

Friday P.M.
Jan 16, 1953.

Dearest Mother.

You are probably wondering why you haven't already received one of the self addressed cards you sent us off with Wednesday and we just wanted you to know that we are O.K. & at present have stopped to see a friend of Cobs who he was anxious that we look up. The weather is still lovely. so mild we were sitting on the front porch until nearly five this afternoon watching the sunset. If you want to reach us just send a letter via Cob.

How can we begin to thank you for all the things you did for us - we both think it was the nicest visit in Concord that

we have had for a long time -
and though we weren't able to
call on all your old friends or
go to various lectures & exhibitions
with you, still we were company
for you at most meals & nearly
every evening & part of most
days. we even managed to look
over quite a bit stored in your
attic. All in all we were happy
to be with you & hope you weren't
too disappointed that we weren't
more active.

Shall be anxious to hear
how the Borden pictures were -
perhaps another time we can
see them. and how much did
you win at Thursdays bridge?
Do you fear getting a good rest
from washing our clothes by
hand? and do see that Miss
Wagner eats a good meal on

Sunday -

I hope Aunt Julie is much better & perhaps by now at home.

We passed Mr & Mrs Sobier as we went down the hill & hoped they were on their way to see you. Didn't realize until they were past who it was -

And how is the needle point seat coming? When you get the wool send us a tiny sample of each color for we know the design & can then visualize it pretty well.

Loads of love from us
both to you & Jean &
our best to Peter, George
Johnnie & Maud -

more love. Catharine.

Tuesday.
Jan 27, 1953.

Dearest Mother. Seems strange not to be writing you often but actually there isn't a great deal to tell about. our days are very quiet.

Pete is ever so much better and that is the main thing. I knew as well as you & Jean that he wasn't well, but in order for him to get better he had to want to do something about it himself. Cob advised us to come here where we knew no one & no one but Cob knew where we were and it seems to have been an excellent idea.

We go out each day it is nice & have a short walk & you would be surprised how much better Pete walks. Also he is trying to lose a little weight. and is eating better as well.

If you can, write us care of
Col & he will forward your letter
on to us. He wrote us once to the
place we stayed the first few
nights, but we had left when
the letter got there & they returned
it to him. However next time he
will know where to send mail.

Also you might ask Russ if
he was able to get the clock
adjusted, for if so Col would
see that it is forwarded to us.

Would like to know if you
are all well & how Aunt Julie
is getting on. Do hope she is
out of the hospital.

Loads of love to all from
us both.

Catherine.

Port Jervis.
Wednesday
Feb. 11, 1953.

Dearest Mother.

At last we are on our way in a South westerly direction and from now on I should be able to write you fairly regularly. In a few days when we know how far we can drive in a day, we can figure where we will be when so as to give you an address to write to. It probably will be some place like Santa Fe. We aren't going to rush so as not to get tired, but try to stop fairly early each day.

X Pete is really feeling so much better and seems like his old self. Of course it will take more time to build up physically but by

the time we get back to Bauff
he should be able to do the things
he wants to. We really have
you to thank. for first it was
Dr Montague who you insisted
Pete go to and who helped his
back so much. Then it was Cob
you wanted him to see, and it
was really Cob who helped most,
he sent us to a doctor friend of
his, under who's care we have
been & it was Cob's idea that
we tell no one where we were -
It seemed to work out very
well on the whole & we will
always be grateful to Cob
& to you for seeing that we saw
him.

Actually we would have
been on our way sooner but
having stayed longer than we
originally planned Pete had

to have his permit extended &
they look extra long it seemed
sending it back. However we
are started now & on our way.

We got all the letters you
forwarded & thanks so much.
In another day or two will tell
you where to write.

Loads of love & hope you
have been well & no colds
this winter.

More love & to Jean too.
Pete & Catharine.

Roanoke Va.

Feb. 13, 1953.

Dearest Mother,

After writing you from New York night before last we are nearly 500 miles further on our way. Had a nice motel called "The Painted Apron" that night but had to do down the road to a "Diner" for supper as the place across the road was closed on Wednesdays but they said would be open for breakfast at 8 A.M.

We woke Thursday morning to find it had snowed about 4 inches & then sleet on top, our windshield was solid ice. We took our time thinking to beat nearly. Cleaned the ice off & drove over for breakfast, but no one was up, so in the end we packed up & drove on down the road to the "Diner" which was really very good. It was just lucky we had driven all the belly section the day before for the going was rather slippery - slushy most of the time & some ice. We drove the first part rather slowly. It was misty but no rain or snow all day. Went by way of Allentown to Harrisburg, Pa. then down to Gettysburg for the night. We ran out of slush after the first 50 miles or so & after that saw traces of ice on the trees as far as Allentown but it was warm enough to melt on the roads.

As we drove into Gettysburg a man in uniform called us to stop which we did. Not realizing he was a licensed guide to the battle fields. Took us

a good ten minutes to convince him we didn't want to see them at 4 in the afternoon & drove on to find a nice motel with a good restaurant in connection. Had a most delicious steak (the proprietor said he had a butcher who understood meat) & salad etc.

That night about 12.30 we both woke out of a sound sleep when there was sort of a crash. Looked out to the main road & there was a car tipped over on its side & several boys excitedly around it. Another car moving on. The 6 boys got on one side & saying "Now heave" they managed to right the car. It was on the main road. But for some reason, no traffic just then. One boy got in, the lights went on, the engine started, but one mud guard was scraping a wheel. They bent that & somehow drove the car off the road. Tried to straighten out the bumper or something & then drove it in by the main building. We watched for some time & thought to see it this morning, but it was gone when we got up.

They told us we could have breakfast at 7 o'clock but again no one was around so we went on our way. Found only one place open, run by 2 old ladies with wonderful Southern accents, & had a very nice breakfast.

It was a lovely drive today down the Shenandoah Valley. Rather quaint towns. Would be lovely in the spring as there are so many

fruit trees, blue mountains in the background
& rather hilly landscape. The weather cleared at
noon & was lovely & sunny. Still cool air &
will freeze to-night.

Time to go to bed now - we have been
figuring an route & plan now to go to Knoxville,
Nashville & Memphis, Tenn. Then Amarillo Texas
& Oklahoma City (or other way around) to Albuquerque
& Santa Fe, New Mexico, about 1700 miles. It will
take us a week's travelling we think.

If you write us air mail to "General Delivery,
Santa Fe, New Mexico" right away - we should
get it by the 20th of Feb. May stay there a day
or two & go to see Toas too. Then from there will
cross to California.

Loads of love from us both

Catharine.

Birmingham.
Alabama.
Sun. Feb. 16, 1953.

Dearest Mother,

You know the book "North with the Spring" well we seem to be doing a "South with the Winter." Actually we were lucky to miss the storm last week, as it must have been snowy & icy behind us. We had a lovely morning & it only clouded over in the late afternoon the day we drove through the Shenandoah Valley. Grass was getting green in some places. Saw one man cutting grass, a few yellow crocuses, some forsythia & japonica out. Began to think we would run into real spring. Spent that night near Roanoke, Virginia.

Then yesterday it was a lovely day, cool air but a warm sun. we drove to beyond Knoxville. It was sunny until afternoon, clouding over & looking a bit like rain. We drove through Tennessee all day. Rather pretty country, little hills & farms. We were driving through Virginia & then northeastern Tenn. Hazy blue mountains in the distance. Would be lovely in spring as there were many orchards. Rather nice towns.

We drove our longest day 300 miles & found a very nice motel with restaurant in connection 20 miles south of Knoxville. That night it started to rain as we had supper but we didn't mind. In the night we woke once &

noticed - it had started to snow lightly. Didn't think much about it until 5.30 or 6 we woke & thought to shut the window & turn on the heat which was electric. No light. power off. Looked out to see the ground white & trees laden with snow. We had an idea they would cook with electricity & too dark to dress except by flashlight so we decided to just stay in bed 'til the light came on. It was 7.30 before it did & with a fan on the heater it was soon warm.

Just as well we waited for we had a good breakfast. There was 4 inches of slush, sloppy as could be, but by the time we started driving it wasn't bad & a lot of the slush had been splashed off the road, but it really seemed funny to us, snow in the south. We had snow until noon when we reached Chattanooga, Tenn. By then the sun had come out & melted the roads bare, but there were still traces of snow & especially on shady sides of buildings even into Georgia & Alabama. They had 2 inches in Birmingham.

Pete was amused to see people sweeping the snow with long brooms & in some filling stations they were hosing it off. There were snow men in most every yard, certainly where ever there were children. Some very good

ones + birds were still snow falling each other. Whenever we stopped it was the main topic of conversation.

We had one bit of trouble with the accelerator. It suddenly dropped down to the floor. The engine roared. Pete turned off the ignition + we coasted to the side of the road. We couldn't figure just what had happened + dropped out + we were miles from anywhere in Alabama. Pete was looking inside the motor + I walking down the road to see if a spring had dropped out when 2 State Police tore by. We both waved + they turned around + came back. Couldn't have been nicer. Were very fine looking in beautiful pale blue gray uniforms + silver banded revolvers at their sides. However one seemed to be a bit of a mechanic + fixed the thing with some string we had. Pete had to pull on the string as he drove to keep the accelerator from going down too far. It was the darndest arrangement, but worked fine until the string broke + we were first able to coast up a rise + to a filling station. The man running it had only one arm but he directed one of six young men how to put on a piece of wire so it worked O.K. As Pete said there were so many boys standing looking on, that he couldn't see what exactly was done. We stopped at the first town + had a mechanic look at it but he couldn't see anything wrong so

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we kept on going to Birmingham. Found a nice place here.

It is now Monday morning & we are at the job place having the thing done properly - that's how I can write you - there isn't so much time in the evenings by the time we wash up & have supper somewhere & maybe wash out a few things. & we got a checker board a couple of weeks ago & as neither of us had ever played before we are don't even & it's rather fun to have a game or two.

The car is nearly finished so will try to mail this. We came further south because of the snow & it's real spring & lovely. Frosty last night but up to 60° in the day time. Will cross near Dallas - but still going to Santa Fe. & then on to Birmingham a week later I guess. unless we change our minds.

Loads of love to all from us both

Catherine



ALAMO PLAZA HOTEL COURTS

"Catering to those who care"

BEAUMONT
DALLAS
HOUSTON
TYLER
WACO, TEXAS

SHREVEPORT (2)
NEW ORLEANS
BATON ROUGE, LA.

OKLA. CITY, OKLA.
LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

MEMPHIS
CHATTANOOGA
NASHVILLE, TENN.

RALEIGH
CHARLOTTE, N. C.

JACKSON
GULFPORT, MISS.

ATLANTA, GA.

SOUTH'S FINEST
APARTMENTS
FOR
TOURISTS

A BEAUTYREST
MATTRESS
ON
EVERY BED

TILE BATHS
TELEPHONES

Shreveport.
Louisiana -
Tues. Feb. 17, 1953

Dearest Mother,

I hope you are properly impressed with the above picture. Actually it is very nice inside, a bit old fashioned compared with the newer ones but we found the one we were in last night a bit too modern. It was air-conditioned, but so well, that one couldn't open a window without upsetting the system. The same thing happened the night before in Birmingham, only there we didn't see the notice "Please do not open the window" etc until next morning, & spent a comfortable night with enough fresh air, as there was a good frost in the morning. But last night it was a brand new motel & when we went into the room noticed one window open a little but the crank missing to shut it.

So asked the owner for it, & he shut the windows then & there, but said they had removed the cranks on purpose so people wouldn't open the windows. It is like a cabin on a boat only no way of regulating the heat or air yourself. It was nice warm air coming in all evening, seemed like all night. We did shut it off & left the door open a bit, but must say I prefer the old fashioned heating. Of course in hot summer weather it must be wonderful to have it cool.

Yesterday we started out by going to the Jeep place in Birmingham & it proved to be a very good one. They fixed the accelerator & cleaned the spark plugs & even fixed a thing on the radio so we get better reception. It was 10 o'clock by the time we left so we only drove 200 miles yesterday - mostly in Mississippi. A man at the Jeep place advised us to cross to Texas through a more southern route. Tuscaloosa & Livingston - found the motel at Newton beyond Meridian. There was a nice little place to eat across the highway, lots of local people & instead of waitresses three boys were waiting on table & serving trays to the cars that drove in. One was about Jimmy's age, the other older & I think brother of the man who was there this morning. His young wife was doing the waiting & a colored girl cooking. It seemed to be a family affair. We had "small steaks" which were the size of

small platters. We were glad we hadn't said "Large steaks".

This morning, Tuesday, we got an early start, got up about 6.30! & were thru breakfast & off by 7.15. So today as the roads were pretty good & not too many turns we made good time & reached Shreveport by four o'clock. Had the oil changed & came here. It's always hard to know what kind of city or town a place will be, but though this is an industrial city & rather a noisy street, right in West Shreveport this motel is sort of in an enclosure with lawns & trees, even a rose blooming on one bush, a series of rows of little rooms. There is a restaurant here too. It's quiet in the back part where we are.

We have been in spring looking landscape for the last 3 days. Japonica, lots of daffodils. Some lawns a mass of them. A lovely red berry bush by many houses. Clusters of berries like grapes & think maybe one sees them in florist shops. Peach trees by houses sometimes in bloom. In one town a lot of pale colored iris were out. The grass very green in some fields. The swamp maple buds very red, but most trees not budded! The weather is quite cold but the sun hot. They had a flurry of snow, maybe 2 inches on the ground in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The first snow in 10 years. We think people must find it cold in the houses which in most cases are up on bricks or stones & open

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for ventilation underneath, about a foot off the ground. Imagine how cold the floors were yesterday with a wind ~~to~~ frosty morning.

We are much interested in the way most of the colored people & some of the poor whites live. Funny little unpainted shacks & often tilted at all angles. a few chickens, maybe a cow, bright colored clothes on the line. Some how the way the colored people walk & sit is so typical of them. We wonder if any of them have high blood pressure, they move so slowly & casually. The children are so cunning, & we have seen several wagons hitched to a couple of mules & the family or a couple of men driving along the road.

Everyone is very friendly & when ever we go into a store, filling station or restaurant, as we go out they all say "Come back" instead of "good bye". We have almost as much trouble understanding some of them as they do us.

It's been fun seeing this part of the country, far more forest area than I had expected. Lots of lovely long needle pines & oak. Some trees in northern Louisiana have moss hanging from them, I expect there would be more of all that further south. Lots of cattle in some sections. Some cotton fields the last couple of days but more lumbering. The farms they call the forest areas.

all the states have had nice "Roadside Tables" & some little picnic areas - We always try to find one for lunch & make a sand which & have milk or coffee we take along - Then a good breakfast & dinner at night.

We have been lucky to have an rain & snow during the night, other were mostly sunny. It was cloudy yesterday afternoon but lovely & clear to day. To-morrow we may go to Dallas then north to Amarillo & then Santa Fe for the week-end.

Supper time now. I forgot - one amusing place we saw near Tuscaloosa ~~or~~ ^{Flattop} was a motel made to look like a group of teepees. They were made of wood & had windows & a large sign said "Sleep in a Wigwam" "Air conditioned & Steam heated" If only they had been on an side & not so much traffic & we had taken it in quicker we should have taken photographs. "Steam heated & Air conditioned" Wigwams are something new to us.

Loads of love from us both,

Catharine.

Tucuman
New Mexico
Thurs, Feb. 19, 1953.

Dearest Mother,

We are now within a short day of Santa Fe and should get there to-morrow if the blizzard forecast for to-night isn't too bad! We have brought cold weather with us I guess. This morning in Wichita Falls, Texas, it was the first time we hadn't had either snow or frost on the ground. Of course we have to remember it is still winter but is evidently unusually cold in these southern states. Still it's pleasant traveling & with so many windows in the jeep it gets very warm inside when the sun shines. We also have the heater.

We got an early start from Shreveport, Louisiana as the cafe opened at 6 o'clock & we were away by 6:45. It gives one a chance to do a couple of hundred miles before lunch. We drove 328 miles to Wichita Falls, half way across Texas. By chance we got gas at Marshall & the man there advised us of a short cut to avoid Dallas & ~~Fort Worth~~ with all the traffic of big cities. Unless one plans to stop over in a place you don't see enough of a city to make it worth while going through. So we had wonderful roads through wooded hilly country until we hit the main ~~Fort Worth~~ - Amarillo road, and very few turns. We thought the Texas roads excellent. They are wide though just ~~a~~ 2 lane not 3, but have wide enough shoulders to pull off anywhere for a tire or

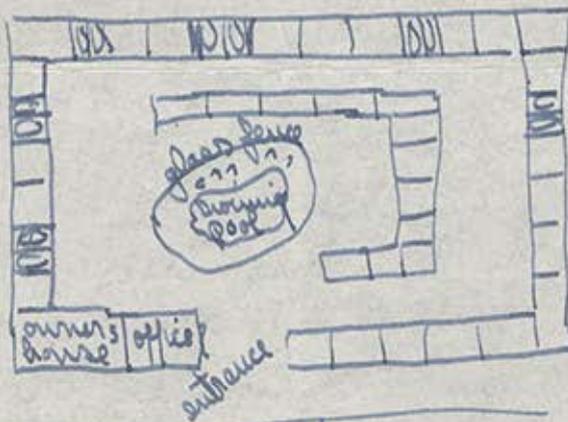
any other reason. Then on either side is a large right of way, maybe a hundred feet wide & this is kept clean. In most cases just grass, but when there were trees they were kept in good shape. all dead branches removed etc & it was really more like driving through a park on all the roads.

We noticed most counties took a pride in their appearance. Every good spot they have roadsides tables made out of stone or cement, a barrel for refuse, sometimes a place to cook. Some are just one table with a bench on each side under a tree for shade & in other places several tables & a road off into the little Roadside park. Makes it very nice to pull off into one of these for lunch or a cup of coffee & we noticed other people using them. They are kept very clean too & always a warning sign a mile ahead so you can be on the lookout for it.

After the wooded districts with oak & pine, very green pine & several lumber mills we came to rolling farm land. Most of the soil was red or white sandy kind, but suddenly in one part north of Dallas it said on a sign in one town "The Blackest Soil - The Whitest People" & the soil was very black loam. They raised cotton there & Bermuda Onions. The towns are mostly very clean & nice stores. Nearly all the County seats are built on the same plan, a lovely 3 or 4 storied Court House in the center of a square. grass & shrubs around it, then you drive one

way in many of these towns around this main building & the stores face the center on the four sides. The streets are nice & wide even in the smaller places. Much of the architecture of the schools, churches, court houses, & homes is very nice. They often use an attractive yellow stone for buildings & with so much wind & blowing dust it makes a good building material.

We got to Velita Falls about 4 P.M. & found a very modern motel. Many large ones ~~are~~ are often built in a sort of enclosure formed by the outer ~~wall~~ units. This particular one was something like this. There were fifty rooms, some with double



main road.

bed, others with 2 singles. Each with a bath & each had a dressing room. Each one with an individual thermostat & also a cooling machine for summer. Some had garages. & there was also a lovely swimming pool twice the size of ours in

concord & all enclosed by a fence of windows, chairs &c around the pool. There was green water in it so we think it must have been heated. Our room was easily 20 x 20 in size, carpet on the floor. Radio free. Coffee served at 7 A.M. on in your room if you wished it. a telephone too. Free newspaper. Really they are way ahead of hotels for comfort.

Our only trouble was having to cross the main road to eat. Some Motels have a restaurant in connection, or next door. This one was across the street & it was quite a job getting over, the traffic being fast.

We had a delicious stew when we did go over. It was so crowded for a small place we had to sit on stools at the counter & the man next to Pete was very talkative. An oil man & really very interesting. He has been to Alberta quite often & told us how he happened to stay at the Palliser. He really is from Oklahoma & later he told us what his job is. to cap wells that have caught on fire as the one in Life Magazine a few copies ago. It takes 2 to 3 weeks some times & in the case of that fire they had a hard time as the fire melted all the bombs & shells they shot into it. Before they got to the right spot. I don't know how its done exactly, but they have to get rid of the "Christmas trees" (as they call them) which form & then once the flame shoots straight up in the air they can easily handle it. The thing to do is evidently to get right over the hole to set off the dynamite charges. & as he said it is dangerous. The trick is to do it without breaking your arm as well. He's had his broken several times. We also noticed his face was burned quite badly. He flew up to Alberta last year to work on one well that went wild out of control near Leduc.

The waitress told us later that he was an Indian from Oklahoma. He also advised us to take a different route so as to visit the Carlsbad Canyons & go through nice rolling Texas country but later we figured it was quite a bit longer & so continued to-day as we had planned, coming through Amarillo.

Yesterday we had quite a few clouds in the afternoon but only light showers & today it looked like steady rain but turned off to nice sunshine. However it got very windy, 60 miles an hour in some places & the dust began blowing off plowed fields. We had never seen anything like it. Finally as we were driving into Amarillo the cloud of dust was so thick we couldn't see 20 feet ahead & had to crawl along. (They say in the paper that yesterday in parts of Oklahoma it was so thick the drivers couldn't see their radiator caps. those fancy figures some have on their cars) It wasn't quite as bad as that but plenty bad enough. Most all afternoon it flew & several times we drove with lights on & had to slow right down as the clouds of drifting dirt stretched across the highway. You could see the dust gathering, like snow in a blizzard. We heard on the radio of blizzards north of us so we are really lucky. The dust petered out a bit as we neared New Mexico. before then the wind seemed to change direction & suddenly felt real chilly. not long afterward there was snow in the air. It was quite time hanging on to the steering wheel the wind blew so. made ones hand stiff.

We have now had a very good chicken
supper & it will soon be bed time. Found a
nice motel here, a little older but more cozy
we think than the ultra modern ones. From
now on we will try to get cooking ones as it
will be nice to cook our own food, especially
in California - If there is much snow near
Santa Fe we may not stay long. I won't be
going to Flagstaff either in that case. They
have even more snow there as a rule. Even
here we are 4000 feet high.

It will be nice to get mail at Santa Fe
& if not there at Dorothy Browns where we will
head for next & then will let you know as
we decide what to do.

Am writing on my lap so all for now
lots of love to all from us both
Catherine.

South Pueblo, Taos

P1087

With its backdrop of Pueblo Mountain and colorfully costumed inhabitants, thousand year old Taos Pueblo is a popular subject for artists. Taos Indians are industrious farmers and are relatively well-to-do. They are usually well educated and frequently speak three languages: their own Tewa, Spanish and English.

Feb 23, 53 Taos, New Mexico
We were out at this Pueblo
yesterday afternoon to pump
again for pictures this AM.
It is very interesting. The
way the Indians live
here. They are friendly
too. Had a wonderful
day yesterday. I have
in the AM. but warm

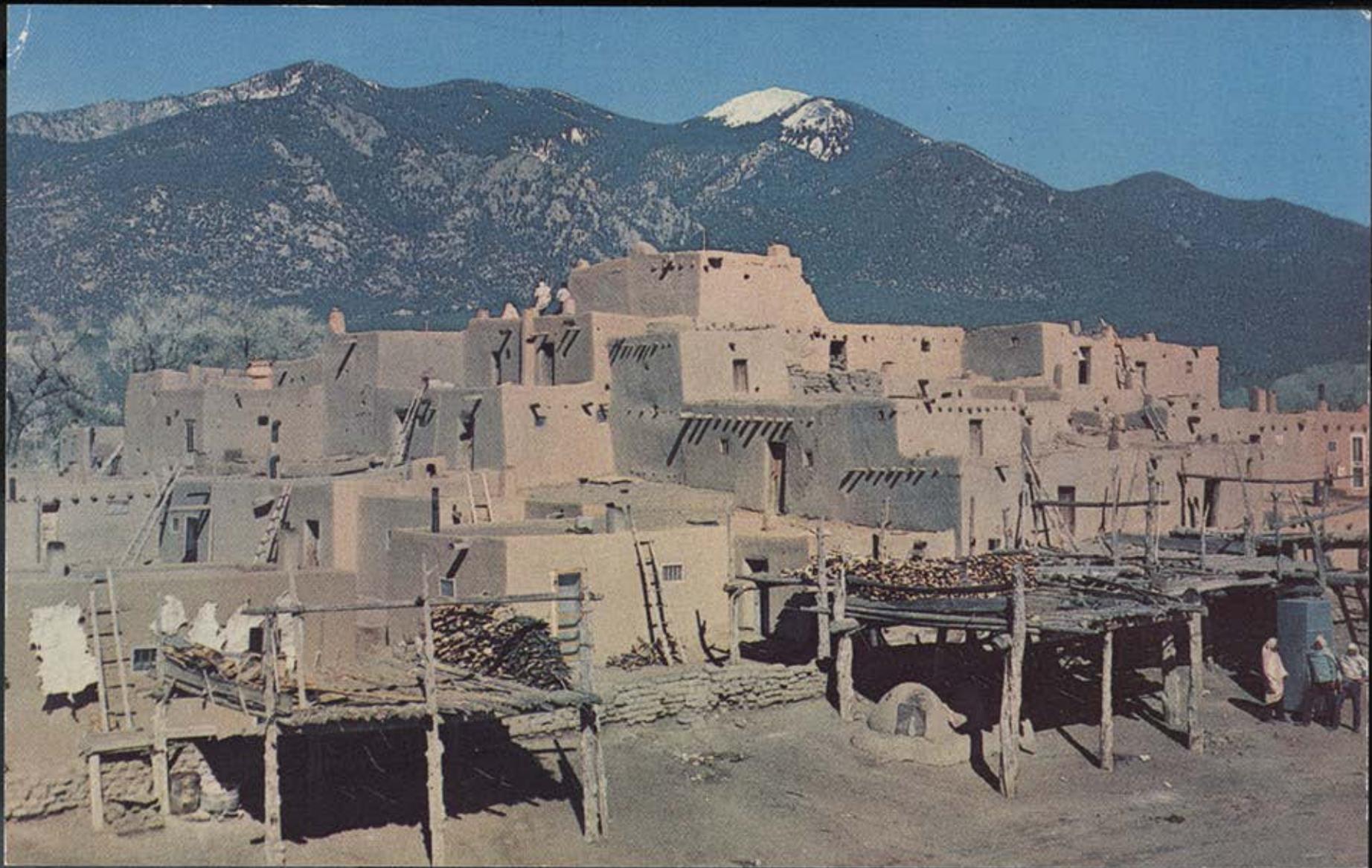
"Plastichrome" by Colorplastiques, Boston 15, Mass., U.S.A.

NM-35

Post Card
ADDRESS
Baba
that some show in Santa
Fe - cold. Went to the Art
Museum or Gallery - by old
church, but not much else.
Are leaving for Albuquerque
later to-day. It has been
unusually cold in California
they say. Hope you
are feeling well. I
so. Love you both.
Catherine

Place
STAMP
Here

Color photo by J. Hobson Bass



Jerry Mirabel, well known Taos Indian

P1603

The Indian who came
to speak to us at the
Taos Pueblo & asked for
a ride to Santa Fe.
He took us to his house.
a room with an air
tight stove. not much
else in it.

"Plastichrome" by Colorpictures, Boston 15, Mass., U.S.A.

Place
STAMP
Here

Post Card

ADDRESS

Color Photo: Album Shop, Taos, New Mexico



Albuquerque -
New Mexico.
Mon. Feb. 23, 1953

Dearest Mother,

We really have been awfully lucky so far with the weather. Think I told you, had we not had that trouble with the accelerator on the jeep & met a man in the Willys jeep garage who advised us to drive via ~~Phoenix~~ Chattanooga & Vicksburg for better roads to Shreveport we might have run into the terrific dust storms a day earlier in Oklahoma. As it was we had just a few hours of bad dust near Amarillo. Had we stopped to see the battlefields at Gettysburg - or Caverns in Virginia we would have had slippery roads in the mountains & Tornados & twisters, heavy rain & hail in Alabama & Mississippi. & had we gone further north in Texas we might have run into a Tornado there. Further north & that blizzard in Colorado. We seemed to drive a course dodging the worst parts of the unusual weather. It's been unusually cold even in Phoenix, Arizona as you can see by the clipping. We haven't gotten there yet.

To go back to my last letter, we had one of the nicest motels in Tucumanari, New Mexico, an excellent place to eat right next door. good breakfast & an early start. We read the watch wrap & got up at 5.30 A.M. so were on our way at 6.30. a lovely sunrise behind us, a frosty morning. We went through typical New Mexican country, sage brush, dwarf pines & cedar &

queer formations of rock & earth. It soon became overcast & we ran through snow flurries with blue sky & sunshine in between. One climbs without realizing it & we headed to the right towards Santa Fe which is 7000 feet high.

Pete remembered it as a boy when they drove through 33 years ago. It is the oldest capital in the U.S. The Spaniards came to it before the Pilgrims landed, 1605 I think. It has lots of character, narrow streets & some very old buildings. Like most of these towns there is a fine Plaza in the center. In Santa Fe they have kept nearly all the buildings in character, & they are made of Adobe or look like that sort of architecture. It seems to fit the landscape & there is one suburb where the houses are scattered about a hillside & you have to look hard to see them.

We thought it would be fun if we could find a motel within walking distance of the Plaza and as it was noon when we arrived we hunted about. The new motels are all 3 or more miles outside town, but had we known there was a parking place in the center by the big hotel I think we might have driven in each time. It was quite snowy & cold but the sun melting the snow which was really only "a trace".

We found the Orchard Motel within 2 blocks of the center & though old fashioned it was clean & had a bicycle which was nice.

but actually it was the least comfortable of any motel we have been in. Rather cheerless & poor light. No lamps. However we made out alright & cooked our own breakfast & supper which was a nice change. The gas heater seemed to burn all oxygen.

There was the nicest little grocery store across the street, run by a very pleasant young man & his father, but as he said the only trouble was the place was too small. He had a wonderful stock of things & you could tell by the other customers that they all liked dealing there. We asked him about Santa Fe & talked quite a while. Seems that the Orchard Motel was built on the old public camp ~~camp~~ site, where Pete & I were they camped so long ago. Funny we should stop there. The person who owns it came out in the 1920's & used to be a dancer or singer or both in a Saloon in the early days. 70s over 80 and a great character.

As soon as we were settled Friday we went to the Post Office for the mail, then had an excellent lunch - went into a few stores & back to the motel to read the mail from Bauff. There was quite a lot. Also a nice letter from the Bartletts. We were glad to hear that the Alfred Castles had had them to a dinner party & the Fulschers to lunch at Eva & a trip through the Sugar Mill. Am so glad they like Honolulu. A nice letter from Russ & Jean too.

It was snowy out so we just stopped for ~~the~~ supper at the grocery store & had a quiet evening playing checkers.

Saturday was 11° in the morning & felt as cold as it looked. more snow flurries. we went to the Art Gallery & also visited the oldest church & had a good meal. but didn't do much else. We were lazy as it was the first day we had stopped over & there was a let down feeling.

Sunday we planned to go to Toas where so many well known artists have painted, like Feehin, Robert Henri, & Walter Uffer. It turned out to be the most wonderful day. Clear as a bell. blue sky & the mountains covered with fresh snow.

The lady at the Art Gallery, Hester Jones, told us of some dances to be held at the San Gedeonso Pueblo from 10 A.M. on. She said you never could just tell when they would start or how long they would keep it up. We drove 15 miles towards Toas about ten o'clock, then 5 miles on the Los Alamos (Atom bomb place) road & a short distance off that & came to the Pueblo. It consisted of low adobe buildings - some 2 stories high around two plazas. One had an unusually large tree & the other a round ceremonial platform.

As we approached the village or Pueblo an Indian in a brilliant red corduroy shirt & silver beads, very fine looking came along. so we asked him questions. He was very friendly & told us the dance would start about eleven. (It was after noon when it really started)

→ if we wanted to take pictures we could pay the
 governor of the Pueblo a fee. → to park any
 where near the big tree. We did that & just
 watched the life going on. Not much activity
 really. a few children playing & some Indians
 going for water, or wood or to another doorway.

As you probably remember the adobe is a
 warm brown color, but each door & window frame
 seemed to be painted, a bright ~~red~~ blue, turquoise,
 or green or some ~~other~~ shade which added a bit of color.
 As it was chilly most of the Indians wore colored
 blankets. It's interesting they carried their babies
 in their arms not on their backs.

It is now Monday & we are leaving Albuquerque
 for Gallup & Flagstaff if not too much snow.
 Seems warmer. Will send this mail & tell
 you about the dances later.

Loads of love

Catharine

P.S. How are the dogs behaving?

Hobroke, Ariz.
Tues. Feb 24, 1953.

Dear Mother

To continue my last letter started about Santa Fe. Sunday was a perfect day cold & clear blue sky & we drove out in the morning to the Pueblo de Defenso. to see the dances. They were supposed to start about 10 or 11 but it was after noon when we heard ~~music~~ ^{drumming} in the other plaza. We had sat patiently for an hour or more just waiting. Had gone up a side road & eaten a sandwich & coffee & returned to more waiting. So as soon as we heard the Indian drumming we drove around to the other plaza. found 5 or 6 cars parked there & about 10 Indians in a line dancing and drumming as they sort of hopped up & down. They were dressed in white. a woven short skirt like thing around their hips. In the glasses I could see each one had a lovely border of black woven in the cloth around the edge & showing down one side where it wrapped around. They also wore sashes much like those of the French Canadian Habitants in bright colors. & these hung down with fringe. They had cedar or spruce boughs around their necks like a wreath or collar & boughs in each hand as they jogged up & down in perfect time. Every so often they would sort of break step all together. The music sounded much like the Morley Indians. They had long feathers on their heads. 2 or 3 but not headdresses. & their

legs + arms + hands were painted white, a sort of moccasins on their feet with a circle of lay fur.

There was an older man who seemed to stand beside the row watching each one + leading them as a conductor would an orchestra but first quietly with a little bow in his hand.

After quite a long song + dance, which was watched by 15 or 20 Indians leaning against a wall or pillar of their porch or sitting, they stopped. We noticed all the cars going back to the other Plaza so we followed suit parking by the big tree.

After a while out of the doorway of one of the 2nd floor rooms + down a flight of wooden steps came one after the other about 20 brilliantly colored dancers. How they all got in the tiny room we don't know. Though there did seem to be a back outside stair way up. We saw an occasional head over the parapet.

These Indians wore brilliant colored shirts. The same white skirt with black border + had painted faces + more feathers. A bunch of tiny bright colored feathers bobbed at the back of their heads. They carried a bow + arrow in one hand. They had a leader who had a circular thing made of feathers at his back. He also had bare limbs except for a bit of buckskin slung around him. He had his face painted half green from the nose down, in a straight line across (the other half orange) he

seemed to parade up & down the row of Indians as they danced. At this Plaza a very dignified Indian with a blanket thrown around & over one shoulder, stood all the time they danced & 2 little boys with him. He & the oldest boy wore beaded moccasins. The little boy about 3 years old tried to imitate the dancers & once when he got too near the man or chief walked over & gently took his hand & led him out of the way.

As soon as they had finished their dance they went back up the steps, open ladder like steps and all 20 disappeared into what appeared to be a 10 x 10 room. Soon we heard the music in the other Plaza & returned there as did the other onlookers. & once more we came back to watch the colorful group near the big tree. The dances were much the same.

By then we decided to ask a very nice looking lady in the car next to us what all would be going on & she said they would just keep on taking turns dancing, perhaps pushing off for an hour or so for lunch. She said it had been listed as a dance to the bluebirds, which seemed very appropriate for we had seen several large flocks of bluebirds that morning, probably migrating north.

We decided as we still had 50 miles or more to go to Taos we would go on, which

we did, reaching Toas about 3 or 3.30. It was a nice drive & especially on such a wonderfully clear day. We could see miles. There were several side roads & signs to other Pueblos or villages but we hadn't time to investigate them. We followed the Rio Grande River a long way, up quite a canyon & then a long hill, 3 miles long until we came out where we could look way up the Rio Grande Valley toward Colorado. Mountains snow capped on our right behind Toas & way off in other directions too. There was a very wide plain stretching away & right down the center came the canyon cut by the Rio Grande. It is the start of the river that goes south to El Paso & forms the Texas-Mexican border. The canyon about 500 ft deep.

We descended gradually to Toas which lies at the foot of the mountains on the edge of the plain. Found a very nice motel, simple but attractively furnished. Fell of sheep up for the weekend. There is fine skiing about 45 minutes from there. Had some hot soup in a little restaurant adjoining. They had real home cooked things & we became very friendly with the Oklahoma lady who ran it. Her sister lives in Alberta. At Great Slave lake in summer. Had all our meals there & they said they wished we would stay longer.

we were anxious to see the Pueblo that Toas is famous for so drove the 2 or 3 miles out there (It is in one of last years National Geographies I think)

As you approach there are groups of low adobe huts & then you come out onto an open flat with a creek running through it & on either side are large 4 or 5 storied Pueblos. Really very interesting. They are as they were when the Spaniards came!

Being Sunday there were many Indians sitting out in the sun, well wrapped up in blankets. Lots of children too. We registered in a book & paid 25¢ to park the car. \$1.00 for the privilege of taking photographs with a still camera. 9¢ to \$5.00 for a movie. We couldn't go up into the Pueblos but crossed the bridge & just looked. Pete had black & white film in the camera so used that

up. One little boy followed us every where we went with a bow & 3 arrows. & every minute or two would say "Hey" & when we looked would shoot an arrow into the ground. He kept us busy by always saying "Hey" until we looked & then we had to watch closely. He even shot some into the air & one arrow didn't quite clear the creek & disappeared for good. He even insisted on Pete shooting one which he did, but he stuck with us all the time until we left & we gave him some cookies. He was awfully funny.

It was pretty cold as the sun went down & very muddy as the inch or so of snow melted. So we didn't stay very long. Had a good supper & a quiet evening. Also had an oil change for the car.

Next morning we went back to the Pueblo with color in the Leica. It was sunny, though a bank of clouds seemed to be spreading over the sky. Met another couple also taking pictures. He is an F. B. I. Narcotic man & she likes to paint. They move about the country a week here a few days there. The longest 6 weeks in one place. He has been to China, Siam, Indo China & all over the Pacific. Was very interesting to talk to.

They went off in one direction & we in another. One Indian came up & asked for a ride to Santa Fe. but we didn't want to have any one with us for so long a trip. I will enclose a picture of him. He took us into his house of one room & showed us a picture he had painted which we bought for \$1.00 also took his picture & a number of others. Had just finished the roll when the sun went behind the clouds & we never saw it again that day. It was lucky we went out so early, about 9 A.M. Had a quick look around Taos, many galleries & shops but all closed as it isn't the season. We drove back through Santa Fe & it seemed to be settling in to snow on the

surrounding mountains. We had ^{had} soup & pie as a last meal with ~~their~~ ^{Taos} friends & the usual farewell saying, "hurry back" which we think rather a nice way to say good bye.

Got to Albuquerque rather early ~~Monday~~ ^{Tuesday} afternoon. but took nearly half an hour to get through the city because of traffic & road construction. Found a good hotel, a large one, 150 rooms & a good restaurant in connection. It hadn't really snowed on us but was snowing on the surrounding mountains.

Tuesday we got a fairly early start. left at 7.20. it was clear for a way then clouded over. I looked real stormy ahead. low black clouds.

✓ When Pete was a young lad & his father & mother took the 4 children on a 6 weeks motor trip one fall about 33 years ago. They drove over much of the country we went over. Only in those days there were often just 2 routes to follow & they camped out. One place Pete remembered very well was a place called Sanders. there was just a store & in back a stockade or wire fence. The store keeper told them to camp in there, when they bought their groceries, as it was Saturday night & the Indians would be coming in ^{pretty wild} they would be safe there rather than camped by the road. Pete said he woke up late at night when he heard drums & singing & a lot of Indians rode into town but they were safe inside the fence. They also bought a Navajo blanket at the store for \$15.00 & we have it in the house. Pete was much interested to see if the store was still there.

shopping there where the Indians brought their things in to trade, & they were made right on the reserve there. Not till we got into Holbrook that night did we realize how lucky we had been.

When we left Sanders, the storm had blown over & though others threatened the rest of the afternoon none seemed to be near us. We even drove through the Petrified Forest & looked at the large trees turned to stone lying all around, visited the little museum & then reached Holbrook about 4 o'clock.

Next to us at the Motel was a California car & the man asked Pete how we had made out in the storm. Seems they had run into snow at Gallup, New Mexico, so thick they couldn't see at all & for an hour or more had had terrible driving. We had missed the storm completely - probably while in the store at Sanders.

Today we left Holbrook at 6:45, nice & clear & frosty. One man told us 11° above but I think 21° was nearer it. We climbed gradually for miles with a distant snow capped ridge of peaks ahead. They are near Flagstaff & we saw them 80 or 90 miles away. It was a perfect day, not a cloud for us. Reached Flagstaff about 9:15 & called to find the Museum didn't open until afternoon & so telephoned Harold Cotton & had a nice talk with him. They had house guests & were just going off for the day, so we said we would see him another time though he offered to have us go up for a few minutes before they left. But

we knew they were just leaving. He sounded so nice over the phone. We will try to see him another time.

There was an inch or so of snow there; its high & we had snow most all day in the shady places. Took a very scenic route to Wickburg, down Oak Creek Canyon which was about 12 miles of turns all down hill as we dropped several thousand feet. The sides of the Canyon rids o oranges & lots of trees. The setting for Saw Gray's "Call of the Wild" It evidently is a comparatively new road & very spectacular country. There were quite a few very attractive lodges & cabins in some parts & all were in keeping with the place.

We then crossed a valley ^{could see} & half way up the mountain on the other side was quite a town & above that going over the ridge a road visible. Sure enough we climbed for 17 miles & went down the other side for 4. I was glad Pete drove that part. We went right up through an old mining town, Jerome, where they still mine copper. The houses perched on the edge of nothing & the road doing hair pin loops between the buildings. Some 7-8 story buildings also perched on the side of the mountain. Many buildings empty as if it had been flourishing one, then abandoned & recently lived in again. We went through the town & on up the ridge, such a view, over the top & down the other side only later to climb still another ridge & a long drive down to this valley. From this hotel we can see the road down the mountain about 25 miles away.

Wickensburg is where Ham Lockwood's sister lives. She & her husband bought the old general store for something to do & after getting an room in a motel we dropped in to see them. Had a nice visit for nearly an hour. They wanted us to come out for supper but we didn't say we would, & they didn't urge us later. It is their busy season & we are anxious to get off early in the morning. Dickie was the girl so nice to me when I came out in Boston.

Now to-morrow we go to Yuma & across to San Diego. then will look for that beach we have been hoping for. After a few days there will head north via Banning.

Thurs 6.15 AM & we are having breakfast, it is just getting light, a nice clear day. a girl from Vermont waiting on us!

Loads of love from us both
Catherine

"Star of the Sea"
Oceanside, Cal.
March 1, 1953.

Dearest Mother

Again we have been very fortunate in coming when we did & getting a nice place to stay, and have decided to stay here a week. telephoned Dorothy Braun & she is coming over to-morrow to spend the night & bring our mail as well. Hope there will be a letter from you this time -

We got a good start from Wicheyburg ~~Friday~~ ^{Thursday} AM. just as well for us we didn't go out to the Thubers the night before. & for them as this is their busy season & they work hard in their store. We were up at dawn, had a good breakfast in a café in the town, a girl from Vermont waiting on us, & were away by 6.45. Skirted Phoenix Arizona, which is really quite a city now, drove by orange groves, olives etc. all irrigated. They had a frost that morning. We had decided to come near San Diego by Yuma. Pete thinking it the best route & it proved a more interesting drive than we had expected.

It was a clear day & hot sun though the air was really cool. Had quite a bit of desert country to cross but always a range of mountains on all sides made it interesting & where there was irrigation it was even nicer. Can't say I like desert or even cactus country.

Wickenburg is a very nice town, good stores
 + evidently extra nice people. It's a great center
 for Dude Ranches. There are fine mountains in
 the distance. It is very dry & the air good, but
 as for the foregrounds of cactus + yucca + dry
 looking bushes. I can't see the beauty of that.
 Lizzie said that even the heat of 110° wasn't bad
 in summer. It is so dry, but over 110° + up to
 125° you do notice it. She said Phoenix was
 more humid because of the irrigation. The houses are
 all air cooled or refrigerated.

We drove through pine section near Yellon where
 there was great activity, land being prepared for
 irrigation, houses near the town being built etc.
 Evidently the irrigation water had only recently
 become available. It's amazing to think such
 poor looking land can become so fertile.

We had planned to stop at El Centro that
 night but had made good time, 300 miles by
 2 o'clock so decided to go further. It was very
 hot there. We noticed people sunbathing themselves
 by a pool at one Motel we passed. But the sun
 seemed very intense to us.

From there we climbed on a really wonderful
 road. At Warner City there was a marker we were at
 Sea Level. (just north of the desert there is the Salton
 Sea 246 Feet below Sea Level) Without having to
 shift once from high we drove up in long swoops
 + turns to a pass over 4000 feet above Sea Level.
 It was too hazy to see very far but we did get a
 very extensive view over the desert behind us.

From the top we drove up to a low hill in sort of upland country. Some very nice valleys in between the mountains. Not many trees & no good looking motels or we would have stopped.

After a while we noticed patches of snow in the shady places, & even along the edge of the road where it had been plowed off the road. So when we got gas at a place just east of Alpine, we asked and they had 10 inches of snow on Monday. So many cars got stuck & cross wise on the road they had to close it for 2 days, & here it was ~~Thursday~~ ~~two days~~ ~~so much~~ later. ~~Just a few days~~. We weren't more than 40 miles from San Diego. Seemed as if we would have snow or frost everywhere we went.

The road started down hill & we thought it was as lovely country as we have seen on the trip. In one place still several thousand feet up we looked right out to sea. The setting sun making it dazzling yellow in the distance. The valleys got more & more fertile lovely Eucalyptus trees & springlike green. A few flowering fruit trees & very attractive small houses perched about on the hills.

We finally got as far as El Cajon (pronounced El Calhore) & found a nice motel as we entered the town, a good place to eat up the road. We had driven 396 miles, practically 400, our longest day of the trip. Rested at the motel (it was five o'clock) & then had supper. When we came back from

a good steak dinner. There was an Alberta car parked next to us. The only one we have seen so far. The couple came out & we spoke for quite a while. They were from Peace River, originally from Pennsylvania. Had ranches near Houston Texas & had then gone to Peace River, way north of Edmonton over 30 years ago. It was getting cold & tired of standing outside, ~~so~~ they came in & sat for a while. Were very amusing about their trip & we swapped yarns until nearly 11 P.M.

It was interesting in the irrigated country there was lots of cotton being grown & also cattle & sheep ranches. The animals would be thick in one green field, while feed & pasture land was growing in other fields. Great stacks of baled hay as well for there is a danger of their eating too much rich green grass, we have heard. The sheep were so thick, thousands feeding close together.

a heavy frost Friday AM. we touched Graywings Friday morning we got an early start but still there was a good deal of fast traffic going into San Diego. We had thought of trying the coast near Coronado which is south of San Diego but with the traffic and all we decided to try from La Jolla north. There are many traffic cover signs etc & we sped along watching for signs. Only missed one important turn when a car with a trailer completely hid the sign in front & we were by it before we realized. Had to turn & go back there.

Drove on 101 - the main route north, going out to the coast at La Jolla which has many attractive houses. Stopped to see some wonderful surf breaking on rocks, but could see few possibilities for us - it is on a high bluff above the sea & we rather wanted to be near a beach.

Drove by a few likely places but as it was still early, about nine, thought we would come to Oceanside & have a look. Knowing we could go back, we are 37 miles from San Diego, nearly 100 south of Los Angeles. Got gas & asked there where there might be motels & he advised along here. So we turned off the main highway & about 3 blocks west came to the ocean. It smelt real salty like the Atlantic. There is a long beach & a concrete wall, not very high at the back. Then a 20 foot road of cement, maybe narrower ~~as~~ there is ~~no~~ room for parking, first to pass, & a row of small houses right on the road. It is called "the strand" & there is ~~no~~ side walk. The waves were rolling in in grand style, a few had even splashed over the edge onto the road. It was a perfect day, hot sun & not much wind, just a little air off the sea.

We started looking & the very first place had a "vacancy" sign hanging out, so we stopped to ask. Some people had left that morning & there was a suite available. We could hardly believe our good luck. It is a front suite (There are only 3) with a living room with four windows on the front

a kitchen, gas stove, ice box & all the china & cooking things you could want. a bedroom & bath behind 2 comfortable chairs & a sofa in the front room. Coleman heat as you want it. The sun poured in all day. It is \$25. a week & \$3.60 for each day over. a \$7.00 deposit which you get back if you clean it up when you leave. A shelter at the back for the car.

I imagine at high tide the waves break about 50 feet from our window. They make enough noise so that you hear nothing else. A few cars drive slowly by, but one hardly notices them. It's like being on a boat without having the motion. Lots of sandpipers & other birds to watch. A few children play on the beach at low tide & a few older people stroll up & down. Looking across the living room you can see nothing but a little strip of sand & the breaking waves rolling in. the road is hidden. It's really nice. This morning it has been very windy & as many as 6 waves can be seen breaking at once as they roll in. lots of white caps. nice loud effects.

We were lucky, for before we had taken our things out of the jeep a Texas car came along looking for room, & later when we went out shopping & drove toward the fishing pier we saw many No Vacancy signs & passed the Texas car still looking for a place.

There is a large Super Market 3 blocks up. Has everything you can think of & we went round filling our push cart with all sorts of things. Corn on the cob & new peas among other things. Large Avocados ready to eat 14¢. Even fresh calves liver. Its nice to be able to cook our meals.

We had a bit of sun that afternoon & also quite a nap as we were both sleepy after lunch. Yesterday was sunny at times but overcast most of the afternoon. We swapped & Pete also got his toe fixed which has bothered him of late. We are taking things very easy. Went out to the end of the long fishing pier but no one seemed to be catching any fish. It rained in the night & today there is a strong wind. Tomorrow Dorothy is coming. We have a room in a motel by the Pier for her.

Think we will stay here a week anyway. Seems there is a big marine station here & all the places are filled with families. So we really are lucky to have found a place that suits us well. Dorothy said there was some mail for us, so hope we hear from you too -

Loads of love always from us both
Catharine

P.S. Every afternoon one hears music like a music box & soon a truck comes along driven by a girl. The back opens like a refrigerator & she has ice cream for sale. The music plays all the time. It has just gone by -

Oceanside Cal.

Wed. March 5 1953.

Dearest Mother,

Am sitting on our doorstep in the sun. Not a cloud in the sky & the waves breaking gently on the beach. Perhaps the weekend storm cleared the weather.

We were so glad to get the mail this morning & a letter from you. We are sorry that you feel as you do. At the time it seemed the best way to do things. It was uncertain whether Pete would want to go through with the treatment as Cob suggested & until we knew it was best to say nothing to anyone. Cob said he telephoned you right away & I believe he must have forwarded my letters to you. But perhaps he has explained in the meantime so that you understand better. You are only making yourself unhappy by thinking that we don't like you. For it is not true. We are very fond of you & always have been. Why else would we give up & postpone our activities to go east & try to please you. We realize your life has become a very lonely one & have done what we could to make it happier. Perhaps had your life not been such a full & happy one while Father was alive, it would not seem as lonely now. It is in the end up to the person themselves whether they are happy & thankful for the good things in their own lives. You have been wonderful in doing things for others all your life & am sure it is that which gives you the most pleasure. You have lots of friends who think a great deal of you & would show it more if your nature would let them. But often they are afraid of doing something you won't like or giving you the wrong thing - or of what you may say. Please don't make yourself unhappy. We honestly love you very much & enjoyed being with you in Concord.

Did I tell you that we called up Dorothy the first day here? She drove over Monday morning. We had an overcast day on Sunday & hardly went out, just watched the waves breaking on the beach sitting in our front room. & then that evening the lady in charge came to apologize for the weather & it started raining hard. Peeking against the windows & she had to wait over an hour for it to let up enough to go back to her suite on the other side of the court.

In Banning it snowed & Dorothy was up until midnight pushing snow off the weighted down branches so it wouldn't break their trees. She almost didn't come the roads were so slippery. But then the sun came out & it warmed up enough to melt so she set off. Got here for a late lunch. We had had ours, not knowing just when she might come in.

There was a cold wind that afternoon so we didn't do more than walk a little way up the beach & back. Did a number of errands & got a projector to show some of the slides that evening. & of course we did a lot of just talking. Dorothy looks awfully well, really better than when we saw her 2 years ago. & seems well too. We are going there next Monday for a night & then start north via Santa Barbara to San Francisco. You had better write us there after you get this. Will put an address at the end of this letter.

We had gotten a place for Dorothy in a Motel near the pier so she slept there. Made a good dinner. Filet Mignon - new potatoes & new peas. Then some ice cream she had bought ~~with~~ from the truck that drives by each afternoon. It has music like a music box so you hear it coming in time to get out & buy some ice cream -

Then yesterday morning she came along about 8.30 for breakfast. We weren't sure when she planned to go back for she & Ada are to go to-day to drive Mrs Jackson (of Seal Harbor & Detroit, now married again) to San Diego to visit friends for over night or a day maybe. We talked as you may imagine, & listened, & then made her an early cold lunch & she left about noon -

I guess we talked a little too much for we felt rather weary later. Did go & get the oil changed on the car & bought the food later in the afternoon.

There wasn't much mail when Dorothy came but she sent on some when she got home which came this morning. Your letter, one from Jean. Income Tax papers & a lot from Dauff.

Dorothy did have our Kodachromes Pete took in toas & they came out far better than we expected. He had a roll of Black & Whites too & they were developed here, one fine too. It encourages him a lot. He used a new lens we got last year in Dauff for the colored pictures & they are really good.

It is lunch time so will end this & send it along. We really missed hearing from you & are looking forward to your letters. Glad the little dogs are behaving so well. Maybe better than at the farm. You should keep them. Loads of love always from us both
Catharine

address -
70 Bank of Montreal, Dollar Building.
California St, San Francisco, California.

Oceanside.
California.
March 8, 1953
Sunday -

Dearest Mother,

Our life here is rather quiet & each day since Dorothy was here, about the same. In fact we did about the same things when she was with us!

The weather this week has been lovely -

hardly a cloud, a few thin ones one day and a bit of fog yesterday which came in unexpectedly as it used to in Maine. It had been very hot & sunny first before lunch. We were sitting outside & came in to eat. When we got up from the table it was thick fog & a real chill in the air. Too bad for many of the people with the Sat. afternoon off who had brought their lunch & some their children to the beach. Most of them packed up & left but by 3 o'clock the fog had disappeared. Didn't come in again until the sun set. I guess they have quite a lot of fog along the coast but so far little here. This morning early there was some but it soon burned off & was a lovely day. Quite a lot of people came along but even then there were only a dozen or so on the beach near us at one time. It's quite a lot like Maine, real hot in the sun & up town but always a nice fresh cool breeze over the water. One needs a coat as soon as the sun goes down. I like it, for real hot weather makes me feel all limp. This must be a very healthy place to live.

There is a large Marine Camp near here so the town is filled with their families & a good many of the wives get jobs as sales girls etc.

You can tell by their accents they come from all over. Even the filling stations have Marines working on weekends. I washed the jeep. There are excellent stores here, not very large but a lot of good ones, like a fine photo shop, Stationary, some good clothing stores & fascinating hardware stores. One full of materials & yard goods, lots of people must make their own clothes. We have done quite a bit of shopping like sweaters for the beach we can use at home. An Orlon blouse that doesn't need ironing etc. Got some nice plastic bags for 3 of the girls who are having birth days - a dollar each. Seemed very reasonable & then a 25% tax on each. Seems there is a tax on everything, food medicine etc, a lot on clothing & luxuries. Then we decided that with so much of the California population on the move & temporary it is the fairest way.

We usually get up about eight & after breakfast I do Jean's job & think of her washing out so much for us last winter. We had quite a bit to catch up on. Things you can't send to the laundry so I did a little at a time. Then we go shopping. It's rather fun to go to the big Super Market & look a little cart around & try to decide whether to have fresh peas, string beans, corn-on-the-cob or asparagus, or maybe turnip or squash. Actually we haven't bothered with the last 2. The peas are about the best, real new ones. Pete has gotten to know one of the meat counter men & gets delicious meat so we eat well. Have cooked all our own meals. It's so warm we have cold lunches, a big supper & dinner. Each afternoon we have a bit of ice cream when the girl comes along in the special

trucks with the music box. We can hear her coming several blocks away - like a refrigerator on wheels.

We sun a bit before and after lunch & then sometimes go out again in the late afternoon for something we remember. You can see our life is very quiet but the time slips by. We are getting quite brass & if the weather stays nice may stay over a day or two more before going to Banning.

Monday - It was overcast this A.M. & we were wondering if we should push on. But now at noon the sun has burned through & though hazy it is warm. The wind off the sea quite cool. It says showers to-morrow.

Did I tell you how reasonable this place is? \$25 a week & \$3.60 for each extra day. a \$7.00 deposit & if you ~~leave~~ leave it as clean as you find it you get it back. So we mopped the floors today in preparation as the lady had told us where the mops were kept which was a hint to use them.

Haven't decided whether to leave to-morrow or the next day. but will start sorting & packing for the trip north. Might be in San Francisco in a week's time if we don't stop over between here & there. no use being in a city over the weekend.

Will send this air mail but after this just straight mail. as we went west we knew there would be more time between letters if we mailed them regular mail.

Have you heard from Aunt Julia. Hope she is really feeling better.

Lots of love from us both
Catharine -

Carmel Cal.
Friday March 13, 1953

Dear Mother,

We came in here yesterday afternoon and have decided instead of rushing on to San Francisco to stay over an extra day. We were here about 15 or 20 years ago but it has grown since. So full of the most unusual, quaint or picturesque buildings, hidden in trees & though some are a little ugly, the whole effect is nice. A beautiful spot on the coast so the setting is lovely.

Monday turned cold in Oceanside so we decided to go to Sausalito Tuesday. Took us most of Monday afternoon to pack up & get organized. Mail some things etc. We always seem to find it takes time to pack so we can have things handy. Raincoats etc for rainy weather. Our warm things for snow near home - a box of things so we can cook our breakfast & the necessary things to hand for lunches. It was after ten P.M. when we finally got all together & we had to leave the place clean for an deposit to be returned.

Tuesday it had looked like rain but cleared off & was lovely all day. We were up at 5.30. & left before 8 o'clock which wasn't bad considering our breakfast to cook & eat & the bathroom & kitchen to clean. It was a lovely ride. Along the coast then inland. Over a mountain range climbing 3000 feet to Elmore with a wonderful view from the pass. a Lake & orchards & many mountains off into the distance. We ate our lunch first before reaching Sausalito & still arrived about noon.

They were all there. Dorothy in the garden telling Ed Joe an Indian what trees to prune etc. They have the loveliest shrubbery & trees around the house. Planted years ago & so many varieties, some not supposed to grow so high up - like Bougainvillea & avocado, oranges they have! pepper trees etc.

Ada was busy writing letters to Kate, as usual working around the kitchen. It's a very interesting house designed by a well known architect named Webber, a pupil of Frank Lloyd Wright. There is a nice living room, dining room down a couple of steps but all one, on either side a porch & patio, then wings of either way with Dorothy having a room & sleeping porch & bath one way, Kate ~~the~~ above her - & Ada in the other wing.

The Valley is far lovelier than I had expected. A really beautiful range of mountains on either side, foothills that lead up to the peaks with snow on them. The effects were lovely. The mountains really look high. The valley is all cultivated so green & nice trees etc., & there are good roads with little traffic except on the main through route.

We sat while they had lunch & talked a steady stream. Glanced at the mail & were very excited to get Gray's book. Have you read it yet? We asked the bookshop to send us copies which they did. Air Mail & Regular mail & we got both. Haven't had a chance yet to read it!

There was also your letter with Robert Sewasey's address which I had too, & a letter from Russ in Florida. So glad they are having good weather

Toothy showed me all over the place & we climbed the little hill in back for the lovely view. The only art about the house is the lack of view from inside as other houses & trees have grown up & hidden it. Pete & Ada talked while we ~~there~~ went to the bank before it closed. got a motel & also took a quick drive up the other side of the valley to see the view. The mountain roads are wonderful in California.

Later Toothy took both Pete & I up "the Bench" in back of where they live. All covered with Peach trees in bloom - as one climbed gradually back towards the range of mountains the views were increasingly lovely.

Had a tremendous dinner, at least we ate an awful lot. Roast pork & cherry pie. & then showed the slides we have with us to them. It was nearly seven when we left.

Next morning we were up early but it looked as if it would rain heavily all day. Only one mountain range was in sunlight with heavy clouds slowly coming over. Lovely to see while we ate our breakfast having a motel we could cook in. They had wanted us to have waffles with them but we knew it would mean a late start & we did want to get to Santa Barbara -

It looked stormy all morning but though it rained on all sides! we never got a drop. Went around Los Angeles by Pasadena & onto Foothills Blvd. which took us right by Robert Sewsey - We stopped in for a nice call & saw all his pictures

he collects. I think he thought I was going to be a sales lady when he opened the door he was so surprised to see me thinking we were back in Bauff. He has a nice place. a large living dining room with a lovely view of high near hills are the front ~~back~~ & looking towards the sea at the back. The room is full of things, a little old madish with heaps of knick knacks & the old things from Portland. Sort of Victorian period. He showed us all about, even the garden & especially the geraniums which grow in regular bushes & were lovely. You should send him a slip Air Mail some time of Grandmother Moses white one to see how it would grow outside.

From there he told us the best route across country to Santa Barbara, we missed one fork & stopped at a filling station to ask directions & strangely enough one of the sheers who used to be in Bauff runs it. So had quite a talk with him.

The weather cleared & it was a lovely drive to Santa Barbara. Stopped there at the Sea Captains Motel which we had heard was run by Capt. Jorstad who Pete knew in Shanghai in 1929. His sister-in-law lives in Bauff & we know her well. It was a fine motel too & he was there & it was fun for me to meet him & Pete to see him again. That evening after supper we talked until ten & he told us so many interesting things about the Dollar line & his experiences as Captain on many of their boats.

It was early when we arrived, about 3 P.M. so we went out to see what we could after a while.

Tell Jean first person we talked to at the Texaco Station was Jimmy Morrison of Kanawatic Scotland - a real Scotty too. He told us how to drive around above Santa Barbara until we got to the Mission then down into the city, which we did. They were doing a lot of work rebuilding the towers - we didn't stop long enough for the half hour tour of the Mission as the next one wasn't going for a while. Instead drove down town & looked at the Art Museum. A beautiful building but the pictures on view were very disappointing.

Had a wonderful dinner that night next door to the hotel. When we went in the atmosphere was very luxurious I guess you would call it, subdued light, white table clothes, candles, ~~both~~ upholstered chairs. ~~The~~ nearly all tables filled. At first we felt it was rather an exclusive place & then after we were seated & began talking things in we realized how cleverly the whole thing had been done & in very good taste. The building was brick or those cement blocks painted inside a dark green with some decoration, bird of paradise flowers painted on the walls.

at one side was a buffet. We were served with a delicious salad, lettuce with a very special dressing. Coffee cups were on the table & the girl who brought the salad, brought coffee from time to time. After that (there were no menus) we got up & went to the buffet. There were cold hors d'oeuvres

~~like~~ ^{rather} on salads - 3 bowls of salads + then pickles, beets, lettuce, green onions + radishes. All very simple things. Then 2 chefs helping me to the trays. They had some large chafin dishes. One with mixed beans + carrots. The next mashed white potato, thick + thin gravy. Then your choice of fried chicken or maybe it was roast chicken! or a thick slice of rare roast beef carved for you right off the roast. Best beef we have had.

Back to our table + hot bread was there + soon the coffee. For desert a choice of vanilla ice cream or orange sherbet. just a little scoop.

Then we noticed that what appeared to be a white linen table cloth was really plastic. we did have cloth napkins. The chairs were the most ordinary straight backed chairs with a case of different colored cloth slipped over the back + I guess on the seat, so they looked upholstered. There were just 2 waitresses who paired coffee, cleared + re-set tables. a bus boy who took out the trays. We saw 3 chefs in all + they served about 45 people. They came + went + usually all but one or two tables full all the time. There also was a bar in connection. But we figured what they saved in good planning went into the meat. for the meal was just \$1.85 - \$1.95 each. Our bill was \$3.80 which was awful little for the amount we ate.

Yesterday Thursday we left early again for Carmel. 250 miles + a beautiful drive

much of it along high cliffs above the sea. You wonder how they could build such a road. Some of it was being repaired. Had a picnic lunch & then ran into showers. Some quite heavy. It made much of the scenery very Japanese.

Got here & found a nice motel. Rather luxurious for us but with a kitchen so we cooked our supper last night. Had a look in the most fascinating shops. They all have Dutch half doors which are nice for they are kept open, the upper half that is, & tempt one in. Also drove along the beach at sunset & it was really lovely.

Now we will be going out as it is a lovely day. Frost this morning. There are both roses blooming & daffodils in the plot of garden outside.

Haven't decided when to go to San Francisco as the bank won't be open Sat. ~~7~~ 9. It will be the last mail we get. Then in another 10 days should be in Bangf. Want to be back before the end of March.

How is the needlepoint seat coming along. Shall be interested to know what colors you used in the end. Didn't realize the Bartletts would be back so soon. would love to be able to talk to them about their trip. Must be getting spring-like in Concord by now.

Tots of love from us both to you & Jean
Catharine

Eureka California
Texas March 17 1953.

Dearest Mother

We are on our way north up the coast, but am too sleepy to write much. Just wanted you to know that we were glad to get yours & Jean's letters in San Francisco & know all goes well.

Carmel was a lovely spot & the weather beautiful so we stayed over one day & then thought we might as well stay another, but discovered about 10.30 A.M. that the rooms we had were promised to another party, so decided we would go on to San Francisco Saturday afternoon. Packed up as quick as we could, telephoned to the motel we stopped in 2 years ago & were lucky to get a room & drove in by 4 P.M. not too much traffic luckily & a lovely drive, went to Chinatown that night for supper & window shopping, intended to go back but never did. Its great fun as most of the shops are real Chinese.

Sunday we expected to have rather a quiet day. Went out it was so nice about 10.30 & when asking a lady where to get the cable cars she suggested we buy a 50¢ Sunday Pass. Each ride is usually 15¢ but one can ride all day & night on any line of street car for 50¢. So we had great fun going out to the park & having lunch then back to Market Street to see the Irish parade. Instead of to-day the St Patrick Day Parade was at

1.30 on Sunday & it wasn't over until quarter
to five. A little too long. We expected to watch
just a little but an Italian came along with
2 boxes to sell for seats. So we bought one for
50¢ & another for 25¢ & were very comfortable
sitting along the curb. A large colored lady with
a cunning little girl on one side. A Spanish
family we think Central Americans, very attractive
on the other side & an Irish man behind.

It was quite a parade. Cops of politicians &
the Governor. Many bands. floats, men & women
on horse back. The Army, Navy Air Force & Marines.
Fire Brigades etc. Lots of funny old cars &
goodness knows what! It was going by for
3 hours so you can see there was quite a bit
to it. Both Scotch & Irish Pipes. a Chinese girls
school band. All in lovely costumes. Many
school bands with girls cavorting in front.
Even tiny wee tots twirling batons, too young
we thought to march the length of market street
with few clothes on & a cool wind blowing.
But it was fun. We were out all day -

That evening still having our pass we
used the bus to get to the "House of Rib Roast."
where we had a delicious dinner. They make
a specialty of Roast Beef.

After being seated the waitress brought
a wheeled table & tossed a green salad for

us. The bowl being placed on crushed ice while she mixed it with much flourish. A large plate full. After that the Chef came by with an elaborate heated cart. The cover rolled back, a light flicked on & he carved off a huge slice from the rare or well done roast, whichever you preferred. Your choice of mashed white or baked potatoes. (The latter coming in tin or aluminium foil & the waitress preparing that with butter etc) Then spinach too. All very good. As much coffee as you liked & we didn't have room for desert.

It was a popular place. We had to wait half an hour for a table. They only had roast beef - a choice of deserts.

Yesterday we set off at 8.30 A.M. to take the jeep for a check over to the Willys place. Wanted to get there before the morning rush, but had to go out Market St. in the end, but managed well. Then spent an hour or so at a camera store looking at equipment. Then to the bank for the mail. Back to the motel to rest our feet & a late lunch. Then to the bank & camera shop again & out to the jeep place by 4.30. Got that safely home & found we hadn't one part of the camera equipment but knew they were open Monday night! so back down to pick that up & for a late fish dinner & back to the motel by 10 o'clock. another long day.

We had cooked breakfast there & so had to get organized for an early start this morning as we left by 7.25 to miss the worst traffic! It was a beautiful drive today, sunny & lovely through the Red Woods. They are really lovely to drive through.

One rather nice thing. We went to the same Grocery store where we stopped the 2 or 3 days on our way to & from Honolulu 2 years ago & the Deliahs who run it remembered us when we came in. One said "why yes, you are from Canada." We thought that was pretty nice in a place the size of San Francisco. The people looking after the Motel were different.

It is bed time now, we like to get an early start each day & invariably there is something to wash out too each night.

Lots of love from us both.

Catharine

P.S. We are both feeling fine, but get a little tired when we do too much as we did in San Francisco - However now we are headed up the coast we can take it more easily.

Shelby, Montana
March 23, 1953.

Dear Mother,

we made the complete circle to-night stopping in Shelby, ^{Montana} where we stayed last fall. We tried to telephone the Campbells to-night but they were all out. Hope to see them on the way to Calgary to-morrow. Should be in Banff the next day. Wednesday-

are still missing storms. It was lovely as we drove from near Great Falls. Traces of snow in drifts & we were told in Conrad, 40 miles south of here they had a bad storm Friday & many tourists had to spend the night in Conrad.

we made better time than we had expected across from the coast. Went a little longer route to see country we hadn't seen in nearly 20 years-

Did I tell you we stayed over a day in Cannon Beach. Found such a nice place with a real living room, fire place & cooking arrangements. Most attractive. Pete wanted to take me along the beach in the jeep at low tide which they had done 33 years ago - Pete & the family camped there when there

was only a little store & one family I think. Now it is quite a busy summer place. Year round really but busier in summer. a really wonderful hard wide beach. you can drive right along at the edge of the water. It was fun & others were looking for things the sea might have washed in.

I thought I'd have time to write lots of letters but somehow we were busy all day. Had a big fresh crab for lunch. Cracked it with the Automobile pliers.

Got an early start Saturday & drove up to Astoria. along the Columbia River to the Longview Bridge. to Olympia, Toconna & over to Renton. It was showery but some sun & nice clouds. Saw Elk along the Columbia in a small Forest Reserve.

Went over the Snoqualmie Pass & saw many weekend Skiers having a grand time at the top. Lots of snow & a lot coming down too. but only a few miles & we were out of it. Stayed at Ellensburg. a long drive.

Yesterday we drove across to Spokane & then to Cave d'Alene. over a pass through Missoula. Had a nice little place to stay last night. Today thru Helena & near Great Falls & to Shelby. It is getting late so will not write more until we reach Dauff. Lots of love Catharine.

Bauff. Alta
Thurs. Mar 25, 1903.

Dearest Mother

Just a hurried note to let you know we arrived home about 1.30 P.M. yesterday, in time to get the house opened up. Sam helped, got the heat on but the fan had blown a fuse which we didn't discover until after supper which we had with Mom. The kids were down. Darry being the first to discover us & helped unload the jeep. Janny arrived on the run later & was back after supper with Harold, Lona & ~~Tom~~ Lynnie Becker. This morning we have Bob Watt turning the water on. Haven't been over town yet for the mail as every thing was closed yesterday being Wed. -
Tons of love
Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Sat. Mar. 28, 1958

Dearest Mother,

We got home Wednesday afternoon about 1.30 and this is Saturday before supper and we still haven't unpacked, cleaned house or opened some Christmas presents from England. Have been quite busy though.

Were lucky as usual with the weather, seems that Merle Brewster came from Great Falls by bus last week and spent 24 hours in a tiny prairie town just big enough to have a small hotel, somewhere between Shelby and the border, a place called Sunburst. There was a really bad blizzard and we could see the drifts when we came and some parts of the road still icy, one drift at the side of the road we could just see the top of a car sticking out and many tracks where others had gone off the road. *Wife had to sleep with a strange lady from Calgary.*

We left Shelby early and were at the border by nine, had to declare the camera and recorder over and above the \$100. we were each allowed and had to go to a Broker to have the papers made out, back to the customs, then to a filling station to get our money changed etc. Took us 2 hours, they were busy getting big trucks ~~thought~~ through before the road ban went into effect at noon.

X When we got to Milk River we called up Gray Campbell to see if we could see them if we stayed overnight in Macleod, He said they would be down and we thought we would be there about 3 o'clock. It was nearly five when they got there. We had already a nice motel, a double one so they could all stay overnight. We hadn't known if the boys ~~wit~~ would be with them or not. They were and as their roads are very muddy they had come over that awful hill that Gray used to get Eleanor out to the hospital, only this time there wasn't as much snow but it was just as steep.

Y It was good to see them and of course we all talked at once and about the book, at the time we didn't know you had received the copy from Gray, but as he said the copies sent to him were much later than the ones reaching the stores. It was all very exciting and they told us about the wonderful reviews they have had, have been on the radio in Calgary twice, signed books in both Eatons and the Hudson Bay, ~~and~~ autographed them I should say, Eleanor had bought a new green hat for the occasion and looked younger and prettier than ever, had on the gray flannel suit you bought me at Romaine & Pattersons just at the end of the war I think, it fits her just right, was a little too tight on me.

The boys were so good and sat very quietly while we talked, then we all went to the Palace Cafe where Pete

used to eat when stationed at MacLeod, and they made us a wonderful Chinese supper which the boys enjoyed too, ending up with pie. They were put to bed in their half of the motel and we talked until ~~Midnight~~ eleven, then Dane was lifted into our part and slept on the couch. We each had two rooms. In the morning all the Campbells had showers which was great fun for them, then we had breakfast together and set out for home.

Came right along and got here Wednesday afternoon, it was rather mild, a few snow flurries but a good day for opening the house. Seems that there was more dampness than usual and so the door was swollen a bit and the key wouldn't turn, so we went up and saw Mom and called Sam on the phone and down he came to help open the house, they took the shutters off, he and Pete, and got the lights and furnace going while I put some wood fires on in the kitchen and fireplace. There was about 4 inches of water in the basement and the top was frozen a couple of inches thick but not quite deep enough to reach the furnace so we could put it on. Later when we walked around in the basement the ice would crack and the water come up over it. Only trouble was the fan on the furnace wouldn't go, we thought it was just cold but after supper when Cecil Philpott came he found the fuse had blown. Sam went after we had made a cup of tea. (we got water from Mom, also cake and cookies) to get Cecil and left the message for him to come to "Whytes" and the daughter thought it was "Wyatt" so we called him ~~after~~ supper and he came about 7 o'clock.

Davy was the first to discover us after school, helping us unload the Jeep, then Jonny came on the run staying until we went up to Mom's for supper and coming back later with Harold, Lona and Lynn Becker. They were here all evening, much pleased with the things we brought them, little Indian silver rings with turquoise stones for the girls and belts for the boys. Cecil Philpott came right over after his supper and fixed the fan on the furnace which heated the house much quicker and we slept here the first night.

Thursday Bob Watt came right after breakfast to turn on the water, took him most of the morning to get everything in order, pump in the cellar etc. However we had forgotten to put the fuses in the right place for the hot water heater so didn't get hot water until Friday. In trying various switches and running the hot water to see if it was getting hot, it was so ice cold that it plugged or congealed the kitchen sink, but we got that fixed Saturday morning.

When we went over town there were so many people to say hello to it took quite a while and we had three large cartons of mail, magazines and 10 Christmas presents, which we have only just gotten round to looking at this morning, Sunday.

Also a lad we were helping was down to see us Friday morning and we had to make a couple of trips to the bank, then Friday afternoon was the blood donors Clinic to go to. Edmée Moore was down Thursday night for the evening, said she really missed us this winter, first one her mother has been away and

since her father died and somehow she has felt more lonesome. Charlie her husband has a drug store and has been running it all alone not being able to get help and they haven't been able to get away etc.

Last night after starting this we read the book reviews that Gray ~~sent~~ lent us to read and they really are awfully good, it is very encouraging, people like the sincerity and praise it for all sorts of qualities. They have already sold 3000 if the 5000 printed.

Sam was down yesterday afternoon and he and Pete cut a couple of inches off our bed to lower it a bit, also put a new thing on our screen door so it won't slam. Mrs Painter came to see us too, just for a short call but we had quite a talk, Oh yes Jim Simpson saw us Thursday afternoon as he walked by and we had a nice visit from him. Mrs Simpson was over yesterday. Susan Mather was down at noon on Thursday as she works at night at the telephone office, and Robbie Walker was over twice, so we have had a number of people dropping in. Mr Scott the first day and Dr Riley yesterday afternoon later.

We are thinking of insulating the little bedroom over the kitchen as Sam has the time right now and we hope to get Verne in we can. Then we are going to make the bathroom larger and maybe put in an enclosed shower while doing the other work.

The weather has been lovely, mild and then last night a couple of inches of fresh snow. the old snow was going fast.

It was awfully good to get your nice letter when we got back and Jean's too. Expect that Russ and Kitty will soon be back from Florida. Glad that Gale got into college.

I have been busy keeping up with Pete, for he feels so much better and anxious to do all sorts of things, has been working hard on the camera equipment and wants to adapt the Leice lens to the Bell and Howell. One of the best lenses off the old Bell and Howell fits on the new one and all we need to get is a new finder. He is busy now cleaning the telephoto lens.

Jonny is over reading magazines etc. I have vacumed and dusted the big room and to-morrow will tackle the upstairs, for we are still not unpacked. There is always so much to see to and attend to .

Will be writing again soon.

Loads of love,

Catherine

P.S. just got your letter with Sted's picture. Thanks so much. Awfully glad you liked the book.

Banff, Alberta.
April 2, 1958.
Thursday.

Dearest Mother,

The last few days have slipped by and we have kept very busy. Are trying to clean out the little bedroom so when Sam and Verne are ready they can start work to insulate the rest of the upstairs. We also have had a good many friends coming to see us. Counted up the different ones and some like the kids have come more than once and already we have had 40 different people in the week we have been home.

Didn't I write on Sunday? Pete was all set to take tests with the camera and I was planning to write some letters, I did dust and vacuum the front room and pick it up with Jonny's help in the morning and then after lunch when we had finished the dishes, Mary Lee came over carrying a huge chiffon cake she had made us. At least 6 inches high and white frosting, I wondered how we would ever eat it all, but needn't have worried, there was just enough for Pete and my supper by 8 o'clock. We started by Mary Lee, Jon and I sampling it, then went for the mail and the MacKenzies came. Sandy and Michael the two youngest ones, wouldn't give Duncan and Nellie any peace until they came to see us. So they all had some cake and stayed longer than the mean't to, we were outside making the camera test after they left. Jon and Mary Lee playing checkers on the floor when Cyril and Mary Paris came along and saw us, so they came in with the dog, Chum. and stayed for tea and cake. Every little while there would be a knock on the door and it was Davy, then Susan, then Harold. Each sampling the cake, for it was good. It was quite an afternoon and they all left by six when we started washing the cups and gingerale glasses etc. and the Wyatts came to see us (before going to Assinaboine) with Elsa's little South American neice from Columbia, aged seven who goes to school in Calgary during the week. She is a very bright little girl. They stayed until nearly eight and we were tired by bedtime. 14 in all that day I think.

Monday we had to go to the bank about helping someone and also other errands and talked photography at Nobles, Another man we had offered to help was down at noon (they all seemed to come when they knew we were home) and another trip to the bank after lunch, then we unloaded the Jeep and cleaned it out and got the boxes of freezables from Mom, and got the car tested for brakes etc. and our new licence etc. That evening Norman Tabuteau appeared with us to pay us a big share of what we had lent him a year ~~or so~~ ago. So that was good. and Barbara came to show us some stoles she had woven, really lovely ones, she was taking them with her to the I.O.D.E. Convention in Calgary. They all stayed and Jonny for the evening.

Tuesday there were snow flurries and I washed and we went again to the bank, this time to put money in and Pete had to see Mr Lonsdale at the church about cleaning a painting.

We also had the Jeep greased etc. and then spent most of the afternoon moving bureaus etc. out of the little old bedroom into the front bedroom. We are still not unpacked . and got things out of the way for the men working. Lynnise and Jonny and Harold were in after school for gingerale and cake and we drove Lynnise home. HJon was over again for the evening, as Barbara was ~~xxxx~~ away at the convention. we went to bed early

Wednesday Pete spent most of the morning helping Mr Lonsdale wash the picture at the church while I did the shopping etc. It is an oil painting of an early missionary who the church is named for. Will enclose one of the little cards with Pete's drawing of the church. Mr Lonsdale is the one who married young Jimmy Angell. Then we went up to the Wards, and Sam said he would be down in the afternoon. I hadn't seen Cis before. Verne Castella was here after lunch for a welcome home and he will be able to work starting next week. The Easter weekend is all filled with holidays. like to-morrow, Good Friday all the stores are closed and Easter Monday is a holiday too. Sam came later and he took a bit off one bureau and measured things up and we had tea. We also had one Indian one day but not to come in, just to borrow train fare. Bert Henderson was down yesterday to see if we knew anyone interested in a cabin camp as an investment. Then after Sam left we got started tidying up the workshop or putting the camping stuff away and had a late supper and Jonny was over again after supper.

Thursday to-day we were up early but Sam didn't come until about 10.30. However before he came we cleaned the back hall and unpacked the freezable things etc. all of which takes time. We went shopping and then forgot about to-morrow being a holiday and so had to go again after lunch. Met Mrs Simpson who wanted to read the reviews of Grays book before we sent them back and we asked her down and later ran into the Vallances at the Post Office and they had been down, found us out, so returned with us. Had a nice afternoon and Sam came in when we had tea. Mrs Simpson was over and they all stayed until nearly five. One more trip over town and scollops for supper. Jonny dined with Gary this afternoon but we told them we were busy with company. So you see we have been busy and now we are going to bed.

We are going to enlarge the bathroom upstairs as it has been rather cramped. Are going to take the bathtub out and put in a closed-in shower, also take in a bit of window from the little bedroom and a foot more space. The tub we are going to move into the studio. We hardly ever use it, and so are going to build a seat over it, that we lift off when we do use it, Sounds funny but think it will be a good idea.

Am so sleepy, am going to bed.

Loads of love,

Catharine .

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. April 7, 1958.

Dearest Mother,

The Easter weekend is over, it seems to be one holiday after another for all the stores and bank etc. were closed Good Friday, then yesterday Easter Monday was a holiday for the bank and Gov't. offices but the stores were opened. The weather was forecast as sunny and warm but somehow a snow storm arrived Sunday night and we woke to 8 inches of snow on the ground yesterday morning, it was dull and cool enough not to melt Monday and this morning was snowing again, now it is nearly noon and though the wind has just turned from East to West it still is overcast and a few flakes of snow coming down.

We had expected Sam and Verne to come yesterday and start in up stairs but with the weather like that they haven't started. Sam has a few odd jobs to do including papering their living room so we are hoping he is doing that. Actually we would rather they waited until they could go right ahead before starting ours.

Haven't done a great deal. Friday I finished moving the things from the bathroom and my old clothes closet so the little bedroom is all clear for work. Then about three that afternoon Lowrey Spring who Pete knew at Fofino in the Air force came with his wife, Monty, and a Miss McKae. We hadn't seen the Sprungs for several years and they have just moved to Calgary, are waiting to get into a new house and took a run up to Banff. We had a nice visit from them, though it was nearly 7 O'clock when they left. There seemed so much to catch up on. Gave them tea but not supper. We were tired afterwards.

Saturday was a nice day, we did errands and seemed to take ages doing some of them, It was Cliff and Mildred's 2nd. boy, Donny Whyte's wedding day in Prince Rupert and young Peter is to be married next week I think, so all three boys will be married. Asta Hauge was here in the afternoon and I cooked a ham for supper, the best one we have had.

Sunday we rather expected a few people but it was a quiet day in the end. I worked upstairs a bit, but we didn't go to church, The boys did, Billy, Jonny, Gary and a friend and came here after, all dressed up so much I didn't even know Bill. We were just going to have lunch so sent them off until later. That afternoon we thought some of the kids might appear but instead Sam and Cis (with a nice apple pie) and the Bert Manleys came in. They didn't want me to make tea as they couldn't stay long enough but in the end there would have been plenty of time for it.

Yesterday was snowy and we did more waiting around it seemed. We saw Sid Vallance over town and Pete wanted to ask him about having some work done at the back of the store and we spoke to Eldon too. Also went over to see Mr and Mrs Paris on their 50th. wedding anniversary late in the afternoon and made quite a call there. Now I think maybe I should get caught up on the mail, it is a good day for that sort of thing, so many people I must write I don't know where to start.

Jean said you had started on the needlepoint seat for Francis, what colors did you decide on in the end? The worst part is getting started on such things.

What a wonderful time Francis and Gil must have had with the Walkers, never heard of the place before but it sounded very nice. much better than a hotel. Expect most of the people were like themselves, didn't want a big hotel but a comfortable place. Expect Russ and Kitty will be home soon.

Loads of love

Catharine

P.S. Was surprised to hear how much rain you have been having & floods in New England.

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. April 12, 1953

Dearest Mother,

This isn't a real letter as it will soon be time to go for the mail but I did want to send you the enclosed clipping about a Calgary girl who is to make her Boston Debut with the Symphony Thursday as I thought you would be interested. We don't know her but have followed her career in the Calgary Herald. She had her early training in Calgary and then studied in England I think. But rather interesting that she is to play her own composition.

Also send one about a concert in Calgary, their symphony composed of musicians all ages is to play over the radio soon too.

You may be having rain and fog, we are having snow and winter. To-day it was 10° above this morning and has gotten up to 20° above and the radio weatherman promises no relief from the unseasonable weather, more snow is due from the north. Ever since last Sunday it has snowed a bit most every day and melted hardly at all. There is almost a foot of snow on the level for it has settled and they had so much near Morley and Exshaw as you come into the mountains that cars got stuck last week and for a time the road was closed until plowed out. We were very lucky for we managed to arrive in Banff on the warmest day of this spring and that week was quite mild and sunny, Had it been last week we might have been held up anywhere by snow.

Sam and Verne come each day and are started on the insulating of the little bedroom over the kitchen. The plumbing is all out but Bob Watt will start sometime this week putting it in again. this time we are going to figure it so there is no step up into the bathroom as there was before, most likely it will mean ripping out the kitchen cupboards to hide the pipes and elbows, one thing leads to another, I secretly don't mind for have some ideas how to make the cupboards better.

Am so glad that you got the ²paintings done and the Kaula in a new frame, it should look so much better and it is a lovely one. Looks as if you will have to invest in a new rug now for the living room to set off the pictures. Why don't you just look at it as a kind of investment. Russ would think nothing of buying you \$1000. worth of stock in say an oil well and you would not only get the fun of the rug but it might even be worth more than you paid for in five years time. all the camera equipment we bought before the war is worth just twice what we paid for it, we had the use of it and it is still as good as new to us. One of the lenses that you gave us years ago when we took the old ski pictures fits onto the new Bell and Howell Camera Pete gave me Christmas and is worth more than twice what it was then.

Expect you were busy with the Grandchildren arriving but what fun to have them there. Am glad they all have had such a good time in Florida. Was also interested in the exhibition of the Chinese man's work. Mrs Schier I would think the ideal person to go to see paintings with and am sure she wouldn't be apt to go otherwise. Why don't you get one of his. If you like them that is or aren't they as good as the other Chinese Artist's work.

The Christmas presents were all sorts of things. A book by Munnings the Artist. Called " the Finish " 3rd in a recent series. The Punch Album. Some Scotch books from Mr Young in Dundee, Several lovely calenders with views of Scotland and England, a Swiss Calender from Switzerland. a lovely Harry Lauder silk scarf from Greta Lauder and a Fraser tie for Pete. a pretty embroidered scarf for a bureau I guess from Jessie Brown. some Lavender water from a little girl in England and I think that is about all.

Time we went for the mail and then there is snow to pull off the roof we had hoped it would melt but the weather stays too cold, once the house is all insulated we won't have to do it any more. Also the Young Jimmy Simpsons may come around to see us and most likely Jonny too.

Loads of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta,
Fri. April 17, 1958

Dearest Mother,

I was going to write you to-day but never got a chance, It was funny but in the morning mail we got a letter from the Campbells and they certainly have had a hard time the last two weeks, about 2 feet of snow and the calves coming, The ones born at night they haven't been able to save but those born during the day time they have helped. I will send the letter as soon as we answer it.

Eleanor mentioned that they had a "wonderful letter from Morris Longstreth" and Gray also wrote it "Morris Longstreth's Letter was wonderful, It reminded me that we were friends when I was 17- that he helped me get into the Police in 1932- that our correspondence & friendship hit a peak when I was in Banff, that I used to write him long wordy letters full of my views of life and youthful convictions age 20-24 and that always he was pure gold. Now after all these years he picks it up right where we left off, he bless him- said he received a copy of the book from Mrs Robb- and sent copy of a letter he wrote editor of Christian Science Monitor about it, suggesting he do a review."

Then in the noon mail came your letter saying that you gave the book to Mrs Chambers to read and send to Longstreth and his letter to her. Wasn't that funny? I will send the letter to Gray. *both letters came the same A.M.*

You certainly had a busy time with Rusty and his friend and Gale and the girls away and all the rain too. Do you mean that they have gone for good or just going for Sunday? Maud and Joanne I mean. Do hope you can get two more agreeable.

The samples of the wool for the seat for Frances look very well to-gether and do hope you get the design to your satisfaction though they often say if you are satisfied with a picture you never improve in the next one so perhaps it is the same with a design, never quite pleased with it. *yourself but others like them.*

Am enclosing the pictures of the Crown Prince of Japan on his trip through here. We went down to the station but didn't get out of the Jeep. It was too funny for the minute the train stopped about 20 or more little Japanese photographers with cameras cocked hopped off and seemed to take pictures of everything in sight. It was a nice evening and the light good about 6 P.M. There was a young boy about 12 with his little sister dressed in a pink snowsuit with a peaked cap sitting on a tiny pillow astride the crossbar on his bike. He was standing holding the bike and she was perched on the crossbar all the time. About 15 of the Japanese cameramen surrounded them snapping pictures, some crouching low and one even lying on his stomach on the platform to get a different angle. The little boy and girl didn't know quite what to make of it all but stood still while the pictures were shot. Expect they will be in every newspaper and magazine in Japan! We saw the Prince

stroil along with another man dressed formally in black, you will see by the paper all that happened at the station in Calgary. Yes we have the book " Windows for a Crown Prince " you gave it to us for Christmas. That was one reason we were interested.

Have had a very busy week and the days slip by fast. One day Tuesday, we had five men all working at once and there was quite a bit of confusion. Some of the pipes had to be changed and so we had Steam Watt the plumber and his helper both working, Then Cecil Philpott doing the rewiring and Sam and Verne dodging about trying to get on with the carpentering. There were 3 step ladders in that one small room and goodness knows what else. One thing we noticed, not one of the men smokes on the job so they work pretty steadily, I always make them tea about 3,30 and they do appreciate that and work with a new spurt of energy afterwards. Besides the five workmen that day we had Ted Brown at noon to see us and Erling Strom during the afternoon and someone else I can't remember, Oh, yes. Tom Kaquits the Indian just at lunchtime, but I gave him some money for a meal over town and then he came back later to see Pete. We also had a lot of kids. Lynnne Becker came alone and being a quiet little girl we asked her in. Then Jonny and Bill, so in they came, were all eating cake and gingerale when Lona and Pat Lambert and Margot White came along and as the others were here we had to have them in too, and then Harold. However none have come since. They just all happened on the same day.

To-day was really spring like and it got up to about 35° above and melted in the sun. But to-night there is a cold wind again. It really has been a cold spell and the ground is still covered with snow. Last year at this time we were raking.

Erling Strom was in again late this afternoon and then last night Grant Crabtree a movie photographer from Ottawa was in and stayed until after 11. our latest evening for sometime. We rather expected him again this afternoon or this evening but no sign of him yet. He photographed a wonderful short film several years ago called "the Loons Beckääce " and based on an old Indian Legend. It was all gone with Indian Masks in color and his brother did the animated backgrounds. It won a world prize. We haven't seen him for about 5 years.

We also have been planning how to divide the old house into a suite for the Scotts downstairs and someone else up. Mrs Scott fainted the other day at the top of the stairs and fell the whole length backwards and never broke a bone but got quite a shock so we decided as they want to stay on to put a bathroom in downstairs and by re-arranging the rooms it will work out nicely. Won't be so much care for them either. So have planned that and picked out linoleum etc. But are going to let Mr Scott do most of the work. *as he is a good carpenter but can't leave Mrs Scott alone -*

Bedtime so all for now. Guess the others aren't coming.

Loads of love,

Catharine

P.S. The shoes came - no duty which was nice. Did a bill come with them? Many thanks for sending them. You could send one of the large boxes any time now.

Banff, Alberta.
Mon. April 20, 1953.

Dear Mother,

At last we are having more seasonable weather and the snow has all gone over town, we have a bit in the shady spots but a good part of the lawn is bare. What a storm you must have had and so near the 19th of April too. Remember it snowed the day of the 150th. Anniversary but more flurries as I remember. It must have been very heavy to break Oak Trees. a nice welcome for Russ and Kitty coming from Florida.

The men are working hard but it always takes a bit longer to do things than one expects. Partly because of this being a log house and nothing quite square. The yellow wall board looks awfully well on the bathroom. It is a hard surface on masonite. Will send you a sample. The linoleum will be the same as the kind we have in the kitchen, dark blue.

Didn't finish this last night as we had company. Grant Crabtree the movie photographer making a ski movie here and Pierre Cochand a brother of Louis Cochand who was at Skoki in 1937. He is a watercolorist as well as a skier and a very nice sort. They were here until after ten. Mary Simpson was down the evening before and Grant Crabtree Saturday night so we have had a number of late nights for us. *Have studied with Eliot O'Hara. lives in the Laurentians.*

Am enclosing a list of books from the Boston Book & Art Shop. 122 Newbury St. Boston 16, mass. as they are having a removal sale. They have a lot of interesting Japanese books and I noticed one " Chinese, Corean, & Japanese Potteries by R.L. Hudson and Edward S. Morse. for \$14.00. Have you ever heard of it? Perhaps David Little would know what it is and whether because of Grand-pa's connection with it, it might be interesting to get.

Will send this along had a German girl drop in this A.M. and now it is near lunch time and must run over town as the car is to be fixed this afternoon.

Loads of love,

Catherine

It is snow how long the snow lasted.

do not want any more books,

Banff, Alberta.
April 27, 1953

Dearest Mother,

We are having rainy weather now, not hard rain but more showers. Yesterday was rather a poor day too but it is mild about 50 above.

This should have been a good day to write letters but so far this is the first one and it is 3.30 and the kettle just boiling for tea for the men. In other words we have been busy.

Friday was a really nice day and they had the Banff Musical Festival all day, I will send a program ~~witx~~ to give you an idea of all that went on, a lot of it at the same time in different buildings. They say the Indian Children are the cutest to see and put on some fine dancing as well as Action songs, acting out what they sing. I was over town that morning doing various things, there is always a lot to see to. and then just at noon we were in the act of frying a delicious smelling steak and we expect the fan over the stove was carrying the odors towards the town, for very shortly there was a knock on the door and Tom Kaquits from Morley to see us. We quickly gave him a dollar to buy his lunch over town so we would eat ours before it got too well done, there wasn't enough for all of us.

After lunch there wasn't time to do the dishes hardly when five more Indians arrived, at least they came after the meal. Johnny Bearspaw, Percy Wildman and Tom (I think it was) two young man and two little kids of Percy's. They all came in and wanted to hear one of the recordings we made two years ago, It was the one we had with us in the east and for a time I couldn't find it so played another first, then had to play the real one through and after that they sang for us and we recorded four songs, playing each one back in between and all 4 at the end. Also had gingerale, cake and cookies. They sang well and we got good recordings but it took most of the afternoon. Cecil came and put the lights into the bathroom, (a ceiling one and one on either side of the mirror) The men were good and stopped hammering while the music was on. I was just getting tea for them when Tully Montgomery came, the Anglican Minister, so we all had tea in the front room, the Indians had gone by then. ☺

Tully said that next time I wrote you he wanted me to give you this message. (I can't just remember the wording) but it was something like this. " From knowing you " (that's me) " I am sure you must have a very fine mother." and he would like very much to meet you.

It was quite a busy afternoon and Saturday was a busy day too, though I did get a lot done, vacumed and dusted and did the washing and ironing, then there was a food sale on which I went to and Sam came back for a while to finish hanging the door. Then we went to George Nobles and were out the rest of the afternoon, It was nice and lots of people were out shopping, real sociable on the main street. We also had a ruffed grouse walk across the lawn and drive.

Susan Mother was done just after lunch -

Sunday was cloudy and showered off and on, we were up early and cleaned the little bedroom of shavings so the men could work better, also took extra lumber out etc. Did a lot and for once no interruptions. But before we had done the dishes ^{after lunch} we had Barbara and Bubby just back from University and Grace Mather and Susan to see the new bathroom, they didn't stay very long, Then we did dishes & got the mail and Mr Ed Goodall who does watercolors, from Victoria came to see us, will be back with a friend later. He didn't stay long and then we piled lumber outside with Jonny's help. Oh yes before lunch we had taken a short ride and found some crocuses. first flowers, the robins and bluebirds are around too. Then last evening Jon appeared and as we recorded Hawaii Calls he suggested he bring a girl from their house over. Isabel Scott who works for George Encil but lives at Barbaras. She spent a year working in Honolulu, a very attractive girl.

Tuesday, Didn't do too well yesterday, Monday. Alec MacDonald was down wanting some help in starting a business in Calgary and we tried to find Pat Costigan who knows about it but couldn't get hold of him, which all takes time, and when I started writing this we had Marmie Hess from Calgary and a friend, a girl who is an Anthropologist and they were here until nearly six. In between I am not sure all I did. Maybe to-day I will do better!

Had better get this off and then will tell you in my next letter about Gray and the Doukabooors.

Loads of love and thanks too for the box with the basket and the little figures and also the envelope of magazines came.

More love

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Mon. May 4, 1953.

Dear Mother,

This won't be much of a letter, should have written yesterday but it was our first really perfect day for ages, warm and sunny, just a few clouds and we were outside most all day, it felt good to be in the sun. We really had quite a long spell of "inclement" weather for here, a good week of dull days and rain.

Saturday was one of those days when you don't do what you think you will. Alec MacDonald called about ten, maybe earlier, and we had promised to help him if he could get someone else etc. but we didn't really expect he could, however he did in Calgary so we had to figure out our end of the bargain and as the bank closes early on Saturday one of us had to go right over and it was me. Then I did errands as well so the morning was shot. Verne was here and stayed until nearly one to get up one board of veneer they were working on and then he came back in the afternoon too for a while to help Pete fix a door. I went to a food sale and also to the Mathers old house to pick up a crock for Mom, one of those old fashioned crockery ones for preserving, ran into Erling Ståm near the Crag and Canyon and had a talk to him, then met Sam and Cis at the Post Office and Sam said he was on his way down to see how we were getting on as he had a bad back and has been home for three days. So he and Cis came for tea and when I got home found Linnie and Jonny raking the lawn, and then Susan came later, we all had something to eat and then Verne who was still here left and soon the Wards went and before long Grace Mather's brother and his family of wife and two little girls came to see us, so I made fresh tea and it was six by the time they left and we started supper. Oh. Yes Mrs Simpson was down in the morning when I came back from over town, so all in all it was a busy day. Harold was over at supper time too.

Sunday we had a fairly quiet morning, I trimmed a few little spruce and Jonny and Mrs Simpson came over when they saw me out. We also went along to see Dave Prossers new house, Pan-a-bode they call it. Made so one log fits into another, almost like log and it comes knocked down and they have built it themselves. In the afternoon Linnie and her little friend Christine Smith were raking hard by the time we got back from the mail and with Jonny they worked the rest of the afternoon. One time Linnie came over and very seriously said. "Catharine you must not pay me anything to-day for I want to do this for friendship." She was so cunning the way she said it. So we got Jonny to go for some Ice Cream and made quite a party of it. Mr Scott came out while we were raking and offered us some apples as the lawn they chose to rake was up near his house. We may have to rake it again but it was a good start. ~~Susan came~~ Then we went for a short ride to get a bit of a change of scenery and had a late supper. Were in the midst of it when Erling came with his Norwegian friend. Trygve Bradaal, who is one of the best all round Norwegian skiers in Norway, his specialty cross country and he has just been out with Erling to Assinaboine making a bath house, where one steams in the hot humid atmosphere and then

sponges off. He doesn't speak any English so we showed him the Indian things and what we thought might interest him and Erling explained, They didn't stay very long and Susan came in the midst of it and later Jonny, so it was soon bedtime for us.

Sam is back this morning and going to work on putting the cupboards back over the kitchen sink as they had to be taken down for the plumbing while Verne continues upstairs. We hope to make faster progress that way as before they seemed to be in each others road. Sam wasn't well and made quite a few little mistakes and had to do things over which all took time, but we put it to his sore back and getting older.

The laundry is now done so will hang that out and may be tempted to stay outside it looks so springlike.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
May 7, 1953

Dearest Mother,

The enclosed letter is about the box of books and I imagine George will know what to do about it. Such a nuisance it all is.

We are having real summer after so much cold and rainy weather. It was over 70 yesterday and 80 to 85 in Calgary. a record for May 6th. It is so nice I hate to stay inside a minute but there are always things to be done, However I have raked a bit and trimmed trees when I get the chance. Also had to go to a Hospital meeting last night.

Expect it will get cold again but it is so lovely right now, the grass starting to get green and buds on the trees, Our larkspur is up a foot already, things just bursting out.

Verne is working in the little bedroom upstairs insulating and Sam is rebuilding the shelves over the sink in the kitchen which we had to take down so the plumbing could go in, We found they did more work seperately than to-gether so hope the job goes a little faster. Pete has been working on the drawings one has to do for the Govern~~ment~~ in changing the house into two suites.

In order to catch the train will have to go so all for this letter. Will be anxious to hear all about the opening of the Morse Auditorium, we got the notice and invitation.

Loads of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Mon. May 11, 1953.

Dearest Mother,

I don't know why it is but there seems to be little time to write in, of course with the men still working around it keeps one busy and both Friday and Saturday night we had company. Pearl and Edméé came over but didn't stay very late Friday and Pearl told us all about her trip to Spain last winter, while on Saturday night The Richard Birds came around. He takes wonderful pictures of wild life and then lectures in the winter all over the U.S. and Canada. We saw his bird pictures a number of years ago and thought they were wonderful, movies in color and mostly nesting and mother's feeding their young etc. How they ever got them I don't know and of course it takes endless patience.

Last spring and fall they worked on the little rock rabbit called a Pika for one of Walt Disney's nature series and now they will try and get mountain goat pictures. They have four subjects they lecture on, "birds", and "Wild life in British Giana", and "Newfoundland", and Pete thinks on "Ants" too. We are going to suggest that Bradford Washburn get them at the Science Museum when they are in Boston.

We got your letter yesterday about the opening of the Morse Auditorium, I don't wonder you were a bit embarrassed having to pull cords etc. But think it was very nice that you could do it. Must have been a really nice affair. As we came from the post office with your letter we stopped in at the Simpsons and they were just reading a letter from the Belmore Browns to tell them of the arrival of the son's first boy, and also that the Brownes would be here this summer and then go east to paint the backgrounds of two dioramas at the Science Museum in September. which is very nice.

Yesterday we got talked into giving Bubby, Jonny and Isabel (who rooms over there), a ride to the Upper Hot Springs, but it was so crowded they didn't go in. We joked and said they would have to do some raking in return, so they came over later and raked quite a bit and we all had gingerale and cookies after. The wind was cold in the afternoon but it wasn't bad. Today is dull but about 50° and yet in Calgary it is snowing. They are having a May blizzard in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. It was 92° in Winnipeg last week and to-day the ground covered with snow. Guess you will be getting a change too. The blizzard missed us thank goodness.

It was good of you to send Mildred "We Found Peace" I hope someone can read it to Cousin Jane for she visited there, her friend who was a Pickering, (forget her name just now) *Loves in Hatcher Creek.*

I should get out and rake a bit before the grass starts to grow too much, we are rather expecting Eldon Walls to come around and Sam is working on the kitchen cupboards to build them back under the plumbing and Verne upstairs. Will try to write about Gray soon.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. May 14, 1953

Dearest Mother,

Thanks so much for sending the paper in connection with the crate of books, I gave it to the Freight Agent here and he was sending it down to Calgary yesterday, such a nuisance.

The shower cabinet came yesterday morning, we have had to wait until it was shipped from the east as it is 36 inches in size and evidently they don't stock them in Calgary. It is going to be fine, is heavy steel with a white enamel finish and has a glass door, a cement base. They got it set up in the afternoon and Bob Watt is putting in the connections now. Cecil Philpott is reconnecting some switches and all in all there is so much going on of a confusing nature I decided to write you.

It doesn't seem as if we were doing much but actually the work is getting on.

This is all I got written this morning and now there is just time to go for the mail and maybe around by Mary McCowans with a book and be back to get tea for the men. This gives them a bit of a lift in the middle of the afternoon. Have also been trying to prune some trees and get the house in order, there is not much use trying to really clean for there is sawdust coming down from above or dust and what not.

The other day I was just finishing the noon dishes when Sam started doing work above the sink on the cupboards and I first dropped a knife and fork, He said that means company, "a man and a woman" and sure enough when I came back from the mail the Colin Wyatts were here and soon Mrs Castella, Verne's wife came to see the new bath. We had asked her to drop in one day. Then I went and dropped a spoon as I was getting tea for us all and Eldon Walls drove in the yard, so we had quite a party, 8 of us in all.

Will send this now, last night Pete wanted to put a workbench together which took all evening so no chance to write then and Jonny is over most nights and I find it hard to concentrate sometimes when he and Pete are talking.

Loads of love,

Catharine

P.S. That was funny those 2 dogs coming up to you so late at night. Their 2nd home for sure.

Banff, Alberta.
Mon. May 18th, 1953

Dearest Mother,

We used to celebrate Queen Victoria's birthday on the 24th of May each year but due to the Coronation Holiday coming so near they have made a new regulation and from now on they will celebrate the Monday before the 24th. each year as Queen Elizabeth and Victoria's birthday combined. Makes a nice spring weekend if the weather is good.

Saturday certainly didn't start out very well with a steady rain all morning and low clouds but they lifted towards evening and yesterday was clear and sunny, no wind and just perfect all day. Such a lot of cars in town the town was full. Always seems like a different place on a weekend.

Saturday Verne was here in the morning but Sam had a cold so didn't show up, Eldon Walls was down about renting suites and we did our weekend shopping in the morning too. In the afternoon I scrubbed the cement in the bottom of the shower and then had the first one, it works awfully well, a nice fine stream which can be aimed in any direction and one handle to turn and the water gets hotter or colder. No sooner had I gotten all nicely cleaned up than Bert Davis brought a load of ashes for the driveway which had to be leveled a bit with a rake and shovel, so we worked on that, I very gingerly, so as not to get dirty, Jonny came and helped too. Sid Vallance saw us as he drove by with their stenographer who is up for the weekend, and so we said to come in, they hesitated but finely did and Mrs Ross was so interested in the house, first one like it she had ever been in and told Pete her brother-in-law is an artist and she is going to write him all about it. She is rather an elderly person. In the evening Bill Jamieson came over and talked photography with Pete until about ten.

Yesterday, Sunday, was just lovely, a frost early in the morning and such crisp nice air. Jonny said later he thinks Banff is really the best place in the world to live. We were up early and cleaned the little bedroom of shavings and nails and pieces of wood left on the canvas we have covering the floor. There is always a good deal from the work going on. It was lucky we did it first things as we never would have done it later. Then as it was so nice outside I clipped trees and Jonny came around and Margory Crosby worked on her side of the ground and we visited that way. Then lunch about noon and were just going to wash up about one when Dr Riley and Charles came along, so we sat in the sun and talked and let our lunch settle. Then Patsy arrived and after the Rileys left we went for the mail. Saw Sid Feuz and Baeda in a car over town and they followed us back for a bit of a visit, her father and their two little children were with them. They didn't come in just stood outside and talked. Then Susan arrived to help rake and she and Patsy dried all the dishes for me which was a great help. Jonny was with us most all day, stayed for lunch and then he helped Pete lay some stones for a walk while the girls helped me rake and Barbara wandered over.

We were all raking hard when a car drove in , the man looking so familiar but I couldn't place him, three women in the back seat and a baby and then I saw Aunt Maggie in the front seat. Could hardly believe my eyes, for she is almost blind and is the one who has had so many operations on her hip, they say it is alright if fluid or poison doesn't gather again. She is 83 or 84 but can hear well and is bright in other ways.

~~Lethbridge~~

Seems her daughter Stella, ~~from Calgary~~ and Billie the husband drove up from Lethbridge for the weekend bringing Claudia and a great granddaughter aged 10 months who was good as gold the whole time, and Dot, another daughter of Aunt Maggie's from Calgary, came too. They told Aunt Maggie they would take her to Cochrane for a drive and then when she seemed to be enjoying it and feeling fine they drove on to Banff to see us and Mom, had had lunch over town and then all came in for a rest here. We have no steps for Aunt Maggie could manage real well with her crutches, just as long as someone guides her around things.

They were here about 2 hours, until after six. Mom came down and I made them tea and raisin toast before they left, Aunt Maggie lay down on the couch for a rest and it all worked well. Only trouble was I couldn't remember their last names for some reason and when Barbara spoke to them in the car outside she didn't know Aunt Maggie was blind and Aunt Maggie didn't know who it was and the others didn't recognize Barbara, so they took turns going over to see her later.

Susan was the last to go just before supper and then Jonny appeared again before we had finished, he helped Pete oil the new work bench we have in the shop, not as big a one as before and it gives us more room. He was so pleased and I could hear him chatting away with Pete. "He said"you know some people think I am your son more than anyone elses. " It seems sad to think that Jackie doesn't encourage them more to be with him, for he misses so much, and a boy likes to be with a man,

Before I finish I had better answer your question about the book For Pete by Bruce Hutchison, Am sure he would like to have it as Hutchison is a great friend of Bobbie Hunter's as the coast and we had supper with him once years ago in Victoria. He is now editor of a paper out there. Someday I may catch up with the mail!

Better call this a letter and get busy outside the washing is just finished. Sam was down but his cold is too bad to work but Verne is working away upstairs and Jonny has just arrived to help Pete lay flagstones.

It is another perfect day a few lovely clouds.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Friday.

Dear Mother

a busy week
Last night before we were
through supper about 7.30
The Morants & Cruise
Larson who drove them
down came followed
by the Dick Seids &
they all stayed
until mid-night.

It is now 3 P.M. & I am
beginning to wake up.
Have been scrubbing
logs smooth. (no one
else does it as I like
to do it) Sam finished
upstairs & is making



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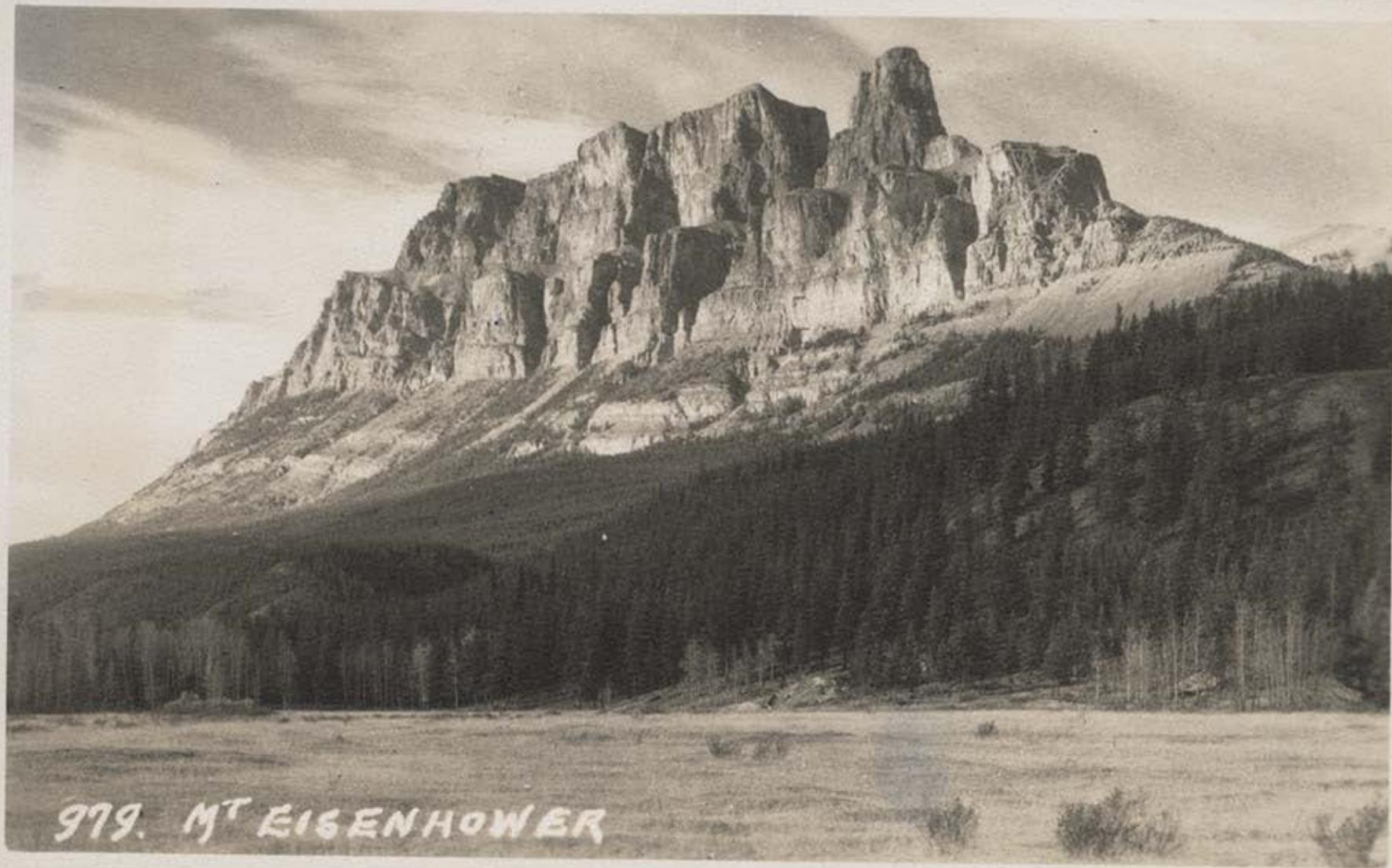
BYRON HARMON, BANFF, CANADA

CORRESPONDENCE

ADDRESS

a new top to the dark
 room bench. Verne
 finished upstairs so
 they will move their
 tool out to-day. It
 will take some time
 to get the house in
 order but I'm not
 going to take it too
 seriously!

The Concord Journal
 did come. Slower
 than your letter
 I thought the pictures
 very good -
 will write if it rains
 Loads of love
 Catharine



979. MT EISENHOWER

Banff, Alberta.
Fri. May 22, 1953

Dearest Mother,

Pete and Jonny are playing a game of checkers and it looks as if I might have a few uninterrupted minutes to dash off a bit of a letter. The time goes so darn fast but we are seeing the end of the work upstairs and hope to be all finished in another week. The little bedroom is practically done, Verne is putting in the back of what will eventually be a cupboard under the eave and Sam has taken the old cement hearth out and is putting in some flooring with much dust and bits of stone and cement landing on the stove below, but I was ready and had newspapers all over to catch what fell so we didn't have it in the tea!

Monday we hope the painter will come to finish the new woodwork as we did the hallway two years ago. They blonde it first and then put shellac and a coat of varnish on and it doesn't darken with age, just mellows a bit. While he does that we hope Sam and Verne can finish insulating the bit of the studio that was never done and then we will be pretty well finished except for the odd closet or shelves but no major operations.

We are also busy getting the suite over the Scotts fixed up. After putting a bath downstairs for Mrs Scott they made a suite out of the 3 rooms and bath and that left 3 bedrooms and bath upstairs. George Noble said he would like to rent it for his staff and thought the first one would arrive the 18th. We were much relieved when she got a room somewhere else and the other 3 girls don't come until the first of June -

But what a time getting permission from the Gov't. they have so many rules and regulations. Bob Watt went up to get a permit to put a sink in for the kitchen, not enough light for the size of the room, However we can rent it as rooms but not a suite, so after much running back and forth and writing a letter to say we would put in more light, in the fall they gave him a permit. *have to put in a downer but it will make it much nicer with sun all day -*

The other morning was real busy, Cy Harris with plans for a bit of an addition on the back of the store, work room really. and then Mary Simpson came about taking Susan up at Bow Lake to work, and Eldon Walls about the suite and Steam Watt and his helper to finish moving our outside taps to a better place, and of course Verne and Sam working in and out and then Colin Wyatt to see Sam, and that is the way it goes.

We had a letter from Gray enclosing a copy of one from Morris Longstreth and he is going to be able to do a review of Gray's book for the Christian Science Monitor about July, Isn't that exciting for? it is your sending the book through Mrs Whatsmacallit. They say having a book reviewed in the Christian Science Monitor practically makes it a success.

If I could, only get properly organized and send you some of the letters but things happen so fast.

Will tell you about Gray and the Doukabooors. They are the Russian Religious ~~sect~~ sect who disrobe to create attention to their cause at times. About 20 years ago ^{in Saskatchewan} three Doukaboor boys were picked up by 2 mounties on some slight charge to be driven to town, and on the way the 3 boys overpowered the 2 mounties in the front seat, stole their weapons and shot and killed them both, Threw them into a ditch to the side of the road in Saskatchewan and then made off with the car. A couple of days later a farmer driving a team was going along the road and the horses wouldn't pass the point and so the farmer investigated and found the two bodies of the mounties. (They presume that the mounties had just let the boys sit in the back seat as they weren't considered dangerous, it was just a slight charge they were picked up on.)

Of course the warning went out all over the country and it wasn't until they got to a filling station in Cochrane or Exshaw that the attendant noticed blood on the seat of the car and became suspicious, so he called the police as they left. Then a traveling salesman coming to Banff or going to Calgary was stopped by the 3 men but he was quick enough to hide most of his money under the seat in some way and only had some odd change to give them. Finally they reached the Park Gate and hadn't enough money between them to pay the entrance fee so were turned back, but by this time the Banff Police were warned and Sgt. Wallace (the best shot in the force) and Scotty got in the front seat and Coombes and Gray were in the back of the police car, and they drove towards Cochrane. ^{It was dark} The Four Doukabooors by this time were heading back towards Banff no doubt thinking to crash the gate so to speak and were met by the 4 mounties. Sgt Wallace and Scotty stepped out to stop the on-coming car as they were doing to all cars they met coming towards ^{then} and without warning the Doukabooors shot right through the window and hit both Wallace and Scotty and they died later in the Canmore Hospital. It was night but Gray and Coombes gave chase as the 3 Doukabooors ran into the woods and Coombes hit one man and killed him. ~~When they could not find him~~ I have sort of forgotten the details but think Gray and Coombes stopped a car ~~with~~ which took the Officer and other Mountie to the hospital but then they had to hunt for the 2 men still at large.

We first heard that 2 murderers were at large on the 10 P.M. news that night and for everyone to lock their cars and houses etc. and in the morning found out that all sorts of people had volunteered to form a group to round up the men, a light snow helped them track a bit. Pete was sent up the west road after helping one of the mounties look at all the freight cars on trains coming in, and checking people riding the freights. But about 11 that morning Jackie was driving to the Park Gate with someone else in the car to take coffee to the men ^{mine} when they saw two figures cross the road, told the first Banff Men they saw and one of the Game Wardens, Bill Neich was the first to spot them ^{up} the hill and behind a log. He covered them and told them to surrender but they just shot back and hit his hat or something so he shot them both right through the rotten log I think. Anyway it was all very exciting and that was the affair Gray was in as a young man in his early twenties.

It is now Saturday - a very busy day so will send this along - Loads of love Catherine