it easily. They are just back the Mellens in Edmonton and Walter just heard to-day that she had another stroke, doesn't know how ill she is but she seemed so young for that sort of thing. They were wonderful to Walter and took him everywhere, One hotel they went to Mr Mellen registered and said he wanted a room for the boy who was driving them, and the clerk said "we have rooms for the chauffeurs in such and such a place." and Mr Mellen just took the pen and crossed out his name and said to have the boy take their bags out to the car, and he wouldn't stay there, unless Walter was with them.

Well that took most of our morning, hearing all about the trip and where they went, and then we did a few errands too. Just as we finished the noon dishes and were going out. Marguerite Ashley and her mother came to see us for a minute and stayed much longer. She is here with her two children for a month visiting, comes from Ottawa now. It was nice to see her again. Then out again and we met someone everyn block to stop and speak to. Like Tully Montgomery to mention the new light fixtures at the Anglican church, and Mrs Boon who had a most amusing letter from Nick Morant and is scheming up some surprise to play on him when he comes back. and Grace Ather to hear how her job is going. She likes it, so am sure she must be getting on allright. and so it went. Even dropped in to a church tea.



Yesterday I did a bit of cleaning upstairs in the studio but not too much as in the afternoon was the Blood Doners Clinic. It took about an hour to go through that as there were so many there. It is quite interesting how they do it now. The Red Cross in Calgary have a mobile unit which has a refrigerator in it and all the stuff they need. They now bring their own woman doctor who does all the punching, about 4 nurses, maybe more and one head nurse. Then two civilain women, one who drives and spent most of her time taking the pints of blood, like so many milk bottles out to the refrigerator. The other just saw to it that the rubber hose was removed from the bottles and that sort of thing.

The local people round up the donators, this time they asked everyone when they collected the annual donations of money for the Red Cross if they would donate blood Friday. Then They set up the place in the vestry of the United Church. Some ladies serve the glasses of fruit juice you have to drink first. Grapefruit, orange or apple. We were all seated around the first little curtained off section, then moved on in turn to the place where our finger's are pricked by a Balgary lady. She then took a bit of blood in a tiny tube and dropped it into a glass of colored chemical and if it sank ~~OK~~ O.K., if not you hadn't enough iron in your blood and they wouldn't take any donation. Also if you had a cold or anything like that they stopped you there.

After that each of us holding little wads of cotton on our fingers we went to a table where we gave our name and number of previous donations if we remembered. Then another Banff lady checked whether we had ever had Jaundice or Malaria and after that we were seated until the next ones turn to make the donation came. It is a very social time for all the men and women are to-gether just as they happen to come along and most people know one another. Oh, yes we were each given a label with the type of blood we had, I have A and a yellow label, some had blue and red. These labels are taken by the nurse who gets you ready and stuck on your bottle.

We were each called in turn by the head nurse as a bed became vacant in the next curtained off place. I expect they bring the beds too, there must have been 8 or 10 set up. One nurse came and gave me a little wooden stick about an inch thick to squeeze, then they wrap a rubber thing round your arm such as they do when taking your blood pressure. You lie with your arm stretched out and another nurse comes along and rubs sort of ether smelling stuff over the inside of your elbow. the nurse gets the bottle ready and next the woman doctor comes along and makes the puncture, and attaches the tube, they tell you to squeeze the wooden stick in your hand and release it slowly. Evidently that helps the blood flow more easily. Then the nurse keeps an eye on the bottle and as it gets full she comes back and disconnects you. presses a wad of cotton on the hole and helps you up and into the next curtained place where there were three or four Banff nurses, Here you lie down for a short time and they cover you up with a blanket. After for 5 or 10 minutes

After this and you think you feel allright you go into the last section where there are little tables and more Banff ladies serve you tea or coffee, toast and jam. + Nellie Mackenzie to see that you were given a ride home

They were so busy yesterday that it was like an assembly line



and people began coming about 2.30 and some never finished until after 7 o'clock. They said something about 190 donations but I believe with those refused for one reason or another they got about 170 pints of blood. The little girl at the store Betty was scared to go because of the needle and the idea of the whole thing but she did and ~~poor~~ thing, They tried three times to find a vein and evidently some people have too small veins to get it from. They told her to wait two years. ~~So she was stuck more than most~~

Didn't mean to write so much of that. Erling Strom was in town Friday and came around in the evening between seeing someone and a telephone call he went back for. He is waiting to fly out to Assinaboine as he has a number of people coming to ski. We asked about Sigrid and she broke her pelvis in two places, one a crack, and they thought it would be very painful and serious, They of course can't set it in a cast and so she lay between two sand bags in bed as still as could be. A German Doctor now in New York who goes to Stowe to ski gave them very helpful advise. Erling says he is a wonderful doctor and gets people up and walking in ~~no~~ time. He told them how to very carefully exercise the leg in bed and then later to roll over etc. and she was up on Crutches in two weeks and in a month goes about quite normally, so it wasn't nearly as bad as they expected. They are taking Siri the daughter to Norway this summer on a long promised trip when she got through high school.

It is Sunday and another warm day, 50° at 8 o'clock and the ground is drying fast, but an awfully strong wind so not very pleasant to be outside or I would be raking the dry spots.

Better try and clear up the desk now. We don't know when Betty~~x~~ Newton and her friend will come.

Loads of love,

Catherine

P.S. Do you ever hear from Mildred & Cousin Jane?  
How are they?

Mon. A.M. Only 8 inches of fresh snow last night  
the biggest single fall we've had all winter. The  
birds are thick looking for food.



Banff, Alberta.  
Tues. April 8, 1952.

Dearest Mother,

We had quite an afternoon on Sunday after a quiet morning. Betty Newton was very good and came around about quarter to twelve and at first I said to Pete " Oh here they come ! " Just as we were about to start lunch, but she asked if they could come back at 2 P.M. which was fine for us. So we had our lunch in quiet and were already when they came in the afternoon.

I think I told you we had a wire from the man in the Talks Dep't of the C.B.C. in Winnipeg wanting to see us, this was David Walker, a very serious lad and so interested in the Indian recordings we had. We thought he and Betty would be the only ones but with them were a Mr and Mrs Townsend of Calgary and half way through their visit she told me she was from Boston originally, had lived on Louisburg Square and her name was Morrison, she is a 2nd. cousin of Sam Morrison. Graduated from Winsor School in 1927 so she isn't much younger than I am. Don't know how long she has lived in Calgary but she reminded me of Rosse Howe, a most attractive person. There was also an Irishman with a very English accent and he got so interested telling Pete about his experiences in the Orient during the war that I was more or less left to talk to the serious radio man and Mrs Townsend. They wanted to see sketches too and we had a busy time of it. Mr Townsend looked and seemed very much like Gordon Hutchins. When I suggested tea they said they had someone else to see before going back to Calgary and getting David Walker onto the train east. It wasn't a very nice afternoon getting darker and darker and as they arrived starting to rain. First rain we have had since last fall.

They were still here when who should drop in but Dennis Mighall from Edmonton, He used to be in the mounted police here years ago and knew Pete well and since then we have known him in the C.P.R. police and later when Pete was in Edmonton I stayed with him and Sophie. and they have spent vacations here. He is the finest sort of person. Had a friend with him who was in the Canadian navy during the war. so it was all a bit confusing until the others left and I got a quick tea for Dennis as they were going to Golden that night. It was much too short a call.

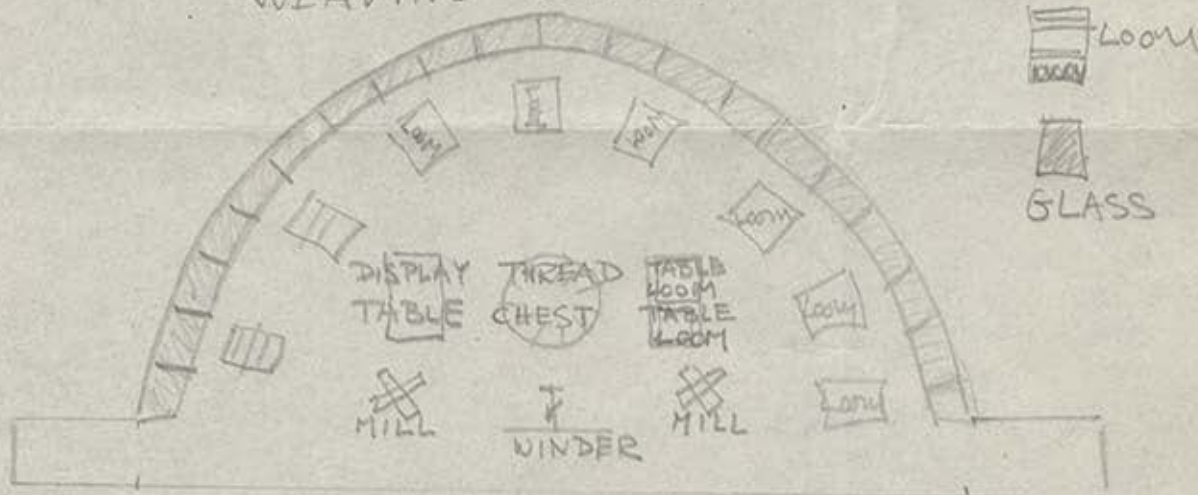
After they had left about 5 o'clock I went up to see Mom, for she had telephoned just when the others first came and were listening to a recording, to tell us that the truck had come from Golden to get the old organ she was to give the church over there, and there was just a boy and his girl friend who had come and could Pete come up to help move the thing or did we know anyone she could get on a Sunday afternoon ! I tried to think but couldn't help much. Seems they had wired her the night before and scared her too, for Saturday morning she had had a wire saying Marian Stockand had had a baby boy, her first great grand-child. and when another wire was telephoned that same evening she was sure something had happened. It was to say they would be over for the organ sometime Sunday afternoon.



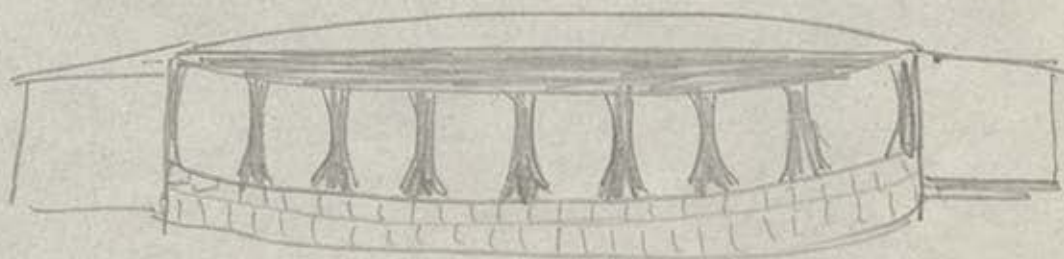
Of course it never occurred to Mom there wouldn't be enough of them to move the thing. It is like an upright piano, so when the boy arrived and no one to help she couldn't think of who to get on a Sunday. In the end the boy went to a garage and got a strong man and they managed. It is Grand-pa Curren's organ and going to the little church where they had the fire when we came by last year.

Robbie and Jonny had been down too but we told them we were having company and so they didn't stay. but after supper Jonny came over for a while. I think he is going to be an Architect. He was telling us that his mother thought she would go back to summer school again this year and take more weaving, he thinks she will get her teachers degree in Weaving and then she can have a School. That gave him the idea he should design her a school or building for her, got a fresh piece of paper and drew a very good plan, a semi-circular building with windows all the way round and looms by the windows and he thought of the winding frames and goodness knows what. At the top he wrote "Mrs White's Weaving School" thinks he might show it to Donald Cameron the head of the summer school as an idea. I will make a sketch of his plan for you. just as he drew it with all the various things

MRS. WHITES  
WEAVING SCHOOL



Designed April 6 1952



Jon White



That is just as he wrote it out, scale and signature and date. The two squares at the side are the entrances but he crossed these out later. But I really think it is a very good plan. It is to be Bundle rock and glass, a flat roof I think he said you could take chairs up on.

Barbara was telling me to-day that while she was out the other day he made some Easter eggs, colored them and then twisted some wire to look like spectacles, stuck them on one egg and labled it "Professor Buysa-book." She thought we had maybe suggested the name but he said it was his own idea, they had a story at school about a Prof. Borrowsabook, but Barbara thought Jonny's a better one. He really is funny the way he says things.

Sunday night it rained hard until about 10 P.M. and then it must have turned to snow. it got much colder and by morning we had a good 8 to 9 inches, all the trees were laden and it looked like the middle of winter. The biggest fall we have had this year. and it snowed a bit off and on all day, certainly didn't melt any. Then yesterday we had a little sun between snow squalls and it did melt off the main streets but around here it was as much snow as ever. got down to about 16° above Monday night and this morning, (Wednesday) it was 5° above zero! It has been a perfect day and warmed up with a bright sun, but didn't get above 35° above. Just hope it goes before Easter for I had hoped to get a bit of raking done.

The interesting thing has been the many birds we all of a sudden had, lots of Juncos of all kinds, one pair had lovely pinkish breast and sides, think it must be the "pink sided junco" then we had big fat robins who have consumed heaps of bread, and a lovely orange colored robin with markings like a Meadow lark, a black crescent on it's breast. We have had one before but never three or 4. We also had a big woodpecker and chic-a-dees and nut hatches.

The sad part was that in the afternoon we were looking out watching them eat and noticed a magpie on the edge of the roof on the garage, suddenly he swooped down and next minute we noticed him start to fly up with one of the lovely orange Oregon robins in his claws, it's head hanging, The magpie dropped it but picked it up again and managed to fly off where we couldn't see it anymore. We had no idea they would kill a big bird the size of a robin. Later when we went out, the whole story was written in the fresh snow. In the snow below the eave of the garage was a round red spot of blood and all sorts of ~~mf~~ wing marks across the snow and tiny little orange tipped feathers. Under a spruce tree 50 feet away were a great many more feathers all over the snow, and another 20 feet & another batch. Yesterday we saw what was left of the bird under the tree. Made us mad for local people all claim the magpies rob nests and kill little birds, but the Government had some idea that no animal or bird should be killed in the park as they would naturally live to-gether.

This turned out to be quite a letter. Will send this much along and as Good Friday is a holiday as well as Easter Sunday will write again soon.

Loads of love from us both. ~ a Happy Easter .

Catharine

(oru)



Jonny was just over this evening and got talking about the Gray line of busses, and I said that Fern Brewster's husband was the head of all the Gray lines in the U.S. and Canada, and Jonny said, "Another famous person from Banff, Banff is full of famous people - more than most places - except New York - and your Mother." So I said what makes my mother a famous person ~~and~~ ? " and Jonny replied. " She is famous as a great designer. " so I asked him how he knew you designed things, and he said. " Oh. I know, I've heard my mother tell about her designing things. " So you see even in Banff among 11 year old boys you are considered a famous designer !

He drew a better plan of the Weaving school, this time with an office and a washroom with 2 toilets , one washbasin and another large one for washing material. He wondered if they would need a bathtub, but I said I didn't think going to school like that they would be taking baths, and "Quick as a wink he replied." it would be useful to wash material in." Barbara always washes things after weaving in case they shrink a bit. Then he drew in the "Thread chest " so I asked what it was like. and he said " Oh. it's just something I invented, if you want a certain color thread you just walk over and pull out a drawer ." and here I thought it was a regular part of a weaving set up ! He really is funny. Not a bit

*He really is funny. Not a bit*



Banff, Alberta.  
Sun. April 13, 1952

Dearest Mother,

It is Easter Sunday and I haven't had a good chance to write you the last few days so will type off a very hurried note to mail on the evening ttrain.

It has been a lovely day and warm, so was yesterday and at last the snow has gone from the recent storm of a week ago, the river too is open though still ice along the edges. But with all the moisture the ground is soaking wet so it will be a while yet before we can start raking. I do enjoy getting out raking in the spring.

X Am sending you a bunny that Jonny made himself for I think it very clever. Nick Morant sent us a box the other day about the size of a hat box. It came by the big express truck and the expressman wanted so to deliver it himself that he came two or three times before he found us in. When I went to the door and he said he had beentwice that afternoon I said it was pretty wet to leave the box outside and he said "it wasn't that" and turned the box around in his hand and there looking out of a celophane window was the cutest toy rabbit you ever saw, with ears on springs that wiggled. He had without a doubt the funniest expression as he sat on a tissue paper nest and peered above the edge of the opening. Behind him they had rigged up some colored printed cotton material that looked like wallpaper, and underneath it was written "wild animal, huury or there will be 20." Can't you imagine the box with a bunny peering out traveling across Canada in an express car! The celophane was craked but nothing hurt. Have an idea it caused amusement all the way. We took it up to show Charlie Beil and his two kids and they were so taken with it that we got it back and to-day took it up filled with the "20 more" some chocolate, and then Jonny made a dozen like the one enclosed, all with different colored coats. He thought up the idea himself and then Barbara said "what about a tail" which he had forgotten, so suggested cotton batten and so he put the tails on. After you enjoy it, send it back sometime for we keep the things he makes in a drawer.

X I went to church with Pete's mother this morning. Billy and Robbie had asked us why we didn't go and they wanted us to hear them in the choir, for the children's choir sings on Easter morning. So I went, and they really were awfully good. Robbie has one of those very high boys sopranos and sang a line by himself, Garrry too. It was anice service and I never saw so many tiny tots at church and most of them good as gold. In fact one little 4 year old. Eldon Walls boy came in all by himself half way through, the usher took him to a seat and he stood on the seat during the singing and sat quietly all thgouth the service but never took his hat off. I thought it was nice to have a church where it was sort of informal enough for children to feel at home.

Better get this off and will write spon again, I hope.

Loads of love, Catharine



Thurs. April 17 1952.

Dear Mother

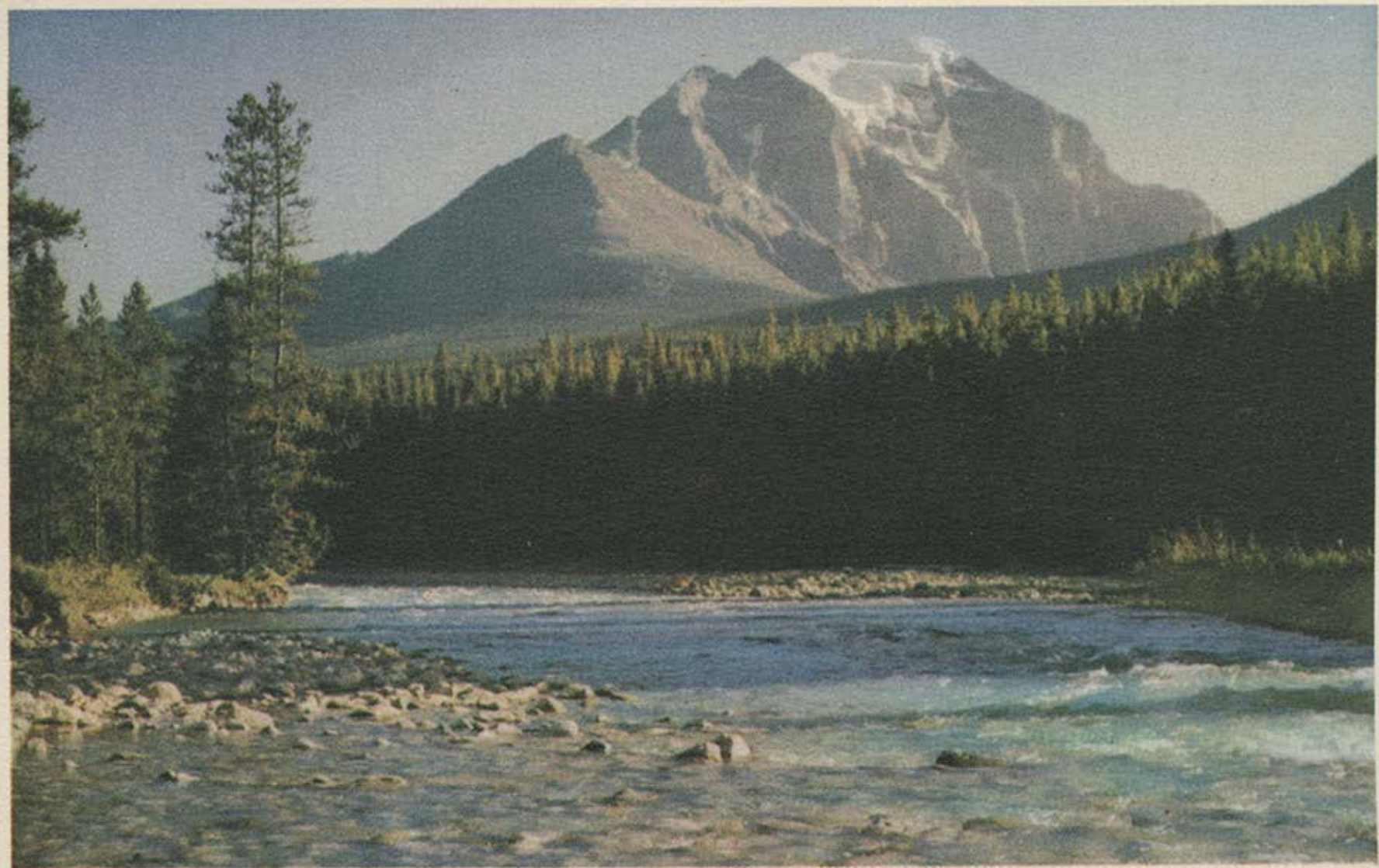
118. MOUNT TEMPLE.  
Alt. 11,625 ft.  
Near Lake Louise,  
Banff National Park.

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

POST CARD

haven't had  
a chance to write this  
side Dave Campbell  
thinks a case of have been  
about Monday & have been  
at Barbara's sons & daughters  
about as a grand present  
yesterday. The are the  
has been fine. But they  
have been fine. Too  
coming in to art & too  
much confusion. All  
write but you will  
a long letter. soon.  
we are having breakfast  
spare now. The food is  
absolutely wonderful.  
& muddier. Love  
to all of love  
Catherine







Banff, Alberta.  
Sat. 19th of April  
1952.

Dearest Mother,

This has been the week of Easter Vacation at the schools and we seem to have followed suit. Gray Campbell wrote that he would like to send Dane, (the oldest boy aged 8 or 9) and Henrietta Walmsley. (the English girl of 17 or 18) up to Banff for a few days as a treat. It was the first time Henrietta had gotten away from the ranch since last summer when she arrived, for when either of the others left or both went to Lethbridge (the nearest big place) Henrietta would look after the children and the animals, so Gray felt she deserved a bit of a treat and this was the best time for her to be away. We arranged for them to stay at Barbaras and as Gray said they could poke around by themselves and were not to bother us.

I think I told you that Jonny, Davey and Harold were to go with Jackie to Grand Coulee Dam by car and then both Davey and Harold decided they would rather stay in Banff and work at the boat house during their vacation, being low on pocket money, and they had seen Grand Coulee last year. So then Jonny was to be the only one to go. He was to leave early Monday morning, but soon after breakfast arrived to tell us the exciting news that instead of driving they were to take the late night train for the coast and even go across to Victoria. I never saw anyone so excited, he was full of it all day, dancing around and teasing us all, looking at maps and asking questions. He and Robbie Walker were over in the morning and then we had errands to do and sent them off. In the afternoon Susan came over to see us and was most helpful in cleaning out the Jeep. We backed it to the back door and vacuumed it all & she and Jonny cleaned all the windows. rather nice for us to just look on and they did it well too.

Jonny was quite pleased that Dane and Henrietta were to arrive on the bus before he left so he would see them. They came at six and Jonny was here to go and meet them with us. They had supper at Barbaras that night and got settled and then were all over here in the evening. We knew they must be tired for it had been a long drive first by Jeep to Calgary and then by bus to Banff and so sent them back early. *They were 3 deer at the back in the evening & they fed them. Haven't seen deer before much or since. Jonny also took them over there.*

Tuesday we were just finishing breakfast when Dane and Jonny appeared, we wondered what had happened and seems that Jackie had tripped and sprained his ankle or maybe broken it they thing now, so the trip was off. Poor Jonny after all his excitement. Susan and Henrietta came along too and after a bit of talking they decided to climb Tunnel Mt. which they did. Sam was around moving or preparing the old shed or garage below the other house for a workshop, putting in new two windows etc. so Pete was back and forth and it was such a lovely day I decided it was time to take *they had no sooner gone that first Patzy Mackenzie came & they fell so they stayed on with us until their father arrived about something.*



So our morning was taken up - 7 night after lunch Sam came to talk about putting up the meat market floor & we had to hurry to get the mail & the Jeep over town.

~~the parts dry enough. As well as getting the laundry done etc.~~

After lunch the kids thought they would like to go for a swim and as we had arranged to have the Jeep lubricated and all ready to send down to Gray who is going to buy it from us, we thought they better take a taxi up and walk down from the Hot Springs. They started off and I had visions of a nice afternoon in the sun cleaning up the flower beds etc. When first thing we knew Robbie, Jonny and Dane appeared. Seems the pool was closed for it's weekly cleaning, so Susan and Henrietta were helping Barbara with the dishes and the others played back and forth between the houses. I got a bit done and then Mrs Simpson spotted me and came over for a bit of a talk and showed me how to prune an elk or moose eaten balsam with just the very top left. and when she had gone Doris Mac-eod came to collect for the Cancer Society and never having been here before stayed quite a while with her little girl. Seems as if someone else came too, anyway it was a continual something all day. Think that Sam came after lunch about fixing Ted Evans place and there was talk about that. ~~and xxxxxxxxxx~~  
~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Sam was back to start fixing up the old garage as a workshop all afternoon.

Then right After supper the kids were again over to tell us they were going to the movie but first gave us a hand with moving the work bench from our workshop to Sam's new one. It is funny but I forget and then things come back. Pete had thought of getting the one from Mom's basement and he and Sam had a look at that but the house must have been built around it, too hard to move. Sam said he would make a new one but Pete has been wanting a smaller one for his work. usually the big one gets so cluttered with things just laid on it that it becomes a major operation to clear it off to work. So we two eased it outside and brought a log table down from upstairs to put in it's place before supper. and when the kids came they helped us move the thing by stages over to Sam's new workshop and he really was surprised when he came next morning to see it all set up !

Monday night Pete had had trouble with his leg and also sinus. It seems to build up over a period and then drains down his throat and makes him sick feeling, and we were both up about 4 or 5 times in the night, so Tuesday morning had felt a bit weary, and as the kids were here and people going and coming all day we were fairly tired by night and went to bed awfully early. Funny after Pete feels real sick like that he picks up the next day and seems better than for the weeks preceeding, I have an idea that the infection in his sinus makes him sort of loggy feeling. His hip and knee bother him quite a bit from an old injury and the doctors say there is really nothing one can do, a touch of arthritis is apt to form in a joint that has been injured, It bothers him going down hill or down steps, sometimes more than others.

Wednesday was a perfect day and we thought the day for a long promised picnic. I went over to Barbara's first thing to see if they would like to go and telephone the other kids. We were only going up to the open fireplace about 5 miles from here where we felt it would be dry and nice and Sam said he would go and maybe Cis which gave us their rumble seat too. Susan could come but Mary Lee had already planned to go with Lona and two other girls on their bicycles. Zona Paris and Pat Lambert. Linnie Becker had other plans.



Patsy and Bill MacKenzie could both come and then there was a quick call back; could Michael go too as there was a crisis over the situation, "I expect maybe Bill was to take Michael somewhere and he wanted to come too. He is just six, When they came down little Sandy  $3\frac{1}{2}$  was with them as well, but good as gold the whole time.

Then we set off to get 4 lbs of Hamburger and about 4 doz rolls. bananas and marshmallow filled cookies. onions to go with the meat and chocolate milk. It was easy to get ready and we didn't leave until 11.30. As Cis preferred to work in the garden and the 4 little boys had gotten into the back of the Jeep behind the middle seat and were on two cushions, Susan, Henrietta, Patsy and Sandra in the middle with most of the food, and Sam came with us in front. 11 in all in the Jeep. *we left his car behind.*

It turned out to be one of the best picnics yet. The 4 Girl guides had gone ahead and the fire was just being lighted when we got there. Susan and Patsy and Henrietta got the buns buttered and the hamburgers made, the 4 little boys played Indians by going up the hillside and then running down and around the camp-fire yelling to scare us. Later taking the paper cups and filling them with berries and showering us with them. The berries were some kind of amunition. Sam got fire wood chopped up and all in all we kept busy until the food was gone. The girls had their own things to cook like eggs and weiners and then ate what was left over from ours. *Billy asked if we had seen him when he was sneaking around. I don't know. He was placed we hadn't. We were too busy.*

Sandy was too cunning, she is just a little mite and when she was sitting in the shade and said she felt cold I suggested she sit on a log beside Sam, and near the fire, also in the sun where it was warm. They talked to-gether and Sam was much amused. She took a big banana, almost as large as she was and Sam said "Isn't that pretty big for you?" and she said "I can eat one and a half!" and I guess she did. We had oranges too and most everything but 2 rolls were eaten.

We didn't stay very long as we were anxious to get back and do some things and Sam wanted to work on the shop. But they had a wonderful time and we thought played to-gether so well for all ages from  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 18 or maybe I should say 60 something, which Sam is. The only catastrophies were that Michael fell in the creek up to his middle and Mary Lee lost her brace for her teeth as well as a silver knife of Lonas which went through a hole in her pocket. The brace she takes out when eating, a plastic thing with a gold band and costs \$45.00 to replace. We all hunted and Mary Lee herself found it but someone had stepped on it breaking the plastic, However she washed it off and put it back in her mouth and it seemed O.K. They also found the knife.

The 4 girls stayed on to climb up the mountain a way and we didn't see them until later. When we got back we drove Jonny Henrietta and Dane up to the Hot Springs for a swim and left them there to find their way home. Left Sandy and Michael ~~who~~ at home as they were pretty tired. It was pretty windy by then, too much so to do things outside but before I could do more than write a card.



the four girls came in to get their pussy willows <sup>we</sup> ~~they~~ had brought back for them and that mean't gingerale and cookies, and soon the others were in from the swim and hungry too. We got Dane to write his family postcards with Pete's help while Henrietta helped me do dishes. (Jonny stayed home reading) and I think Sam came over for a cup of tea and gave us a few recitations. Then we had to mail the cards at the station and see the new Deisal locomotives, which neither Dane or H. had seen close too.

I think we had Chinese supper that night and soon after Jonny H and Dane were over to go crocus hunting after the warm days. We had a nice drive but didn't find any and then all went to bed early again. *Saw a bear which mean't more than crocuses.*

Thursday we drove the kids up to the Cave and Basin and let them walk back and I had quite a bit to do like laundry etc. and errands to see about, etc. Sam was busy putting new windows in the shop. We found that our new Jeep which was expected in Calgary Tuesday or Wednesday was sitting in Coutts at the border between Alberta and Montana as there are bans of trucks using the roads which have all gone to pieces with the sudden spring weather and the frost coming out of the ground. The surface breaks and then the big trucks just bury down into the holes. Our Jeep came out on one of those trailer things that carry several cars. So that mean't we couldn't send out old Jeep down with Dave Crosser who had planned to ~~send~~ take Dane and Henrietta home at the same time.

Anyway that afternoon we decided to take them to see the Sutherlands and up to Norquay, which we did and soon after getting back Betty ~~Newton~~ dropped in. She was up to pick up 4 Australians and drive them to Calgary in the morning for her father. When she heard the kids had climbed Tunnel Mt. she wished they would take her and there was just time before supper, so we drove them part way up and let them off. came back and got supper ready as we had asked Dane, Henrietta and Jonny over for Fresh salmon, asparagus and new potatoes. The asparagus is so good, from California, most likely flown to Calgary. The Salmon from B.C. It was the only meal we had them here. got ice cream and cake as well and we asked Betty to come too but she didn't want to impose and left them at the King Edward, when we found she wasn't coming, we sent Jonny running back with a note and she came along. "Show Boat" was on at the movies and though we weren't planning to go, in the end we did and it was pretty good. The kids loved it and it is only because one has seen the original show that it doesn't come up to it really.

That left us with a heck of a lot of dishes the next A.M. but for some reason we woke early and did them all after breakfast in record time. In a way we should have let the kids go back on Friday as they had done most everything there was to do but they were both enjoying it so much we hadn't the heart to tell them to go until Saturday morning. So Friday was a funny sort of day. They went off to see the Banff Springs and Fish Hatchery and I did a wash, etc. Then I lost my keys somewhere and we hunted high and low and enquired at the Post office, Police and newspaper etc. The kids were over after lunch as it was a lovely day again and we tried to show them the coach and couldn't find the key to that either. Pete had been trying to find another key for a padlock



and all in all we seemed to be pawing over a box of old keys and trying first one and another all day ! I got spring fever too and didn't feel like doing much somehow, and we decided to have a bit of gingerale and I made tea for Sam to take over in a threemos but Pete said to get him over here, so Dane fetched him and that led to more recitations and just as he did the last one Mrs Chuck Millar from Calgary came to see us. Tea for her and then she stayed and stayed, and not having seen her for ages and she having named her last little girl Gail Catharine, there wasn't much we could do. *we didn't want to hurry her unduly.*

When she had left we still had the Walkers to see before Dane went home so went up there for a call and by then it was nearly supper time. We had ours a little late and of course the kids were over after theirs. They thought they would rather listen to some of our recordings of Indians and Nick Moarant and the Grizzly, though Jonny was all for a car ride. It was nine when they went home and were to leave the next morning at 8 o'clock. Susan going down on the bus with them. *They had nearly 4 hours in Calgary & would reach Carley at 7.30.*

So you see we had rather a busy week or a full one and now this coming week I shall have to get busy and catch up.

Yesterday was Saturday and Sam spent a good part of the morning with Pete putting a new lock on the back door as we never have found my keys, while I cleaned. We went over town just before lunch but spent most of the afternoon doing errands, and seeing people. It takes time and somehow is tiring seeing about a lot of different things. Got flowers for Mom and Mrs Paris, tulips and a kind of narcissis, they look so pretty, come from B.C. then we found Pearl was back and called on her and saw a wonderful black french poodle she brought with her. It was given to the Olivers and came from Paris and has a real pedigree, but they are away so much they didn't like to keep it and thought it would be company for Pearl. I never did like the looks of the dogs all clipped in a funny way but this one really is the sweetest thing and came up and leaned against my knee in such a gentle manner and then after a while went to Pete. There was also a Church tea on and Pearl didn't want to go but wanted a cake so I got that for her. Then as we went for the mail we happened to see Neilsons truck from Calgary, the furnace firm who originally installed our heating system but who haven't been in Banff lately so we got another firm with a very effecient man, Gotki. But Gotki has been sick this last year and the other workers are just no good and keep putting one off and our fan hasn't been wokring right so when we saw the Neilson truck we gave chase and the two men came around to the house and looked at the fan and are going to see what they can do for us. We still hadn't packed up the mail and by the time we had done everything it was way after five.

We were going to bed early after supper and I thought I would get this written you when Mr Pelluet came to return a key. His wife died last fall and he lives alone and am sure is pretty lonely and so he stayed and talked, and we found he had spent 5 years in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil before the 1st World War, in a bank. Funny how you know people for years and never realize things like that. He stayed until 11.30 P.M. so this morning



we were rather tired, and so will you be when you read all this letter !

It is a lovely day and if no one comes to see us we should get a bit of raking done, or something outdoors. I haven't answered your recent letters at all but will soon I hope.

Those trees that died in Bermuda were Cypress and the Wards brought us some lovely book ends in the shape of sail boats carved from the wood and it is much like sandle wood has a lovely odor to it still. Bermuda really isn't tropical and more like Maine I guess in summer, The Wards found it cool too in winter and lots of wind. More Like Victoria .B.C. though of course it does get frost occasionally.

It is now after lunch. Jonny was over and helped rake and we got a lot of cones and the lawn pretty well done. Dr Riley was in with some friends but didn't stop luckily as it was just before lunch. Now we are going for the mail and to tell Pearl we have heard that there is to be a talk about her brother on the radio to-night.

Loads of love

Catharine



Banff, Alberta.  
Tues. April 22, 1952

Dearest Mother,

This may not be much of a letter for we have had rather a busy two days, all sorts of different things going on and to think of.

Sunday was lovely and Jonny and I raked the lawn in the morning, in the afternoon Mary Lee and Lona came and soon Robbie Walker just back from Calgary, so we all raked beneath the little spruce trees at the back of the house, Jonny came too and Billy and they fooled a good deal but we got the leaves and dead grass raked up. we are always afraid they will catch fire when Mr Crosby burns his grass. We also called on Merle Brewster as we heard there was to be a program about her husband (who died last spring) on the radio. and I think Jonny was over in the evening, we had Chinese supper.

Yesterday, Monday, I was all set to start spring cleaning in earnest but it was a lovely day and Cecil Philpott came to put light in the workshop for Sam and it seemed a good chance to bury the line that runs between our house and the shed as the stones in the walk had to be lifted up, so while Sam and Pete and Cecil worked at that I started raking the leaves out of the woodpile and also had a wash doing. Sid Vallance came around for a paper that was in the safety deposit box so went over and got it for him, we had also been over for errands earlier.

Then we went right out after lunch for the mail and ran into all sorts of odd people and things. arranged for Ules to come to thin out some more trees and with Bert Davies to bring ashes to fill in the driveway etc. Did the dishes when we got back and then ~~Sixx~~ it was soon tea time and we had a very good time in the work shop with Cecil, Sam, Pete and I all sitting on boxes and saw horses. They all love to swap yarns. Sid Vallance was back then and called on Pete's mother but couldn't find her in and so I rang her up and found she had been very sick with a terrible throat, but was feeling a bit better. "e were a little annoyed she hadn't let us know but she said she was afraid we would get the doctor and he would take her to the hospital, but she really shouldn't be alone when sick like that. *However she is much better now.*

We were up to see her for a bit after an early supper and then as we drove out the yard saw Mary Simpson go by, and knew she was just arriving from Omaha. "e gave her a few minutes to see her mother and then drove in the yard. But Mrs Simpson was out for a short drive, having said if she went she was sure Mary would arrive while she was gone, so we went in the house and had a bit of a visit with Mary until Mrs Simpson got back. She had quite a trip back ~~having~~ gone from Omaha to Minneapolis up the east side of the river and in one place Mary said they passed a bridge that was completely under water, and they were directed over a *route*



101 until it ran into 65 and on to Minneapolis and the next day in the paper was a picture of the road they had been over that was under a good 3 or 4 feet of water. So she just made it. We didn't stay more than a few minutes after Mrs Simpson returned and then went up to Edmees to hear about her trip to New York, the shows she had seen and the television shows etc. She said she got so tired each day when they went shopping etc. but now she is back she feels just wonderfully and full of energy. I expect it was the low altitude and then the quick return by air. We were home before ten.

Today has been as mixed up as yesterday in variety. We were listening to the 8 o'clock news in bed when Ules came in his truck to cut trees, so we jumped up as we had to tell him which trees to take out and he has worked all day and taken out a lot of Balm-of-Gileads as well as two more spruce. It has made much more light and sort of opened it up. Then Sam came about the same time but works in his own shop fixing it up so we only see him when we want to. Louis the janitor at the store came to rake out yard which is a big help, as it is pretty big to do ourselves and the kids one can't count on coming. *It is easier to do before the grass starts to grow.*

We had a few errands as usual and then I went up to see how Mom felt and that took quite a while as she is a bit like Cousin Harriet and does a lot of talking when anyone comes in, living alone all the time. It is too bad that she doesn't want anyone with her. Older people should have a small suite really in a row of little houses or something, where they can do their own cooking in a small way and have their own furniture but where there is someone they can visit with or a nurse when they don't feel well and no worries about the grounds, basement or attic!

By the time I got home it was noon and we just had an early lunch cooked of leftovers when the door opened and Tom Kaguits the Indian from Morley walked in. We ended by giving him a dollar to get his dinner over town and said we would meet him at 2 o'clock at the store as he wanted some smokes and candy for a big dance they are to have in Morley on Friday. I forgot in the morning as we came along by the bank we saw Sid Vallance and had quite a chat with him about oil stocks and he told us about it. With the great interest in Oil in Alberta many people are trying to make extra money. He knows quite a few in the business but some just go on "tips" but he and a great friend of his have done awfully well. and he is so amusing about it.

We finally got back from that and soon it was tea time. (I did the ~~moning~~ first) and we took it over to the workshop which is more fun and Ules, Sam, Pete and I were just sitting down on what we could find when the minister Tully Montgomery came along. so he joined us and told a lot of amusing stories. Mr Scott was out raking but said he didn't like eating between meals so didn't come in, but it really is amusing. Sam keeps the doors all along one side wide open, and we sit on a box or saw horse or the bench and must have looked amusing. Sam in his ~~arg~~ carpenters overalls, Tully in black like a minister, Ules with a bright large checked shirt. I think that's one thing that makes Banff fun, there is time to stop and tell a few stories like that. Uncle Marshall would have enjoyed it too.



Ules chopped down one tree with a big Map pie nest in it. All made of twigs every whichway and interwoven near the top and very thick part of the spruce, about two branches deep, and way inside underneath an inner nest of grass and lined with clay. We are glad that tree came down as it will discourage the birds and they may not come back. Mrs Simpson came over to see Ules to admire what an improvement we are making.

Tully came down here and after he left ~~the first load of~~ Jonny arrived to rake, so we were just starting to help Mr Scott when a neighbor drove in and I was showing him the nest when the first load of ashes arrived to be dumped in the muddy part of our driveway. Oh yes and before that Mrs Simpson had been here for a few minutes. We had to work fairly hard to level out the first load before the 2nd arrived and that we didn't level until after supper. I was also over to see Barbara and she came back with me to see the nest so all in all it has been sort of a busy day. But we are glad to get so much done. ~~Had to admire the baby blanket~~ Barbara had woven - the 2 ballerinas she had painted while over here.

Did I tell you about Jonny saying the other night " Catharine don't you think it is about time you started ~~xxx~~ to conquer clearing up the mess on your desk ? " Seems to me I have a lot to conquer all over the house ! He is funny the way he puts things.

He brought over a dachshund he had made out of a piece of cardboard from an big box. Said he used a saw but thought he would have done better if he had had a plan to go by. He wants me to send it to you, so guess I had better only it will have to be done up ! think it is pretty well done. They have two dachshund dogs now.

Wed. A lovely spring day. no wind so feels warm. Ules came to tell us he has flu & went back to bed but hopes to be here in the A.M. Have leveled 2 loads of ashes & been up to Mams where she was discouraged about making new curtains. She is always changing them! Now must go over town.

Loads of love

Catharine

Found my keys this A.M. Had fallen in behind the typewriter & I couldn't see them sitting down - happened to lose it standing up -



Banff, Alberta.  
Sat. April 26, 1952.

Dearest Mother,

We have had rather a busy week though I didn't do any of the spring cleaning I thought I would, It seemed too nice outside to stay in. You know the phrase " springtime in the Rockies" is rather a joke for we seldom have real spring weather, but this year we have had two weeks of spring and over 65° several days and this last week little wind. Think it was over 70° yesterday and 85° in Medicine Hat and on the praries. It has been lovely, the robins and other birds chirping away and the grass starting to get quite green in some places, trees budding. However it is a month before the leaves are usually out so expect we are in for a bit of snow and chilly weather between now and then. In fact it started to rain this afternoon and is in the forties to-night.

Ules Lacasse came Tuesday morning to take out a few more trees that take our light and then Wednesday and Thursday was home sick with a flu that has been going around. However he was back yesterday and this morning took away the rest of the branches. It makes such a difference taking a tall tree out here and there and we are trying to do it carefully, any trees that are crowding others come down and then a few to make a view and we have now glimpses of the mountains through groups of spruce, it is so much prettier and the trees are grouped instead of in masses. Then we will try to plant a few little ones to show the government we aren't just taking down all the trees.

Then Bert Davies brought us 7 or 8 loads of cinders for the driveway and to make a new road through the trees and up by the Scotts as Mom often closes her gate in summer to keep horse back riders out and it is so much easier to drive right on through instead of turning round. That was Wednesday and Thursday and now this rain is just right to make it pack well. Think I told you how we dragged a short ladder on the ground behind the Jeep and Sam stood on it like a chariot racer to guide it while Pete drove the Jeep. It graded it out really well.

Sam has also started to build a sort of cupboard in the corner where we have the Economat and Water heater and we helped figure that out yesterday and he got the material etc. Then Wednesday evening the John Jaeggis who have the Hot Spring Hotel ( he is Swiss ) have been over at Edgewater B.C. all winter, came to see us and brought us two vases made of burls or Juniper roots, and they stayed until 11.30 which made a late night after rather long days. and then last night Erling Strom came over early after supper and went home by nine. He is just in from Assinaboine. They had wonderful weather and skiing.



Maybe next week if the weather isn't too nice I will get some inside work done. To-day there was a funeral in the middle of the afternoon and it rained pretty hard except during the service. we also had two chairs measured for re-doing.

Mom hasn't been well with an awful cough but seemed O.K now. and that reminds me after posting each of my last letters to you I would think. " Darn it all, I forgot to ask Mother how her cold was ?" nearly everyone here has had a touch of flu with a cough that is way down near their tummies and sounds awful. I do hope you are feeling fine now and having nice spring weather too.

I only just realized where that new school is being built in Concord. When you said Opposite the library I was thinking of where Mrs Parlow lived and now I think it must be where the Hodges lived. How in the world did the Catholics happen to build there. Is it a sort of public school ? Seems too bad to have it right in the center of a town like that, especially in Concord but when you think of it they got their church right on the village green and the fathers home too. We were told yesterday that the way the sisters here work the hospital is that in each department there is a sister who is sort of in charge or oversees it. like the kitchen, the laundry or the operating room etc. Then each one is paid a salary as high as the highest paid worker in the department whether they actually do any work or not, and this salary is then sent to the Catholic Order who owns the hospital. the nuns don't actually get any money themselves and they feel they are working for the church.

We got such a nice letter from Jack Macleod & while back and I will send it to you and Russell to read. I have answered it but think I would like it back to refer to later on. I told him that we thought he should take Jean with him not us for she would be more help with the Gaelic in Scotland. That will be quite an experience visiting at the gathering of the clans. *Jean will enjoy hearing it too.*

Did I tell you what Jonny said the other day ? " Catharine, don't you think it is about time you conquered clearing your desk ?" I think he is right and I still haven't done it.

I forget is this Gale's last year at School ?

Did I tell you that I think Gray Campbell would be awfully interested in the book about Scribner and the advice he gave young authors etc. Think you said it was a biography. We could then get it from him or perhaps read it if we get down to Cowley, I know he would be pleased your thinking of sending it to him.

That Chrysler book was interesting too, " An American Workman" is it a new book?

Mean't to answer your letters and now I have gone and written too much in this one. Will do it in my next.

Loads of love.

*Catharine*



Banff, Alberta.  
Tues. evening.  
April 29, 1952.

Dearest Mother,

We rarely do what I plan ahead but we did get quite a lot done outside to-day. It was lovely out, clear and cool but a warm sun and little wind so it was good for working. Sam was still doing the cupboard but came and helped us from time to time with odd jobs.

*This is all mixed up!*  
There was quite a mess collected all along the side of the shed, for last year we cleaned out the inside of the shed and lined up the things that were good, but we didn't want out side, and did get rid of quite a lot of things, but without realizing it a lot were left. Old stove pipes and stove parts, furnace parts a reel for hose etc. Then when the snow comes it covers up things for the winter and when it goes such a forgotten mess appears, and leaves mixed in with it. Anyway we did clean it up finally, no one else can do it for us as they don't know what to do with things. We then moved an old coal bin from one end to the other and plan to keep the garbage in it hoping in that way the animals won't scatter it about. Sam helped us move the bin on rollers this morning. Then we had a pile of rundle rock between two trees and leaves all blown in between that, so this afternoon moved those to a better spot, and raked the back lawn where the men who fixed a wall in the cellar this spring had mixed cement and left sand etc. about. We were busy all day and quite tired by supper time.

Yesterday was cloudy and dull and several good rain showers so I started in earnest to spring clean, we were up early and I was real ambitious. Started on the upstairs hall wall & as some of the white stuff <sup>was</sup> spilled on the logs and <sup>had</sup> never been cleaned since the men worked last fall, I decided to wash them and then wax them well so they will be easy to dust from now on. The doors too. Then we went over town in the middle of the morning which is a rest but interrupts a bit, and so didn't finish as much as I had planned. I should have just waxed what was clean but instead after lunch did a bit more. Then Sam came and fixed some linoleum which was cracking off in the doorway between Kitchen and hall. gave him tea as he was going to Calgary on a Mason do and then we went over town to see about having some chairs covered and to the train to see Erling Strom away. Instead got mixed up in helping Gerry Monod who had a friend who was hurt skiing at Glacier B.C. and was due in on the six o'clock train. He was in the baggage car on a toboggan as they didn't want to move him in case of making the fracture worse. So were there when he came. Pete helping lift the toboggan off. Then Chinese supper and Jonny was over asking questions most all evening.

It is now Wednesday afternoon. I got the logs waxed in the upstairs hall this A.M. & the doors. may put on another coat & after lunch Sam helped Pete put up a real good clothes line back of the house. looks better than out front where it was before. It's starting to rain so are going for the mail <sup>road of love</sup> Catharine.



Banff, Alberta.  
Sat. May 3, 1952.

Dearest Mother,

Think I told you how we moved an old coal bin from one end of the shed down to the further end and decided to use it for the garbage pails to keep the animals from ströwing the stuff all over the lawn. It is one of those bins with a sloping lid and long enough for 3 big garbage pails in a row. they are sitting on boxes <sup>which</sup> to be within easy reach when you lift the top up. <sup>There</sup> is a section about a foot by 3 feet that is hooked on, this could be removed when the coal got down a bit to make it easier to shovel.

The idea was pretty smart we thought but with the lid closed tight the smell when you lifted it was ~~wa~~ a bit too much, so we stuck a bit of wood under one end of the lid to hold it up 2 or 3 inches, the middle of that night we heard a crash of a garbage pail lid and sure enough a huge black bear had reached in and somehow knocked the lid off and pulled out a few succulent tid bits, the rest as usual was strewn about the ground. We figured each evening we would have to remember to take the wood out and close the lid tight.

To-night at supper as I sat by the window something caught my eye and just in time I saw a very light colored cinamon bear scrambling up the Balm-of-Gilead at the back door. He is one of the tiny cubs of last summer, about a year old, and then I looked at our coal bin and sure enough the other cub was inside with his head and one paw sticking out from under the lid having knocked off the little section that unhooks. He evidently pulled out one hook altogether which undid the other and the piece was on the ground. He did look funny. Pretty soon the fat one came down the tree but when he tried to get in at the garbage too the one already inside would bat him one over the nose so he had to be content with the stuff that had fallen outside on the ground. They evddently were enjoying the crab shells from last nights meal.

Finally the one inside hoped out and the other clambered in, all we would see was his hind end and one foot, he seemed to be standing on his head inside and eating from that position, but soon his head appeared alongside the hind leg and rear, and somehow he got turned round and out. They are so funny the way they act. the mother also came around, a great big cinamon bear but didn't stay as long as the cubs and then Robbie, Jonny and Harold appeared and the excitement ~~made them~~ go on to the house above us. We are not sure how well our new system is going to work after this !

Samé was here to-day finishing the cupboard in the corner to hide the washing machine & hot water tank. Looks very well and will take a picture when it gets oiled, we hope in the next few days. Sam was hoping to get the top on in one piece but because of the Welsh Dresser there just wasn't room to get it in so he had to cut it in half, and then came back after lunch to finish it. He had a stiff side and back one day so didn't come, that day. but other



wise has done quite a lot. He and Pete put me up a wonderful new clothes line at the back of the house where it gets sun and air in summer and no one sees it. It is on two wheels and works fine. I used to have a rope line between trees but Ules took out the trees which were mostly dead and I lost my line !

We also have had quite a bit of company. Edmee and Lorna Oliver were here Wednesday for tea, her daughter married young Jimmy Simpson and they had a son Tuesday night, Lorna had flown on from New York and was rather weary, and Edmee was getting a cold.

Then to-day we had Sergeant Broadway right after lunch, he is head of the Mounties, wanted to speak to Pete, and later Mrs Simpson who stayed to tea. We were over there last evening for a short time as her neice Bille Stewart is to marry a man from the Barbados and live there. she was an Air hostess for a good many years, on the Canadian Air Lines, T.C.A. Her mother & Father were up and Mary there too. they were coming over after seeing the new baby at the hospital but when they hadn't come by ten we went to bed, Mrs Simpson said they saw the lights go out and were tired anyway so it was just as well. *from Calgary*

Then this late afternoon we saw Elaine Strong Cruikshank go through on the train, she is just back from Fiji after 3 years and going to spend a few weeks with her family in Calgary. and then sail for England and France and back around the world that way to Fiji again. I think will be here about a month. Her husband is in California and will be here the end of the month.

Had your nice letter to-day and was so surprised to hear that Jean will be celebrating her 80th. birthday this year, Had no idea she was that old, somehow thought she might be 75. She certainly is smart for her age. Wish we could be there to help celebrate, we seem to miss all the good birthdays like yours and Aunt Julies and their 50th Anniversary too.

I am going to send you some clippings about the Musical Festival in Calgary this last week, for I think it is a wonderful thing to encourage young musicians of all kinds. They have held them for a good many years each spring and several Adjudicators or judges come from England or the east to judge them so it is quite fair and unprejudiced. They are each given marks so they know how well they do and the highest marks get 1st place etc. I believe there are a number of scholarships that go with 1st place in some of the groups or classes but a lot is just to know how well you are getting on. Just one girl went down from here and she won a first place in the sopranos under 18, had studied at the summer school last year. But I think the remarks the judges make are rather interesting to read and certainly encouraging for the children, some open classes I guess include older ones. The pianist Boszormenyi-Nagy is a wonderful pianist from Hungary, was here at the summer school teaching last year. He was famous in Hungary too, we didn't hear him but everyone said he was quite wonderful. They are going to have a music Festival in Banff this month, their 2nd. for Banff, Exshaw, Canmore, Feild and Golden. the small towns of the district. It encourages the kids.

It is a lovely day, to-day. Sunday. but chilly. So far we have had snow or snow flurries every day in May. Love. *Calmarie*



Banff, Alberta.  
Tues. May 6, 1952

Dearest Mother,

May be too sleepy to-night to wait much for I have been housecleaning. If I ever got more than two hours at a time I might make some progress. Pete hates any sort of scrubbing having gone through too much carpet beating and rooms "tunned out" as a child, so I have to do just a bit at a time on my own. Last week there were several interruptions or I had to go out in the middle of the morning which just ruins headway, but yesterday and to-day I really got quite a bit done, while Sam put a railing on both the stairways, the one into the cellar we have needed for a long time.

Yesterday I did two more sections of the ceiling and this morning the last section and the end of the big room, then I will wax it all with the non-polishing kind and it will be easy to dust from now on. We had never done the ceiling at that end of the room, only oiled it so I wanted to wash it before waxing it. Have a wonderful new kind of cleaning thing. Six Spic & Span. sort of crystals, 3 heaping Tablespoonsfuls to a gallon of water, then you wring the cloth out as dry as possible and wipe off the dirt. You aren't supposed to have to wash over it and on paint you don't but on the bare wood I do just to make sure. It is easy to use and no harder than a good dusting.

Each day I talk about waxing what I did in the morning after lunch. The idea is a good one but it hasn't worked that way yet! Yesterday we were just going up for the mail after getting the dishes washed, and as we finished lunch Mrs Simpson came to tell us about the baby being named after his two Grandfathers, David Justine Simpson and stayed to look at some pictures Pete was thinking of sending to a competition for Ex R.C.A.F. men. They want to choose a painting to send the queen and Dr Riley thought Pete should send something. He is going to send a large one of Hungabee and one of an Indian with a headress blowing in the wind. both are pictures he did some time ago but there wasn't really time to paint any large ones. Well by the time Mrs Simpson left and we had done the dishes it was after two, and going for the mail we ran into Mrs Brett who is always interested in what we have heard from the Olivers etc, and that mean't a chat in the sun of 15 or 20 minutes, then Mrs Rankellor came along with a Miss Condon who used to be head housekeeper at the Banff Springs for years and years, has been sick and up for a visit. more talking and before we could get away the Vallances came along with Jean, the daughter and her husband from Vancouver, also the little girl 1½, Joanne. So They all followed us down to the house, wanted to hear a recording as Sid Vallance would like to record a lecture to go with his slides sometime. He does a lot of it. We listened to Nick Morants story of the Grizzly and had tea and Sam came along for that. So most of the afternoon was taken up, Suddenly they remembered that they were supposed to find a baby sitter so off they went. But by then there was not much time for waxing.



To-day was almost as bad, but more aggravating. Seageant Broadway of the R.C.M.P. is retiring in the fall and wants to buy a house at the coast and wondered if we could help. He spoke to Pete one day, then came around Saturday afternoon with more details and asked if we would speak to the Bank manager. Pete did a little but we didn't have time to see him yesterday, and this noon the Seageant was here before lunch to see if we could meet him at the bank at two. We wanted to speak to Jack Douglas first, Had an early lunch and did get to the bank ahead but Jack was busy with some other people and we had to wait 15 or 20 minutes. ( I had visions of doing all the waxing this afternoon ) then a talk with Jack, one when the Seageant came and it was after 3 o'clock when we finally got out. over an hour in the bank! I was glad of a cup of tea with Sam when we got home. All I got done in the end was to rub a Scratch filler over the cupboards at the end. Made them look much better ~~which was something I won't need to wax them.~~

To-night Wilf Fairless is building a chimney in Sam's Workshop, I have been up to see Mom, and Jonny is here <sup>now</sup> working on a birthday card for Jean. I wish I could do as well, He has done it all himself. wait until you see it and read the limerick!

Was sorry to hear about Miss Everett, though I know you have wondered how she went on as long as she has, What will Miss Barret do I wonder?

This isn't much of a letter but Jonny has been consulting me constantly on the developement of the card, it is some card, you will have to have a good look at it.

Loads of love

Catharine

P.S. Jonny just asked me if you were in high society?  
He also wanted to know how old you were & then said  
"just 2 old Ladies hobbling around the house together!"  
I said that neither if you hobbled, you ran. He  
thought that was even funnier, 2 of you running  
around the house then. He wonders if you are  
still doing handiwork?



Banff, Alberta.  
Sunday May 11, 1952.

Dearest Mother,

This is Mother's day and what a lot they make of it with cards and presents and flowers etc. Special songs on the radio and all. We prefer to think of you everyday rather than especially on one day of the year.

Have had a busy week and after spending most of last Sunday tidying up the desk it seems as bad as ever. I like to have everything orderly but just can't seem to keep it that way.

Such a time as I had trying to finish the ceiling in the front room, just the big end but there were too many interruptions for me to get ahead. Finally Friday morning I managed to get the 2nd coat on of the non-polishing wax in 2 hours time, and then in the afternoon got a few things put back in place. Because it would drip once in a while I had to cover things with news/papers and that took time moving things about. now this week hope to do the floor which hasn't been done for over two years by the looks of it.

Friday morning Sid Vallance and his son-in-law, *Bill Gill*, dropped in to borrow a lens as they were going out to try and photograph goats, then Pete had to see about having a leak in the radiator fixed where a couple of stones had gotten against one corner and worn a hole, and just before lunch Ton Kaquits came to tell us that some of the Indian Children from the Morley Day school were to dance at two o'clock at the Auditorium during the music festival, so we hurried over there when Dave Prosser took the car to be fixed. Then after waiting to get in found the dancing was at the school, so walked way over there and missed most of it, which didn't really matter for we saw the Indians we knew and met the school teacher, then got back here walking and running into this person and that to talk to, Sam was working on his roof of the shop ( It is an old carriage shed back of the old house and used as a garage lately which he has made into a shop ) We were just having a cup of tea when the Vallances returned from their day and had tea too, and by the time Bill had helped Sam with some roofing it was five. Then Wilf Fairless came each of three evening to make a chimney for Sam and that mean't water for the cement etc. Bill and Jean Gill are very interested in collecting stamps and especially like the postmarks and cancellations so they came down in the evening and we looked over old letters of ours until nearly 11 P.M.

I wish we had known more about the kind they collect for I bet in many of the letters you have thrown away there have been envelopes with stamps on them. or perhaps your letters were out of the envelopes. We got down the old ones of fathers and though lots of stamps had been cut off they found that to them were very exciting finds. *So if you have any old stamps don't*



take them off the envelopes but send the whole  
thing. That is if you happen to be throwing  
away -

Won't have time to finish this -

Mom has been down & was telling us about  
Johnny. Seems she was complaining about the  
awful movies with so much hugging & kissing  
etc. - & Annie thought a bit & then said -  
"Mom, why don't you write a play" Too old  
for Love. " ?

Loads of Love

Catharine



Banff, Alberta.  
Tues. evening  
May 13, 1952.

Dearest Mother,

Don't know if I will get much of this written to-night as it is getting near bed time. We seem to have been rather busy as usual and no real time to write letters, it stays so light in the evenings that one is tempted to be outdoors but a few rainy days and perhaps I will catch up. *to light now mid 9 PM.*

We had a very busy weekend starting on Saturday. Think I told you how Jean and Bill Gill ( the Vallances daughter and son-in-law ) came down in the evening. They had been out the west road to see the flock of Canada Geese and one snow goose which is all white except for it's black wing tips. We got looking over old letters for stamps and they were so excited about it all.

Saturday we were a bit weary and had Ruth Becker drop in before lunch to ask about an Indian girl coming to help her, and got telling us about the Music Festival in Banff the day before and how wonderful the Morley Indian children were, Jonny liked them best too and so did Mom. They all told us about them first. So we were a little late getting back to lunch. Had intended to do up the two paintings that Pete was sending to the RCAF Competition in Ottawa. They are having a convention there of ex-members and thought it would be nice to choose a painting to send to the Queen as a presentation from the Association. The pictures ~~xxxx~~ had to be there by the 15th. We had no chance to do it before lunch so thought " right after " but before we could get started Willie Morant arrived. Naturally wanted to see their lot and what had been done to the excavation for the new house, so we drove her up when we went for the mail and that took a little longer than we expected, luckily Sam was awfully good and came back in the middle of the afternoon and helped box the two pictures in the largest box we had. But it took a bit of doing and we had to get the train by five, actually we got them down by 4.30 to the express and then to-day we heard on the radio that because of the shortage of gas for planes the convention is to be postponed until September, so don't know what will happen about the paintings ! It was funny Pete had a feeling he shouldn't send them and Sam and I kept urging him to, now they may sit in Ottawa all summer in a box !

Did I tell you about Sunday ? It was rather dull and we were a little weary. Then Mrs Boon and Frances Jerwa drove in, they had just been up to fix up two bird houses and a large barrel etc. on the Morants lot as a joke for Nick and Willa. I forgot Mrs Boon had been down the evening before to get the bird houses and ~~Willie~~ When we went to find the bird houses in Sam's workshop we suddenly remembered that Mr Pelluet was to store his car while on vacation in one end of the workshop ( he has used the Garage for his car for several years but his wife died and he keeps the car *usually* out in back of the Vendors. ) anyway we had forgotten to tell Sam



or remind him, so there were boards and a chair to be mended and cement blocks etc. to be moved that evening. Just another little job.

Sunday was a nice day on the whole and I had visions of a lot of gardening perhaps, but before we got started Mrs Boon and Frances Jerwa drove in to tell us that they had just been up at the Lot and how they had fixed up a surprise for Nick and Willie, a big barrel and the two bird houses on different levels and then marked with one "Nick" the other "Willie" and a little toy privy beside each one, Gunny signs like "give us the tools and we will give you the works." Everyone enjoys playing practical jokes on them. They wanted us to take the Morants up to be sure, and see their reaction. We had planned to put up two ski signs <sup>signs</sup> we had, Government signs marked "Ski Trail to Town" as they knew the new trail would go near their place and we were to put them so it would look as if it went right through their land. We told Willie about it and nailed them up when we drove her up and before Nick came, and it was quite funny as some Government men were digging a ditch and got so curious as they recognized the color of the paint and wandered along the road until they could read what they said!

Anyway Sunday morning we went over to the Mt Royal to get the Morants and see if they would like a ride up, found that Nick had been sick to his tummy all night and was still in bed so we told Willie that if they wanted a lift up in the afternoon to come over to the house. Then we saw Dorothy Cranston and she hopes to get the room Mario had as Janitor of the store building, It is divided into two parts, has a big window and can be fixed up quite nicely, but she hadn't seen it and was anxious to and could go then, so we took her up there. She runs a little news stand in the Mt Royal and last summer had a room at the Moores but wants a place summer and winter of her own, though she may stay with Pearl for the first week or so when she moves back to the house. Then we drove her up to see what Mrs Boon and Frances Jerwa had done, It was very clever really, and back home.

Had lunch and just as we were finishing Mom came down to tell us that her brother is quite sick in Vancouver and his wife too etc. Rather a tale of woe, also about the Musical Festival as she was there all day from early morning until late evening. and then the Morants <sup>came</sup> and we drove them up and they were much amused by the creation on their lot. We spent quite a time looking about and figuring this and that, Back here for tea and Tully Montgomery came from the Crosbys and had tea too. Then he wanted to go and see Pearl and we knew that Pearl had been avoiding him, so we drove him to Edmees which worked, there as he could leave a message he had called and missed Pearl. Got back in time to have the Vallances for a short very hurried good-bye as Bill and Jean left for Vancouver the next morning. Heard yesterday (Wednesday, it's now Thursday) that Bill had won the gold medal at the University of British Columbia as the highest in his class in law, a great honor and he is such a nice fellow too. they are a wonderful couple.

Tully is going on a 2 months rest holiday



As it was about six by then we decided to have Chinese Supper which is easy and a rest when you sit in the car for the 15 or 20 minutes it takes to prepare it. We take over a little agate bucket and they put the rice and Chop Suey about half and half. We take it home to eat. Jonny was over in the evening and talked us into a quick crocus hunting trip, to the Golf course.

Monday I was a bit weary so decided not to start doing the floor in the front room as I had planned ( haven't done it for a couple of years, that is cleaned and waxed it ) so instead did a bit of the vacuuming I didn't get done on Saturday and general tidying up. We also planned a new type of screen door for Sam to make so the screen comes out in winter and a bit of glass goes in and it serves as a storm door which one needs in this climate in winter. Then we did errands, saw Eldon Walls about Dorothy Cranston and the room etc. took a chair to be covered, the springs were nearly coming through, and we got a sponge rubber cushion and now it is so much softer to sit in! Mom was down again about something else and she does get talking so, and the car has a noise we can't find etc. Linnie Becker arrived after school and then Jonnie so we put them to work. They helped Pete clean out the gutters and me to string lines for the hops up the side of the house.. Oh yes I did the washing and ironing too. Quite a busy day in the end.

Tuesday I got a good start on the west end of the Big room cleaned the logs first with Spic and Span and then started on the floor with Dic-a-do. You make a paste and I wiped it on with a cellulose sponge and then washed it off with another and clear water. Had moved the furniture from that end to the other side so was almost finished with one half. In one or two places nails were coming up so we asked about Sam about nailing them down and he said it would be a good idea and showed us how best to do it. There were several big cracks between the boards and he asked if we hadn't some filler to put in. so he and Pete found some and put some powdered color into it to tone it down and then Sam started to fill cracks. I didn't like to say anything but it was all on top of my clean floor and the oil in the filler he rubbed off but I knew I would have to do something before the wax would stick. Still it was nice to have the cracks filled and it wouldn't be hard just to rub the floor over and Pete said he would help in the afternoon.

Of course by the time we had done the errands and seen about the noise in the Jeep etc. written a letter to the R.C.A.F etc. it was too late to do more on the floor and anyway we had done a lot for one day. Jonny was over that evening. and we had been up to the room with Cecil to see about lights and a stove for Dorothy Cranston. We maybe shouldn't take such an interest but like her so much and want it to be nice for her.

Wednesday as Sam would say my " Horoscope must have been wrong." It was raining and had snowed earlier and some was still on the ground but we needed it badly as it has been pretty dry. I got a good start to finish the floor and then discovered that the filler hadn't filled and as you rubbed over it, it came out



in a gummy sort of powder, would be in little pieces and then stick to the floor but came off with your fingernail or by rubbing, but messed up the cloth with a brown color. I knew I would have to go all over the floor again and pretty carefully too, it was most discouraging. And it was then that we heard about the R.C.A.F. convention being postponed. Pete went over to light a fire in the work shop for Sam as it was such a cold miserable morning, and then it seems that the power had been off at their house in the night so when he woke the electric clock was 2 hours slow so Sam read for a while and never realized until ten o'clock ~~it was~~ what time it was, so as Cis had some things to do he never came at all yesterday. I finished a little bit I hadn't done with the Dic-a-do when Sam had come to fill cracks, and it was much harder over the oily part. Then Pete said he would help me in the afternoon to do the floor with Wax remover, a sort of solvent to take off the oily messy part from the crack filling job and we went to do errands as it was Wednesday, stores close in the afternoon.

Had an early lunch and just thought we would run up for the mail and then start on the floor, and gave the Morants and Cy Harris (who had drawn their plans) a ride to the Post Office and then up to their Lot. I thought we would just drop them there but they only wanted to find the corners of their Lot and so we waited, Nellie MacKenzie who saw us out her kitchen window came out. She lives across the street from them, and of course we were there longer than we expected and then the Morants stopped off with us and I knew no floor would be done. Nick was anxious to take some of the big parcels off our hands and move them up to the Larsons unfinished basement where there was lots of room to store them, so we loaded five huge boxes into the Jeep and Nick and Pete took them up while Willie and I made tea. They were lucky and managed the whole thing between heavy rain showers. Back for tea and a lot of discussion about the plans for the house which Nick brought back with him, I got out the Swiss books and much figuring went on, in the midst of it, Harold, Lona and Mary Lee and Linnie Becker all arrived after school and just made themselves at home. We were at the kitchen table so they all looked at books in the front room and really were very good for we paid little attention to them except to provide the cookies and gingerale.

We took the Morants around town to see peoples cement basements and that was when Sid Vallance beckoned from their window when we went by there, so up we went and they both came running out in the rain from their garage to tell us that Bill had gotten the prize. Mrs Vallance said it was lucky they had seen us for when they came down through the garage they found Sid had forgotten to turn off the car lights!

So you see that was quite a day!

Friday, No chance to finish this either. The floor I finished looks like new!

Thought of you & Jean all day yesterday.

Loads of love

Catherine



Banff, Alberta.  
Mon. May 19, 1952.

Dearest Mother,

I certainly have gotten behind in writing you what we have been doing and how things have gone this last week. We were busy with all sorts of things, I tried to work each morning to get the ~~max~~ big end of the front room cleaned and waxed but there were so many interruptions and I only finished the floor with Pete's help after lunch on Saturday. which mean't that Saturday morning instead of the weekly cleaning I was doing the floor and so the usual dusting will get left another week ~~most~~ likely. Eldon Walls was down Saturday ~~day~~ morning too having been here most of the previous evening. Jackie and Florence are moving out of the suite over the store they have occupied for several years and are moving into a new house up near the Morants and Mackenzies which they have built. They have a number of things they want to get rid of and we finally got a list and the prices they want, so had to figure it out with Eldon. *for LaCasse was also down to climb a tree & pull down the Magpies 2nd nest. Had 5 eggs in it.*

We really are very fortunate in finding a person like Eldon Walls to do the business for us, he is such a quiet sort, a chartered accountant and just starting out for himself in business. He does Jackie's Income Tax for the store business and so knows them well, for Jackie and especially Florence are not easy to deal with, so he is very good about that, never loses his patience and seems to ease people around to things. For instance I guess he knew we would think the prices they wanted to charge us were a bit high, so when he saw us Friday afternoon he gave us the list to go over, then came down to talk about it in the evening after we had let our steam off about it and could laugh at some of the things. Then Sid Vallance is wonderful about anything in the legal line and Jack Douglas the young manager of the Bank is the greatest help in money matters and looks out for our interests.

It is always a little hard when the suites ~~max~~ come vacant and if people ask Pete and he doesn't think they will be good tenants he puts them off on Eldon, and if Eldon doesn't think they look very good prospects he says he must ask us, for it is very miserable if you don't get good tenants. Allan Mather had a funny time with the largest suite which was pretty expensive for most people. He finally asked Joe Woodworth (who does our insurance and many other things like figuring out wages etc. for us) if he knew anyone wanting a suite and he said, "Why yes, my daughter and husband and two kids." and Allan couldn't get out of letting them have it. They have been good tenants but the kids are two lively and noisy little boys and now there is a 3rd. born this spring!

Saturday as I was saying was quite busy, we got the floor cleaned (that was the 2nd side) just in time for me to clean up and go to a food sale, met Edmée and Pearl there and they came back here for tea. Then we had a chair to get at Mr Nudds that he upholstered and a few errands, fried chicken in the pressure cooker



for supper and as we were finishing supper Dr Riley dropped in and he had a piece of the cake and some coffee. We were sitting talking when there was a knock on the door, I went and was very surprised when a bright young man holding a huge box said. "here is the fan for your furnace, we have come to install it!" We have been trying to get a new fan since ours went on the blink in the winter. We had babied it along and asked Anderson Plumbing to try and see about a new one but it was always "Mr Anderson will be up next week" or "We will see what we can do in Calgary." They don't make the kind we have any more and we didn't know what to do. Then about a month ago we happened to see the Neilson truck from Calgary, and Neilson was the one who originally installed the furnace and heating system, but they too had failed to get us a new fan before. So anyway we asked the two men in the truck to see what they could do, they came over and looked at the furnace etc. But we never heard another word from then until Saturday night when they arrived about 7.30 with @ two small fans in the place of the one large unit.

They worked hard all evening, banging away in the basement, Said they were helping straighten out the mess a man Neilson had working for him up here, had gotten the firm into. They had been in Exshaw and came up to do our job before going back to Calgary Sat. night. So when they finished after ten, I made them coffee and we had cheese and crackers and cake and they seemed to really enjoy it. I was sorry we hadn't had something like a roast so I could have made sandwiches, but anyway it was a good snack. We got talking about the Navy and one of the men had been an ordinary seaman in the last war on a corvette named the Chiliwack, convoying vessels back and forth across the Atlantic. He was interested in radio etc. and in the end was working on all the detection apparatus and told us how it worked. How they could listen for submarines and tell just where they were by the sounds and could even here porpoises going by. and then the submarines began firing torpedoes that would go toward the ships, which ever way they moved the things would change directions and steer for them. Finally a man on their boat (I think it was) invented a simple arrangement of towing a bit of steel behind them that made such a racket the torpedo would go for it and explode harmlessly behind them. One particular trip has just been written up in Macleans Magazine but he said they didn't tell the half of it. They began running out of fuel and had just been re-fueling in mid ocean from a tanker and the tanker was hit and it sank before it reached the Azores. There were so many subs around that they just couldn't get them all and out of 49 ships I think he said about 7 or 9 reached Halifax. but most of the trips were quiet. The other fellow was in the Army from 1941 till the end of the War overseas. They were quite a pair and awfully interesting to listen to.

So that was quite an evening. Then yesterday, Sunday we were a bit tired, had a letter to write and get off on the noon train and then went to see Hazel Veitch, Allan Mather's sister who has come for the summer to run the cabins for Grace, and that took longer than we expected. a late lunch and in the afternoon we put back the things into the 2nd. end of the front room and I also did a bit of gardening. a quieter afternoon than we had hoped.

To-day I washed twice, in the A.M. and again after lunch,



Tuesday. I am afraid I didn't finish this last night and am not doing too well this morning, had hoped to at least dust the fireplace end of the front room for that floor too should be done, I won't bother this year doing the walls and ceiling as they were done a few years ago, but by the time I had sorted out a couple of piles of magazines, and the recordings were put into a box and we had been over town for hinges and to see about the little settee being covered, and the ashes taken out of the fireplace the morning was most gone. Sam is working on a new kind of screen door for the back door so it won't look sunny all summer, then Barbara came to ask Sam to bore a couple of holes for her, and now after lunch Cecil is here to wire the new fans and Nudd came to measure the settee for new rubber cushions and the covering. so all in all there is quite a bit going on.

Will be going for the mail soon so had better finish, Am sure that Gray will be awfully glad of the book and think he would like having it come from you, We had a wonderful long letter from him yesterday telling all about the work they had done on the ranch this spring. He plowed and harrowed etc. (I never am quite sure what all they do) 15 acres and planted it to new grass. When you think that the ~~piece of land~~ land on Ripley Hill is 20 acres, it is a good sized field, especially to do all alone. Dane is about 9 and stayed out of school one day to help. I will send you the letter as soon as we answer it so you will see how things are going. They had quite a time with a cow too!

We are looking forward to hearing about the 80th Birthday party, expect we will maybe to-day.

Loads of love.

Catherine



Banff, Alta.

May 21, 1952.

Dearest Mother,

What a shame you had a bad fall ? We were wondering a bit why we hadn't heard about the great party which sounded heaps of fun, and then there really wasn't much time to hear before yesterday and to-day your letter came written in pencil and I had an idea something was wrong. I wonder if perhaps we missed a letter in between ? or maybe with all the excitement you or anyone else had no time to write about your fall. Am glad it is no worse and you didn't break a hip or something.

It is strange but whenever I miss writing for a couple of extra days it always seems that you have a bad throat or something to be laid up and just the time I should have letters arriving every other day. I wrote night before last and then if I didn't carry your letter to the post office twice and forget to mail it so it didn't go until this morning, I will send this along regular mail so it will get there a little later.

Your letter was a wonder telling all about the tea. What a party it must have been, sounded something like our wedding. Wish we had been there and we would have if we had gone east this spring instead of going this fall. That is my fault, but we have gotten a lot done here that we wouldn't have done otherwise.

Have been busy with unexpected things the last two days. I get all planned to do this or that and I should have learned better and just do things as they come. We had thought of putting the new linoleum in the downstairs toilet. it is green and better than the old brown stuff we had. Then we thought it might be better for Sam to start the cupboards for Dorothy Cranston's room above the store as we hope the painters will get at it to-morrow. So went over to measure it up quickly right after lunch on the way to the mail. Dr



Kennedy saw us there and came in to talk, then as we got out on the street ran into Pearl to tell us something important to her, got some flowers to plant that the deer don't eat that had <sup>just</sup> arrived at the store and if a Mr Craig didn't spot us and we couldn't place him, we met him at Bow Lake last summer and they had been to the house so it might have been a whole afternoon gone instead of a few minutes. Got home about 3 and Mrs Coleman to return a book so now it is most 5 o'clock and we will just have time to get this on the train.

Heaps of love, so glad that Cousin Jane is with you and do hope you get over what ever you did to your leg as soon as possible. it must be annoying just when you want to be up and around catching rose bugs and digging danderlions!

More love,

Catharine .



Banff, Alberta.

May 24, 1952.

Dearest Mother,

Just the shortest note as this is a holiday and we may have people dropping in and want to get this in the mail first.

Funny but Jean's letter telling all about the party and your falling that morning came the day after the one from you. Jean's was posted at 10.30 A.M. in Boston and yours came Air Mail that evening at 6P.M both mailed the 19th.

What a wonderful birthday it was, never have I heard of a better party and we really were disappointed to think we weren't there too.

We are having our first warm feeling day and so nice for the Saturday and Sunday holiday weekend. It is like suddenly landing in on the middle of summer, such a lot of cars and people. A poor old moth eaten looking Elk was sitting quietly on our lawn and first a little girl approached with food, and up got the Elk, then another kid and before long we saw two men stalking it with a Brownie camera, by then the Elk was in back of the house, at this season with their horns growing and in the velvet they don't chase people up trees, and it is funny to see Barbara's two little Dashunds barking it out of the yard.

Our new Jeep came at last. Arrived yesterday, but Dave Prosser had to go to Calgary in a hurry so left it in the garage to be checked etc. We heard it was there in the afternoon but didn't like to take it, so left it until just before supper when we reasoned they might need the space and so went over and got it, but didn't take it more than a mile up the road and back here. Dave was over this morning early and took our old Jeep to be put in first class order for the Campbells and show us all the things on the new one. It is a lovely soft shade of blueish green and gray upholstery and interior fittings. It has an engine with more horsepower but otherwise is much the same. the body just the same we think. We are glad it is here at last and after a few hundred miles we may go on a few days trip for a change.

Have the dishes to do, and some flowers to set out in the garden, and Pete has a patch of new grass to plant so will call this a letter.

Loads of love and hope your ankle isn't paining you and do give our love to Cousin Jane as well as to you and Jean.

Catherine .



Bayff. Alta.  
May 27. 1952.

Dearest Mother.

I am back to writing in the jeep while Pete sees the radio man about putting the radio in our new jeep. I can't figure out how we seemed to have more time years ago than we do now. Of course the house was newer & maybe there wasn't as much to do around it, & we didn't have as much land to think of. We have ~~the~~ Mr. Vigh, the present janitor at the store cut the lawns these days. Works fine.

Later. It's a lovely day so we decided to go to Bow Lake this afternoon to put mileage on the car. Have our supper with us. Are just going up & back. We like the new car so much! It has a more powerful engine & doesn't have as much hum.

Am so sorry you are having such a lot of pain at times. & hope you have less by now. Am pleased to think you sent that letter to Florida. I do just such things at half your age. But they know my writing at the Post Office so I find the



wrongly addressed ones some-  
times in my box

Have finished this in the jeep  
so that accounts for the writing.

Loads of love & am so glad  
Cousin Jane is with you.

What did you think of Jimmy's  
card to Jean on her birthday

Gallant



Banff, Alberta.

May 28, 1952.

Dearest Mother,

I still don't seem to get much writing done, perhaps I should start right after breakfast but then one can't very well spring clean after supper! The real trouble is that I got 3 boxes of little plants to put in the garden, flowers that the deer don't eat, and so far I haven't had time to prepare a place to put them, each time I start someone comes to call. This afternoon I was sure I was going to have a real chance and all sorts of things happened.

The book has come for Gray and I am sure he will find it full of useful things, I glanced through it and read quite a bit last night, will send it with a letter soon (I hope!)

We are sorry that you are having so much pain with your ankle and do hope that soon it will be fine again. What an annoying thing to do when you were well and enjoying the garden etc. (now I have hay fever and can hardly type) We are so glad that Cousin Jane is with you for company.

I really don't know how this letter will get written, I am sitting as usual at the desk in the kitchen, Pete on my left and Jonny at the table on my right. The latter asks a continual string of questions of me, so then I keep saying "Ask Pete." and so it goes. Right now they are taking turns drawing things, Jonny makes some scribbles and then expects a picture from Pete, then I have to make scribbles for Jonny to draw. Now he has hicoughs from the gingerale, He also wants to know why I haven't mailed the dog to "Mrs Robb." The one he sawed out of cardboard in the shape of the dashunds they have. He thought he might have done it better if he had had a plan but I think it is pretty good. He wanted to do it up to-night for you but I couldn't find stiff enough cardboard so have promised to get it egg off to-morrow. He thought he should write a message on the back for you, which he did! All the things he writes and draws are his own idea, He is really original and yet the funny thing is he hasn't learnt to ride a bicycle until this week. Just never cared about it though all his friends can ride, and he doesn't ski either, Just started to learn last winter. He isn't a bit athletic.

Now it is Thursday and a nice rainy day, we need the moisture badly for the woods are very dry. Just to give you an idea of yesterday. We had a wonderful trip up and back to Bow Lake on Tuesday afternoon, a perfect day and lovely light. The ice had gone off of Hector Lake but was still on Bow except at the edges. Saw Jim silouetted against the lake as we first approached, he was looking for gravel. Mrs Hughie, their cook, spotted us coming and in and told Mrs Simpson "Pete and Catharine" were there. It's funny how they all know us as that, Not "the Whytes" or anything like that. Mrs Simpson showed us all the improvements, they had varnished the



dining room floor after a thorough cleaning, the kitchen linoleum. put carpet on the upstairs hall and rubber on the new stairway etc. They can't afford to do much but just enough to keep improving it. We were there over an hour before starting back, a lovely time to drive in the late afternoon. Were home by 8 o'clock and ate out sandwich here. Saw ten different kinds of animals. Three black bear 4 Moose. Numerous Elk, a deer or two. a couple of sheep. about 20 Mountain goat, a porcupine and a beaver out of the water. and a gopher and squirrel !

It was the longest drive for some time. 120 miles in all and so we were a bit tired next morning. Had rafts of dishes to do as we had left the lunch dishes and didn't do them in the evening so did those next morning. Then saw Sam and the cupboards he is working on. A number of errands, Got a letter that mean't going to the Bank. Saw Dr Atkin about a doctor Mom had heard of in Victoria and we wanted to know if he was good or a bit of a quack. But he is good. Then we hadn't been home long when Eldon came to see about the things we would buy from Jackie and Florence, stove, frig and what furniture as he finds Jackie hard to deal with too ! Only Eldon is so quiet and nice about things it is a pleasure to talk things over with him. Then lunch and Mary Simpson dropped in on her way from Calgary back to Bow. gave her a bite too. Had arranged to take the new Jeep over to have the old radio installed at 1.30. so got the mail and were there before two. ( I forgot we had also seen Dave Prosser about delivering the old Jeep to the Campbells, he was going down this week but now it will be next ) Found that they hadn't taken off 2 parts of the radio connections when removing the radio from the old Jeep at the garage so went there and got the old Jeep parked outside, drove it to the radio man and let him remove the parts and took it back. Luckily Sam had lent us his car to use so we could drive back. Got caught in a sort of whirlwind and I was almost clipped by a blowing sigg as I walked across the pavement at the filling station. One of those sudden gusts, yet it wasn't a windy day. Got a nice lot of dirt in my hair. By the time we got home about 3 I figured I would write a letter we had to get off on the train to Murray Adaskin and then have the rest of the afternoon for the gardening and Pete was going to plant grass seed in some bare patches of lawn. Was just writing the letter when Jack Readick his wife and two kids, 4 and 2 called.

They were only to stay a few minutes as the kids wanted to go for a swim but they stayed a good hour. They had little hoes, rakes and spades just bought and brought them in. The little girl started raking the carpet and we just hoped and prayed the little boy who had gone outside wasn't tackling the new bit of lawn Pete had seeded a few days ago, luckily he dug in the middle of the driveway which didn't matter !

By the time they left I had just enough time to finish the letter and again we borrowed Sam's car and got it mailed, then there still were the lunch dishes so we were doing those when Don came back with the car and we took it up the west road to try out the radio. It was soon supper time and looked like rain and after supper it just seemed too late to start gardening. Now today it is pouring so maybe after going to the bank again which will cut into the morning nicely, I hope to get the kitchen finished. Have the cupboards cleaned but we want to stain a few things and wax others and then do the floor.

*Heaps of love to all  
Catherine.*

*(Reading this over in the Jeep)*



Banff, Alberta.  
Sun. June 1, 1952.

Dearest Mother,

Don't know how much I will get written for we are expecting Pearl Moore to bring Elaine and Merrill Crukishank on leave from Fiji, and Elaine's twin sister Jen from Calgary, down for a few minutes this morning. Of course they may not come but one doesn't want to start anything much in case they do.

We were down at Pearl's last night and had a nice evening just talking. Merrill was very interesting telling about the various islands and how different the natives were in each group. Some are Polynesian, others Melanesian etc. He is the head of the Health Services etc. for all the islands in the Pacific under the British and Suva is the headquarters. They have a hospital there and train the native doctors and nurses. He is a wonderful organizer and most of it is administrative. The territory he covers is from Pitcairn's Island in the east to New Zealand in the west. I think he said a million square miles. He flies on most of his inspection trips. He said Fiji was a beautiful place and I didn't realize there were mountains 4000 feet high. In fact there is a rest station over 3500 feet and they have even had frost there but in Suva it is hot. 200 inches of rain a year and sometimes as much as 17 inches at a time. He said it sounds on the roof as if they were playing firehose on it, it comes down so heavily.

Another interesting thing is that instead of having screens on their house they spray it with D.D.T. Have a crew who do it, come around and spray all the inside walls, then again in 3 months time and I think after one or two sprayings they only have to do it every six months. They have been experimenting and are going to charge \$5.00 to make a spraying. It means that they don't need screens and get more air. I think it must be a stronger solution than what we buy. Probably what they use in Cow Barns to keep the flies away and kill those that do venture near.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ They have been there for 3 years and go back for another 3 in the fall. Are visiting Elaine's parents in Calgary for a month, or at least she was, Merrill only just arrived the other day and goes to Washington in a week. He said that theirs is the only hospital training doctors in the South Pacific and though the Americans had an army one after the war and started to train native doctors they found it too expensive. (I think it was in Samoa or Guam) and so made an arrangement to have their people study and be trained in the hospital in Suva, and they just flew them there all at once which mean't 60 new students. They have 17 different languages I think he said, but of course all have to speak English in the hospital.

We were much amused at Russell's attempts to help you with your ankle and when we told Sam about his carefully placing your foot on the cushion on the stool and then found it was the wrong foot when Miss Wagner came later, he thought it was the best



story he had heard. I trust that it is feeling better and the swelling really going down.

Doesn't look as if I would get more written to-day and to-night we promised to go and record a lecture that Sid Vallance is giving up at the Summer School.

Loads of love and in a hurry.

Colman



Banff, Alberta.  
Tues. June 3, 1952.

Dearest Mother,

I seem to neglect you more and more in writing letters and probably answering questions. I know you asked about any books I would like for my birthday but I couldn't think of any especially, and the desk is still in a bit of a confusion. Now it is summer I don't know when I will get time to answer letters etc. so guess the best thing to do is just the best one can. By

By the way didn't you used to read books by or about Mrs Gaskell? There is a book out about her life, It was written up in the Illustrated London news and I wrote the name etc. on a slip of paper which no doubt I will come across sometime, maybe soon, and perhaps they will have it in the Concord Library.

~~from Fri~~ We had quite a busy weekend in the end. Did I tell you Elaine, her twin sister Jen and Merrill Cruikshank came up to stay with Pearl Saturday night, We went down that evening and had a nice time talking until after eleven, ending with coffee, Then they said they were going back to Calgary early and Lorna Oliver wanted them at her place around noon and they wanted to see Carl and have Merrill and Dr MacKenzie meet etc. so we rather expected them here early in the morning. Got up ourselves at a good hour and sort of tidied things up a bit. I would have planted those boxes of flowers the deer don't eat if I hadn't expected them but did other things instead. Jonny was over, he is learning to ride a bike and needs a lot of admiration, When they hadn't come by noon we ate our lunch and then went to look for them a little after one. They hadn't promised they would come to our house but we had found some things to show Merrill and were hoping they would. *They slept in late Sunday AM. I guess they were tired too.*

We drove by Lorna's and no sign of cars there, then to the mt Royal and they were just finishing lunch and said they were on their way down here, so back we came and guess they were here a good hour. Edmee and Pearl too, looked at stamps, sketches and the house. Dr MacKenzie was supposed to drop in here but didn't show up so we said we would try to find him ( I forgot Pat was here to return some boots she had borrowed, ) that was in the morning ) so went up to the MacKenzies after getting our mail and hoping to find the Morants as there was mail for them which we look after forwarding. We didn't like to take it out of their box in case they went to the Post Office so looked for them at their new lot up by the MacKenzies. The latter were just starting out for our house and hadn't seen Pearl drive by so we waited a bit thinking they must still be at Carl Runguis, then telephoned the Habbles and found they were there and for us all to come down. The MacKenzies went right down but we found Nick and got his mail to him before the Post Office boxes closed and then we too went to the Habbles for tea. Merrill and Duncan MacKenzie hit it off so well and talked to-gether all the time which was nice and the rest of us talked in more of a general group.



They had to be off to Calgary, Nellie Mac Kenzie is to play the new organ this summer at the United Church and wanted me to listen and see how it sounded so went in there for a short time while Pete and the doctor talked outside, Then home and supper which we had hardly finished when Dr Riley, his daughter Pat and Charles the little boy, younger than Jonny. They too were on their way back to Calgary and by the time they left we were ready for bed. Oh. Yes Sid Vallance was down too but didn't come in.

I think it was Saturday that we finally got one of the electric stoves (we bought last year when we were going to divide the house into two suites) moved over to the tiny suite we are fixing up for Dorothy Cranston. The 3 burner one was for her leaving the 4 burner to use somewhere else. Well we even found Cecil Philpott the Electrician to hook it up and thought how wonderful it was all going for there is lots to think of and do getting a suite fixed up, especially when everyone is busy. They had painted the floor brown, an ordinary brown which none of us liked so Pete was quite pleased to spot the painter Saturday on the street and he promised to put on another coat and dark brown.

Well Monday Pete went up and found half the floor already done and practically the same shade, just a little darker, but we figure the dog hairs and feet marks won't show on it and Dorothy has rugs, then Eldon got us to look at Jackie's suite which they have vacated and see how much should be done there and that took quite a while, the rug is a powerful rose color & the curtains we planned to use just grey wool after a while I went in to see how the place etc looked in Dorothy's suite & here they had installed the 4 burner one instead of the 3. So that had to be changed & means finding the truck man & Cecil to hook it up etc. I thought my luck was to be good that day as I found my first 4 leaf clover but when I got home found it had a 5th leaf hidden underneath.

It is now Wed. Eldon & his wife came last night as I was writing. We had never met Dorothy as she is at home with 2 small kids but I know Eldon so well as he does all our business in connection with the flock. They are such a nice couple.

We usually have lots of rain in June but it's dry this year. so I've had to water quite a bit. Finally got the plants in & they never wilted at all. just hope they grow & bloom.

Loads of love

Catharine

Hope your ankle is really better



Banff, Alberta.

Sat. June 7, 1952.

Dearest Mother,

Perhaps to-night I will get a chance to write a real letter, that is if Jonny doesn't ask too many questions! We were awfully sorry to hear that you were back in bed, for you seemed to be doing so well. Maybe the rainy weather hasn't helped. Here it has been mostly fair and somehow you always feel spryer on a good day.

I wonder how soon Dorothy Brown will be seeing you? Is Ada with her and will they be driving or going by train. I must look up her letter and re-read it. (the desk is still in an awful mess) It would be wonderful if they could return this way for the altitudes aren't high at all and it wouldn't be out of their way on such a long trip. Even if they are going by train it doesn't cost any more returning this way as a rule. I must write her to-morrow if only we haven't company.

Such a day as we had yesterday. We have been getting up before eight, so while Pete went over to see how Sam was progressing with the suite I started to clean out the drawers in the long dresser upstairs. Pete was back about ten and as we had the recorder to take to Don Cowans and a little frig to pick up, I went along too and we did the errands. Had barely gotten back, I didn't even have my coat off when a strage man came to the door. Asked for Mr Whyte and it turned out to be Ken Liddell who writes for the Calgary Herald rather good atticles about Old timers and characters about the ~~company~~ country.

The funny part was that yesterday morning ~~ixwaxxtellim~~ Pete was reading the one he wrote about David Crowchild the Indian and saying how good it was, and I told Pete how Willie Morant and I were talking about the CrowsNest Pass they had to photograph and I asked if they had read the article by Ken Lidell, Willie said "not that one." and we both agreed how ~~gax~~ interesting his things were. Then Willie said that Nick knew him and I said how much we would like to meet him sometime, and next time Nick saw him to tell Ken Liddell he should write a book and get Nick to illustrate it, and within 3 days we read in the paper he had written a book and it is just printed. I also told Willie to tell him to call in and see us sometime ~~xxx~~ he was up as we might have some ideas of people he could write about. *but never thinking of ourselves as subjects*

So you can imagine how surprised we were after talking about him to have him drop in to see us. Nick hadn't seen him but he had been at Charlie Beils and is writing a few things on Banff artists and wanted to talk to us. So in he came, a very nice quiet sort with a good sense of humor, he asked us about all sorts of things and Pete told him a lot about the old days etc. and it was after one when he finally left. He started to go several times and I never realized it was so late, he is coming again as he wants to hear some of our recordings. Must have been here 2 hours.



Liddell told us that he went to see Old Crowchild (who made Lord Alexander a chief last summer at Standoff) with Canon Middleton who has been a minister to the Indians for years. He too had a part in the ceremony we saw. ~~But Crowchild~~ Crowchild is ill and just lies in a corner of his cabin while his squaw waits on him. He said it was quite funny when they went in the first thing Crowchild said to Middleton was "What do you hear from Alexander?" as if Middleton was in the habit of writing letters back and forth once a week.

That was the morning and we were a bit tired from so much talk and getting out pictures etc. Had lunch, ~~remembered to get~~ did a few errands, met Sid Vallance who came and sat in the car as he had some papers for us to sign and also wanted to tell us about a coyote out the west road that comes up to the cars along the road to beg for food. Coyotes are very hard to tame, harder than wolves. Then (Jonny has just come in to read a poem and I have sent him into the other room to read it to Pete instead!) Well we finally got up by the store and Pete went up to see Sam and I to pay an insurance bill, met the Vallances again and they insisted I have a cup of tea with them at the Paris tea room, which I did, and by the time I got back to the car Pete was there. I forgot Pete had to have his toe fixed too in the afternoon which was done while I did other things right after lunch.

About four we came home and found Lynn y Becker and Jonny here waiting for us. a note on the door as a girl from Toronto had called and also there was a wire for us at the telegraph office. So we all four went for that in the Jeep, (Nick wanting his mail sent to Vancouver) back here and were just having Gingerale and when Earl Pletch the Ski Jumper who lost his arm came, bringing Eleanor Boyle Crozier from here and Mr and Mrs Ole Johansen, Norwegians from Vancouver who run a place at the top of Mt Seymore across the harbor from the city. takes 40 minutes to drive up there and a great place for skiing in the winter. We gave them beer and cheese crackers and of course had a lot to say to Earl who we hadn't seen since we were in Honolulu and met a friend of his there, Housekeeper at the Helekulani. They were here until just before ~~skiing and~~ six and we had the Ski pictures out etc.

By that time Linnie had gone and Jonny too and we were ready for supper, had just washed up from that and were sitting down reading the paper, a knock on the door and Cyril Paris with Earle Birney (or Burney) a professor at the Univ. of B.C. and a well known Canadian poet and writer. He was brought up in Banff, his father was a house painter and he and Pete and Cyril all played together. Pete has only seen him once since, when he was about 14 I guess. He has a beard and looks the part. a red one, but is awfully nice and has a dry sense of humor. They stayed until about 9.30 as Cyril had to get back to the tea room but he is to come again with his wife. We showed them the sketches too and a lot of other things. So all in all it was quite a day!

To-day no one has been here except Mom at noon and Jonny tonight. but we have been on the go most all day. Getting the mail off this morning to Nick. Checking up with Eldon who was in Calgary yesterday and I had quite a chat with Hazel Mather about Grace and the children etc. and it all takes time. We almost had snow this



this morning. The wind from the east, then a pouring rain and the thermometer dropped in two hours from 45 to 38, In Calgary there was even snow on the ground this morning and then it cleared and was lovely the rest of the day. Nice for the weekend.

We have been getting things ready to go out maybe next week for a few days at least, though there may be some doctors we know here for the Medical convention next week. Still if we have many days like yesterday we won't get started at all.

Sunday. A lovely day. clear. not a cloud & would be very hot if it weren't for a cool breeze. Frost this A.M. 30° We were first up at the Banff Springs to see if Bobbie Hunter was there or is coming & was at the Station to wire as they had no word of him there. & are watching the train. The joke was on us last night. Pete was reading the Sat night paper (there is no Sunday one here) & I heard him exclaim & if there wasn't a story about Pete by Ben Liddell. We hadn't expected it so soon. Think you will be amused & especially Russ, as we were! Actually there aren't many mistakes, the garbage cart horse was years ago, & of course Pete wasn't at a Univ. in the 20's but the general idea came out well. Will try to get you a clipping.

Loads of love & do hope you feel better by now.

Catharine



Banff, Alberta.  
Tues. June 10, 1952

Dearest Mother,

Am so glad to hear that you are feeling better and the 2½ days in bed must have given you the rest you may have needed. Your nice letter came to-day telling about Sted's garden, I didn't realize he was president of the Iris Society. I remember when we were in Concord the iris were just at their best, buds and blooms and not too many dead ones !

How smart Cousin Harriet is and what a shame that she has the worry of going some place in July. Now if only Cousin Jane were young and strong enough to help her out, for she wished she might be of use to someone. It was really nice that she could be such a help to you.

I wish I knew more about Jackie Morse, I can't remember how old he is for I have only seen a snapshot of him and that is vague in my mind. It does seem hard that ~~he~~ there is no place where he could go that would be like a home, for after being away at school all winter, camp ~~went~~ it will seem more of the same. I just wish he lived nearer here and could be with someone like Jonny as the kids all have such a good time in Banff and on their own. Is he old enough to work on a farm, for doesn't Edith's boy Charlie, go up to a farm each summer and help. The kids here from the age of Jonny all work in summer. They aren't allowed to do certain jobs until they are 14 or 16, but can do most outdoor work. Billy MacKenzie is caddying and Jonny is going to sell papers, Mary Lee is to look after Barbara's house and answer the telephone, do dishes and the ironing and make beds while Barbara is at the weaving school, and she is just 13. Harold was 14 ~~last~~ year but looks 16 and worked at a filling station all summer. I don't suppose you would want the care of a little boy but I bet if he is a well behaved kid, Jackie would love to visit you, he might like to help Pietro if he likes gardening as some boys do. Of course I don't know Jackie but I got the impression he was a real good kid.

We are having a real rainy day, poured off and on but it is the first real rain for a full day I think we have had this spring. I was rather glad in a way as it gave me a chance to clean out my closet and find things for the Indians that I hadn't looked out before. I could still do with one more day like this to finish the bureaus !

Sam has finished fixing up the suite for Dorothy Cranston. He put nice cupboard on either side of the electric stove in a space 6 feet wide and then hung one of those little Astral refrigerators above on the right. It is a tiny one but holds enough for one. I wonder if you wouldn't find one very handy in the pantry in Concord for things like gingerale, butter, salad dressing and milk. remember when you used to have a small one there in the corner. They make no noise and just plug into any light socket.



Thanks so much for thinking of a garbage disposal unit for us. At present our kitchen sink has a small drain and not the new kind but someday if we get a new one we might take you up on the idea. There haven't been any bears upsetting our garbage pails lately, more pickings at the dump where the Banff Springs stuff goes.

Didn't get more than this written yesterday so better get it in the mail.

Two parcels came from you today. Thanks so much. Had a lovely day letter from Cousin Alma & a card from Susan, so am doing pretty well. My birthday comes on a school holiday "Farmers Day" so we may get talked into a picnic.

Loads of love

Catherine.



Banff, Alberta.  
Sun. June 15, 1952.

Dearest Mother,

My birthday is over but no time to really sit down and write until now ! I wonder if Dorothy and Ada are with you yet? I had hoped to get a letter to Concord for Dorothy, to tell her to be sure and drive back West via Banff. Am sure it wouldn't be much longer and the altitudes are so much lower this way and it is apt to be cooler and of course the main reason is that we want them both to come and see us and the house and Banff etc. Am sure they would enjoy it. So if they are still there you do a bit of urging too.

And now many thanks for the fine book on the Japanese at the relocation Centers, which has so many original ideas in it, I haven't had time to really read it but Jonny has been all through it. Says "your mother is the smartest person getting books." and while we were trying to think of things to get together for the Jeep if we go out to-morrow, Jonny was trying to make a "miniature garden." I finally produced a paper (covered with ~~fox~~ silver foil) pie plate, as a start. the silver making an ice lake where left bare. Then he busied himself running in and out with dirt and stones and little spruce trees and dandelions and forget-me-not flowers, each of which had to be shown to us first. He even made two flat roofed paper houses and then decided to give it to his father for Fathers Day. thought it a good idea as it wouldn't cost anything ! He thinks the Japanese have wonderful ideas. and we told him they were the most artistic people in the world.

But I better go back and start at the beginning. I think I told you that Bobby Hunter was here on the Medical Convention and we finally telephoned him Tuesday night and got him at Lake Louise and he thought he would be down Wednesday or Thursday. We rather waited around during the day but as we had promised to make a wreath for Susan to put on her father's grave Thursday we decided about 8 in the evening that if he were coming he would have been here by then, and so went down to the Golf Course for green things. Came back as it started to rain and noticed that the painters had left the windows in one of the suites wide open, tried to find the key, at the Janitors, no one home, At Eldons house, he was at the office and were just at his office when Bobbie found Pete in the car. Seems that he was at the Banff Springs at dinner (half the Medical people stayed there and others at Lake Louise) and he happened to see Sam Ward, Sam knew we were looking for him and so drove him down and we were out, so they went up the main street and spotted the car, it was nine or after but Bobbie came down and said he would catch the 11.30 bus back to Lake Louise. We were so busy talking and looking at pictures of Hawaii and the changes in the house that it was 11.30 before we realized and so he waited until the 12.30 one and we got him up to the hotel in time to catch it.

Well next morning we were rather sleepy. It was pouring rain and I was so glad we had gotten the evergreens for a wreath in plenty of time and made it up right after breakfast. Used a wire



coat hanger which we bent into a circle and cut off the hook part and it is just the right thickness. It came out awfully well. We didn't know where the plot was so Barbara very kindly went up with us and then she couldn't pick it out for sure as there was no marker yet, just the earth raked over carefully, of course it was raining the hardest of any time all day but we got the man who looks after things and he came with us, so all was well.

It rained all day and snowed quite far down on the mountains and was cold and miserable, horrid weather for the convention. X Just at noon Marmie Hess arrived with Dr Leechman from Ottawa who wanted to hear our newest Indian recordings and could they come back at 1.30? So we had lunch and the dishes washed and were ready for them. They were very interested and were here about 2 hours. Just as they left Dr Leechman asked if we knew of any Indian dugout dwellings near Banff. and Pete remembered the holes or depressions on the side of Tunnel Mt. but Deer St. has been bulldozed over the spot and new houses built on both sides of the road so not much chance of anything being left there. Dr Leechman said it was a crime, as he had only read about it recently in an old book about the park and evidently they were the most eastern examples of this type of dwelling, half of it being dug into the ground and then a top over it built of poles and maybe skins or earth. We hadn't heard of any others and they were in a hurry to get to Calgary so off they went before tea time.

Sam was working in the shop and we knew he would like a cup of tea so asked him in and of course was talking about Dr Leechman who is head Archiologist at the National Museum in Ottawa and asked Sam if he remembered the Indian places. and he said he certainly did. When he came here in 1912 and they took the Tunnel Mt. Drive these dwellings were pointed out to them, and at that time they were 3 to 3½ or 4 feet deep. 8 to 10 feet across and poles bent across as a support for the roof and what interested Sam was a pole with branches still on sticking up in the middle and he was told that they used that as a sort of ladder to climb out the hole in the roof where the smoke came out. There was just the one opening so as not to lose heat. Pete hadn't been old enough to remember that part. and funnily enough Sam had worked with the Ottawa man who was at the Museum at the time, helped him make a collection of samples of the native trees and he told this man named Smith about the Indian dwellings and took him to see them, and it was Smith who had written the report about them that Dr Leechman had read. Had they stayed to tea Sam could have told them all about them!

We made a recording of Sam telling about the dwellings for future reference and then played the one Jim Simpson made for fun and by then the afternoon was gone. and I was going to do so much if we had a rainy day!

Well Friday, even if it was my birthday, I decided to clean up the stockings and socks drawers upstairs, and was making good headway by ten when a knock on the door. a Mrs Shaw from Windsor, Ontario who had read the article about Pete in the Calgary Herald and as she is very interested in painting and thought Pete sounded the kind who wouldn't mind her coming to see his work she had come along, though her daughter who lives in Calgary didn't think she should. She turned out to be a very nice sort and so interested



in Painting and we had a real nice visit from her, but it sure took most of the morning. We just had time to do the necessary errands before lunch and then Mom came down with a birthday cake and made a bit of a visit too, and by then it was going on into the afternoon. We had a number of errands to do and didn't know who might be down to help celebrate in the way of kids.

Met Charles Riley. Dr Riley's very serious youngest boy. He was waiting to go to a tea party, which turned out to be going with his sister while she had a cup of coffee, he said he had met Jonny who was buying me a present and told him it was my birthday, so we asked him down for cake and ice cream at four. Ran into Mrs Coleman and took her home after talking quite a bit in the car. and then the mail and back here in time for Charles. He came soon and as there was no sign of Jonny we started opening the presents you sent, as the kids think it is such fun to undo parcels. Charles was greatly intrigued with the cowboys and cowgirls and so were we. They are almost more clever than the puritans. I don't know how she does them so well, and everyone so different in expression and attitude. Then we sampled the lovely candy Jean sent and Charles very seriously tied me into my new apron. and then as Jonny hadn't come and it was getting on we started on the cake and some ice cream. Not long after the first helping Jonny arrived and a present from him. little notes for writing. most useful. I forgot there was a box of flowers at the back door when we came home. 2 dozen of the loveliest carnations from Asta Hauge who always remembers my birthday. They seemed to be outdoor ones they had the strongest stems and are still lovely.

We were on the 2nd round of ice cream when Mary Lee arrived with a wonderful chocolate cake she had made and written in white icing across the Chocolate icing was "Catharine" in great flowing letters! Of course we had to sample that, Charles and I being quite full of sweet stuff by then as Jonny had suggested gingerale too.  
*We took a book to Mr. Walker & leveled 2 loads of ashes before 6 P.M.*

We had a rather quiet supper and then Harold, Lona and Linnie dropped in. The Beckers bringing me a little short apron and a photograph of Lona, Mary Lee and Mrs Becker at the girl Scouts Rally for Lady Baden Powell when she was here. We had another round of cake and ice cream and then Lona and Harold went off together and Linnie stayed to help dry dishes and go up to their camp for me to thank Asta for her lovely flowers, so you see we had quite a day in the end.

Yesterday, Sam was down in the morning and we got talking so I didn't do more than the upstairs, and then errands. In the afternoon we went to the Rileys as they are always asking us and we never get there to see his paintings. were there nearly an hour. then to see old Mr Ness a norwegian who was the first president of the Banff Ski club and has been ill and doesn't look as if he would have very long to go. He loves to have a telephone call on him and we took him a book on skiing to look at. Then to see Sam a few minutes at his house.  
*as they have just bought a few up & then sent.*

Last evening Jonny was over and Jimmy McConkey to ask about a suite for the Chef at Norquay and he stayed and looked at the things in the front room. and Patsy came so we had a busy evening and so it goes.



~~That is~~ Today we were up early getting the Sketch boxes ready and trying on shrunken pants etc. and generally getting things together if we do go out to-morrow. However it has been cloudy all day and rained a bit this afternoon so it may not be very good weather. There is always so much to do around here if the weather isn't good we may stay in an extra day.

Have just been listening to Hawaii Calls and now will take this to the station as the Morants may be coming on the train about now

Do hope you are feeling better and the ankle mending well. and that you are having nice warm weather. Ours seems colder than it did a month ago.

Must go. Do tell Dorothy and Ada to plan to return our way and let us know when they will be coming.

Loads of love to all - many thanks again for the nice presents.

Catharine



Banff, Alberta.  
Wed. June 18, 1952.

Dearest Mother,

This will have to be a short note as the weather has cleared at last and we will be going out I think to-day unless something unforeseen happens. We have been packing and getting things organized though a lot has to be done at the last minute like the food. But we have a place for everything and get boxes the right size to fit in and this year I am making plastic bags for some things to keep them clean like pillows etc.

We have managed quite a bit of company, there were lots of errands to be done Monday morning and it was cold and showers but managed a wash which dried alright in between. It takes so long sometimes to do errands, we had to get a letter for Mom to take to a Dr Dowling she is to see to-day in Calgary about her eyes, as we knew unless we made a definite appointment she wasn't apt to go. and then Monday in the afternoon we happened to meet Mrs Coleman the wife of the head of the parks and she had Mrs Dempster the head of the Jasper park with her so asked them to tea and they came about 4 o'clock and Jonny dropped in too. They told us how very ill C.M. Walker was. He had a stroke Sunday A.M. and Jonny piped up "Is that the Mr Walker who found the holes in the Jasper highway?" We all laughed it off a bit as Jonny didn't realize they were wives of Park heads and of course we are all conscious of too many holes in the road, a subject one would avoid at tea. But seems that Jonny had read about it in Ken Liddell's book on Alberta so showed it to Mrs Dempster and she read it aloud. How they had found three very unusual and deep holes when building the road and never did figure what they were, and now they are under the highway!

Then yesterday afternoon we ran into the George Brownes who have just gotten back from California to Seebe with their little 10 months old baby, and they came over after their shopping for tea and to look at the sketches while the baby slept in a play pen in the back of their Plymouth Suburban car with a great big setter dog in back of that in the car. Jonny and Linnie appeared too and helped pass and eat cake. There is never anything left when the kids come too. but they are very good and enter in to things with the grownups. Jonny remarking on the sketches as well as George.

He was over again while I was ironing last evening and helped me eat watermellon up. He loves to draw pictures and of course chatters away and asks innumerable questions, some of which I get quite a kick out of, he uses big words in a funny way sometimes. The other day he was telling me how one of the girls does all the windows at the store. dresses them as they say. He asked if I had ever noticed how she used the paper. Denisons paper. and I said "no" Jonny replied "she just tears it in her own carefree way."

The other evening. Sunday he came back and made two more landscapes in those silver foil plates, one for me and one for his mother. He did it on newspaper but there was a good deal of



dirt scattered about by the time he had finished showing them to us.

Last night we were tired enough to go to bed early, a little after nine and I had just undressed when we heard a whistle at the back door and a knock. We thought it might be the Morryants looking for their mail which we had, so I poked my head out the window and it was George Encil and a freind in the Navy (U.S. Navy) named Webber who had been here before two years ago. So we told them to wait and I got my clothes on and Pete his and in the end had quite an evening until 11 P.M. Webber had been to Korea and Japan, and Honolulu in between times, he is a very nice sort, quiet and remembered so much of the house and enjoyed being here again so he said.

So now I hear Pete and had better get going. Will be anxious to hear about Dorothy's visit, do hope she can come this way as I think Banff and the people here are the kind she would enjoy.

Loads of love and tell Jean I will be writing her soon, I have her apron on this very minute.

Catherine



Banff, Alberta.  
Sat. June 21, 1952.

Dearest Mother,

Don't know how I will make out with this letter as Pete is on one side of me and Jonny on the other and both asking questions and talking back and forth.

We finally got packed up and out in the Jeep for one night. We should have gone earlier in the week but got doing other things and then Wednesday morning Pete woke with that sinus trouble and didn't feel very good until afternoon so we decided to pack up and go next morning early, which we didn't do. Got away after lunch. It was quite a nice day with a good many clouds. We went to Lake Louise and went over to see the Swiss Guides for the first time this year, the mosquitoes were thick and Ernest said it usually mean't rain. We didn't try to sketch that afternoon as the light wasn't very good but picked out a place to work from. Then drove down to the campground to find a spot to spend the night.

We were just cooking our supper when the Cree Indian named Joe came along and started to talk, he is caretaker and a very nice sort. I think is a bit lonely up there, he was there last year too, comes from Saskatchewan. We finally got the dishes washed and put away and were getting the air mattresses pumped up and the things arranged and ~~the~~ Joe had gone when a man from another Jeep came up to see how we had things arranged. He turned out to be rather an interesting person. John Keating from New York. He and his wife have traveled 60 thousand miles in their Jeep. He used to be connected with the fire dep't. in New York, was injured during the war and has taken a course in Industrial Arts in New York so as to teach, figuring teaching gives one nice long vacations. They spent 6 weeks in Mexico or maybe it was 6 months as I think Mrs Keating said that had taken a year off. Found it very interesting. Drove all the time but didn't camp out, stayed at native hotels as he could speak a bit of Spanish, and liked it so much better than the tourist ones. Found the people very courteous and friendly, They both talked and talked, he and Pete by the front of the Jeep and she and I sitting on the tail gate. The sun went down and it got quite cold and it was 10 o'clock by the time they decided it was bed time. We had to use a flashlight to find our things and get everything ready for the night and were tired by the time we were in bed and rather cold too.

I forgot on the drive up to Lake Louise we had seen two lads pushing an old rattle trap of a car back towards Banff. were trying to get it started, so Pete turned around and we gave them a push and off they went. They then turned about and headed for Lake Louise. We saw them at Johnson Canyon. But just after we got to the campground the one who was driving spotted the Jeep and came over to see if we had anything for a burn. We have a first aid kit so gave him the tube of stuff for burns. Seems that he had somehow spilled the battery fluid on his sleeve



of his shirt and arm. It was already eating through his new heavy cotton shirt. Had we only known the other people had more first aid knowledge than we had. The ex-fireman said we should have washed it with soda to counteract the acid of the battery fluid & then put on petroleum jelly I think he called it. We did tell the lad there was a doctor at the Chateau. he said he had run into bad luck all day. flat tires, lost a suitcase and engine trouble!

Next morning we woke to have it raining but it stopped while we had breakfast. We drove to one of the shelters and cooked it on our stove there in case it started to shower again, were just under-way when Joe arrived and had a cup of coffee with us, even showed us the scar on his leg where he was wounded at Vimy Ridge in the first great war. and then a young Washington couple came along to cook their breakfast and we talked to them. We think we will do better in future to camp in gravel pits where there aren't so many talkative people!

It looked like more rain and in fact showered off and on. We drove down to the filling station and spoke to Andy Smyth, then to the Lake Louise Station where we visited with Stan Boyle the ticket agent and reminisced about the days when we were at Skoki. I dropped in at the Post Office and spoke to Nick Charyk who with his wife is looking after it. He has to cancel all the letters etc, by hand and said there were 5000 postcards the day before. and when sorting them out if more than 8 for one place they have to be tied in a bundle. Then to the Lake Louise Ski Lodge to see Alpha LaGace and the things they were doing to improve the place and by then the weather looked so unpromising we decided to come home. Might have gone to Bow Lake but we were told the Calcium Chloride was so thick that it was bad for the car. and the Windermere road has too much oil!

We were home in time for a 12.30 lunch. Had a wire to forward the Morants mail and did several other things in the afternoon. We get vegetables flown in from California now and so had fresh corn last night and fresh peas to-day and asparagus for to-morrow. all very good.

It is now Sunday and such a miserable day. Started to rain steady yesterday afternoon and rained all night and this morning at 7 A.M. there were large flakes of snow falling and nearly all morning it has snowed, some staying on the ground and the trees with green leaves are weighted down. Some of my larkspurs which I hadn't tied up have gone over flat on the ground but expect had they been tied they would have bent or broken at the strings.

George Brough who accompanied Frances James when she sang here last fall wrote that he was in Calgary for 2 weeks ~~am~~ judging or rather examining piano pupils with another man for the Toronto Conservatory exams and would come up for the day this Sunday, arriving at 9.30 A.M. so we met him at the bus, he was here until nearly 11 and then Pete took him to hear Francis Gainer the station master's 17 year old daughter play the piano. Says she has a lot of talent and the Gainer family were evidently thrilled. Left him at the Banff Springs and he will drop back at tea time.

Have finished lunch and the dishes and are going for the mail before any one else comes. Was going to write Jean but will try to get it off Air Mail. Loads of love

Catherine

25. Jean says brother can't come this year but will next. I do weeping. Glad to hear of George's return who telephoned you. Did he say when he might come to Banff? Whether drive a big train.



Banff, Alberta.  
Wed. June 25, 1952.

Dearest Mother,

A letter from Jean to-day saying that you have walked as far as the swimming pool which sounds a long way after the fall you had. It must be nice to be able to get out and see the garden and just hope you have nice weather.

I remember you often used to say that the seasons evened up, we had a real early spring and warm and then June has been cold and wet. very few warm evenings. The weekend was really miserable and such a lot of rain. Think I told you that George Brough arrived at 9.30 in the morning. <sup>Sunday</sup> had coffee and doughnuts here, then we took him to the station and he and Pete went up to the Gainers suite above the station itself. (Mr Gainer is the station master) and Francis Gainer who is 17 played the piano for him. George said she has talent but hasn't taken lessons for two years but may again when she goes to University in Edmonton this fall. He played for them and Pete said I should have been there to see the pleasure it gave the Gainer family who are all so musical. I had taken the car to park as there was a convention of people arriving.

We left George at the Banff Springs where he had lunch with a singer, met another singer who he accompanies for in Toronto & who is a waitress at the Hotel this summer and met the head of the trio. enjoyed it all. Back here for tea about 4 O'Clock and then we went to Irene Glovers to hear her sing, she has quite a good voice but needs more practice and teaching, but George is very good and seems to enjoy helping the various ones. He is in Calgary for two weeks adjudicating for the Toronto Conservatory.

Jonny had arrived by tea time so went with us to Irene's and then we had supper together at the Homestead. Did I tell you that Barbara and Jonny may go east this fall? They only decided the day we came back from Lake Louise and were so excited at the thought and telling us plans that they sat and talked and looked at maps until nearly ten last ~~Thursday~~ <sup>Friday</sup> night. When we two were anxious to go to bed and read early! Barbara hasn't been east for 17 years and if a Mrs Bell can come and look after the house and the two boys as well as her own son who will board with Barbara if he gets high enough marks in his exams this June, and go to school in Banff. They would be gone about 2 months.

When we asked Jonny if he wanted to go with us to dinner at the Homestead he said it would be a good chance for him to improve his table manners, or I guess he said "to practise" his manners. So George Brough coached him and they were quite amusing about it all. It was nearly nine when the bus left for Calgary so it was quite a day for us.

To be continued if I can remember where

I left off.



may not get a chance to visit now now so well  
and this much day. Glad Jean has nice plans  
for her vacation. Hyacin is nice & it will be a  
real treat for Mrs Brown. We enquired about flying  
out here - the connections are fine coming west, not  
quite as good going back, but it is quite a lay  
trip of just 2 weeks.

Loads of love

Catharine

shall be anxious to hear all about the boat  
launching. Remember when we couldn't under-  
stand why you liked a motor boat better than  
a sail boat!!



Banff, Alberta.  
Thurs. June 26, 1958

Dearest Mother,

We are having a thunder storm to-night, a real heavy rain which we don't really need. Your letter came written Sunday saying it was too cold to sit on the piazza and to-night on the radio it says it was 100° in Boston. How does Dorothy like it? Shall be anxious to hear all about the launching of the new boat. How nice Diana could have the trip.

Do you think you will go to Essex this summer, shall be anxious to hear all about the house there too. Isn't it near those lovely marshes that turn in the fall and which Miss Annie Agge used to paint?

Well I still seem to keep busy all the time and yet have more that needs doing, but I guess I might as well get used to the fact there will always be more that I want to do than there is time to do it in. That Japanese book you sent is most interesting the one about the Japanese moved from the coast. It shows what can be done by people with enough leisure and of course the artistic urge. I thought it interesting where the man who taught embroidery started with a class of 12 and one piece of cloth divided between them and the silk, and in the end had 650 wanting to take it up.

We have had a quiet week in a way. Monday was over-cast all day, I got the upstairs presentable to people wanting to see the house, we did the errands and also called in at Earl Moores just to see how she was getting on in such miserable weather. Her basement pump had stopped working and a plumber was down there working. We didn't stay very long. Had just gotten home and lunch ready to serve when 4 Indians from Morley appeared. They wanted to sing a bit and hear some of our Indian recordings too so we asked if they had eaten and luckily they had, and so they said they would be back in half an hour. We had the dishes done before they returned and the drum warmed up. They sang three good songs and told us too how in the old days when Tom Simeon's grandfather lived in one of those dwellings dug half into the ground and the top made of bows and earth with a hole in the center how they would put meat in the opening and when an eagle came to get the food they would grab the eagle by the feet and pull it in. I guess that was how they caught the eagle feathers. They were here quite a while and then Tom told the other three to leave. Joe Kaquits, Joe Fox and another Indian, as he wanted to talk business with us. Turned out he wanted to borrow \$50.00 until fall, so it was rather an expensive afternoon.

By the time they left and we had done the errands it was train time so we went down and watched the tourists. It is rather fun to just sit and watch the trains and no one can come in. Jonny was over at supper time and in the evening and I tried to write letters.

Tuesday it started to clear. We were expecting the Fowlers on the 23rd. The ones from California who were in the



accident at Bow Lake and who have been in New Haven all winter. They wrote they would be in Banff around the 23rd. and we didn't want to miss them. The Indians told us that their Sun Dance was to be held this week and that Friday was visitors day so we hope to go down to-morrow if it is at all nice. Right now it looks as if it might rain all night. *The towns came this afternoon a*

We didn't go far from home Tuesday or yesterday and have been seeing to all sorts of odd things. Sam was down yesterday and to-day for a while in the morning. He overworks on the basement of the house they bought and are fixing up to rent and, gets sore muscles and I think comes here to let off steam and get cheered up, for we always joke about our horoscope as his and mine are the same. In the paper each day it tells what one should do according to the date one was born.

Yesterday we were just eating lunch when another Indian dropped in. Tom Kaquits, for a donation to the Morley stampede, we gave him some cake and milk which was all he wanted and he sat and talked while we had lunch. One always gets a good story out of them. This time Tom very seriously told us about something that happened in the store at Morley, he had witnesses too he said. "Dan Wildman and Moses Jimmy John" (I think it was) the store keeper too. "there was a big rain, lots of thunder, storm outside. The store keepers Mother-in-law came in from outside and said as she came in the door, "it's a hell of a storm" and just then there was a big thunder, the lights went out and the mother-in-law fell on the floor." Tom said. "they carried her into the other room, she was all right after, but Pete, I believe God makes the weather and she shouldn't speak like that." Evidently he didn't approve of her saying "He'll" Rather interesting that Missionaries think they are teaching Indians religion when they have a more reverent attitude toward God than the white people.

There were quite a lot of errands that afternoon and just as we were going over town a young farm couple came through the yard looking for 117 Otter St. the other side of town, but they had gotten mixed up in directions. So we drove them up to see about a cabin and brought them back down town. They were a nice young couple, spoke broken English, were here for just two days and going to see all they could. The man offered to pay us for taking them around. You meet a lot of nice people in a casual way like that. When we got back home Linnie arrived and then Jonny and she helped us scrub some new dungarees we had bought and I did a bit of weeding and Jonny showed off a bit on his bicycle taking the dog for a ride in the basket. Then last night Frances James sang a beautiful concert over the radio, so we recorded it on the back of the record we have her husbands Ballet Symphony on. *Only trouble was she won't sleep & shored a bit*

To-day Sam was down this morning, but first as I finished making the bed the fire alarm rang. We got the Jeep out quick and could hear the siren on the truck as we reached the road. A Gov't. man told us it was the hospital and there was quite a crowd around the back, so we drove down under the bridge in time to meet the fire engine coming towards us, it headed up the Upper Hot Springs road and we after it. We weren't as quick from where we were and so paused to see if it went along Kootenay Ave. but other Gov't



trucks went on up the hot spring road so we <sup>followed</sup> ~~followed~~. Got near  
the top only to meet the police and fire engine coming down. While  
Pete turned round, I went to the Jaegis and asked where the fire  
was but they hadn't known of any. Had to see there new dining  
room and by the time we got down again gave up finding it.

Loads of love

Catharine.

No chance to finish this letter.



Banff, Alberta.

June 28, 1952.

Dearest Mother,

We had a late night last night and Pete is snoozing in the other room, no sign of Jonny and a good chance to type you a bit uninterrupted.

Had a card from Gray Campbell this morning, said he was going to write us but first started to write you and before he knew it he had written you 14 pages in longhand. He said he seemed to have been carried away and so we had better ask you for news of them as he was written out, but he said it was great fun writing you and he tried to apologize for inflicting so many words on you.

Don't know if he told you that he got a letter from Collins about the manuscript and wrote us "If I had not read well into the Book Mrs Robb sent I should have been puzzled- or discouraged but the facts in the text book assure me that the manuscript and story are good and I am only running into the difficulty any author encounters who tries to market his own without an agent. A large publisher receives 500 MS a month. Forty percent are submitted by agents, less than one percent are bought from the author alone! Rejections to acceptances near 50 - 1. Job now is finding right publisher." So wasn't it lucky you sent him the book, he has mentioned it several times in letters to us.

Sunday, Another dull and rainy day, overcast all AM and now about 2.30 it is starting to rain lightly. We have been quite busy the last few days.

Friday Thursday was the morning when we went on a wild goose chase after a false alarm, then Sam came in for a short time to tell us his troubles. Not that he had so many but he was feeling a bit down, but while he and Pete were talking I got a lot of woolens washed out. In the afternoon we were fitting things in the Jeep a different way when the Howlers drove in. We had been looking for them around the 23rd. They are the ones who were in the accident at Bow Lake and come from California. He is 28 and she 24 but an unusually fine couple we think. She is a laboratory technician I think and has had good jobs in canning plants etc. while he got his degree in Engineering. They both worked the year after being here and then drove east with a small trailer all through Texas & the south, Florida, flew to Nassau & back. and finally to New Haven where he took a post graduate course in engineering (Traffic Control) while Janice worked in some factory. They drove up the coast in June and to the Maritimes and then across the country. They are awfully interesting to talk to as Paul can explain things well and is very concerned about the negro problem and such things. They were here most all afternoon and we had tea too. They were to go to the Webbs that night for supper. as Paul had worked with Jimmy the summer they were here and knows them well. We had a big rain and thunder storm.

Friday we had planned to go to see the Sun Dance at Morley but knew it would be muddy from the rain the night before



so when it seemed to start in looking like heavy showers all day we decided not to go as we couldn't have taken pictures anyway.

We did all sorts of things, getting a box fixed for the food etc. Sam was down again for a short time and then Mom with a rhubarb pie and Sid Vallance with some papers, then in the afternoon Jonny and Linnie Becker with a friend Christine Smith appeared, so we took them with us while we got mail and did errands and let them off over town. Had a number of things to do and when it rained later took Linnies bike back to her in the Jeep as she had left it here.

Then after supper the Fowlers came, they had been up at Lake Louise and had much better weather than we had. a lovely day. Then they were to pick up Jimmy Webb at 4.30 which they did but were later than his wife expected getting back to supper. Poor Barbara Webb. everything had gone wrong. Mrs Greenham who has a little English car she can't drive got Barbara to take her round and stopped at this place and that all along and Barbara was tired from that. had prepared a nice supper and the others were late, then Paul had gone into the bathroom and not realizing had flushed the toilet and one of the baby's diapers had been left in the bowl a few minutes to soak out and of course Paul never thought and I guess Barbara in her hurry had forgotten it was there. so the whole thing had overflowed onto the floor and such a time. Finally they were ready to sit down to a rather low table all set for supper, and as Janices chair was still lower they had suggested she sit on a pillow which she did and as she sat it sort of raised her knees and hit the table which was a bit unsteady and four full glasses of milk upset over all the things on the table! The Fowlers felt terribly and were sure they could hear Barbara shedding a few tears in the kitchen where she thought no one would see! We told them that most likely whenever they met in years hence they would always have a good laugh over that meal whereas the ones that went well would be forgotten! They were very amusing about it. Edmee came in just as we were going up the hill to see their trailer and came too. It was smaller than I expected. just about the size of Jeans room in Concord. at one end two double seats with a table in between. like a seat in a pullman train. Then at the other end a double bed. In between on one side the door you entered by and a cupboard with their clothes, a small ice box and above the frig a little cupboard. Opposite that a 4 burner gas stove and a small sink with working space around it. Underneath the cooking things and above little cupboards. Tiny windows all around with venetian blinds and it was all nicely finished in plain wood. Most compact. They had even put a shelf across the foot of the bed and had a tiny television set on it which could be turned to face the table or the head of the bed. As they said if you took anything out you would have to put it away again and everything had its place. But I think they did well to live in such small quarters for a whole winter. They heated it with an electric heater and were very comfortable.

They came back here and with Edmee we talked until nearly twelve. I didn't realize it was so late.

Saturday, yesterday, we were sleepy in the morning but did quite a bit. the usual cleaning on Saturdays and errands. Had an early lunch and the Fowlers dropped in to take a picture



of the house as we were finishing. They left this morning. Then Susan and Patsy were over in the afternoon and later Nick and Willi Morant were in. They are now headed for taking pictures in Nova Scotia. Nick wanted to show a drawing of a roof ~~to the~~ we had to the carpenter building their house, so I started the chicken in the pressure cooker and left it on the lowest heat so I guess it just steamed and then we drove them down to the carpenters. Nick went in and Willi stayed and talked to us. It must have been nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour later when Nick came out and we took them to the Larsons where they were to have supper. and it was 7.30 when we got home. The chicken was certainly nice and tender. I picked one piece up and the bone fell right out. We just fried it quickly in the frying pan after sprinkling salt, pepper and flour on and my but it tasted good. We think it the best way to cook chicken for us. Today we took out as much as we wanted and I warmed it up enough to melt the aspic jelly on it and then sprinkled it again and fried it. It tastes fresh and is so easy. *you just fry the amount you need for the meal -*

We had just finished supper when Charlie Beil came down to return something and stayed until nearly ten. we had been ~~f~~ going to hear the Edmonton's Boys band which Jonny said was very good.

Had a quiet morning to-day and now it is rainy. the Morants may be in later. If not will go to the train when they leave.

Better get writing another letter or do some mending. Tuesday is July first and a great day in Canada. like the 4th of July so will be crowded and we won't go out until after, especially with the weather so poor.

Loads of love,

*Catharine*