

Banff,  
Alberta.  
July 6, 1954

Dearest Mother,

Can't remember if I wrote after we came back from Calgary on Friday night, seems if I must have. Won't have time to give you details now for as usual am in a bit of a rush.

Ules LaCasse and a Dutchman are taking out stumps of old trees we took out years ago and also a few trees and I have a cold drink to give them when they come back with a load of cinders, have some soup stock cooking as we have soup at night usually, and the ironing to do and a letter with this to catch the mail. Pete has been working on a picture but doesn't want to strain his eyes, it is slow work. The Nobles who were near us in Honolulu last winter came to see us yesterday and a girl who works in broadcasting in Vancouver came the night before with a French teacher and so it goes,

The weather is lovely and sunny & warm and the tourists getting thick.

What a wonderful idea giving George a Television set, it must be so hard just sitting all the time and not being able to do anything, if you want to keep yours I would be glad to go halves on a new one with you for George. Whatever you think best?

Cousin Jane and Mildred must be with you in Concord and I know how nice that will be for you all. Will write a real letter soon

Heaps of love to you all

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.  
Fri. July 9. 1954.

Dearest Mother,

We have had lovely weather lately and quite warm, 70 most every day but to-day is showery. Ules LaCasse and a Dutch boy are thinning out trees for us, mostly the Balm of Gileads at the back of the house, Sam is building two little cupboards to go beside the chest of drawers under the window in the bedroom and Pete is working up in the studio. We go out every now and then to sort of watch what trees are being taken out. and soon we are to take Nick and Willi to the train at 5 o'clock, as they are going east for 6 weeks to take pictures for the C.P.R. Next week is Indian Days and the town is full of tourists right now. In fact we were both upstairs a little while ago, I cleaning the bathroom and Pete in the studio, he heard the spring on the screen door but I just thought Sam was coming in to measure something. Pete went down and here was a strange man standing in the kitchen, wanted to know if we had cabins to rent ! Just shows one has to keep the door locked if out at all.

Well before I finished this, there was tea for the men as it turned colder to-day ( see in the paper it was 80 a couple of days this week 85 once ) then Dorothy Whyte came in and we all went up to the Morants soon after four, helped them close up their house and to the train, which was a little late, then Dorothy up to the Summer School in time for six o'clock supper, back here for ours and then we have been listening to the Chuck Wagon races at the Calgary Stampede, very exciting ones, now have just been up to water Mr Scotts flowers as he has been away all week and wrote to ask if we would.



It has been rather a busy week, Dorothy Whyte <sup>from Vancouver</sup> arrived yesterday afternoon having been given a month's vacation with pay and so she decided to come to the summer school and take the painting, she has just started this winter to paint, once a week at evening classes & found it so absorbing she just loves it. We took her up to the Summer school but no one seemed to know what she should do except that her name would be on a bed in Skywood Chalet which she was told by wire she would be in, so we went there and could find only two beds not slept in and none with names, some young girls were helpful so Dorothy put her name on one and came back to supper with us. Then when we took her up next time found they provide no towels so came back for a couple of ours. To-day she came to tell us how well it had all worked, the food just wonderful for such a big crowd and she was in a Mr MacDonalds class who had all ages from 12 to 70, some school teachers working for credits and some just for fun like herself. She had been up since 7 O'clock <sup>breakfast at 8</sup> and worked until four with time for lunch. and she met all sorts of people and was having a good time.

Remember Arlene Voorhies the very large lady a little like Betty Dumaine who came to see you with a Mrs Henderson who is Scotch and hit it off so well with Jean, the second time she called you were down the driveway directing planting and couldn't remember who she was until later? Well She had a house in Jackman Maine and New York and now lives in Southfield Mass. She has just come out for a month with Pearl Moore and they came down night before last and we did a lot of talking. Then the evening before that we had Fern Brewster Dooley who telephoned you from Boston last fall I think and Sam and Cis too. That afternoon we had had Ken Thompson and Hope with their little girl for tea, and Nick and a Doctor from Victoria had also dropped in. Ken is a local Boy Pete's age and one of the doctors in Edmonton, we went

there to supper the 24th of May. They are both awfully nice and it was fun having them, our busiest day for company since returning from Calgary.

X In between we have been doing quite a bit about the house, such as wash and yesterday Sam was making a bookcase for wide books and we started polishing the big table and that led to just giving this a rub and that a rub, so now the desk and old chest have a lovely rich look. Sam said to use raw linseed oil and a little Vinigar 3 to 1 ( I mixed 3 spoonfuls of the oil to one of the vinegar ) you rub a little on and then polish it all off, it is an oldfashioned way but gives a nice lasting finish and brings out the color and takes off any X dullness.

Shan't try to answer your letters to-night as it is almost bedtime, We felt so sorry about mMrs Mott Shaw, but knew she hadn't been well for a long time.

Guess I will call this a letter for now.

Heaps of love,

Catharine



Banff, Alberta.  
Thurs. July 15, 1954

Dearest Mother,

This is the first day of Indian Days and thought there would just be time before lunch to rush off a letter, though there are fresh peas to shell, will take a little time, Pete eats too many while he is shelling to make it worthwhile getting his help!

Had mean't to write a real letter yesterday but it was one of those busy days, Went over town early to order the boxes of groceries we usually give the Indians and then the bank and Pete had to go back to sign something, all of which took time, then Ules was here to put pitch on the shed roof, and I had the woolen shirts to wash and socks etc. and just when I started those David Stockand arrived. He works for the Canadian Press (is 23) in Winnipeg and was in Vancouver for his holidays with the family, stopped off for Indian Days for he helps give out prize money etc. He is rather quiet but I guess a good reporter for he listens well, and the Canadian Press evidently think a lot of him and are sending him with the ~~dozen~~ other reporters on the Duke of Edinburgh's trip to the north by plane, His news will be used by all Canadian papers I guess. He couldn't stay for lunch as he was to have it with Jackie and is sleeping at Bill Waterworths so we don't have to think of his accomodation.

Had thought of going to the grounds early but it was pretty hot, so ironed the shirts etc. got something cool for the men and then Pete worked on a letter to Dr Marshall, We had one from him day before yesterday saying that he could have either Bifocals or trifocals anytime he liked and they can be made evidently and sent and we presume fitted in Calgary. Pete wrote what I thought was an awfully good letter and then I typed it out and we sent it off. Knowing the time the mail closes one always seems to be meeting the deadline, we are not the only ones for inevitably there are others at the station getting the letters away as the train goes.

We went out to the Indian Grounds to take the parcels and see the various friends which is always fun, I forgot that Marmie Hess of Calgary was in at lunch time, she wanted to know about seeing the Indians and the best time.

After supper we went down again with two more boxes for those we forgot, and one Indian wanted to hear one of the recordings from two years ago, they were so anxious to hear them we said we would come back and try to find it which we did. It was lovely down there and quiet and peaceful. When we got back found the plug we had used other years for electricity was no longer there but finally plugged in near the concession stand and had nearly 50 Indians gathered around to listen. It was ten by the time we left, and this morning we were up at 6.30 so as to get to the grounds before 8 and try to get a few pictures before the parade.



The cloud effects were unusually lovely this morning but am afraid it may rain or have thunder storms this afternoon. The sun was out for the parade which made it nice.

We don't intend to go too much as one can get pretty tired looking too much, it's not like the days when we were helping to run it and no time in between to eat much, and so many things to think of.

Wonder if the family are getting that terrifically hot weather? Heard it was 116 in Texas and all through the middle west, in one place it had been over 90 every day for a month.

This isn't much of a letter, am glad Mildred and Cousin Jane were to be with you though expect the visit is over by now. Are you going to Marblehead with Miss Wagner? It would be a nice change for you.

Time to shell the peas.

Loads of love,

P.S. Goodness I nearly forgot to thank you for the birthday presents. The two books look real good and the pinchshions are lovely to have, also the pretty little tortoiseshell case. Do you know who it belonged to? and the cunning little basket too. Thanks so much, I always enjoy things like that. The box only arrived Saturday, such a time as it took to come, even from Calgary, maybe it was the busy season. The books that I don't keep will be just fine for the Library, Will enjoy looking at the Royal ones first, and the ballet one is lovely and I know Virginia will love it, will send it to her when she returns from a course she is taking just now. The box was addressed "Mrs Peter Whyle" as clear as could be. The C.P.R. in

More love,

Catharine

Calgary were the ones who made a mistake & sent the notice it was in Calgary to "Mrs Peter Whipple" instead of "Whyle"

about the Television set. Why not give George yours & get a bigger one for yourself. You might find now the programs are better you would enjoy it more.



Banff, Alberta.  
Tues. July 20, 1954

Dearest Mother,

Well Indian Days are over and I have been trying to catch up a bit with washing and ironing and energy too. We really get more of the Indians than most people for it starts the day before on Wednesday and we see them off on the train on the Monday, and yesterday it lasted <sup>hrs</sup> until about two in the afternoon.

Saturday was pretty hot so we didn't go down in the afternoon with the crowds and dust, we had gone in the A.M. and picked up Mary McLean Kootenay and her ~~xxxx~~ daughter Kathleen as the girl wanted to hear her voice on the recorder and was too shy to sing down there, so brought them to the house, We had had a wire the night before that Tom Link of Lake O'Hara Days and Mr Simpson were going through at 10.10 A.M. so wanted to see them the 20 minutes the train stops in Banff, We left Mary and daughter at the store to shop and then dashed to the station where the train was rather late, had a nice and quick visit with the two men and then back for Mary and some meat for another family and down to the Indian Grounds again, That was in the morning and so we didn't go in the afternoon or evening, as we didn't want to get involved in driving any of the Indians to the concert. Played over some recordings they wanted to hear to take down the following night.

Sunday we were late getting up and had roast beef for dinner, Dorothy Whyte coming to have it with us, It was a real hot day so after taking Dorothy to a friends and then driving them both down to the Golf Club house at the Banff Springs where they



stayed for tea, we drove home via Kootenay Ave. and seeing the MacKenzie's watering their new lawn and washing the car we stopped in and talked to them for a bit. Pete hasn't wanted to visit with people until just lately or to drive round, but now he can see better we have taken quite a few of the drives, went up to Sundance Canyon after the MacKenzie's for it was too hot to go down to Indian Days we decided. I know why we went driving, as we came down the road we saw a friend of Mom's headed in our drive, Miss Gammel who is very forgetful as she gets older, so forgetful she doesn't know how long she stays, so we just kept on going by the house and up towards the Cave and Basin until we were sure she had gone.

We had an early supper and then went down to the Indian Grounds to give a few presents of yard goods to some of our best friends and also to take some recordings they wanted to hear, It is lovely in the early morning or late evening and cool and quiet. We visited with several of the different ones and then before we got started some bible group started an open air meeting, and we had to wait until that was over, It was nice just watching. Then they wanted the recordings and it was quite a session. We were there until after ten o'clock and it was dark. Must have been at least 50 Indians around the Jeep listening and then later three men and about six women sang. The Indian who announced the singers would say each time, and they thought it a great joke. "Mrs Rolling-in-the-Mud, Mrs - Chiniki, Mrs Paul Dixon, Mrs Joe Kootenay and Mrs Joe Kaquits and Mrs Pete Whyte." Then they would start beating a drum and singing, It was too bad but the light on the recorder burned out and so we couldn't record well, but they promise next year after the concert they will put on a real show and sing late at night for us. 10.15 was late enough ~~for us~~ and the mosquitoes



were awful. Mrs Joe Kaquits came over to hear the recordings her husband made two years ago, he died of Cancer last year. They all wanted to hear his voice again.

Then Monday morning we had promised to pick up David and Mrs Bearspaw and take them to the station and see them on the train, which we did, and then ran into the son who was trying to get a tire fixed for George McLean. It had blown out near Canmore on the way up and as his wagon had no spare he had to run on it and it was really beyond mending, but a new one would have cost \$20.00 so we thought it best to say there were none in town. It was off a 1926 model A Ford and as Dave Prosser was telling us you hardly ever saw such an old car these days. He had hardly finished telling us when in one drove with a man, his wife and three little girls, They also had a flat tire but theirs could be fixed. They had come all the way from Princeton B.C.

Well. Dave bought 4 potato sacks at the grocery store and stuffed those inside together with an old tube and we hoped it would get George and his wagon the 40 miles to Morley, then back down to the grounds where Pete helped him put it back onto the wagon. He said he had a jack, and it turned out to be poles which Pete leaned on to lift the axle just enough, It worked well but was hot in the sun, I went over to see how they were getting on across the creek and found an old saddle in the long grass, someone had thrown out. George said it was the way the old Indian saddles for a woman were made, using roots of trees that formed forks, and with buckskin sewn on with sinew. Very interesting, must have been thrown out. We brought the McLeans up town to shop and then while they were at the store we started lunch which they ate with us, Luckily

we remembered that George always asks a blessing, most of the old Indians like the Hawaiians all do that. Seems funny the white man taught them and they carry on the custom that the rest of us have forgotten.

Must go now to catch the train and mail east. Did I tell you that Pete got the prescription from Dr Marshall for the trifocals and we will have to go to Calgary soon for them to measure him for the new glasses. We were a bit too weary to go to-day.

Yesterday Dorothy came down in the late afternoon and we took her back up to the school and helped her move her things to a much nicer room in the new building.

Have been interrupted a bit so will let this go.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Polly Webster Harris & Mrs Belmae Braine are both at Bow Lake. Mrs Simpson wrote us. Haven't written Russ & family yet.



Banff, Alberta.  
Sunday, July 25, 1954

Dearest Mother,

It's a lovely day and 10 or 12 cars parked along the road in front of the house with family picnics and canoes going by on the river, Pete is working on a picture of the Indians listening to the singing the last night of Indian Days, he made a pencil sketch the day after from memory and with his reading glasses, then drew in one on a 11 x 14 inch canvas with charcoal and now is putting color on that using his distance glasses down his nose. He finds he can see a little nearer that way. and then later if it comes out well he might do a larger one. At present the changing from looking far then near is a little difficult, so we haven't ~~tried~~ sketching yet.

Did I tell you that Dr Marshall sent the prescription for Trifocals? it came a week ago and Wednesday morning we set off for Calgary at 6.15 getting there about 8.30 and a good chance for a parking place. It was overcast and a few showers so nice and cool for us. Pete got into the optical prescription place before nine when Mr Humphery who was so nice before in fitting the glasses arrived and he took the necessary measurements, the lens is ground in Toronto and will take 3 weeks and even after that it may take some time before Pete gets used to them, Dr Marshall said it is more difficult if you haven't worn glasses before.

We did a couple of errands getting a new tie for Pete and ordering a pair of pants and then to Mr Turners where we got a few paints etc. and started back by 11 A.M. and were home, eating a picnic lunch on the way, by 2 o'clock. It was raining here and quite cool.

Thursday Nell was due at Bow Lake and we had thought of going up, but Pete picked up a sort of cold mostly in his throat and it didn't seem wise to try and camp out just now. If we went just for the day the chances were the Tripps might be off for Jasper that day and we would have to wait until supper time and it would be late getting home, also I have to do all the driving and thought I don't mind it down make more of a day of it. They will be down here for to-morrow anyway so it seemed better or wiser to wait until then.

Sam has been making two cupboards, one to go on either side of the chest of drawers under the bedroom front window and make it look like one long piece of furniture filling in the whole space of the big dormer, like this. So we had those to stain and put in. he made a new top out of flooring from the original back porch and it looks very well now it is all in. I can keep extra large Art books in the cupboards, the kind too large for a shelf. Then he is making new and lower book cases to go along the wall by the bed to hold the old Studios bound and the National Geographics. He works as he feels like it and has a ~~shop~~ workshop over in one of the old buggy sheds. Then Friday quite unexpectedly Ules LaCasee and Dutch his helper





arrived to lay a stone walk from our back door ~~out~~ towards the Garbage box and Sam's shop, and if anyone is going over town. They did about 40 feet of it until they ran out of rock and it does look nice.

Then ~~yesterday~~ Friday afternoon the McClintocks dropped in on their way to Lethbridge, Pete's cousins and Aunt Maggie Grayson's daughter, we were having tea when Dorothy and Laude McKeck dropped in after Art school and later we drove them to Carl Rungius. and so it goes. Yesterday we went up to get a few colored pictures of the Valances garden, as they are away and won't see it themselves and a neighbor Frank Low who used to be the C.P.R. Gardener is looking after it for them. It is full of color just now. Then while there we saw the Walter Phillips who live next door and had a look at his watercolors, Pete gave me one for my birthday but didn't have a chance to choose it. It was of the Douglas firs and a deer, behind their house, but we thought it would be nice to have one of his boat ones, ~~and~~ in the end chose one of four fishing boats near the top of the picture in a row across and a lovely reflection in the water. We went ~~xx~~ back in the afternoon, had a nice chance to talk too and Mr Phillips is to bring some of his class down Tuesday afternoon to see our things.

I have been busy making curtains for upstairs, some material with dark green and a reddish color for the old little bedroom to match both the rug we have there at present and the bed cover for the couch. It was stuff we had in Honolulu in 1950, sort of Javanese design. Then in the big bedroom I have some awful blue faded ones, so am making some of Scotch plaid that Tom Winton sent us Christmas, it is bright red, a vermillion red and a soft green, will send a sample, we have a plain green rug to show off the big polar bear skin that was given us and then the red Hudson Bay blankets on the bed are the same red, I think they will look very colorful.

Patsy and Susan dropped in last night after nine, told us all about the girls at the summer school and the fun they have etc. and we talked about climbing etc. Then drove them home about 10.30

This isn't much of a letter but with the Tripps coming to morrow morning I have quite a lot to tidy up around the house and the desk has so much piled on it now I have to write this at the dining table.

Wonder how Cousin Harriet is and if she did die or is just lingering on. remarkable she came out of the coma, am glad she had the fun of her 101 birthday and the thought of her friends.

Mildred wrote us the loveliest letter and all about the things you did and what a wonderful time they had, they sounded very gay to me.

Loads of love and will try to answer your letters before long.

Catherine  
The family will soon be back.



Banff, Alberta.

Tburs. July 29, 1954

Dearest Mother,

Haven't written since Nell Baldwin Tripp and her family were here, We wrote them but guess the letter didn't get to Bow Lake in time, for them to come straight here so we sort of looked for them all morning, while we did just odd things like a bit of dusting and taking the fly specks off the window and such, But when they hadn't arrived by noon we had a sandwich and about 1.30 Nell drove in. They had gone to the motel first and the others were having lunch so she only stayed a minute and went back to them, then they all came over. Such a nice family as they are. Eleanor is 18 and going to Smith ~~next~~ this fall, as is Frances Hiam. I didn't realize that last year Eleanor went to the Coronation with Frances and Mrs Webster and a wonderful trip in Europe. Then there are two boys Jimmy and Bill (or maybe it is Jim and Billy) about 16 and 14 and then the little girl Frances Tripp who is about 10 and a live wire. They are travelling in just an ordinary car and have all their bags carefully fitted into the back, I think they said they drew a picture or plan of where each one went to make it easier to pack, for they were in a different place most every night except for Los Angeles and San Francisco and Bow Lake, which the kids enjoyed most of all. they loved the riding.

They all went up to Norquay for a ride on the chair lift and then came back to us about five. Pete went to the Clinic with Bill as he had a sore throat Nell was worried about and then back. He then stayed with me while Pete went with the others to try and find a Mountie and in the end they went up to the Banff Springs and the Golf



Course. Pete and I had gotten the vegetables ready for supper while they were at Norquay and I was amused for Pete was working very diligently shelling peas while I fixed the roast, and potatoes and carrots, and after a while he said " 8 are more than 2 to get supper for aren't they ? " We had a really good roast and they did enjoy the home cooked food and the peas were really fresh from the Windermere, then we had strawberries on vanilla ice cream and chocolate cake, they all drank milk as we do, so that simplified things and they were so good about helping. Eleanor and one of the boys helped me dish up the food and we really had a good time.

Right after supper it was so lovely out we went driving to see around Tunnel Mt. the Hoodoos, the Campground and later the Upper Hot Springs, then Big Bill went back to the motel to put little Frances to bed while the rest helped us wash the dishes, there were quite a lot but the usual amount for them and it took no time at all.

We really didn't have much time to visit but they had had a wonderful trip all the way and up at Bow Polly Webster Harris was there with her two youngest children, about 9 and 15 I think, seems she had three children soon after they were married and then for ten years she was sort of laid up with T.B. then had two more, so the older ones are married and have children of their own. The oldest boy is the one with Polio I think and Nell says he is the kind who has done everything he could to overcome his handicap and is quite wonderful about it. I was sorry we couldn't have gotten up while they were at Bow Lake, especially as young Frances Hiam was with them, they have gone on to Jasper now for a time. But Pete has had a bad cold in his chest I guess you would call it. a bug going around and now I have a touch of it, hope mine doesn't last as long. His makes him very hoarse every night. Bill Tripp evidently had the same thing. and we didn't dare camp out with bad throats at least thought it not wise.



The Tripps left for Glacier Park the next morning about 8  
so we didn't see them again, Tuesday was fairly busy for us as we had  
*first Eldon Ball about business then*  
Mr Phillips with 5 of his most promising Art Students at 4 P.M. for  
tea and to see the pictures, then as they were leaving about 5.30  
Pearl Moore and Mrs Strong from Vancouver came in, and in the evening  
Dorothy Whyte with one of the men (a Mr Matherson) in her class. He was  
from Calgary and interested in painting. So it was a busy day in the  
end. Some of the girls Mr Phillips *thought* are quite talented especially one  
named Sarafinchen or something like that.

Yesterday Sam had the bookcase ready for the upstairs bedroom  
which meant a bit of changing around books and moving things but it  
is such an improvement and he is now going to make two little tables  
for each side of the bed more or less to match. Pete has been using  
a log standing on end on his side and I a little low table.

In the afternoon Nifty Addinall his wife and daughter and  
son-in-law dropped in for about an hour, He is from Edmonton and they  
are the ones who invited us to stay with them up there. He is head of  
all the Government Dental work up north I think, was in Italy during  
the war and has some very amusing stories to tell. Then in the evening  
we sewed new grass in some bare patches where Ules LeCasse pulled out  
stumps and also beside a new walk he laid out the back.

Pete is stretching a canvas just now and Jonny waiting for  
me to go to the mail, I have the desk fairly well straightened out so  
should get your letters properly answered soon. *We enjoyed the letters*  
*you sent.* the family will be home now, would love to hear more  
about their trip. Loads of love to all

*Catharine*

How is Cousin Harriet?



Banff, Alberta.

Tues. Aug. 3, 1954

Dearest Mother,

Am not doing too well with the letter writing, I usually get a chance on Sunday but we got up late, Jonny was over and it was such a lovely day I decided to wash the last blanket to be done in the Bendix, then made the first blueberry muffins of the year for lunch and got involved talking to someone when going for ice cream and it made us late getting back. Then one of the little Art students named Wilma, aged 18 with a lot of talent for drawing horses brought her father and mother to see our log house, They live out of Red Deer and real ranching people, the mother was very Slavic looking and hardly spoke but the man was young for a father of 4 girls and a boy, and so interested in the log work, examined it all very carefully, Seems he is from Latvia and his mother studied art in St Petersburg 50 years ago, He heard from her only once last year and then she didn't dare mention anyone by name and mailed it in some small town where she wasn't known. She must be 70 and he said spoke of pulling the plow in the fields like a horse. "A paradise" as he put it very sarcastically. *Latvia is part of Russia now -* He spoke excellent English and works for an oil company cleaning up the land after they drill and wants to build the family a house and logs are the cheapest material.

Dorothy Whyte and Ethel Knight also dropped in that afternoon right after lunch about 2,30 and the Dave Prossers were around in the evening to borrow our roller as they are planting a lawn. Pete planted the little circle we made in our driveway and



luckily I ran back and forth over the loose earth with the Jeep to pack it down first, Pete giving me directions so I didn't miss any, for since then one girl has parked on it, Mr Lonsdale drove a little over one side and last night just as the new grass was showing, a strange car came tearing through our driveway and went right over the middle of it ! It didn't go in far thank goodness but we were annoyed.

Saturday was a real busy day for us, I did the usual cleaning of upstairs and some down, had a wash going and Georgie Paris dropped in as she is flying to Honolulu for her two weeks vacation and wanted addresses etc. Then we shopped and after lunch as Sam was helping put up the curtain rods in the bedroom, Chuck and Mrs Miller called, He guided us to Assinaboine years ago. Then Pete was just getting started again working on a picture when two boys from Concord or Carlisle dropped in. Martin Bovey Jr. and Sandy (?) MacMillain. Awfully nice lads , Young Bovey did most of the talking, said he had met Gale at a dance just before coming out and she told him to be sure and look us up, he is taking a movie of Canada from Coast to coast for an implement company in Minneapolis. They had been to Jasper & the Peace River and are on their way to the coast. are camping out.

We had a nice visit and talk, liked them both so much and was sorry we couldn't ask them to supper, but as it happened we hadn't planned anything but left over soup and I had a snuffly cold too into the bargain. That is the only trouble when cooking for just two you don't have large enough quantities on hand. They came at 5.30 and it was nearly 7 P.M. when they left. If it hadn't been Saturday night we could have taken them to a restaurant but they are packed early.

Pete we think caught his cold from the Indians the night we recorded and he stood in a group of them, though lots have it this summer, and then when his was getting better I got it, started the



day after Nell was here, expect I was tired, anyway it is a darn nuisance in summer, it is laragitis with some. As soon as we are over them we hope to go out camping for a few days at least, it would help to be outside more, too many mosquitoes to sit outside here and anyway one seems to be busy during the day or people come.

Haven't answered your letters to-day either, Poor Cousin Harriet, how strong her heart must be and her will to live.

Will try and get organized soon and write a decent letter.

Loads of love,

Catharine



Banff, Alberta.

Fri. August 6, 1954.

Dearest Mother,

Again a hurried letter, but so much has been going on the last few days, Day before yesterday, Wednesday afternoon, Pete got his trifocal glasses, a week before we expected them, he tried them that afternoon and evening and found by tipping them a bit they seemed to be O.K. So we tied them up on his head with a shoe string and later that evening when Pearl Moore and Arlene Voorhies were here, She asked if Pete had to wear a hearing aid. looked just like one with the shoe string over the top of his head.

That evening we drove around after supper to see how they were for distance and then decided to go to Calgary early next morning and have them fitted properly, We got back about eight<sup>PM</sup> and then Pearl came with Arlene and then Edmee dropped in and it was 10.30 before they left. We didn't want to mention Calgary for invariably you do someone wants to just ride down and back for one errand.

Next morning we set the alarm for 5.15 and didn't feel too awfully sleepy, made breakfast and a lunch to take, and were away soon after 6.30, Got to Calgary at nine and a parking place right next the Medical Arts Bldg, the man we saw before was there and he spent over an hour adjusting the glasses just right. He is so good and doesn't seem to begrudge the time, also fixed the little pads on the other long distance pair which were narrower than the others and seemed to slip down through throwing the lens out of focus. Then we went up to see Peter Vallance and Bill Gill and started home by 10.30. It was a good day for driving as it was cool and overcast but no



rain until we got home. The glasses worked much better than Pete dared hope. He could see the distance, the dials on the dashboard and read the print in the handbook, a lens for each of the 3 distances. For reading the area in focus is naturally larger with his reading glasses so we may use them still when reading a long time, but it is wonderful having all distances in focus. He can see now the food he is eating, before he had to use reading glasses to find bones and then he couldn't see me or anyone at the table. Now by using a different part of the glasses he can see both. So now we are hoping to get out sketching again. Wonder does Aunt Julie have trifocals?

We had rather a busy afternoon, errands and mail and then we went to the rooms in the school where the Art Students work to see some of the pictures, met a few friends and stayed longer than we mean't to. Last evening Eldon Walls came down and Dorothy and then he took us to see his new house. So we didn't get to bed as early as we mean't to but haven't felt very tired to-day. Dorothy was down this A.M. and again later with Jean Park and is coming back for supper and Sam we met at the Post office, he thought he had pleurisy so we made him go to the docbb, and it was too funny, he looked real sick when he went in, had been in bed all day yesterday with a sore chest, then when he came out he was smiling had color in his ckeeks and felt a hundred percent, nothing wrong really but a strain, is back at work in the shop.

We have Dr Riley's daughter's wedding to go to to-morrow as we don't think we can get out of it, I suddenly remembered I have no hat to wear but my old funeral hat, maybe we won't make it!

Must go now and see how Sam and Pete are making out staining two little cupboards one for either side of the bed.

Loads of love

Catherine



Banff, Alberta.

Mon. Aug. 9, 1954.

Dearest Mother,

Once again in a rush, we have spent the last few days getting ready to go out on a sketching trip as Pete is very anxious to try the new pair of glasses and see if he can paint outdoors, Worked a bit Saturday afternoon getting the Jeep cleaned inside and putting the boxes in. Took Dorothy to the train, met her at the school at ten and saw the Art Exhibit, then the train was late, took her friend home and just had time to dress and go to Pat Riley wedding at the Anglican Church, great effort on our part, but we didn't go to the reception, got out of our wedding clothes as quick as we could and had a busy afternoon.

X Then yesterday we slept a little late so just had time to go to the station to see one of the new scenic dome or vista dome cars with a mural by Charles Comfort of Banff, we were more interested in it than anything as the cars are much like the new ones in the U.S.A. Each of the observation cars is named after a park and Charles Comfort had the Banff Park to do, lives in Toronto and Mr Phillips who lives here had a park he had never been to in B.C. The mural is of the hotel and view, very good but think Mr Phillips' is much more striking. We went up for the Phillips but they weren't up and we didn't like to disturb them. *Thought he would be interested in seeing the car -* Had no interruptions all afternoon and worked steadily, getting paint, sleeping bags, tents and proper poles and pegs, and all the clothes as well. It is a year since we had packed up the car so it took a bit of thinking and collecting things. Then I had some bags to make for the tripod, stool etc. and did those last



night, after we had taken one quick ride to see the color on the mountains and also call at the Moores as Arlen Voorhies left to-day, they were out so we went down this morning early. Had thought of getting off today but there is a lot to think of and we had all the food to do and fit in, which we did during the day, Patsy MacKenzie came to tell us about their trip over Abbott Pass this afternoon and then Sam came and I was busy trying to wash out 3 woolen shirts when Jonny Beaspaw arrived with his father in a big truck. That meant tea but in the end we did a bit of recording and got a few stories from David and he felt so good he even sang a bit of an old song, He is 94, but by then it was nearly six and their car wouldn't start so we had to push and pull with the Jeep to get it going.

It is Tuesday and a lovely day, have finished breakfast and will put the rest of the stuff in the jeep, As I wrote this I remembered the shirts on the line so got those ironed before bedtime. We rather expect Bunny, Ann and Claire to arrive in August so will leave messages around where we are, for we have no idea the date they might come.

Loads of love and will write <sup>Sam</sup> to Bow Lake for I think that is where we will go first. *but you just keep writing to Banff.*  
Catharine



NUM-TI-JAH

Lodge LTD.



BOW LAKE, ALBERTA

Via LAKE LOUISE POST OFFICE

Thursday night  
August 12 1954

Dearest Mother, Have been just too lazy to write until now & am so full of lemon pie I may not make this a very long letter. We have just watched a full moon rise over Mt. Hector with lovely sunset color on the peak & had the camera packed away under our sleeping bags so didn't get it out as we should have.

We finally got away from Banff Tuesday afternoon. A nice letter from you telling of the family's arrival from their trip. I wondered why you hadn't told us, when you wrote of their going to Essex. The letter took a week to come - may have gotten to the Banff Springs Hotel by mistake. Like Cousin Alma's birth day letter.

We drove right up to Bow Lake getting here about 5.30. Quite a bit of new construction 10 miles out of Lake Louise which makes the going bad. It felt pretty chilly up



here as they hadn't all the rooms taken, Mary insisted we try a Steam heated room & it did sound rather nice. We had dinner too & a good sleep. The heat does make it so much more comfortable.

Wednesday was rather stormy - big storms that would completely hide some peaks. We talked a bit then went up the road to see a camp ground new to us investigated. It's very nice & has a good shelter with windows, open on the sheltered side. 2 stoves & 4 tables & benches. A Florida couple were there & a family. The man looked & spoke so much like Gil Roddy I felt like asking if they were related. He & his wife were in the tiniest English car & had a baby in arms & a little girl about 3. They were just packing up their tent & cooking things. We talked a while & then started for Payto Lookout. The man called after us. "Your tire's going flat. Sure enough it was damn. So with much help from him we changed tires & came back here - just in time to send the tire to Lake Louise to be fixed with Jerry in his truck - lucky for us -

Then after lunch we started a shelter each by the Lake shore. It wasn't easy as the storms kept coming over & the effects changed so fast. but at least we were painting outdoors which felt good. Pete is trying to get used to



NUM-TI-JAH

Lodge LTD.



BOW LAKE, ALBERTA

Via LAKE LOUISE POST OFFICE

the Tri-focals - thought they worked better to-day than yesterday. X

Last night we slept in the jeep up where we always used to camp near the corral. Spent the evening talking to the Harriers, who arrived a few minutes after us Tuesday. They come every year from Berkeley California for 2 weeks & are great fun. We've known them other years.

We have ~~old~~ air foam mattresses now. rather special. But when Pete was having trouble with his back 2 years ago we got them & never used them but once last year. We were very warm & comfortable. Cooked our breakfast this morning & our supper last night. But ate in the lodge tonight. We sketched most of today. Drew the composition in rather carefully this morning & then worked on it all afternoon.

Now we have the beds made up in the jeep & are inside for a little while. But as soon as dark will go to park the jeep. Flit it out. & turn in. Think if the weather stays good we will stay until Saturday morning. May have to go to Calgary for another adjustment on the glasses



for Pete has a sore <sup>place on his</sup> nose & ear & thinks they  
would be better changed a bit. They are so  
heavy it is hard to get them adjusted just  
right!

will write when we get home. Have you  
any idea when Bunny Beethick, Ann &  
Claire are coming? Cal & you said "some time  
in August." so we have left messages where  
we are if they arrive.

Loads of love from us both  
Catherine



Banff, Alta.

Tues. Aug. 17, 1954

Dearest Mother,

We are back from Bow Lake, have had all sorts of nice letters from you and no time to really answer them as they deserve. I always seem to be in a hurry when writing anyone and now we will be going for the mail as soon as Pete and Sam figure out a scheme to arrange for an umbrella over our sketch boxes so we can paint if it rains, otherwise the canvas and palette get too wet, doesn't matter about us for we can wear raincoats.

X The trip was really just right in every way. Except for the first night we slept in the Jeep, and the last two nights parked it down on the lake <sup>shore</sup> ~~sure~~ more or less in the open but where no one came. a little road to a gravel beach where they get gravel for the roads. In the morning we would move the Jeep from the road to the beach which was just wide enough and it couldn't have been nicer. We cook on the tail gate, and sit in our light aluminum chairs like yours, it was sunny and two mornings not a ripple on the lake, lovely reflections. Then we would paint nearby, as it was more to be sketching again than doing any particular subject. Pete finds he has to work longer than previously on each picture as it is much slower for him focusing from the distance to close up, so I worked nearby too. We painted most all the mornings and then made our lunch on the beach, and when we found we had enough bright light would move up to back of the lodge in the shade. X We had our dinners with the Simpsons and after watching the evening light would sit inside talking to some of the guests we had known in previous years. So all in all it worked just



right, we felt better for being outdoors so much and no one to bother us or things to see to.

Sunday morning after a rianny night it was very stormy looking and as we hadn't had mail and needed to clean up a bit we decided to come back, also there were one or two improvements to our outfit, like the umbrallars we wanted to get.

We left after breakfast and were home for lunch, a bit of construction to drive through which was very muddy because of the rain. After lunch, <sup>getting our mail</sup> we were busy cleaning brushes when Marguerite Orr Rutherford of Calgary dropped in, stayed to tea and we had a very interesting talk. She had gone and we had returned from watering Mr Scotts flowers as he is away, when Harold came over with some slides he had taken and wanted to see in the viewer, and it was almost 7 when we got supper, were just eating when Pearl Moore dropped in and she stayed until after nine, so we were a little weary by the time we got to bed.

Yesterday was nearly as bad. Sam came along and we did errands and just as we were finishing lunch Tom Kaquits arrived from Morley. Seems his wife felt she was dying, can only go on her knees she is so weak and wanted to know how Pete's eye was, says when she dies she is going to leave us her Indian costume, She wrote a letter which was in the mail with some things she wanted, so up to the Post office we went and sure enough a letter, she wanted "4 lbs of beef, 4 lbs of ham bacon, 4 lbs of Salmon and fat and 5 lbs of potatoes and 5 lbs of oranges." Tom would take the things back with him. So we had to see to that. They are pretty cagey.

Pete's glasses worked pretty well, at one time he thought they might need adjusting as his ear and nose were getting sore and he couldn't see quite as well, then he discovered that one of the stems



that goes behind the ear, the little hinge was stuck and we remembered that in Honolulu he had the same trouble with his dark glasses, it is the perspiration that makes it stick and a jeweler there fixed it with a drop of oil, so now it works better as Pete loosened the hinge. He finds he is getting more used to them all the time.

As soon as this spell of showery rainy weather is over we will go out again, it is giving us a chance to get things even better arranged. Eldon was down yesterday about the store etc. and we got a heap of mail to answer which I haven't done yet, also more clothes to wash and iron.

~~I~~ I haven't had a chance to read the books you sent on my birthday, too many letters I owe and newspapers to catch up with.

Do hope you have good weather for your time in Essex and that you see Mrs Mayor if she is at Rockport. will be fun for you staying with the family.

Loads of love and will ~~w~~be writing again soon.

Catharine .



Banff, Alberta.

Thurs. Aug. 19, 1954.

Dearest Mother,

At last I am going to make a try at answering some of your letters. It rained in the night and has rained all day, a wind from the east, first really bad weather we have had since June. Just by luck I got the dungarees and woolen shirts & socks washed yesterday in spite of a few showers and so we are all ready to go out again but will wait until it clears. Pete got lots of canvas ready and I wrote some long overdue letters to-day and if it rains to-morrow will do some more. There always is so much one can do in the house.

You certainly have had cold rainy weather, I see in the papers this is one of the wettest seasons they have had in England & Europe, we have been lucky so far, only showers and we need the rain for the woods and grass.

Will send you a nice letter from Nell, feel a little guilty as we did so little for them while in the Rockies, but are glad they enjoyed it and want to come back.

Don't worry about any mistakes, we don't notice that you make any more than others, am sure no more than I do.

Would love to hear more about the family's trip west, but don't expect we will until next we see them, the ranch near Denver must have been interesting and so nice they could have lunch with the Sergeant Newburys, the only time we were in Denver they were away.

I was so sorry to hear of Mrs Darlings death, must write Elizabeth. Wonder will she and Priscilla keep on that big house just the two of them?

Now letters. That tortoise shall thing you sent in the



freight box was like a very old card case. about 2 inches by 3 in size.

Did you ever get your new T.V.set ? and give the old one to George Foss. I imagine it will be a wonderful thing for him. Let me know if you want me to contribute to his or your new set ?

We had a nice card from Pietro in Italy , they must be having a wonderful time.

Yes I knew Katharine Dodge in school. at Miss White's she was even in one of the mathematics classes I was in, she had missed some and taking it over, she was about Olive Buttrick's age I thought. Don't you remember when Edith and I took dancing lessons of Dorothy Dodge so we could dance at Thanksgiving, must have been awful to see.'

Quite a letter from " Margaret" who I think must be Mrs Cochrane, it must be wonderful to have a houseful like that of kids all ages and sizes, you would have to have just the right nature to cope with it I should think. and so many dogs too. They are certainly a wonderful family.

Yes I have the addresses of Mrs Brown and Mrs Caird and Anna etc.

What a nice day you must have had in Essex and seeing Mrs Mayor too. Did she know the young Sherrills who would be Mrs Harris' Grandson ? is he a minister ? for I believe most of the Sherril boys are.

You mentioned reading "The Book of Small" by Emily Carr. " Pause, a sketch " by her was the book I sent Mildred at Christmas, written about her time in hospital I think. Shall I send it to you ? see you want it for Xmas, will try and remember ! The others are " House of all Sorts." and " Klee Wyck " and " Growing Pains " She died several years ago.

I had forgotten Olive Buckley had a bycycle accident, what happened? Lucky she is allright now. Would think 5 miles a day a lot to walk.



What an awful storm that must have been in Marblehead to upset all those boats, lucky no one was drowned. They have had bad hail on the praries this year, one twonship 16 miles wide ~~the~~ crops were wiped out. Luckily many carry hail insurance but lots don't.

How is the needlepoint bag coming on ? Couldn't you use some of your previous designs and change the colorscheme? that is if you find the designing hard.

Any more news of Cousin Harriet ? would she like a card do you think or does she not take things in.

Do you know if Bunny and Clair Carruthers are still west ? You wrote they might be here some time in August. I should have wired Milwaukee for them to give us a few days warning if they came to Banff. We leave a note on the door where to reach us, but would like to go down to Cowley if the weather is nice but don't like to go so far if they are coming? and they might have started back to Concord.

We thought those clippings of letters about the Art Festival show of paintings in Boston very amusing, I liked the one where the writer thought the Artist should be hung instead of the picture. Can just imagine the stuff. Still can't make head nor tail of the abstract

stuff. There is one kind of art where you close your eyes to paint, again might be better if the one looking at the pictures did that!

Was very interested in the obituary of Mrs Mott Shaw for I never realized she was born in San Francisco and her parents were Californians or that she was an undercover agent for the F.B.I. She was so full of life and interest always.

Did you ever hear from Louise and Allan Newbury when they got back from their bicycle trip ? or maybe they aren't back yet. It must have been a wonderful experience for them all.



Yes. We do take Arizona Highways and we saw the picture of the Plaque that Mary Abbott designed.

You spoke of not making cold drinks now Jean isn't there to do it. We often use what they call "Blended Juice" a mixture *called* "Orange and Grapefruit Juice", it is written right on the tin. you just pour a little in a glass and then gingerale and it is very good. easy too.

You asked about the "London Studio". whether we want it any more Pete and I don't think we really look at it enough to keep it on. The old ones have more of interest and if it should get good again one could always start subscribing. Also the "American Artist". We can look at Mr Phillips copies so don't bother renewing that either. We take too many magazines as it is I guess. We have an awfully good daily newspaper with such interesting articles that we are apt to read the paper rather thoroughly.

Friday, It is still raining, a steady fine rain, I do feel sorry for Jimmy Simpson who has 10 people out on a ten day pack trip, it means so much to him.

Guess I had better call this a letter or you will be tired reading so much, also I should write some others.

We do feel badly that you have to be alone so much, would it help if you asked people like Aunt Julie or the Newburys or Frances & Gil to supper every so often, in the case of the Newburys & Aunt Julie they might come early and go early, I'll bet anyone doing their own cooking would enjoy eating with you, even just a simple supper, and they wouldn't have to stay long before or after if it tires you talking, just having them come and a little visit would be nice. Or even for lunch, if you know them well you could invite them to arrive at 11 and go when you take your rest.

Heaps of love from us both,

*Catharine*



Banff, Alta.  
Tues. Aug. 24, 1953

Dearest Mother,

I think we must be having some of your August weather, it is raining steadily and has been for the last two days. We got all ready at the end of last week hoping to get out on another sketching trip, were going Friday and then it was rather overcast and showery, so decided to try early Sat. morning. Got most things in the car Friday and then that evening about nine the John Jaeggis from the Upper Hot Springs Hotel came with Ted Goodall an artist and were here until 11.30. Seems as if people are always coming just before we go on a trip or just as we return. ~~However~~ the Jaeggis have to wait until after dinner etc. is cleaned up to come and they are so very appreciative of our paintings as is Ted Goodall and aren't at all tiring, only a late night makes us sleepy in the morning.

We did get up fairly early and went down to the Moores to find out about Edmée who was in an automobile accident, not badly hurt outwardly but was thrown to the floor and had a lot of pain. We didn't find Pearl so later went to Edmée's and back a 2nd. time with books, lent her the two you sent on my birthday as they looked just the kind she wanted.

Then when we got gas, found there was a telephone call from Calgary, so called the operator and the line was busy, waited five or ten minutes and the line was still busy, we didn't want to wait as we were late getting off then <sup>so left a message to say we were</sup> ~~so~~ came home to find the Alfred Castles here, They are at Lake Louise and came down to see us for a minute, had nuts and a Ballee k Irish tea



pot they had brought right from the factory to us. It is sort of a thin transparent china, like a basket weave. We finally got off after lunch and the weather looked as if it were clearing.

We went up to Bow Lake for a start getting there about 5 o'clock, the weather didn't look too promising, in fact it rained a bit. We had an early supper with the Simpsons and spent the evening talking to a Miss Frances Loring, a well known Sculptress from Montreal, quite a character and just given some sort of prize by the Alberta Gov't. She had photographs of her work which reminded me a bit of Anna Hyatt Huntington, some fine lions and also figures, not modern or not too modern I should say. There was also an unusually nice couple from New Canaan Conn. named Pennypacker who had just returned from Assinaboine and she was a Loring from Boston, a cousin of Mrs Charles Loring of Concord and also turned out that she was a distant relative of Miss Loring. the latter had studied one year in Boston under Beulah Pratt, ( or Bela ) Then the Harriers were still there and we all talked to-gether. We sent a card to Mrs Loring of the Bookshop but none of us could think of anything to say until Mr Pennypacker suggested we say " Greetings from " and all sign our names!

We slept in the Jeep and it rained in the night but doesn't bother us, we are almost too warm in our sleeping bags. It wasn't raining when we got up but in case it did while we were cooking we decided to eat breakfast at the Lodge, which we did and then after a long talk with the Pennypackers who were leaving that noon, we set off towards the Icefields. It was showery and dull but we had a good day. I will write you more about it later as we are rather expecting the Harriers in to-day, we came home last night, and so want to go to the Post Office. a nice letter from you this A.M.

Another rush. Lots of love  
Catherine.



Banff, Alberta.

August 25, 1954.

Dearest Mother,

I feel a bit like that old story "off again, on again, Finnigan." Can't remember what the story is about but we seem to be "in again, out again" depending on the weather. It has poured for two days, Monday & Tuesday and both nights, but got colder, down to 38° or lower and snow quite low on the mountains, and this morning a west wind and clearing, everything is so wet Pete thought we better wait one day for the bushes etc. to dry, and to-night we are all ready to go out again only an east wind has come up again and more clouds. Do you notice that the weather changes <sup>when</sup> with the moon changes <sup>time</sup>? The Swiss Guides always go by the moon. and this last ~~night~~ <sup>time</sup> the weather changed from good to bad the night of the full moon, but it should change at the new moon back again. If at all nice we will ~~be~~ get an early start in the morning.

Another nice letter from you to-day, with the pictures of the goat man which I return, I think it was Kitty and Russ who saw him for we didn't, so will return them for you to give to them. Yes we did get the lovely picture in color of the house and garden and thought it very good, it is hard to get the flowers & the house in the distance all in focus and good color too. Will keep it. The trillium must have been lovely in the wild garden.



It isn't our post office which is stupid about mail, but the men who sort all mail <sup>on the train</sup> coming to Banff. They sort out the letters for the Banff Springs Hotel to go to a post office there, which saves time in the hotel getting their mail, but then when the mail clerks at the desk sort the mail, they sometimes don't notice if a letter for "Banff" has slipped into their mail, especially if it is from the U.S.A. where most of their letters are probably from, Quite often they catch a letter before putting it into the pile waiting for people to arrive, but in the case of the one from Cousin Alma they were extra stupid, when I didn't show up as a guest in ten days time, they at least could have checked the address before returning it to her. Nearly every year at least one letter gets stuck up there. and maybe that one of yours that took a week coming got to the hotel by mistake.

Am so glad you mentioned seeing Lucy Jarvis' picture in Canadian Art, Yes, it is the same one who went to school with us. We have never seen any of her work and when Helen Weld spoke of their having a monkey and living in a funny little house a fisherman built for them and the old car they drove round in and the crazy things they did, we thought perhaps she had gone very modern, so it was nice to see she was painting in a sensible way.

That was funny about the Guild picture, we are no Burry about ours and I can't remember now what it is of,

Am glad you went in to see Cousin Harriet for I was wondering how she was. I should try and send her a card.

The first time you wrote of going to Essex, it sounded like a visit and then of course your next letter told of the day there. So nice you could see Mrs Mayor, I expect she is almost as old as her mother who acted like an old lady, I shall never forget her. People used to impress you with their age in those days.



To go back to our last short camping trip. Sunday we woke to rain at Bow Lake, had breakfast in the lodge, a nice talk with the Pennypackers, she a cousin of Mrs Loring of the Bookshop, and then Pete thought it might be a good chance to drive to the Icefields and look for possible painting subjects when the roads weren't dusty, as they are gravel and have been terribly dusty this summer. The clouds were low but it looked as if it might clear. We had a nice drive up, stopped at a campground by the river and cooked lunch in one of the shelters where a fire was still going well in one of the stoves. A young couple came in and ate at the other table, you meet all sorts of nice people from all over and everyone was very friendly, our trouble is talking too much, for the people who camp usually have lots of time compared to those dashing to reservations.

The Icefields themselves were a little disappointing, they have changed so since we were last there during the war when we stayed in the garage and there were only a few other cars going through. Instead we found a huge parking space with a good 40 or 50 cars and a steady stream of tourists going up over the glacier in 7 snowmobiles. Somehow it seemed too many people in such a remote place. The glacier itself has receded and quite a lake now where before there was ice, of course there is still several miles of ice but it must have melted back a thousand feet or more.

From there we went up to the public campground which was very nice in the trees, two shelters and even electric light. We made some coffee and picked a good place for the Jeep thinking lots of others would be in before dark. But only an Iowa car, a son and his mother and tiny dog pulled in, then a family of 4 and a young honeymoon couple, but they went on after cooking supper and only



Iowa can and a station wagon that had been from California to Alaska and back spent the night. We were interested in them for Grandpa was very busy putting up the tent and blowing up and patching the air mattresses with the help of a little granddaughter while the mother and a little boy to run back and forth got supper in one of the shelters. We didn't happen to cook in the same shelter and when it started raining sat in the Jeep and listened to the news and radio until we turned in about 9.

Monday there was fresh snow on the mountain tops and it was raining lightly. So after cooking breakfast we started along. Had quite a morning as we stopped to help a couple having car trouble and in the end towed them 13 miles to the Saskatchewan Crossing. It wasn't easy as the rope broke about five times and it was slippery but we got them there alright, then waited for nearly an hour to see what could be done. no mechanic there and the telephone was out of order, so they couldn't send for extra parts. but they could sleep and eat there which was better than just sitting by the road. It was clearing so we went on and cooked lunch in a pouring rain at the Waterfowl lake,

It was a good chance to try the different campsites and we also picked out likely spots for sketching someday, maybe this fall. However it seemed to have really settled in to rain so we went on to Bow Lake and then spent a half hour there wondering if it was worth staying or had we better come back to town. We finally came on in <sup>home by 6.30 P.M.</sup> and just as well for it snowed the next morning and we couldn't have done much except sit and talk.

Instead got quite a bit done here, the Harriers came in yesterday on their way back to California and we have seen Edmee and Pearl. Edmee just loves the book " Little boy lost " she is feeling better but still some pain. We saw Carl Rungius this



afternoon. It is nearly bedtime so won't write much more now. Am not sure where we will go when we do head out, but perhaps we will try Yoho or Moraine Lake or maybe back to Bow Lake.

Told Sam you said it was cold, 72° that day, He said "Tell your mother we are a good 30 degrees colder than she is" and so it was the last few days.

Am sorry to hear that Mary has gone and hope you have good luck in getting someone else to come.

Yes .I remember your mentioning the Boveys and their very modern house with big windows. We liked the boy so much.

Our bills still all come the first of the month or first week, does make it easier paying them at one sitting so to speak.

Lots of love from us both,

Catherine

P.S. Thursday. An east wind last night & to-day so we haven't gone out. Maybe I'll get some letters written.



NUM-TI-JAH

Lodge LTD.



BOW LAKE, ALBERTA

Via LAKE LOUISE POST OFFICE

Sun. Aug. 28 1954.

Dearest Mother,

We are back up at Bow Lake once more & as usual had unexpected company at the last minute. Friday it started to ~~clear a bit but the~~ <sup>cloud overcast again</sup> thought it would be better to let the bushes dry off a bit. We got a few things together & thought to make a good start Saturday morn. I did a wash & Pete fixed panels etc. Was busy morn in the late afternoon when Ernie Storn arrived with an old friend going out to Assiniboine with him next day.

Do you remember years ago when the serum was taken to Nome <sup>Alaska</sup> by dog team driven by Leonard (?) Seppela? Well he was the man. A most interesting little person - part Norwegian & part Finn I think for he was born near Tromsø in Norway. Went to the gold rush in Nome in 1900 & has worked for all sorts of interesting explorers etc. like Amundsen & Lincoln Ellsworth & he was with Will Rogers 2 hours before he was killed in the plane crash. He likes to tell stories & tells them well. We hadn't anything special for supper but left overs as we knew we'd be going out, so took them both to dinner at the Homestead. Bobby White waiting on us. Seppela told us about



racings dogs in New England. The first race he was in was at Poland Springs & he was really amosup (?) telling about it. The week before he was with Walden (?) at Wonalancet. (I think George Foss used to know him) His dogs had been on display in various department stores & sports shows for Christmas so were out of training & he took them out for short runs, a few more miles each day. & each time Walden & his team would overtake him & go by. But of course Seppela wasn't working his dogs to ~~far~~ hard but everyone thought Walden would beat him.

So after a week of training they set off for the race at Poland Springs. using 9 dogs each I think. When the race started for some reason Seppelas dogs went over a bank & it took him several minutes to get them untangled & back on the trail. & he heard people in the crowd saying things about "Poor little man with those little dogs, he'll never catch up." He's just a tiny fellow & his dogs were small too.

A little further down the trail they went by a house with a lady in the kitchen, ~~she~~ frying lamb chops, the door open. The dogs smelled them & made a dash for the back door. He couldn't stop them. The woman fainted & the lamb chops disappeared in that order. Well, he got going again down the trail, it was a 30 mile race & he had lost a good deal of time. Next thing he overtook Miss Richer & her team. She let him pass but ~~he~~ evidently couldn't hold her dogs & they kept on his heels & were getting mixed up with his dogteam. & she couldn't keep up. <sup>himself</sup> Some how he kept them apart or held her team back until she caught up



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BOW LAKE, ALBERTA

Via LAKE LOUISE POST OFFICE

but almost had his team run away from him. He first barely held onto the sled from what I could gather & was stretched out behind. He told it all in very good English but quite an accent. It was great fun & of course he won the race. He wanted to tell us about the next one in New Hampshire but Elsie was in a hurry, so we may see Sappela & hear about it when he comes back in! We seemed to have so much in common & he did love to talk.

Next morning, Saturday, was lovely & we were going to have an early lunch & be off! About 11 A.M. the Kenneth Forbes called. We haven't seen them for 20 years or more. They were out here painting then. He is about the best portrait painter in Canada. They lived in Toronto, have just given up their studio & are travelling about. The daughter paints now. is married & ~~lives~~ painting in Toronto. They are both very keen & interested & she is a great talker & we talked ~~about~~ <sup>until</sup> & looked at pictures & sketches until after one o'clock. Again we hadn't much for lunch & they knew we were going out. but it was after 2 when we ate & 3.30 by the time we left Banff. As it was the weekend we decided to come on up here as John & Moraine Campgrounds might be crowded.



Came right straight up. It was a lovely clear day. Made an supper by the lake shore & then came over to the Lodge. The Boler from Eureka, California were here. Have known them other years & they are great fun. He paints a bit. Made a very amusing sketch for the Simpsons & signed it "Duke of Eureka" & they have it on one wall way over in a corner.

One day a Calgary lady came in with a friend & told her about the paintings by famous people & started showing the friend around the rooms. Pointing out this picture & that, the Rungius - Belmore Brann. Charlie Russell etc. Then she came to the little sketch by Mr Boler. Went up close to read the signature. read "Duke of Eureka" & never batted an eye. - first another famous person she figured!

We had neighbors camping on our little road & this morning found he was a Prof. of Languages at the Univ. of Edmonton, a German I think. Ernest Reinhold & his wife Ruth. They turned out to be very nice, on their wedding trip. The starter on their car didn't work & in the end after some pushing we towed them to start them off. The day was rather dull so with so much going on we didn't sketch this morning but tried after lunch. The light was hazy & not too good so we are hoping it will be better to-morrow -

am writing while this lots of people are talking round the fire so this won't be much of a letter. I'm afraid. Had very interesting one about the Dutch people coming to see the garden & one having lived in Bali & how they were looking for Russell. wasn't



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BOW LAKE, ALBERTA

Via LAKE LOUISE POST OFFICE

that interesting? Do you have the one from Bali's name - a Dutch boy at the C.P.R. station named Ekker lived in Bali for a year after the war & am sure he would know her for it is a small island & only a few Dutch people, of course none now.

It's rather hard writing & listening to all sorts of interesting stories at the same time. We park the car on a little road leading to the lake shore where they get gravel & it is quiet & nice. Then we eat breakfast on the gravel beach & its lovely for the reflections are beautiful before the winds comes up.

Soon will be bed time. Don't know how long we will stay this time or whether we will go further up the road. Depends on the weather.

Loads of love

Catharine.



Don Lake -  
Sept. 2, 1954

Dearest Mother, We've been wondering how you weathered the Hurricane? Sounded like a terrific storm. We just heard a bit on the Radio but haven't seen a paper with much detail.

Went in Tuesday to Bayliff as it was raining hard & then it cleared so out we came again. The weather was lovely yesterday & again today & we hope it stays - if it does we will maybe stay over Labor Day.

999 stop suddenly. It's because there is a chance to get this mailed. Had two fine letters from you when we went in so I have the feeling you are



O.K. Hope at the time of the  
Hurricane you weren't all  
alone -

When the weather started  
to be frequent rain squalls  
Monday afternoon, after painting  
in the morning, we thought we'd  
try the fields again. It was  
lovely going up & then after  
supper in the campground  
we had a terrific thunderstorm  
& thought it would clear the  
air, but next day it was  
settled into a heavy rain.  
So we started on down the  
road. The waterfalls were  
lovely. We sat a while but  
it was still pouring so we  
decided to go back to Baff  
in time for mail & ~~to~~ buy  
supper. Worked just right  
but as usual had company.  
Loads of love. Catherine



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BOW LAKE, ALBERTA

Via LAKE LOUISE POST OFFICE

Sat. Sept. 4, 1954.

Dearest Mother,

Another rainy day. wrote 6 long over due letters yesterday while Pete struggled with a sketch the water dripping off the umbrella & down his neck. Finally he had to give up when the rain got mixed up with the paint. Its so slimy. Usually when it pours all day he is ready to go home but we are trying to wait this one out & see if it won't clear. Too bad for the Labor Day weekend but they say sunny skies to-morrow.

Have been anxious to hear about the Hurricane. Jimmy was in Banff yesterday & brought your letter written last Sunday the 30th so the next one should give us the news. Do hope Russ & family were alright but believe they were on high ground. We haven't had a paper since Tuesday morning & not much in that.

It's too funny our recent trips. Last one we didn't do much, in fact its hard to remember except for our first trip when we had 5 days of paintable weather. It clears & we gather fresh food & pack our things into the jeep & get away in the afternoon, by the time we see to everything arrive too late to start painting. The first day is usually



nice, then it clouds over followed by a couple or more days of rain & in we go again, only to have it clear next morning. It's been the wettest August since ~~1889~~ 1889 except for  $\frac{1}{50}$ th of an inch in Calgary. They have had over 9 inches of rain there this year - & that's a lot for Sunny Alberta!

Last trip the second day dawned clear & fine, it got a little milky to the west, then darker & within half an hour it had clouded over & was pouring enough to blot out the mountains. & from then on it was clear for short periods & heavy showers. We couldn't do much so in the afternoon about 3.30 we decided to try the Icefields where it seemed to be clearer. No rain & a nice drive up where we could see the mountain tops, moose in the lakes & lovely effects.

Had an amusing stay in the camp grounds where one couple with a collapsible trailer & Baby were too. He just barely got the roof on the trailer when a storm started, a pouring rain. Baby didn't mind at all. A farm couple had their truck fixed with a box like a car so they could sleep & cook in. Another family from Oregon with 2 little girls & a tent, they also just got up before a 2nd heavy rain. & two California ladies sleeping in a station wagon as we do. We had a terrific thunder storm that evening & it rained all night. There are shelters where one can put on a wood fire & be warm & dry, so we cook & eat in those in stormy weather.



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BOW LAKE, ALBERTA

Via LAKE LOUISE POST OFFICE

As it rained all next day we headed home, stopped here hoping it might clear! but at 20 to four decided we could just make Banff before the Post Office closed at six. which we did, even had time to get a steak for dinner. That evening Ted Goodall came in to return paper he had borrowed & we took him home about ten. It was a long day. we had hoped to shower & go to bed early. Next morning we packed up while Sam was over & Barbara in. Had to have something adjusted on the car too. Made a sandwich to take & then when it was 11.30 decided to eat it at home. It cost us \$16. for first as we were through Tom Kagiants arrived. his wife had just died a few days before. Seamus after writing us that letter she decided she was ready to die. She prayed that she wasn't afraid to die & that she would go either Friday or Sunday. She died early Sunday morning, which was a good sign Tom said, to be taken on a Holy Day. He had some photographs of her & some beaded leggings, a debt to pay at the store, he needed \$16.00 so about all we could do was to buy the leggings for that. He had said she wanted us to have her costume but we are wondering if Tom will give it to us or not! perhaps



we will have to keep it piece meal. We did get away finally after going for the mail & getting your 2 nice long letters & were up here by 3:30. It was a lovely day so we started right in to sketch. Oh. I forgot. when we went to the bank about 10:30 we met the Castles of Honolulu. She was having an ankle x-rayed at the Clinic & they said they would be up to Bow next day.

Thursday was the loveliest day we've had so we sketched at the Coral. didn't really finish for we thought it a good chance to have the Castles to lunch with us. They have done so much for us in the past. Pete got a better sketch than I. He improves with each one & I seem to be getting worse!

The Castles arrived at one. we had a nice visit during dinner. then they visited with the Seymours & took pictures, while we were so full of food we talked to Walter Ashdown in the sun. He always drives them up. By the time they left it had clouded over & we didn't try to paint again as it was nearly 4.

There is a couple from Eureka California. Nelson Bowles & his wife. a most interesting couple. very interested in painting & he sketches himself. He told us that his ancestors came over the Oregon Trail among the very first. In fact were the 2nd wagon. They walked all the way. In the first 2 or 3 years they had no trouble with Indians who were friendly until misused by the white man. When they got to Portland, Oregon his great grandmother or great great grandmother who was 101. said



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BOW LAKE, ALBERTA

Via LAKE LOUISE POST OFFICE

"I have ~~now~~ done what I set out to do & I will see to-night" and she did. It was strange his story & one of the Indians was so similar.

We really thought the weather was settled Thursday but that night a thunder storm & pouring rain & it has rained pretty steadily ever since.

The Bowles have been fun to talk to as he has a great sense of humor, & now there is an English family. Nick Las Joy & his wife from the British Embassy in Washington & his father & mother from the old country. The Jays were in Saigon. Indo China for 3 years until last October. We talked to them last evening. They went to the Icefields today.

Mr Simpson was just by & said if you are writing your mother, you give her my very best wishes & to your brother & family too.

I better do a few notes now if I can.

Have written too much in this I guess. We think we will take the cabin ~~gables~~ & paint from the porch. The Bowles just vacated the one we like best so we will move in. Loads of love from us both

Catharine

P.S. He was fun having the picture of Rusty. Very good we thought. I'll really answer your letters next time



Banff, Alberta.  
Wed. Sept. 8, 1954

Dearest Mother,

Haven't had a chance to write you since we came home Monday afternoon, I should have sat down right away and started a letter. But from five on we had nine callers in the next 24 hours and last night two more!

We were relieved to get your letters and find that the only damage in Concord was from falling trees, but you never mentioned whether Russ and Family were at Essex or Concord and if their boat and house were damaged or not. Naturally our newspapers didn't give many details and we haven't gotten the ones of last week as Mr Scott picks them up for us when we are away and now he is away and I haven't had a chance to go and look for them in his house, for I have the key to water the plants.

It must have been very frightening for you all alone so to speak and no lights, is it all rain and wind? or does it thunder and lightening at all and how long does it last? you see we have never been in one, only that tornado thing coming across the country that spring. I expect it must be like that only more so. It really is fortunate that the elms and big trees didn't fall on roofs and houses. We heard recently from Lucy Kerr in Ilkley, England where they have a lovely old house, 300 years old I think and she has the loveliest furniture and antiques, everything kept polished up, and this summer with all the rain a brook overflowed and went on the rampage or something and came right down a small hill and through their house leaving a foot of silt and muck over everything and they had an awful time cleaning up the mess.

We just got another letter with all the interesting clippings, it is now 3 o'clock Wednesday afternoon. I will just have to make this a brief account of our doings the last few days.

We tried to sit out the rainy spell at Bow Lake and though the effects in the mornings were lovely they lasted such a short time we couldn't really paint them, and then it would rain most afternoons. We moved into a cabin Saturday for two nights and then when there seemed no chance of it clearing we came home after lunch on Monday, I was anxious to see what you had written about the hurricane and we just made the postoffice by 5 minutes. We had hardly come into the house when number one caller came, some man from Brazil wanted to "interview" Pete and Ted Langridge was to ask Pete for a time. We said we would let him know but since then decided not to get mixed up with the man having heard a bit about him. We had supper and were just finishing when Susan Mather came over, she leaves for school the next day. She was still here when Betty Newton, the little girl who went out to Concord to see you and was sick and had to lie down, dropped in. She wants to go to Boston to study writing this winter, so Susan left and we talked to her, then Eldon Walls came about store business and Betty left. Eldon was here until nearly 10. so We were rather weary by the time we went to bed.



Tuesday we were up early as I wanted to get a wash going before we took Susan to the train as we had promised with all her bags etc. Grace went too so we had to bring her back home, and did the shopping. Then home to hang up one wash and start another, It was still over cast so not too good a day for drying but I wanted to get the things washed so we could go out again, Then over town to do more errands. We had an early lunch, ~~after 2am had a very late lunch~~ and were just in the midst of it when Nick and Willée Morant arrived, they have been away all summer and back a week and so came in when they saw the car. We had had hamburgers, so as they had a steak for theye lunch they just dropped it into the pan and ate with us. It was 3 o'clock when they left, but Nick dried all the dishes while we all talked like mad.

Then to the mail after a call from Mildred and the grand-child, forget if she came before or after we went but and Barbara was over later and Sam came in after four to tell us of several old people who had all died last week, I also did some ironing just before supper which made us late having supper and we had just finished the soup and starting on salad when Dr and Mrs Robinson came to return a book. They hardly ever come, were just to stay a few minutes, it was only seven but they eat their dinners out so must have come from the hotel, but they stayed until 8.30 and I must say the salad was pretty soggy by then. It was nine when we finished supper. So you see it was quite a day.

This morning we were up before 8 as we went to Lake Louise to see the Castles off on the noon train west. They had wanted us to visit them at Lake Louise on our way back from Bow Lake but we felt too dirty the day we came down to call at the hotel and could' n't get up yesterday. It worked well, got some fruit at the store and found that Brazilian man was still looking for Pete, left a message but wouldn't call on us before 10.30 A.M. so as it was nearly ten then we dashed home and got away before 10.15. Took our lunch and ate it after the train left. They were down at the station in good time and their train was late so we had a nice visit with them and even showed them the sketches we had done at Bow, they aren't very good except for 2 that Pete did.

So now we are back, have gone for the mail and met lots of Banff people we haven't seen all summer, the season is over and the main street very quiet, few cars on the road. The bad weather has driven most everyone away. It was still stormy at Lake Louise and overcast here too. Mr Paris says he never remembers so much bad weather at a stretch in summer.

Must get one more letter away. so loads of love

from us both

Catharine

P.S. We hope to go out in the next few days if it only clears.

no time to read over



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BOW LAKE, ALBERTA

Via LAKE LOUISE POST OFFICE

Sat. Sept. 11, 1954.

Dearest Mother.

It seems as if we could only have 2 good days in succession & then it storms again for several. A little discouraging for painting but we keep trying. We should have come out again Thursday & I don't know why we didn't make a bigger effort. & here you are in the midst of another hurricane. Hope it isn't a bad one this time.

We went in last Monday after lunch then Tuesday was rainy & I did get some things washed. Wednesday was fairly nice but poured in the afternoon. We went up to Lake Louise to see the Castles off on the train as we hadn't gone to the hotel to call on them. When I went to the store there was a message from a Brazilian who wanted to see us. <sup>to have an interview</sup> He was at the summer school. something to do with "cultural relations" between Canada & Brazil. The word ~~to~~ "Culture" always puts us off a bit. He left a note for



us & told them at the store he wouldn't call before 10.30 A.M. So we made sure we would be away by then & left a message we would be going to Lake Louise. Had a picnic lunch but could see it was going to be stormy west all afternoon.

When we got back to Banff about two o'clock. we did errands, got the mail & then put the jeep away & kept the gate shut to look as if we were out. & no one came. After supper we went to see how Edna's Moore was, thinking we could then come home early which we did & so avoided the Brazilian. Pete just had a feeling we didn't want to have him come, he seemed so anxious & yet had been in Banff all summer & never called on us. Actually I should have stayed home & done the bills & other things but we had thought of going to see Dick Birds pictures Thursday night at the Banff Springs, his last showing. I would start out again early Friday morning! Had some checkups to be done on the car too.

Thursday was quite nice in the morning & lovely & clear by afternoon. I washed wooden shirts & had these to iron & also washed some other things. Pete fixed panels in the morning. then he saw someones saddle horse roll on the lawn which doesn't help it & so went out to chase it away & just then I noticed a man walking along on side of the road by the river & thought. "I'll bet it's the Brazilian" & meet him



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BOW LAKE, ALBERTA

Via LAKE LOUISE POST OFFICE

knew someone was talking to Pete on the drive way. It was the Brazilian all right. Seems he had been here Indian days but heard none of their music. Hadn't thought or known about the evening concerts they put on & was very anxious to hear the music to compare it with that of the Indians in Brazil. Marmie Hess had told him in Calgary that we had recordings. He was so anxious to hear them. So Pete said we would let him know a good time. It was then our lunch time. So we finally said to come at 3.30 & we would give him an hour as we had a lot to do to get ready to go out again.

We rushed around & were ready by then & he came. He talked such a lot to begin with that I thought we'd never get a recording played. He seemed very surprised to see our paintings on the wall "But you must have studied some where to do this". Evidently didn't know we were artists. I got tea while the recording was going & we asked Sam in as usual for tea. We turned off the recorder & got talking about building & the man launched into a regular lecture on Brazilian Architecture, talking as if



none of us knew anything about it. Sam  
 knows more than most people about "arches"  
 "stresses & strains" & what can be done in  
 concrete & how famous buildings in London  
 were built etc. & it really was amusing. However  
 it was well over the hour & go up on for five-  
 Sam got away & we said we were sorry but  
 we had some things to do before the stores closed  
 & could we drive Mr Cavalli home? He was  
 glad of the lift & we dropped him off ~~at his place~~ <sup>at his place</sup>. But  
 he never asked us anything about the Indians.  
 Did comment a tiny bit on the music in the  
 beginning, but once started on Brazilian culture  
 didn't ask anything more about Indians or their  
 music. & when we left him hardly said thank  
 you. We felt as if he had checked us off as  
 one more thing done. Still can't make out why  
 he was so anxious to come to our house in the  
 first place <sup>for an interview</sup> ~~because~~ he kept saying he came  
 through the Brazilian Embassy & perhaps it was  
 to his credit the more houses he was invited  
 to. We were sorry we had bothered to have him  
 down at all for he turned out as we expected.  
 There are quite often such people traveling  
 around. A damned nuisance. & they talk in  
 such a superior fashion about Art Music etc.

We didn't go to the Bird pictures that evening  
 deciding as the weather seemed to have cleared  
 to get out again as soon as possible & there  
 was still the checks to write etc.



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BOW LAKE, ALBERTA

Via LAKE LOUISE POST OFFICE

We left quite early Friday morning after paying up bills & a few errands. Had lunch at the Coral Creek campground & decided to try the Yoho Valley for a change as Pete has a picture of Cathedral he needs some sketches to finish. We hadn't been up there for 2 or 3 years & found a new road built at the further end - a great improvement & a lovely view of the Takahew Falls & the glacier at the end of the valley as you drive in.

We both drew in a sketch in a serpentine wash. There were quite a few clouds & the light changed constantly. But felt we had done something. Then spoke for a cabin at the junction of the roads near Field. & went out to Emerald Lake. The Chalet there is closed, but it was so lovely & peaceful. Someone in a boat way out on the lake but no one else about - only a few fish jumping to break the reflections. We wandered about the little cabins & it all looked lovely. We saw a beautiful bluejay - The size of yours but a deep blue. An almost black ~~top~~ crest shading down to an indigo tail. They are seen in B.C. but seldom on this side of the divide because of certain berries that grow there not here.



The evenings get dark early so a cabin is better & we cooked a good supper & relaxed.

This morning was nice after a hard rain during the night. We went back to the same spot to sketch but worked over some old sketches. It was pretty cloudy & we didn't do too well. Then a picnic lunch by the falls. Being ambitious we decided to try a different angle for an afternoon sketch. Pete tried painting in the deep to see how it would work & he was O.K. but I started outside. Was just nicely under way when little clouds started rising from the valley about the mountains & then a big storm came in & it rained the rest of the afternoon. Pete kept on with his but I had to stop & he didn't really finish his either. Then we decided to come on up here to Bow Lake & hope it would clear to-morrow.

Got here just in time for a wonderful dinner as the cook & all the staff has left & Mrs Simpson is doing the cooking. Have a cabin with porch we can paint from. Bed time so well end this.

Loads of love from us both  
Catharine.



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BOW LAKE, ALBERTA

Via LAKE LOUISE POST OFFICE

Sunday afternoon  
Sept 12, 1954.

Dearest Mother,

Such weather, lovely moonlight last night. Overcast this morning, wrote some letters. Sunny right after lunch & really thought it was clearing, now its almost snowing. Pete is working on an old sketch. we have a nice cozy fire in our cabin so thought I'd answer some of your letters, have a bunch with me -

Wonder if you got the last Hurricane. Haven't heard yet where it struck. You wrote about having to cut out trees for the view, but don't suppose the first Hurricane took all the right ones for that. Just the ones you didn't want to lose. Hope the lights didn't go out again! If you have many nice <sup>stones</sup> they should put them underground.

Mr Castle told us that his brother's wife's family had a big mill in Brimchendon, had been in the family since 1840 or some such date & at the time of the first hurricane in '38 (?) it was totally destroyed. The young members of the family who were running it then looked at the Insurance papers & found that from the very beginning the forefathers had carried hurricane insurance, so they collected the money & built the new mill in the South. but very few had insurance against damage from hurricane in the beginning. Wonder did Gill's company have to pay much out.



Guess Bunny Buttrick & Clare never did come up this way. or do you think they will show up yet? where were Russ & family when the Hurricane hit? Perhaps in Essex.

Too bad you didn't find a good person to take Mary's place. Had you ever thought of Nanny's daughter Gundild? Her last address was 20 Ericsson St. Belmont. About the Magazines. We get the Illustrated London News each week so don't bother to send it.

Thought that article on Jules Verne awfully interesting. read a couple of his books only. - liked "The Mysterious Island". We enjoy the clippings you send.

Wasn't that interesting about Cousin Emma's Raccoons catching moths & eating them.

Miss Caroline Park & Mrs. Conners Jr never came to see us. Sometimes they are on trips & their time all planned out & as we have no phone they don't get much chance to look us up.

The new kind of observation cars are sort of cut up. At the back a lounge part with glass perhaps but most people sit above in what they call a Vista Dome. holds about 24 & is all glass over head. underneath is a small bar with a few seats & a desk. One mural was over the desk. the other along the side. If Aunt Julie comes out by train next year these new cars should be on.

That was quite a family that slept in a station wagon when on holiday. looked a bit cramped to me from the pictures.

Mercelia Agnew certainly is thoughtful & I know how you enjoy short rides. Didn't know but he had built a swimming pool. How nice it will be for them.

About the bat. Anything I hate is a bat zooming back & forth over the bed. sounds so spooky too. We had quite a few until we plugged a tiny hole in our bedroom where the chimney was out. The sure & easy way to get them out is to place a lighted flashlight



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BOW LAKE, ALBERTA

Via LAKE LOUISE POST OFFICE

in an open window & facing the pitch dark room. The bat is attracted by the light & flies right out the window. Pete feigned it out & it worked twice for us & once up at Pete's mother's. There we put the flash light in the doorway which I held open the door, standing behind it & the bat flew out in no time from way inside the house. You have to turn out the house lights.

How interesting Frances to get having a Swiss boy for the winter. Where is he from? & how did they happen to get him.

I knew that Bunny's father did watercolors but didn't realize Mrs. Judy painted too.

Am glad Mildred's trouble is not serious. Over weight must be uncomfortable. I didn't realize that Cousin Jane could see well enough to read your letters, though your writing is nice & clear.

Tuesday. The weather hasn't been too bad. Monday morning was very windy & a few spots of sunlight, hardly enough to get any effect but we sketched both morning & afternoon. The weather is so very changeable it makes it difficult. This morning the same. Pete worked over an old sketch & a new one. I threw the bits of Kleenex I washed & wiped my brushes on under a spruce tree & just noticed a different looking white flower. Never have seen one before. About 6 or 7 inches high & a cluster of 5 or 6 little orchid blossoms. I got down on my hands & knees & crawled under the tree to smell it. It has the



loveliest perfume. There was just one.. I told Mrs Simpson about it & she came to look after lunch & she had never seen one either. Thinks it must be one of the 5 kinds of white dog orchid. She says there has to be both a male & female one for it to spread, other wise they die out.

The road out of Lake Louise is being constructed & there are some very boggy spots in it. So very few tourists are coming up the road - 2 people last night but that's all. Just the old one. Mary goes back to Omaha next week & they will close the lodge. Mrs Joan Simpson staying in the laundry building where they have water & toilets etc - until the road is officially closed.

If the weather doesn't improve we may go back home to-morrow, though to-night is quite nice.

I was thinking of Cousin Jane's eyes. Isn't one of her troubles that everything is dark - but not out of focus. With Pete's poor eye everything is blurred & out of focus so he can see forms but nothing clear with that eye. The new one (as we call it) is sharp & bright.

Wednesday. An east wind & the clouds have come in again so we have packed up & are going back to Banff after lunch. They close the end of this week so we won't be out again.

Expect there will be mail from you in Banff but will send this along.

Loads of love

Catharine.



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BOW LAKE, ALBERTA

Via LAKE LOUISE POST OFFICE

Banff, Alberta.  
Thurs. Sept. 16, 1954

Dearest Mother,

You have us in suspense from your last letter, mailed just before the 2nd. hurricane struck, but we believe by the paper that it wasn't as bad as the first one so we hope it didn't do any more damage in Concord. What a shame they lost so many big trees in Portland, for I don't think with the pavements and cement sidewalks that trees along city streets will ever grow as large again. The 1938 hurricane must have missed Maine, I can't just remember, except it took so many pines.

We came in just in time for it has blown from the east pretty steady and was cold all day, a misty rain but in Calgary it poured and they had an inch or more in other places. It was 36 a short time ago so it might snow to-night if it does anything, but after this storm we may get Indian Summer, some sunny weather would be very welcome.

We hadn't been back long yesterday afternoon when Linnie Becker came after school, she is ten and a dear little girl, so interested in the painting and wanted to help me make the blue-berry muffins. Then just as we were cooking supper Erling Strom and Jean Park the hostess at the Banff Springs dropped in, for some high boots she borrows to go to Assinaboine, but they didn't stay long and in the evening Eldon Walls came about renting the apartments etc. but had to go to a church meeting at eight. We rather expected Mr Seppella the dog musher to come down, but luckily he didn't so we got to bed early.

This morning I ran around with the duster while Pete caught up on things with Sam, then we went to the train and saw Mr Seppella away, the train was late so we were there quite a while, don't know when we have enjoyed meeting a person so much, he is 77 and bright as a button and lots of fun. We also saw a few others, the Moores down to see a friend go through etc. Then the errands. Quite a few things to see to. The Vallances are home, some slides to pick out at Nobles for another friend and so it goes. Sam helped us find some things Mom wants at the coast, he is so good about packing such things up and it saves us a lot of bother, then we had tea and got talking and that was the end of the afternoon.

We were very interested in the pictures you sent of the Hurricane, perhaps they will get a book of pictures out as they did last time, if so would love to see one.



There were 3 nice letters from you when we came home, as we had been away nearly a week. Too bad that Rusty got such a case of poison ivy, was there much damage at Russell's?

I will return the colored picture that Kitty took, you tell her we think it extra good and would love one for a Christmas present!

Friday. It was snowing when we went to close the gate last night but didn't stay on the ground - is low on the mountains this morning. It seems to be clearing in the west so will be busy getting ready to go out again Saturday. Am doing the laundry now so hope it dries.

Heaps of love from us both  
Catherine

W



Yoho Paule.  
Tuesday  
Sept. 21, 1954.

Dearest Mother.

Just a note if I  
can stay awake long enough.  
We have had 2 good fall days  
& so are out again sketching.

Before we came  
we got your letter about the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Hurricane & I don't wonder  
you felt tired & nervous.  
Must be quite an ordeal to  
go through. Was Russell's boat  
badly damaged?

We had thought  
of coming out Saturday & only  
had fresh milk & bread to  
get, but it looked too stormy  
& evidently poured hard all  
day Sunday at Lake Louise.



Saturday was fairly busy  
 for us. Sam was over. I did  
 a wash etc. Barbara was in.  
 + I think that was maybe  
 the day David Bearpaw &  
 Pete Labell arrived. Any  
 way we enjoyed a quiet  
 afternoon & Pete would work  
 on some pictures. Went for the  
 mail first. met Mrs Margaret  
 White who works for Eldon  
 Walls & lives in the Belmore  
 Browne house. She & her  
 daughter's arms were full  
 of bundles so gave them a  
 ride home. stopped to see  
 her sister. She has fixed  
 up very attractively. When  
 we got home Ann Bonchukle.



(one of the Ward Aides who was very good to Pete when he had the cataract operation & told him all her troubles) came to call with a Mr Blyth, an Australian & a great talker. She is working for him in Vancouver & they were en route to Edmonton for her two little girls.

Before they left, Georgie Paris who has just returned from ~~Vancouver~~ Hawaii & her father came. The others left but ~~Georgie~~ the Parrises stayed for tea & until quite late.

Then Sunday we had a quiet A.M. until Janie arrived & stayed until after lunch. The Vallances & Madge



(Mrs V's <sup>4</sup> ~~her little~~ sister from  
England) came in. Just back  
last week from the spring &  
summer in Europe. Brought  
me a lovely Liberty scarf that  
goes thru a little spiral clip  
at your neck. Really very  
nice & comfortable to wear.  
Pete a tiny Calendar from Lands  
End. They were at the house  
for about an hour.

When they left we decided  
to go out in case anyone else  
came. & see the Monarchs.  
had our coats on & at the  
back door when Mr Scott's  
granddaughter & husband came.  
To tell us about forwarding  
Mr Scott's mail. & we are  
sure would have stayed some  
time had we not been going  
out.



So up to the Morants but they had company so we went for a short drive. Had just got home when Bev came to return + borrow books. but she didn't stay long. Barbara was over too for onions. Quite a day -

X So when Monday dawned frosty + clear we got up early packed the jeep + were away by 11, I guess. It always takes time to see to every thing. We drove right to Louise + turned in on the road to Temple. ate lunch + then Pete sketched Temple Mt. from there + I did one of the <sup>yellow</sup> larches on the slopes of Paradise Valley.



Then we drove up to Lake Louise itself. first time in 2 years. Talked to Walter Fenz who was painting the boats. I heard one of the funniest remarks of the year.

As we walked to the edge of the lake looking at Lovell in the brilliant afternoon light & clouds rolling over the top of the glacier, a couple came along & the man walked up to Pete and asked "Is this all there is to see here." I couldn't look at Pete, who tried to think how to answer that one & suggested a climb to Lake Agnes.

We found most of the cabins closed for the season but the Temple View one near the station



So got a cabin with a fire-  
place. It was all the heat  
there was & none too warm.  
Mr Mac Dowell who runs  
things for Sir Norman Nelson  
runs it too & as we were  
eating supper dropped in to  
see us. Said he'd come back  
later. We thought he probably  
lived there too, but is at  
the Shi Lodge, so it was  
after nine & we were just  
thinking of turning in to be  
up early in the morning.  
When he returned & stayed  
until after ten!

We got up at 7 o'clock  
but it seemed to take ages  
to get the fire going & breakfast



cooked & a lunch made. the  
things packed up & some  
ladies given road directions.  
Must have been nine o'clock.

X It was 9.30 when we left  
Lake Louise to climb up to  
the Bee Hive, a half mile up  
& beyond Lake Agnes where  
you walked that time with  
Nell.

It was the first time Pete  
has tried to walk & carry a  
pack with the painting things.  
But we took it slowly & rested  
fairly often & it was about  
noon or a little later when  
we reached the Little Beehive  
over looking the Bow Valley.  
The larches were just  
changing & really lovely.  
The day pretty clear & warm.



Had lunch first & a rest but  
 before we could get started painting  
 3 people who run Storm Net  
 Camp arrived, & they were so  
 enthused about everything that  
 we got talking & wondered if  
 we would get started. Having  
 carried the stuff so far we  
 felt we should sketch but bet  
 I either had suggested just  
 photographing we would have  
 agreed. The girl was doing  
 a water color, her husband  
 taking photographs. & finally  
 we both set up the equipment  
 & did larches in front of Mt  
 Victoria & Lefroy. Worked over  
 two hours standing until  
 4 o'clock. & then set out for  
 Lake Louise with a few stops  
 for more photographs. It was



the first rough Mountain  
Trail Pete had gone up or  
down. The down part the  
most difficult as he can't  
tell heights very well. We  
got down after six & are  
thinking our muscles may  
X be stiff to-morrow. Then  
drove to the camp near  
Field where we stayed before.  
& knew they had a good  
store & it would be warm  
& no late callers.

So now to bed-time. &  
we hope it will be nice  
to-morrow.

Loads of love  
Catharine





Kimberly B.C.  
Thursday  
Sept. 23, 1954

Dearest Mother,

This is  
all the paper I can find  
but just in case you  
wonder why I don't write  
thought you'd like to know  
where we are. Yesterday was



a perfect day - Worent to stiff after climb to Beehive at Lake Louise, but a trifle lazy - Went up Yoho Valley & got started sketching about 10 & 10:30 ~~had~~ a picnic lunch & worked on a 2nd sketch of Cathedral in afternoon. Best day of all & worst sketches! Went back to same cabin early & to bed by 9 o'clock.

This morning got up before 7 A.M. & early start, but dull & cloudy. Drove to Emerald Lake & sketched reflection until wind & few rain drops stopped it. Pete suggested if I didn't mind driving group home by Kicking Horse to Golden where they are making fine new road, part of Trans Canada, one can get through bad spots from 12 to 12:30. So went to Golden. Saw Syd & Baeda Feng. Had lunch. Sent out there. Drove down Windermere (really up valley) which was beautiful. Trees just starting to turn. We really enjoyed it. As we went along we began to think we might as well keep group south to Cranbrook & east through Crowsnest pass & see the Campbells as we have been promising to go down.



So here we are at Kimberley & have  
 only 165 miles to their place to-morrow.  
 May stay for the weekend. Found a  
 nice motel here with bath, which  
 is helpfull. It seems funny to be this  
 far when we only started out to paint  
 Emerald Lake, but will be better  
 than trying to make a trip down  
 later on! & the weather was stormy  
 in the mountains. Will write  
 you all about it when we get  
 back. Loads of love  
 Catharine.





Banff, Alberta.  
Tues. Sept. 28, 1954

Dearest Mother,

We got home last night and really just in time for the weather has turned cold and snowy, the trees are mostly turned and the leaves will soon be falling.

Had a very good trip and it was fun being with the Campbells over the weekend. Friday was lovely and the drive across with so much color in the yellow trees and low red bushes made it extra nice. We telephoned from Fernie before noon to give them some warning, picked up food, fruit, and knowing it was El's birthday on Friday a present for her as well as the boys, though we never let on we remembered. Got to their place about 2.30 and Ian who is 5½ but not old enough for school was at the lower gate to open it for us. The other kids were at school and Gray maling a neighbor's straw but El was there and we had tea,

Did I ever tell you about the Pillings from Winnipeg? A young couple who wanted to ranch and who wrote to Gray after reading the book, They worked for someone all last winter but have ended by joining the Campbells. They and their two children, the girl, Dawn in Danes age and the little boy just six, a little older than Ian, so the kids have a wonderful time and all wide to school to-gether.

Looks as if I wouldn't have time to finish this to-day but will send this much so you will know we are back home. We were so glad to hear that Pietro and Mrs Peter are back safe and sound. Loved your long letter that came to-day and will answer in due time, We have had only 4 visitors to-day including one Indian.

Loads of love,

Calhounie



Had a wonderful long letter from you to day about Russ & Kitty going to a weekend Salmon fishing. Will answer it soon. Think you better keep those letters about father as Rusty might like to know more about his grand father & am sure Russ & I would like to see them again.

Banff, Alberta.

Fri. Oct. 1, 1954.

Dearest Mother,

Pete is busy cleaning the floor in the basement and the weather is dull and cold and if no one comes in for tea I may have a chance to tell you about our trip to Cowley. When we are away the people who couldn't find us in, come when they see we are back so it seems as if we had more than our quota of callers.

I wrote a note in Kimberley where we spent the night in a very comfortable motel, even with a bathtub which is unusual as most of them have showers. Left about 8.30 next morning for Cowley. It was a beautiful day and the color lovely. We stopped in Fernie and bought some fruit and meat and things that would be a treat we hoped to the Campbells and shirts for the boys and a Junior Mixer for Eleanor as we remembered Saturday was her birth-day also bread and cookies etc. then telephoned to ask if it was O.K. to come. It was 2.30 when we got to Cowley and at the Garage the man, Morris Lemire a great friend, telephoned again. When we got to their gate little Ian was there to open it for us, he is just 6 months too young to go to school this year which seems too bad as the little Pilling boy is six and so can go. They are great friends.

El was ready for us with a cup of tea and Ethel Pilling came over too. We hadn't met her before. She and her husband Ralph are from Winnipeg and living with their daughter Dawn, aged 10 or 12 and Wayne the boy six, in the cabin next to Gray and El. It is just far enough away so you would hardly know it was there but near enough to run in and out. They are raising pigs and Ralph who is a very handy man, being a good carpenter and mechanic etc. has built a wonderful pig house they call "Pillings Pig Palace" all built in pens inside for the various litters and a run outside for the pigs to exercise etc. It is quite a business for he is doing it in the proper way. Gray raises the feed on his land and they are to go shares on the pigs. It seems that wheat processed through pigs is worth twice as much, and they can also use the skim milk from the cows after saving the cream to seal or make into butter. One thing about pigs they can market them all the year round as they are grown, not like cattle which you sell once a year. It will mean income every month.

Gray was baling straw for a friend who had combined their wheat so after a while Ralph Pilling drove us down to surprise Gray and also for us to see the wonderful new tractor they got this year to pull the heavy machinery enabling them to farm twice as much and do more work in less time. All the Ranchers help each other as some have a certain plow or a combine or a big truck or trailer for hauling and by working together they can go more.



There is lots going on all the time and the kids came back ~~fr~~ from school on horseback about 4 o'clock, Dawn and Wayne ride together on one horse, Dane and Timmy on their own. We saw them start off Monday, each with a bag of books on their backs and their lunch pails too. *They leave at 8 AM. a ride of about 4 miles 1 way -*

We had rather a late supper, veal liver from a calf they had butchered recently and my but it was good. El is a wonderful cook and whips up rolls and banana cake and all sorts of good things, and she makes her ~~own~~ bread too. John and his father Jim Carney dropped in that evening to talk about harvesting, they had wonderful plans but with the turn in the weather they won't have been able to do any of it. *Gray's Ralph went haul wheat for them Monday as it came out of the combine & in turn John would swap this grain Thursday -*

We slept in the Jeep but they insisted we have breakfast with them. Saturday was El's birthday and as a treat they give her tea in bed with her presents, Gray had bought her a tiny radio so she could take it about the house where she was working and then we later took in the presents we had for them all, so of course the kids thought it was great fun. Gray had the cows to milk and then there was breakfast and washing up etc. He had to go off to help work some land so we helped El sack potatoes and a few odd jobs. Then we made a picnic lunch for them on the tailgate of the Jeep in the yellow trees and it was lovely and warm, we all got sleepy and so El agreed to take a nap, then she slept so long we hated to wake her to go and get Gray, but finally about four o'clock we did and he had been ready for some time but was still working. Had we only known he was finished earlier we could have gone sooner, but anyway he was anxious to take us to the Orrs, so we went on from picking him up. He also wanted to show us all their own land and crops as we hadn't been down since they acquired the Hutchins land.

The Orrs are another family who went out because of reading the book, they drove out this summer ~~time~~ with a large trailer and truck and their six children, all under ten by the looks of them. 4 girls, including twins and two little boys. Sheila, the mother was home and just getting supper ready to take to her husband and a man working in the fields cutting a tremendous crop of oats, We had tea and then went with her to meet the husband. They are so new to all the ranching but were fortunate to get a ranch which is all up to date with buildings etc. Whereas Gray and El have had to build up theirs.

Then on the way home we saw the wonderful crop of oats for the pigs and barley too that Gray had planted but won't be ready to but until the end of this week, now we are afraid it will be flat from the recent snow storm and whether they can salvage any of it I don't know. It is a discouraging business when the weather destroys a whole years crop in one blow.

We were late having supper and Ethel had made a cake and ice cream so they all came over and we had a real party in the evening, the five kids who get along so well together eating in the kitchen and we in their tiny living room, its a tiny house but very cozy and El has a knack of making it so attractive. She is the smartest person in so many ways. She cooks well, brings up the children beautifully, sews and makes most of their clothes, even making a



a very smart looking short coat out of what was left of my 20 year old light blue Harris tweed and her brown harris tweed. She made the shoulders and cuffs and pockets brown and it looked very smart. She is a good gardener too raising all sorts of vegetables and just the day before she had sewn a 12 acre field of winter wheat all by herself with the tractor. When you think of the Ripley Hill property as originally 20 acres it gives you some idea of a 12 acre field. Their oats are on a 65 acre field. Everything is done in a big way, but when you have a loss of a coop it is big too!

Sunday they try to take the day off unless it is an emergency. We were afraid we might keep them from some important job and had we known the weather would change so suddenly might have insisted they haul bales of hay though they were waiting for John Carney who had promised his big truck and trailer which would mean doing it in two trips instead of ten. Gray was so tired from a long week he slept in until nine. It was a beautiful day, the dogs started about 7.30 to bark at Coyotes and El got up to stop them and ended by bringing us tea in the Jeep when she saw our heads come up. Her father had done it on a previous trip we had made and she wasn't to be outdone by him!

We all decided to help Ralph build a run for the pigs which he couldn't do alone on account of stretching the wire and as Gray said he couldn't keep asking Ralph to take time to help in the work for the cattle without helping Ralph with the pigs. So we really had great fun all working together, not that we were much help except in handing and holding things. Seems that it is good for expectant pigs to get plenty of fresh air and exercise and with the run he can give the various mothers each a turn outdoors. El came out about 11.30 with coffee and cookies and then we all went in for a tremendous dinner. El had baked brown bread for Pete and a banana cake to take home as well as roast beef, potatoes, new ones and carrots, ~~parsnips~~ parsnips and cabbage fresh from the garden and seems to me we had pie too, and besides that she had been helping with the fence. Dane is only 12 but drives the small tractor very carefully and well and is a great help. After dinner as we started in again to try and finish the fence Pete heard Gray say to Ralph, We 'll stop for tea at 4 o'clock and Pete said it was 4.15 then, so we must have had a late lunch. Us girls took down an old fence and rolled the wire up to use on the new one but it was getting late and we couldn't quite finish the top and easiest part of the run. Gray and El were so anxious to take us up to the top of the hill where there are windswept tress and a wonderful view of the mountains and ranches off to the west. It was sunset and very lovely. *Gray still had the milking to do when we got back.*

Timmy aged 7 was so cunning in the morning, two of the horses had gotten out so he started off on the 3rd. named Pete, to round them up. He was gone nearly an hour I guess and then we saw a tiny figure coming over the top of the hill on Pete and the two horses in front. But evidently he isn't too experienced and didn't head them into the narrow part between the hills and once ~~one~~ of the lively horse (which has just been broken) saw the gate ahead he dodged off and Timmy being so little wasn't quick enough on Pete who is slow to head it off, and away they went, Timmy after them. Gray and Dane set off, Dane on foot and Gray in the little Jeep to try and help Timmy but they weren't in time either. Timmy is a good little rider just the same and loves it.

It really is wonderful to see how self reliant all the kids are,

while we helped build fence it was so sunny I wore the reds went swimming in the dam. - next morning hot 24 hours later it was pouring hard in the same spot



When we were up on the hill Gray said. "I hope Timmy remembers to bring in the cows." and sure enough when we got home Timmy had them ready to be milked. Ian's job was to keep the geese out of the garden. but they all help.

Sunday night was bath night so they would be clean for school, a big gray blanket spread on the floor in front of the stove and the tub on that, first Ian, then Timmy and last Dane's, but before Dane had his company came, the Carney's again about the work and it took ages for them to reach the real reason for their visit in the country manner, so we waited in the other room until they left and then having eaten such a large dinner we only had a very light supper, *as the kids were in bed by then.*

Ian was so cunning when he came to say good-night, hoped we would have a good sleep and "that the dogs won't disturb you" which I thought pretty thoughtful for a 5½ year old. Another thing he said when we opened up the back of the Jeep for the picnic lunch, he asked if we had brought our "pantry" with us, which after all is just what it is.

They have a good arrangement for a ranch kitchen, only the stove is in the room and a big dining room table at one end. two very comfortable chairs in the sitting room end, then ~~all~~ the sink and pump and all the dishes and food preparation is in the pantry just off by the stove and the mess is all in there, and when you wash up it is out of the conversation.

We left about nine Monday morning, it was clear but a few clouds coming over the hill and when we rounded the hills by the school we could see the Rockies with a few little clouds below the peaks, the kind we have seen so many of this August and Sept. and then the rest was all heavy black clouds that looked like rain. The kids had left for school and Gray and Ralph had gone to help drive trucks to haul the wheat coming out of the combine hopper for the Carneys and only El. Ethel and Ian saw us off. loading us down with good things from the ranch, fresh butter & cream, banana cake and brown bread, milk & preserves. When we got to Cowley town we asked about a short cut to the mountain road from Coleman to Kananaskis, but were advised to go to Coleman even if longer by the good road, which we did. We had to sign out as it is a forestry road and leave the note in a little box for the purpose, but in half an hour we were back signing in another place. We had only gone up about 5 miles when a snow squall hit us, we could see little with the low clouds and decided it would be foolish to buck snow for 140 miles and only 2 game wardens in all that distance. So turned round and were back in Cowley just 2 hours after we had left. The garage man said he would telephone El where we were going and off we set for Banff via the highway to Calgary. We drove steady except for a short stop for lunch in the Jeep, and it took us just 6½ hours, we got home just 5 minutes before the post office closed. It rained a good part of the way, traces of snow on the Cochrane Hill near Calgary and a lot of snow on the mountains so we were glad we had avoided that part which as the road goes to over 7000 feet and near tree line. The color was wonderful near Banff Morley, just masses of trees turned and sort of a light that made the color rich.

Had no callers that night but we were rather tired as it was over 300 miles doing the extra miles to Coleman and back. but ever since we have had company every afternoon and no chance to write.

Lots of love, for this part of the letter -  
Catherine.

*By the time we returned we couldn't see the Porcupine Hills for it was snowing so hard up there.*



Banff, Alberta.

October 5, 1954.

Dearest Mother,

Am not sure how much of a letter this will be as we were already to go out when Sam came and he is down in the basement with Pete looking at a few leaks in the cement which Pete has been trying to stop. Thought if they looked and talked long enough I might get a letter off to you! So if it stops abruptly you will know they came up and out we went to the Post Office.

Am so glad you have been having lovely weather but expect you may get our cold wave before long which will mean a very heavy frost. It snowed Saturday night and we had five inches on the ground and trees Sunday, but the fact the ground is still white and there is still snow on the branches with a few little icicles where some has melted in the sun, you will know it isn't very warm. In fact yesterday and to-day it was just 5° above zero at 8 A.M. and never got warmer than 25° above yesterday but to-day was 32° by noon. Just hope the snow goes so we can cut the larkspur down and sort of get things ready for winter. They say it is to warm up to-morrow. It will be the latest harvest since 1951 and that was the latest on record when many farmers didn't harvest until spring.

We had a wire from Gray and El and the Pillings two pigs which weren't any special breed and which they call the "Dead End Kids" both had their litters the same night and 21 pigs in all. Ralph was a nervous wreck and up all night! They have quite a time with the pigs. Ralph has built a wonderful wooden "Pig Palace" as they call it with pens for the various sows and little pigs, then they will move out into little houses as the pigs get old enough and I think they market them when they are about 200 pounds. They feed them very scientifically and all the latest formulas like babies! To start off with Someone sold them a tremendous sow they call Rita but she produced a good little and there were 8 of them when we were there, she stepped on a couple or rolled on them I think. Then they got two purebred Sows, for eventually they want to have only the best. They got them from a man <sup>now a farmer</sup> who usually sells all his to the University experimental farm for \$100.00 each whereas the ordinary pig sells for \$40. 6r\$50. I think. and of course if you have a good breed there is always a good market for them. We bought one of the purebred Innis sows and Ralph got the other. We thought it would give them a start. and since then two aunts of Grays have offered to buy one each of the \$100. ones and then they will be paid back later out of the first litter. I think they will even name the sows after the aunts. Quite an idea!

They are still talking downstairs! don't know if there is time to answer your letters, the one yesterday had the 3 lovely pictures of you which I am delighted to have. I don't think you look cross, only rather serious. I am glad to know you have the dresses in the attic yet. You always do worry me when you start to clean out things for so many things that don't interest you are very interesting to the rest of us. Even if Russell did have to look over some things



he wouldn't have to do it in a short time, and how do you know but that Gale or Rusty might be very interested when they are grown up? There are lots of things I would hate to have you dispose of and does it really matter so much if they are in boxes if they are left up there for a few more years? Do keep the letters written about Father, some would be very nice to have. But don't you read them over, just put them in a box and mark them for Russ and I to see later on.

It was nice you had such a lovely ride with the Stimsons and could see the bolor. This snowstorm came just when ours was half turned and now it is all a muddy yellow and some trees still a dirty green though the mountains are lovely and white with snow. We were out the west road yesterday and there were hundreds of ducks in the open water, all bobbing upside down to find food.

Here they come now so will continue in my next.

Loads of love,

Catharine



Banff, Alberta.  
Fri. Oct. 8, 1954.

Dearest Mother,

At last our weather warmed up, but believe yesterday the cold spell reached New England with a sharp frost. Erling Strom was in yesterday noon and said that in the cold spell here it was -20 below zero at Assinaboine. Pretty cold for this time of year. It was 3 above Monday and 7 above Tuesday, but each day gradually got warmer. Never got above 25 Monday or 35 Tuesday, then Wednesday was in the forties and to-day 55 and has been even warmer on the 4rries. It has been cloudy with some sun but nice and mild.

The color this year just turned part way in those three days we were on the trip to Cowley. Sunday was evidently lovely here and then it stormed from Monday on, for a week it was bad, rain snow and frost. The funny part is that some trees are still a dirty green and the leaves haven't blown off other trees that were part turned. The leaves seem to have frozen as they were and aren't pretty at all so with the overcast weather the last few days we haven't tried to paint but have been doing things around the house to get ready for winter, like washing windows and this morning cleaned the gutters and but the larkspur down etc. We were washing windows this afternoon when Mrs Simson came in and we had a nice visit, she was surprised to see how much sketching we had done, stayed for tea.

This is the Canadian ~~Tankms~~ Thanksgiving weekend. They have it early to give a long weekend when the weather is still nice. the holiday is Monday. We are going to have a turkey to-morrow and Barbara and Jonny are coming over. Harold would but he is working at the Hot Spring pool where he worked all summer, will be on from 1-9 ~~sathxdays~~ each day. He was over to-night to show us some kodachromes he took on an overnight hike the girls and boys in highschool took to the Little Yoho. Jonny came too on his way to the first Junior high dance. He was so dressed up and his hair slicked down we hardly knew him from the usual manner of wearing any old thing. He had gotten gray flannels and a blue serge coat in Calgary last Saturday and he really looked surprisingly handsome.

Bubby left last week for Vancouver where she is an " interne " in Home Economics at the Vancouver General Hospital for a year to complete her course. I forget how many dieticians they have but it is quite a number and I expect wonderful training. Mostly supervising the trays etc. special diets too. She is to live with 3 other girls, 2 going to University and the other with her I guess. They have a suite 2 blocks from English Bay and a beach. Bubby is the kind who really enjoys life and knows so many people out there already, so different from the Stockand girls who are never ~~xxx~~ satisfied somehow, though they get jobs they never have enough to have a good time or seem to



have much fun. Bubby likes all kinds of people and all ages and has a wonderful time wherever she goes.

Davy graduated from school this June and has gone to Los Angeles to a school of music. He is so interested in it, mostly orchestras and saxaphones, clarinets, etc. He never took actual lessons but picked it all up himself and from the various members of the band at the Banff Springs, the same ones come back each summer and have helped him a lot. Can't say we think much of a saxaphone as an instrument but Davy practised by the hour and they say he is very good. Anyway it is the one thing he is most interested in and as Barbara says it is better for him to give it a try as he is young and plenty of time to go into something else later if he wants.

I'm busy trying to finish the plaid curtains so won't write more now.

Loads of love,

Catherine

P.S. Saturday. Have the turkey stuffed  
Barbara & family are coming at six.



Banff, Alberta.

Sun. Oct. 10, 1954

Dearest Mother,

Don't know how much of a letter this will be but will try and have something to post this afternoon. We are invited to the Vallances to a tea this afternoon, and Doris sister from England is here for a year, came back with them this fall as the Vallances were in Wales and England all summer, then we have to see Carl Rungius off on the train too.

There is a lawyer in Calgary named Eric Harvey and years ago someone couldn't pay him for work done and offered him some oil leases in payment, they weren't worth much then but might be some day. So Mr Harvey excepted them and about 15 or 20 years later I guess they were worth a tremendous amount as they struck oil. I don't know the details but he is said to be worth millions. He has given a good deal to the summer school here in buildings and has built a log museum for Luxton and just recently he has bought Carl Rungius house and land to be kept as a memorial to him. Carl is to lease it for a dollar a year as long as he lives but it is wonderful to think that it will be kept together with some of his pictures I expect. We don't know Mr Harvey but Charlie Beil who was down yesterday said he would bring him down someday as we would like him so much.

How is your weather? It is still mild but overcast most of the days this week. Had it been nice we would have gone off for the day. But there is always lots to do to get ready for winter and one never knows when the snow will come and stay. Cut all the larkspur down and have washed most of the outside of the windows. Mrs Simpson came as we were doing the workshop ones on Friday or we would have finished those. She hadn't seen the sketches we have done and we showed her those while we had tea.

Yesterday I stuffed the turkey before lunch and then started cooking it when we came back from the mail. Charlie Beil we saw at the post office and he came down to see the sketches and stayed quite a while. Patsy MacKenzie also came in for a short time and Harold was over later with Jonny. I think Jonny wanted to see how the turkey was doing. It came out O.K. Barbara the dogs and Jonny all arrived at six and we had quite a party. Just mashed potatoes and turnip, vegetable juice first and cranberry sauce, then ice cream and cake to finish off. Not elaborate in any way but it was fun having turkey. Then they stayed until Jonny had to go and Baby sit for Bev's baby and Barbara a bit longer.

Your nice letter came yesterday, I paid my dues at the Guild in June, thanks just the same. We were sorry to hear that you are feeling nervous, expect all the extra work caused by the hurricanes is worrying for you but don't really know what to suggest in the way of less care for you.



Aunt Julie wrote that the only thing that happened to her was when the window behind her blew out and she was glad it hadn't blown in. That must have been rather frightening, but she said she was glad she wasn't living in the Ripley Hill house to have all the fallen trees and limbs to worry about. There is a lot to be said for living in a couple of rooms. Of course when Uncle John died Aunt Julie was much older than you were when Father died and both Russell and I were living at home, and even when Russell was married you were more active and enjoyed the house and entertaining and he and Kitty wouldn't have wanted to live in such a big house right off likethat. In fact now-a-days no one wants a big place.

Erling Strom told us once about the way they do things on the farms in Norway and the big places. But they don't have enormous places or castles as some Europeans do, just big farms and lots of land which they keep in the family for generations. ~~When~~ It is the custom for the eldest son to inherit the farm, but he takes over after he is married. The father and mother (after their family is grown up and have left the home, all but the son who is to carry on) move into a small house on the farm, then the son with his growing family move into the big house which they presumably need for their children when they are growing up, and it is their responsibility to look after the old couple as long as they live. He was telling us in comparison to the farms in Vermont ~~which often have to be sold~~ where the old father hangs on until he dies, living in the big house and if a son is to carry on he never really runs the farm until the old man is gone, so his family has to be brought up in a small cottage most likely and he loses interest in the farm as he can't do the things in a modern way or in his way but only as the father wishes. Then most likely when the father dies the other children also inherit the farm and either the son farming it has to buy out their share or the whole place has to be sold in order to divide the thing. I thought it was rather interesting.

The difficult part for you now is that the house is really too big and there is too much care to the grounds, yet it is home for you and father wanted to have you continue to live there in comfort. Russ and Kitty feel more at home in their own house and from what Russ said your house would really be too big for them.

About the only thing I can think of for you to have someone live with you who would look after the things that are tiring and make you nervous, but it is hard to find such a person, and it would be hard for you to let them do it. You have planned the meals for so long and told Pietro exactly what you want in the garden, it would mean doing it all through someone else.

It seems that one has to give up one thing in life to gain another, for instance it might be nice to have someone cook for us or clean the house but we prefer to be alone and free to say what we like when we like and do things as we like and not at a regular time. and in the same way you might rather live in a small house right in the center of town, as Miss Hurd did, with the passing to watch and neighbors who would drop in often, but to do that you would have to give up your old home and garden. That is the trouble with Pete's mother, she naturally prefers her old home here which she really



shouldn't live in alone, but she doesn't want to give up her independence. By being at the coast she is looked after and is with the part of the family she most enjoys, but she misses her own home and friends here. She could live here but she won't have anyone with her. She will just have to give up one thing to have another.

I really think Aunt Julie was very wise to do what she did, it mean't giving up her home which she loved too but she gained in other ways. However she still loves to travel and visit people so gets away a lot , whereas you like to stay home more, so that makes a big difference.

It is now after lunch. Jonny appeared just as I was carving cold turkey, guess he enjoyed it last night for he has made a second meal of it to-day.

Loads of love,

*Catharine*



Banff, Alberta.  
Thurs. Oct. 14, 1954

Dearest Mother,

Thanks so much for the Globe book of Hurricane pictures, they are fine and give a much better idea of the destruction etc. Also thanks for the envelope of photographs. I think they were a little too many for the one envelope for it was rather banged up, but none of the actual pictures were bent, only the matts. If there are any more papers or pictures to send it might be wise to put in some cardboard or maybe put them in a flat box. It must be hard doing things up without Jean, so come Christmas don't you bother. I was glad to have the pictures for some I had forgotten entirely. Thanks so much.

We have had one of those weeks when all the unexpected things happen. It started Monday which was a holiday in Canada, Thanksgiving Day. Barbara came down after lunch some time to say that young Cliff had just had a wire that his mother had died in Prince Rupert. That was Mildred, Cliff's wife and she had been in Banff all summer looking after the baby for Cliff and Bev while Bev helped at the Filling station. She went home just a month ago. Had a very high blood pressure and we think perhaps she worked too hard helping Cliff while his assistant was on vacation. Her father, mother and sister all died just as suddenly but it was quite a shock to us all. Cliff and Bev heard at 1.30 and left at 3.30 that same afternoon for Calgary and to fly to Prince Rupert. Barbara is sleeping up at their suite to look after the baby at night and a young married girl is looking after him during the day. Luckily the baby is so good natured and doesn't seem to mind who takes care of him. We rather expect them back to-day or to-morrow and then will know more details.

That same afternoon Charles and Sylvia Cheney and a Mrs Bullard came to call. One of the Brewster drivers had told us there was a Mr Cheney who had been at our wedding in Banff but he had told them he thought we were away. The driver has such an impediment in his speech that we weren't sure, and then with Mildred dying so suddenly we forgot all about them or would have looked them up. Anyway they came round and it was fun having them. Sylvia looks just the same as she always has, perfectly lovely. Mrs Bullard lives opposite Nell Tripp and said her husband was a great friend of Russell's, he died a year ago and she thinks it so wonderful of the Cheneys to take her along on this 3 week trip, for she said she and her husband never took any one with them when traveling. They came by C.P.R. and will go to the coast and Victoria and then were planning to return by the Kettle Valley route of the C.P.R., sort of winds around through the southern part of the province but the winter schedule isn't very interesting so we are hoping they return this way. We took them a short drive as they wanted to be back by 5.30 to telephone and we had company coming that evening. Bill Jamieson, his wife and mother.



It was a late evening for us as Mrs Jamieson was the kind so interested in everything, the house, the paintings and Indian things so we hardly sat down, and it was after 11 o'clock when they left.

We saw the Cheneys again in the morning and spent the time driving about town to the bank and Post office etc. trying to find the different ones but there wasn't time to drive for they left on the 11 something train and we saw them off. At the station Eldon Walls caught up to us and said that Ted Evans who has rented the meat market for ten years was definitely leaving and would we be agreeable to Joch MacCowan who runs the Grocery, taking over the meat business into his part of the store. It all happened so quickly and ~~that~~ then at four we went up to the Morants for tea, Hadn't seen Sam all day so drove home via the Wards and found he had a lame back, so talked there for a while.

Yesterday was also quite busy, the bank and a few things to see about changes to accomodate the meat business, then Sam came in the late afternoon to help Pete in the basement to figure the best way to fix a leak in the cement. I went to the train to see Dorothy Cranston off for Portugal and then in the evening the Tweedleys came and stayed until midnight. Now this morning Sam is here again to work in the basement and I thought I would just rattle off a bit of a letter to you.

The weather is supposed to be warmer so perhaps if so I can get the rest of the windows finished, we have to do some over as it rained and blew the other night and streaked the front ones.

Must get at the desk as there are lots of things to see to. How did Russ and Kitty enjoy the salmon fishing? Hope they had good weather.

Loads of love  
Catharine

P.S. If not too much trouble could you get us these 2 books? "Where the Clouds Can Go" by Conrad Rain & "The Victorian Mountaineers" by Ronald Clark. @ \$5.00 each. I think the Concord Bookshop could get them. We knew Conrad Rain years ago. He came to the house one time. You might enjoy reading his especially first. send them anytime before Christmas. Will send \$10.



Banff, Alberta.

Mon. Oct. 18, 1954.

Dearest Mother,

I think I have neglected you lately but the weather has been lovely and real Indian summer. They say it is the effect of Hurricane Hazel which has somehow stopped the flow of Arctic Air which was on its way and instead we have warm air from the Pacific, but we rather expect it to change back to normal anyway. It is 15 degrees above normal for this time of year and no frost at night, and up to 70 on the prairies but nearer 55 here which seems nice and warm. We are so glad for the farmers who haven't been able to harvest until recently and we have been busy too getting things done for winter for it could settle in anyway, ~~now~~.

It was mild all last week but overcast most of the time but since Friday it has been sunny. Sam and Pete spent one day, Friday in the cellar caulking cracks in the cement which we think were widened by some blasting they did in the spring, the blasts were much too large and shook the houses. I used the day to wash and also did the outside of the studio window which we can't reach very easily. It hasn't been done for a couple of years, but I rigged up a bamboo pole with a viscose sponge thing on the top and could just reach the top window nicely without having to stand on anything, so did them all. It was easy and I was pleased.

Did I tell you the government are putting curbs along either side of the street between us and the main street. It is quite a job. The McLeods to our left have a curb two feet above their lawn and on the further side the street was lowered with such scraping until the curb is two feet below the old dirt sidewalk, so you can see it is a major operation. We are lucky and ~~the~~ old house above us the curb is about 6 inches above the walk and Mom's house is just about right. But such a lot of trucks and men and road scrapers and loaders and Barbara hasn't been able to get into her house by the driveway for 3 weeks or a month. However it will be much nicer when finished. Each evening we take a run around to see what the men have done and each evening we have had the most wonderful sunsets except for to-night. Friday was the best and we had no camera but Saturday we went out the west road first and it was very lovely and all reflected in the lakes.

Sunday, yesterday, we decided if it were nice we would take a picnic lunch and go out for the day, but when we woke it was very dull, so Pete started working on a Christmas card and I put stuff on my hair and we thought we would be in all day, but it started to clear, I made tea and sandwiches and by 10.30 we were away. It got sunnier all the time and was lovely. It was the last day the Jasper road was opened to the public so we drove up a way to see how they were getting on. They have the first 6½ miles nearly graded and we hope they get at the rest planned for this year, another 5 miles anyway. Didn't see another car until we turned around about 15 miles up and one from Connecticut came along, then a Washington car and one from North Carolina or some such place. No Alberta cars at all.



We also went to Lake Louise to see how it would be for sketching but it was cold and forbidding as the clouds were low on the glacier at the back and the sun hidden. Then we got home about 4 or earlier figuring we would rake leaves or some such thing here. Had hardly got the wheel barrow out when Susan Mather up for a weekend and Joyce a friend from Jasper and Patsy arrived so we had ice cream we were just going to eat ourselves. They were still here when Bev came down with the baby to tell us about their trip to Prince Rupert, then Edmee came for a minute to ask if her mother could bring Mr Eric Harvey in the evening as he wanted to meet us, so by the time Bev left about six and we had a quick supper and changed from dungarees and tidied up the house a bit. Pearl and Mr Harvey arrived and another man. He has just bought Carl Rungius House to have as a memorial to Carl after he died but for Carl to use as long as he lives for a rental of \$1.00 a year. Think I must have told you about it. Seems such a wonderful idea and Carl is so pleased, gave him a new lease on life. He is to include 20 sketches and 10 pencil drawings and all his hunting trophies of heads etc. will stay in the studio. Mr Harvey wanted to see us as Pearl had told him we were ~~so~~ interested in a Museum for Banff. They were going back to Calgary so only stayed until 8.30

To-day, Monday, was lovely again getting up to 55, but we thought we would feel better if we got all the things we could done for winter. So this morning I washed the dormer window in the bedroom, Pete taking the storm windows off and putting them back on. They seem to get a film in between and are better cleaned, did the downstairs ones inbetween too. Sam was over and he and Pete repaired a spring which shuts the back door without a bang, and then we also got the rest of the gutters cleaned, Pete put tar in one on Saturday which was quite a job, I also got the cobwebs of several years off the inside of the garage and so ambitious I even gave those windows a quick wash with the viscose sponge and squeegee and the shed ones too. Then as the garden plots were pretty dry we turned the outside taps on again and watered those and loosened the soil too, and Pete put new dirt between the stones and I raked the leaves off the rest of the front lawn and the back. Verne came while we were working but we didn't stop and then Nick Morant at the end. He said 4 people had come to see them and stayed for tea and ruined their afternoon so he wouldn't stay to spoil ours. I also did a wash of things that didn't need ironing, and we even went to Charlie Beils from the post office to tell him of a lecture he might be interested in in Calgary. Sam worked at the store putting on a tar paper roof on a shed, so we think the day off sort of spurred us on all the more.

Tuesday. Young Cliff was down all <sup>last</sup> evening to tell us about their trip to Prince Rupert. Mildred died in her sleep. Heart I guess.

To-day is mild but a high wind so we are afraid it will blow up a storm.

Loads of love  
Catharine



Banff, Alberta.  
Fri. Oct. 22, 1954.

Dearest Mother,

*Talutau's letter*  
Every night this week we have had company, Pearl with Eric Harvey and friend Sunday night, then Monday young Cliff and Tuesday two school teachers, Miss Gratz and Bob Roberts about the hospital and they stayed longer than they mean't to and then *Wed Norman* last night Pearl again to discuss Museums etc. She said that Col. Moore always said it was ~~like~~ like a nest egg, if you put one in the nest a hen would start laying and the same with a museum, once you start everyone will get interested and we might get a real one some day. Mr Harvey has built two log buildings, over near Norman Luxtons store, we are wondering if perhaps he didn't do the same thing as with Carl and bought the store and property from Luxton but they will continue for as long as they live carrying on their business but eventually it will become Mr Harveys. The Museums are open free and very popular, in fact the first one was so popular they had to build a bigger one. but none are fireproof and as we all feel it is a fire proof one that is needed before people will give really valuable things.

Just now Ules LeCasse came, he was coming Monday, to take down a lovely tree at the back of the house which is taking some light from the studio window, Also it is getting a bit too big too close to the house. Seems as if all our best trees are in the wrong places. Just as the Hurricane took the wrong ones for you.

You certainly have had a dose of Hurricanes this year. I remember when we were in the West Indies they rather expected them at a certain time each year and one extra bad one had taken most of the coconut palms a few years before and done lots of damage. It snaps the top of the palms right off and then there is nothing but the trunk which never sprouts another top. The houses all had shutters which were closed for such storms and as the houses were pretty solid and made of coral they didn't blow away. But in New England nothing was planned for such storms.

Toronto was very badly hit by Hazel but it was the rain and water that did the damage. Not in the city but in some of the low lying suburbs. Seems that they had  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches of rain, which was more than twice as much as they had ever had before. The Humber River lies in a clay bowl and the clay absorbed about half of the rainfall and then would absorb no more and the river rose so rapidly it went way above flood level, The people living in the valley had had their cellars flooded before and some didn't take the warnings seriously enough, they only had 15 minutes to get out, it was in the night and several houses were swept away, people and all. I think 40 bridges were destroyed cross ing two rivers. and in the best market garden area when 1000 ~~dutch~~ Dutch people lived, they just got out in time and now it is all flooded with only the top of the little church steeple showing. 76 are known drowned and several missing yet, a week later.



We are still having lovely weather but won't be surprised to have it snow anytime now. It was very windy for a couple of days but was sunny yesterday and to-day is perfect too. Says on the radio warmer to-morrow. we had a heavy frost last night, the first I guess in a week or more. We are so glad for the farmers and ranchers, though the frost has lowered the grade of their wheat at least they can get it harvested for feed and perhaps stored.

All sorts of things to see to just now due to changes at the store Think I told you Ted Evans is giving up the meat market and Joch who has the grocery is buying him out and putting a meat department in there. They found some room under the outside stairway and between the old part and new part of the store which gave just enough extra room for show cases and this week have been rebuilding that. So there have been the odd questions to ask etc.

Right now Pete is working on the final drawing of the Christmas card, which has been delayed due to the fine weather and I was going to write you a better letter than this, but think I will go out and sort of get Ules to take some trees out. He is so quick and can fell a tree exactly where he wants it. Put a rope part way up and tied it to his truck and then before I knew it I heard the thing fall, I was going to watch it go. However in a way I hate to see a lovely tree fall, but it did give more light, especially upstairs.

Loads of love and will answer your letters first free evening I get.

Catharine



Banff, Alta.  
October 25, 1954

Dearest Mother,

We are still having nice weather but won't be at all surprised to have it change anyday now. It is quite cold, about 15 above the last two mornings and a heavy frost but it gets up to nearly 40 in the day time and feels very warm in the sun. Not a cloud to-day and just lovely out. Yesterday was Sunday, Pete was working on the Christmas card in the morning and had me posing for both of us to try and get the arms right, am glad he didn't expect me to pose as the animals!

In the afternoon we went for a bit of a drive, up to Norquay to see the improvements on the road and where a new Motel is to go just above the road west. Nice sunny spot. Then when we got home after getting the mail Patsy MacKenzie came for a bit and we didn't do any of the raking of leaves or trimming trees I had thought of doing, in fact it was a very lazy day and no company at night, though the Morants were down Friday evening and we took them to the train Saturday afternoon.

Later, This isn't going to be much of a letter as Pearl and Edmee were just in and want us to go to Calgary with them to-morrow for lunch with Eric Harvie. He asked us down and seeing he is so interested in Museums in Banff we could hardly refuse. We aren't very anxious to go. Edmee will drive and they have a new car, an Oldsmobile like yours, only yellow. Can't quite picture us in a yellow car but anyway it is nice to be driven down. They plan to leave at quarter to nine, back after lunch.

A nice letter from you to-day with the one from Anna and Mr Peck and Miss Cooke. I forgot about her during the Hurricane. Next time you see Cousin Harriet ask her if she ever heard of Hurricanes in New England. perhaps they had them and called them bad storms or gales, they wouldn't have been able to measure the wind perhaps or known how they affected other places. I must write Anna, if ever I get the desk straightened out but with this good weather hate to spend time doing that. Forgot that Mr Peck was at the old north church, I never did know them I guess.

Maybe I will enclose a clipping or two to fill this out as we are going to bed soon.

Heaps of love and will hope to do better next letter.

Wednesday, Didn't have a chance to mail this yesterday so will just bring you up to date. Pearl and Edmee came around Monday evening to say that Eric Harvie would like us to lunch with him Tuesday, the next day, and they would drive us down, leaving at quarter to nine.

We really had a very pleasant day, Pete never likes to go to Calgary but in this case made an effort, Pearl was so anxious

cake  
frosting

see 9 toed  
you this  
above -



for us to be included and Mr Harvie seemed anxious we go. He is the one I told you about who bought Carl Runge's house. We think he is doing a wonderful thing in buying the house and as many of Carl's drawings and pictures and even sculptures as he can and preserving them. So many people ~~aren't~~ don't do such things until a person has died and then it is so much more complicated. We believe he is doing the same thing for Mr Phillips, don't know if he is to buy the house but he is getting a whole set of the woodblocks and has several of his pictures. He also has started collecting paintings of Western artists and those in the office he wanted us to see.

It really was amusing, for we know nothing about Oil stocks or the Oil business and Mr Harvie is the head of Western Leasholds. which from the map they had of Western Canada showed the great number of leases they hold. We thought it was all the oil properties of everybody, the little pink squares dotted over the map, but not at all it was the leases they hold. However they were all very informal and fun.

Edmee drove us down in their new Oldsmobile and the day started off well, when we stopped for gas the kids were just running to school and in the background was a cow moose and her yearling going in the same direction, only she went on behind the school and crossed the main street and into someones back yard.

It took 2 hours to Calgary, a lovely sunny day, we stopped for Edmee to stock up with frozen food at Safeways and then they let us off to go to the Optical place. Mr Humphrey adjusted Pete's glasses as the weight spreads them at the nose, in time. He was very pleased that Pete had gotten on so well. Also went to the Canadian Art Galleries for a look around and then met Pearl and Edmee at the Michael building at noon.

We went right to Mr Harvie's office and had a look around too at the pictures. In all the offices connected with Western Leasholds they have good paintings on the walls, Carl's, Belmore/ and George Brownes, several not as well known artists. Mr Phillips etc. It was really very interesting and good to see people like that taking an interest in painting. and of course bare office walls are ideal for hanging them. It wasn't an elaborate office at all, in fact rather old fashioned and simple but in very good taste. There was a large table with a desk at one end in Mr Harvie's room and chairs all around it. A Mr Webster from Toronto came in soon, he is staying in Calgary a short time for hunting and business I guess. Pearl says he thinks he has given a lot to the summer school, he too is interested in collecting Canadian pictures, only older ones, for he has some Kreighoffs like Cousin Harriets. Then there was a Mr Campbell from Edmonton who knew Pete's father well and has come to Banff since he was a little boy. Don Harvie the son who has just come back from New York where he spent a day with Carl and picked out a number of pictures and Mrs Beltz who was with Eric Harvie when he came to the house the other day, and who has spent years in the Dutch East Indies, and wants to come and see our sketches of Bali. He is their head geologist and a very quiet gentle sort of person. and a younger man named McCarthy. We all had lunch together in another room just off the main office where the girls were typing. It was a very quiet room



with several lovely paintings and we had a nice simple lunch and a pleasant time. There didn't seem to be any hurry and I expect by having people like us in they get off the subject of Oil leases etc. Seems to me it is a very good idea, they must have a small kitchen and the one girl was evidently doing it all. We had soup, poached eggs on toast with tomatoes, rolls and then delicious banana cream pie. As Don the son remarked, "Don't know why we always get eggs when we have company!" But they tasted good to us. After lunch they showed us the room with the maps of the provinces which shows at a glance the oil and gas fields in different colors and where their leases are. Pearl said it all started by Eric Harvie having bought leases for \$125,000. and being offered 4 million for them. It's beyond me. The Harvie family have been coming to the Mt Royal in Banff for Christmas for 20 years. and Pearl says they are a very close family. *anyay*

X *bring to gether*

We each did an errand and then started back and were home by five, time even to shop and see how the meat selling is going in the Grocery. Think I told you that Ted Evans who has been running the meat store on the corner has retired and Joch MacCowan who runs the grocery ~~dises~~ side of White's has built over a corner at the back of the store for meats and yesterday was the first day it was in operation, funny part was that Pat Burns ~~was~~ opened the meat market in 1894 the same time as Pete's father built the ~~new~~ store and they were great friends. Ever since that time there has been a meat store on the corner, not always Burns, but a market and yesterday was the first day it was closed and we had lunch in Pat Burns old office, sort of a coincidence.

~~Have~~ just been over town, it was warm this morning, around 40 but the wind brought in clouds and it is raining a bit now, We are still lucky in that they have had cold and 6 inches of snow in the southern part of North Dakota. Alberta is the only warm spot.

Maybe if it rains I will get a good start on the desk this afternoon, I just hate to stay in when it is mild and sunny out for it will soon be too cold to rake leaves or trim trees.

Better send this along, heaps of love,

*Catharine*



Bang. Alta  
Mon. Nov. 1, 195

Dearest Mother

Just a note  
to say I'll be writing a real  
letter soon. Saturday was busy  
+ Halloween. Yesterday so lovely  
we took a picnic lunch + ended  
up at Radium 90 miles away  
back in time for Norman Sutton.  
a Mrs Loughton + Edna to  
see some of Mrs J's paintings  
in slides. They were here until  
11. P.M. + this morning it was  
again so lovely we took a  
lunch + tried a sketch of Lake  
Louise. awful chilly in the  
shadow. so we may try it  
again early in the morning.  
will write soon -  
Loads of love Catharine



Banff, Alberta.  
Tues. Nov. 2, 1954.

Dearest Mother,

We seem to get busy in streaks and the last few days have been rather full ones. I should answer your letters but by the time I gather them to-gether the news will be on and I may be too busy, also the election returns will be coming in from the U.S. so will just give you an idea of what we have been doing.

Saturday I didn't do much cleaning but started the wash and then we took the <sup>new</sup> card to Mr Clarke at the Crag and Canyon which took some time, then to the Sowdens with a timetable of trains we took to San Francisco as they are going back to Honolulu this winter. Then errands and before we had time to have our lunch or even start it, Norman Luxton came to ask if he could bring a Mrs Dorothy Thornton to see us as Mr Harvie wanted us to meet her and see her pictures of Indians. Norman got talking and looking at some of the Indian paintings that Pete has laid in and wants some sketchy ones done for the new part of his log museum. So it was about 1.30 when we ate. Then we had time only to get the mail and tidy up the house a bit and he brought Mrs Thornton about 4 P.M. and left her. We had tea and talked until 5.30 and then drove her home and up to the MacKenzie's with some magazines about Arizona where they are going on a trip. Nellie was busy dressing the two youngest for a Halloween party and luckily asked if we would be home as the kids were coming with the Larson children to "Pete and Catharines" for an apple and candy. We had almost forgotten what night it was and so took Mom's gate off before some kids got the idea, and laid it on the grass where they wouldn't see it. It is usually so dark around here that they don't come around, though about ten we heard some young people turning over the benches on the river. Other wise it was rather quiet except for Michael Sandy & the Larson kids in costume.

Sunday was a lovely clear day and though cold the sun warmed it up later. We had a look at the damage <sup>in the back garden</sup> and then saw that Norman Luxton was at his store so dropped in to tell him how much we had enjoyed the lady artist, Mrs Thornton, and as she had slides of her Indian portraits to show us we said we would be glad to have her do it at our house, for Norman, Pearl and Edmee. He thought that night would be best and as he goes to bed early, we said 7.30. Then went and told Edmee. It was so lovely we decided to make up a lunch and maybe sketch, so got away by quarter to eleven. Hadn't been over the Windermere Highway to Radium for ages, and then in winter, so went that way and it was so nice we kept on going and landed up at Radium Hot Springs where we had a look at the new pool. Stopped for lunch on the way at a camp ground. It is 90 miles one way so we really came right back. Did stop long enough to have a visit with Tex Woods who used to be out at Skoki the first year we were there, hadn't seen him for ages and he is now at the gate into the park. lives in Windermere. Then we hustled home knowing the others were coming that evening. Got back at five. It was really a lovely ride, We aren't apt to go far this time of year as usually there is snow or it is stormy with only the odd fine day, but it is so different looking in the mountains with the long shadows at this time of year, and only a little snow in very shady spots. *not more than half an inch.*



It was quite an evening, We had time to change and get supper and wash up before the others came and only Norman with Mrs Thornton and Edmee came, The slides were most interesting as she has been painting for about 25 years and trying to get all the interesting old Indians with a story behind them, many were over 100 and mostly from B.C. She has gone all over the coast in search of them and also the prairie. Her sketches were done quickly in an hour or an hour and a half, they are evidently life size and rather sketchy in quality but she has gotten the character and they are very strong, some better than others but colorful and good. Her landscapes very strong, I didn't care quite so much for those. She had been to all sorts of remote spots and is writing a book about it too. She is also Art critic on the Sun newspaper in Vancouver. She has also done paintings of Indian dances from what she has been told by the Indians. She showed us about 200 slides, all paintings, only the totem poles in Water color and talked and told stories for a good two hours. She was interesting and amusing and you could tell she loved Indians.

We then had tea and looked at our Indian beadwork and talked and it was 11 P.M. when they went. Norman said he didn't know when he had enjoyed an evening so much.

✓ Monday was another lovely day and as we knew there would be few if any people at Lake Louise on a week day, we decided to try a sketch of that as Pete has someone who wants one, Paul Martin who is the minister of Health and Welfare and at present the head of the Canadian Delegation at the United Nations. So we got the mail and bread we were out of and made up another lunch and got away again at quarter of eleven. It was 12.15 by the time we got to the Lake and lovely with interesting light on the glacier. But we were barely set up when the sun went behind Fairview Mountain and we were in the shade and it was good and chilly. Ice on the lake in such a thin sheet that the color of the green lake showed through, it was open in a few places. Pete made a quick one hour sketch and I only drew mine in and then took some kodachromes. We were home by 3.30. Did the errands and saw Sam about work at the store, Got a quick note off to you and Mom and some of the first day covers as well. Then last evening we listened to some programs but couldn't get the political broadcasts, got looking up things about Indians.

✕ This morning was another fine day and we got up at 7.15 and set off by 8.15 to try and get to Lake Louise while it was sunny, but it clouded over soon after getting there, but at least was warmer than yesterday. I sat inside the Jeep but Pete worked outside and we both sketched for about 2 hours. We saw Walter Perren the young Swiss guide, he takes turns as caretaker, he said we could drive the Jeep right into the garden in front of the hotel, there are roadways wide enough, so it made it fine for me especially. First time ✕ I have sketched from inside the Jeep and it worked fine.

We got home about two and went right to the post office and then for some meat. Met Pearl Moore and Mrs Painter, and Pearl had been down to see us 3 times to ask about what we thought of the paintings, so I said we were going back home then, so down they both came and we had a nice visit, they were just going an hour later when Edmee drove in, also to talk about the paintings, as Eric Harvie had



wanted our opinion, She stayed and had some coffee and before she left Barbara came to collect for the Salvation army and joined in about town affairs and also indians, She hadn't been gone very long and I had gotten the spare ribs in and was busily making some Royal pudding, (made with cold milk and just beaten) when Lona Becker came for a copy of Life about how the world was made. and we hunted for that. then her boy friend appeared on his motor cycle and it wasn't until nearly six when we had a chance to think.

Now we have listened to the news and how the election is going and how rainy it is with snow in upper New York state and it is supposed to be in the 50 or 60s here in Alberta to-morrow, I don't know if we will go out again but when it is so nice seems a shame not to.

Wednesday. It's clear again this morning. were up at 7.30 again but it's very frosty. 25° so we are going to do some things we must see to. Should see Sid Vallance about one of the leases too.

Loads of love.

Pete & Catharine.



Banff, Alberta.

Sunday, Nov. 7, 1954

Dearest Mother,

If no one comes in I hope to write you a better letter. Haven't been too busy lately but quite a few people drop in. Pete has done some copying with the camera, experiments, Sam was over Thursday morning and we talked more than we did things. Can't remember what happened in the afternoon, Friday was so nice and mild I did up all the wash I could find, including five woolen shirts which kept me going in the morning and that afternoon Asta's gauge dropped in, it had started to rain very gently by then and I had to bring in all the wash and hang it inside, including the socks I did later. Asta hadn't been here for ages and when she left she called me aside and showed me the loveliest gray and white hand knit Norwegian sweater which she hoped was the right size for Pete. She wouldn't give it to him herself. Linnie Becker had come in from School and as Asta works for her father it made it fun as they are great friends too. When we got our things on to take them home Pete put on his old brown Norwegian sweater that John Ness got for him and which he has worn steadily ever since, and showed it to Asta, (little thinking a brand new one was waiting for him as a big surprise) and he told Asta "you know this came from Norway and you can't get them out of the country any more" she was much amused. Pete was rather taken aback when we returned home and I gave him the sweater, he couldn't believe she had gotten it for him.

Linnie was awfully cunning as usual, very serious telling us about a trip they had just been on to the coast, she told us they had a big storm, a gale and the waves were very high, she and two little boys were on the beach looking for shells and evidently an extra big wave rolled in and first thing she knew it was right up around her and up to her shoulders, she said she screamed it was so cold and she felt so silly being all wet, ~~it was cold too!~~

That night we decided to print some photographs, first time Pete has tried any for two years, we were just starting, a knock on the door and Jimmie Simpson had come to change the small telephone from here to Mr Scotts, so it is in the hall up there instead of in his living room, and so we can call Bev and Cliff anytime. Jimmie was down once before and so we didn't want to put him off again and went up with him. It didn't take more than half an hour so we started on the printing again when we got back, worked until 11.20 P.M. quite a late evening for us.

Yesterday was another lovely day, did the usual cleaning at the end of the week and errands, then as it was so mild we turned the outside taps on and Pete washed the Jeep and Pearl <sup>more</sup> came and did her car too, as her taps are off and so are Edmees, I also gave the flower beds a last soaking and raked again. then Jonny appeared and we had tea. and last night I had two days washing to iron so we listened to the hockey game over the radio while doing it.



To-day was nice again, not quite as clear but from a start of 20° above it rose to nearly 40° and with no wind felt warm. It seems to be as hard for it to storm this fall as it was difficult to clear this summer! We heard they had snow in Gettysburg and they have had it in Montana, but here it has been really wonderful and the grass on the lawn is still quite green, very little frost in the ground. Pete had some more pictures he wanted to try so set that up, then Jonny appeared just before lunch which he had with us. We wanted to use natural light for the copying but barely got started after lunch when Mrs Simpson and Auntie Joe (her sister who now lives in Calgary) came in. They wouldn't stay long, just time to see some pictures we took of them this summer, so then we started in upstairs again. Later on I raked the rest of Pete's mother's lawn so she won't worry about it. Then Colin Wyatt and Veronica his neice came for about half an hour, Pete was stretching canvas. To-morrow we have Steam Watt the plumber coming to put in gas connections so when we want we can change from Oil to Gas heat as we think it will not only be much cheaper but more efficient.

A nice long letter came from you to-day, seems to me you are becoming quite a football fan, I don't wonder you find it hard to find Rusty, they all look so much alike when they are padded and in a uniform, I expect both he and Russell are just full of football and mighty proud he is on such a good team. What a shame Aunt Julie has been so sick, for it can be pretty serious and sometimes an operation I guess. In the letter from Cousin Jane which I have just read, mentions among other things she has enjoyed was a lecture on "New Guinea" and strangely enough we were asking Colin Wyatt about it just this afternoon, he was there during the war and has written quite a ~~xxx~~ bit about it in the book he wants us read for him.

What I really wanted to say was about your flying out, are you seriously thinking of it or just wishing you could? We wish you could too and if you like I can find out the best connections, but think you would have to change at either Montreal or Toronto, and if going via Toronto you have to go to New York first and change there. Sometimes the connections aren't bad but when I tried last June for Aunt Julie they weren't good at all. Next summer the C.P.R. are going to have new equipment on their transcontinental trains and it should be very comfortable. They have much nicer rooms than they used to have and the nice part is that you can come right to Banff, the only change is in Montreal.

One friend of ours comes out each summer from near New York, and she is almost paralysed, sits in a wheel chair and gets a little worse each year. Her husband comes with her and she comes by train to Lake Louise, goes to the dining room once a day only I think but is really quite wonderful, they have to lift her in and out of cars etc. but when you think of her coming by train, it would seem most anyone could. The plane would be fine but one still has to make the 85 mile trip by car or train from Calgary to Banff, takes about 2½ hours from the airport, 90 miles really from there.

Monday - Another lovely day. nicer than yesterday.  
Steam isn't coming now until next Monday. I  
cleaned some of the Studio this morning but will  
maybe work outside this P.M.  
Heaps of love Catherine



Banff, Alberta.  
Thurs, Nov. 11, 1954

Dearest Mother,

Armistice Day, a little colder than we have been having but still not winter, just a chill in the air. Have had a busy week and will just dash off a hurried letter before going for the mail. ~~Monday~~

Monday morning we expected Steam Watt to connect the gas to the cellar but he didn't come and it may be next Monday before he does, we are going to use the oil on hand first anyway but would have it ready to connect when we want to change over to gas. I started to clean the cupboards in the studio and put away a lot of canvases etc. for Pete suddenly got the idea of painting the ceiling white to give us more light in winter, it is wallboard which has darkened through the years, we got hold of Sam and he measured it up and got the size and paint already to start Tuesday, there was quite a lot to cover up and put away.

Then Tuesday morning he and Pete started in, Sam was a little late coming, but Pete mixed the stuff and painted the lower sloping walls and Sam used a roller to put the Kemtone on the ceiling. The size had to go on first and then the paint and they worked all day, Pete and I finishing up after 5.30. I got extra paint and ran errands etc. and Lynlie and Christine Smith came to help rake leaves after school, so it was a full day and then in the evening when I might have written letters Cliff came down to return some things he had borrowed and stayed to talk until after 10 o'clock.

Yesterday was Wednesday and even busier. I used a combination of cleaner I figured out once to take the dirt off the logs, at one end of the studio, there are only four beams about 6 feet long left uncovered and the white ceiling made such an improvement in the light Pete thought perhaps if we put veneer panels over the log end it would improve it still more. I was glad for otherwise those should be cleaned and I find the men aren't too interested in scrubbing. We have plenty of logs in the house anyway and the studio is to work in not to look picturesque, maybe someday when our house is old someone will discover the old wall and rip off the wallboard and they can have the fun of cleaning the logs! I shall be just as glad to have it a flat surface that only needs a wipe down with the vacuum or a cloth. ~~xxxxxx~~ The log wall was originally the outside porch wall and so the soot from the chimney had stuck to the oil surface and when we added on the studio ~~was~~ just dusted them down. now there ~~are~~ only the four beams left and not much to clean.

Sam got the material, Pete touched up a few places that hadn't quite enough paint on the ceiling and I started on the beams, then there were the errands and at noon Tom Kaquits arrived to tell us that now his wife has died he finds it pretty lonely, he had taken good care of her these last years she was sick but now he is going to be "legally married" in January to Bella TwoYoungman, an orphan Mark Poccette adopted. *Don't know if he wasn't legally married before or not. He said she wasn't young. girls weren't much good. Bella is 35 & Tom 65.*



We were just finishing lunch so he stayed and had pie with us, and a lot of talk. We finally got going upstairs, Sam doing most of the work and we washed off the spots of paint that had dripped or splashed on the walls, ~~ixaisxxhaxixaxixh~~ Then just as we finished tea Mrs Brett came with a pproblem and she loves to visit so I had a long talk with her so Pete could go on helping Sam, She didn't leave until after five. We had just gotten the car put away and I had changed my clothes a bit when Harold arrived.

He had a chance to go hunting elk but needed a gun and if we could drive him down to Shrigleys he might be able to borrow one from them, so we got the Jeep out again and drove him down and back only to find that Shrigley one of the R.C.M.P. was up at Bow Summit. Got the Jeep put away and supper cooked, eaten and washed up and carried a few boards upstairs and were all ready to sit down for a quiet evening when Ted White of Victoria came in. He used to be in Banff when Pete drove for Brewsters and his wife and children are still here but he hasn't been just right and so it is all rather difficult and they are seperated. He talked steadily for over an hour and a half, it seemed longer, and most of it was hard luck stories about D.P.s being given all the jobs and how the construction man wouldn't give him a job though he was there before the others etc. He little realizes that they probably don't want to employ him, its rather pathetic really, but we listened and I gave him a cup of coffee at nine hoping he would soon go, no such luck, so then I remarked when I could get a word in, "should we be going for Harold?" Hoping Pete would catch on and make an excuse for us to leave, but he only said "I don't think it's necessary." then ten minutes later he realized what I was trying to do, so suggested we should go over and see Harold. We offered Ted a ride home which he said he would be very glad of so again we got the Jeep out but did manage to get to bed before ten. *otherwise he might have stayed until midnight.*

Now to-day is Armistice Day and Sam said he didn't mind working so came this morning, We had mutual friends going to Honolulu leaving this morning by train and as Sam said he was supposed to pick Cis up in time to go to the 2nd train, I said I would do that and save him leaving the job. So off I went and we found Cis had gotten mixed and it was the first train they went on. Pete and I went to the service at the cenataph which was very nice and now have just finished lunch, Sam is back hammering again and I will take this to the postoffice and then maybe wash off more spots, they are only tiny ones but it does look better having them cleaned off.

Loads of love

*Catharine*



Banff, Alberta.  
Tues. Nov. 16, 1954.

Dearest Mother,

Your airmail came yesterday about Louis, quite wonderful that he could work as he did up to the end so to speak and to go so peacefully, am glad he wasn't ill or sick even for a short time. It was good of Russell to send flowers from us for of course we didn't hear in time to do anything ourselves. I shall miss Louis for I can't remember when he wasn't there.

As usual we are rather busy and again no time for a real letter. Haven't written since last week I guess. Saturday Sam came in the morning and finished putting the board on the back wall of the studio, it is just fir veneer but takes time to fit. We were to be at the Crag and Canyon (to help Mr ~~Earl~~ Clarke get the right color for the Christmas card) at eleven so were up early to do all the things here first. But he said to come back at 1.30 which we did and we stood in the printing office all afternoon on a cement floor until 5.30 while he set up the printing machines and mixed the printers ink. There were several delays but we just stayed patiently and didn't say much. The boy who knew his new printing machine had just left so it was just a young kid who worked it and Mr ~~Earl~~ Clarke hasn't used it much himself. Anyway we waited until they had printed the blue sky and had the green for a lake or river and then left. They worked until nine that night doing it. We were weary by the time we had made supper and just sat all evening, I read a bit of Colin's book I am proofreading for him. I certainly am a poor one to do it being such a poor speller but have found a few tiny mistakes, he certainly has the largest vocabulary I ever saw, nearly every page has a word I have never even heard before, not counting the Latin words of butterflies etc. which I leave up to him to correct.

Sunday we were up early and Pete and I blonded the new wall, You paint on white paint and then rub it off and it fills the grain with white so that the wood doesn't darken as time goes on. Makes it have sort of a natural finish. Pete painted and I rubbed it off as fast as he got it on, we worked all morning. Then after roast beef for lunch went for the mail and a bit of a drive. Lucky we did, for Ted White, who came down the other night and is living in Victoria now and spent the evening telling us hard luck stories, came again Friday afternoon and I went to the door. Told him Pete was busy and he wondered if Pete would advance him ~~xx~~ \$25.00 which he needed for expenses going back and then would repay it when he returned in December. We didn't want to start that sort of thing knowing that of recent years he has been full of stories and borrows where he can. He had a mental breakdown which partly accounts for it as he ~~didn't~~ used to be that way. Anyway I told him I would tell Pete and we have avoided being in as much as possible until we hoped he had left town. He was to go Sunday night. We went out Friday night to see the Prossers and to bed at nine Saturday, and Sunday afternoon it was so warm and pretty we drove around by Minnewanka, got back at 3.30 out time and found a note on the door from Ted, he hadn't go ~~ag~~



until Monday night and reminded us of his request and ended by saying "any luck?" We were the lucky ones I guess not to be in! Susan and Joyce Newly from Jasper came soon after we got home and stayed until after six and then that evening we went up to Cliff & Bevs for Pete to telephone but stayed to talk.

Then yesterday we were up early expecting Steam Watt to come & connect the gas to the basement but he came about 10 to say he wouldn't come til to-day. I washed as it was still mild and we did errands and then at one Ceceil Phillpott arrived to change the electric light switch to the outside of the new wall. Sam arrived after lunch too which was lucky so he could cut the hole, so that all worked fine. I cleaned up more of the things in the Studio and sorted paint and then Mr Lonsdale called to ask Pete about his painting which he is trying to do. So we had quite a busy afternoon, in fact we were busy all the time with one thing or another. and last evening Patsy MacKenzie came down to show us her new camera she has just bought and to ask Pete how to work it and we spent until after ten showing her things about photography.

Tuesday, I will soon be going for the mail. The Power men came soon after eight to put in one new pole between ours and the next lot instead of the two which we have now which come down right across the <sup>back</sup> lawn. It was fun seeing how easily and quickly two men with one truck and a crane on the back from which hung the new pole could set it up into the hole, took about five minutes, and just now as I was writing this they came with the truck again and took out the old poles just as easily. Was great fun to watch.

It's been a three ring circus to-day, with Sam putting on the finishing touches to the ceiling upstairs, the trim. Steam Watt and his helper Bob, working with pipes and then just at one the power men to say the power would be off an hour and then Charlie Beil with a model horse Pete wanted. So as you can see we are busy. Will be writing soon

Loads of love,

Catharine



Banff, Alberta.

Thurs. Nov. 18, 1954.

Dearest Mother,

Don't expect this will be much of a letter as I feel lazy to-night. We have had a busy week and to-day seemed rather quiet with no men around as Sam has gone to Calgary and the plumbers have finished, just waiting now for the Government men to test the Gas line or something. We have been getting up by 7.30 each morning and keep busy all day. Pete has been doing some colors on the Christmas cards and I just started my two, but don't think they will take quite as long this year.

Friday- didn't finish this last night, Guess I should really tell you other things than what we are doing.

If you can't get that 2nd. book don't worry for we were going to give it as a Christmas present and can give something else instead. I forgot to ask about the Swiss Calenders. Is it too late to get them this year, Would love to have five ~~xx~~ if you can still get them.

At one time we thought we might get east for your 90th. birthday but think perhaps it is wiser to stay in Banff until Pete gets his other eye operated on. He wouldn't want to change doctors and if we went anywhere and he got even a minor infection it could be very serious. They say one is more or less immune to the infections around ones own home. Dr MacAenzie said they wait until the first eye is really strong again before operating on the 2nd. so don't know just when it will be. It seems alright but if he uses it too much he can feel the strain or if he does too much. If it were a foot or something like that one would take a chance but his eye is so important to him it is best to take no risks. Maybe by spring it will be O.K. to leave. Hardly seems possible that Thanksgiving will be next week, how many are you to have this year?

Russ sent us the clipping about Rusty's last football game, what a wonderful team they must have had, I didn't realize that Wolley Pratt coached it. Does Rusty have another year at Middlesex? I sort of loose track.

Had such a nice newsy letter from Cousin Alma this week, it was good of her to write, she told me about Ebbs family etc. This next week I hope to sort out the letters that I should answer with the Christmas cards and those before. We have the Studio about finished. Pete shellaced the wall yesterday and put the coat of varnish on to-day and it looks very nice, then we can move the furniture into place and once the cards are done he can start painting again, but he wants to get everything else cleaned up first.

Will be writing soon again, so all for this letter.

Heaps of love,

Catharine



Bayff. Alta  
Mon. Nov 22. 1954

Dearest Mother

Just thought I'd dash off a quick note hoping it will reach you by Thanksgiving, then you will know we will be thinking of you on Thursday, our mouths watering at the thought of the Turkey & all that goes with it.

From the letters we know the Palmers will be there & Cousin Jane & Mildred, & Aunt Julie. We send all the family our love & warn them not to over eat, though we rather expect they will.

Our weather is still mild & more like Spring than November. It was 66 in Calgary yesterday. Hardly any frost in the ground. So expect you will have it mild too.

We are busy doing our Christmas cards. It's hard to realize that we only have a month to go 'til then.

Loads of love to all

Pete & Catharine



Banff, Alberta.

Thurs. Nov, 25, 1954

Dearest Mother,

Thanksgiving Day in Concord ! Just so you will know we are thinking of you, Mildred and Cousin Jane must have arrived last night and the table must have been set yesterday with ~~Pete~~ bringing in ground pine from the woods, Expect Mrs Pietro is helping in the kitchen and Erma must be on hand and you will all be missing Jean. On the radio it said the weather was cold and maybe snow in New England, Here we are having sort of a drizzle, it was 50 in Calgary this morning, the 2nd day in a row that started out as warm, and it is about 40 here. We are in for a busy day and will be eating fish most likely, but fresh salmon from the coast can taste pretty good too!

Such a lot of people we have seen lately, one thing after another this week. It started out quietly enough but some leaded pane windows over the big ~~show~~ windows at the store buckled out of place, they have been bulging for some time, run right across the front of the store. There has been some blasting which may have loosened them more for one came right out and Sam thought if it wasn't fixed right away it might fall out. So he got Verne Costello and another man and built a scaffold and two carefully pushed from the outside and Verne pulled on little wires from the inside and with lots of luck it went back into place. Now they are putting wooden panels on the outside of the glass which really looks better from outside and insulating it in between and it stops the light that was bothering them inside the store. We were pleased to have it work out so well, and Sam was tickled to pieces to get the thing back into place for he planned how to do it.

Monday we did cards and then Mr Lonsdale the United Church minister came with some of his paintings to show us, he is only just starting to paint and so keen and Monday is his day off, He was here two hours just asking questions and Pete explaining various things and yesterday which was Wednesday he stopped us on the street, wanted to show us what he had done since, It is too funny how fascinated he is trying to paint and said he had worked on the picture three times but couldn't spend more time this week, expect he must write his sermon! He is coming next monday and Pete is to show him how to mix paints. I gave him tea that afternoon Sam was in later and Verne in the morning and I have forgotten who else.

Tuesday was as bad ~~withxxx~~ we worked hard and almost finished the cards, just have the hands and face to do, Eldon Walls was down after lunch to talk business and Sam about the store work and then we went up to see Syd Vallance and were in great luck, most times we go Mrs Vallance is there and she talks to me and is very nervous and makes one feel hurried or they come down here and



are in a hurry to be somewhere else, but Doris was at the Red Cross, her sister having a hair do so we had Syd all to ourselves in an unhurried visit. He got us tea and we eat in the kitchen and talked over lots of things for over an hour and a half. Sam came down that evening about some blinds we had ordered for the studio and then Edmee came about some paint she needed and she stayed until after ten, so we felt we had been talking most of the day to one person or another but did get quite a lot settled.

X Yesterday we had quite a conglomeration of people, In the morning I washed out a couple of shirts and then joined Pete on the last of the cards, right in the middle Mr Scott called in, he came home the night before, had been away since September and so had a lot to tell us about. He lives in the lower part of the big house, He is a real farmer type and loves to just sit and visit so after an hour I sort of moved around and he thought it was time to go and we went shopping, We just got started nicely on cards <sup>in PM</sup> again when Barbara came about some pillow covers she is to make for us, then when we went out we saw Mr Lonsdale and spent about half an hour in the church. We also took time to watch the Calgary power take out a big tall pole, made two trips over to Luxtons and are to see him this afternoon, arranged for Steam Watt to come tomorrow and turn ~~the~~ Pete's mother's water off etc. Then got her radio we are borrowing for the winter. Pete was ~~was~~ setting that up when Colin Wyatt arrived, he is having difficulties with his wife, then Mrs Brett at quarter to six, she is trying to help the Anglican minister get away to-day on the train for Victoria and Miss Gratz after supper about something else. I did get one parcel done up to send to Norway which was something. <sup>spent an</sup>  
X hour in the bank in the AM.

Now we are going to the station to help get the minister off, that's a long story too. So you see we are quite busy but hope to finish up this week with all the odd jobs.

Must run so all for now.

Heaps of love,

Catharine .



35 The book came  
Thanks -

Banff, Alberta.

Sun. Nov. 28, 1954

Dearest Mother,

We are starting in having more wintry weather and the river is begining to freeze over, It had frozen across the end of September in that cold spell and then opened up and was free of ice until to-day. 14<sup>th</sup> above this morning. We have had a quiet Sunday so far, I managed to finish all the hands and faces on the 487 Christmas cards, counting them at the same time. We have a good system now, lay out 25 at a time and in rows of five each and then by standing up to a tall counter in the Studio you can color them very quickly. Pete was working on a model of the room that Norman Luxton wants him to decorate for his museum.

The other afternoon, Thursday we went over to Norman Luxton's and he took us to the Museum he has built with Eric Barrie's help. He always did have a lot of stuff in the store or trading post on the other side of the bridge, and not enough room to display it all, so they built a nice log building about the size of our front room. but still they had more than would go into that so have built another larger room, about four times the size of the first and in between is a narrow room they used to use as a work shop and it is 29 feet by 13. as long as ours but half as wide. quite high for so narrow a room. Norman wants to hang photographs in there, He calls them pictures and we aren't sure if they are just photogrphas or some paintings, but in any case they would be small. He also has a large one that Carl Rungius has given him of Moose to go at one end there or in one of the other rooms. He thought if Pete would do some rather sketching Indian subjects to make a fraeze around the upper part of the room it would add color, done in the manner of the Indian camp or even more sketchy. Pete is going to have a try at it and Norman says he is to be paid for it as it will be quite a job. Right now Pete is making a model of the room to get ideas of the proportions. Thinks he will make five pictures for each long wall, seperated by a tiny frame. and have things like the Indian travois, travel when dogs were packed with animals. etc. at the end he thinks he might do a camp scene and have the subjects on either side lead up to the end scene. It is going to take a lot of work and study.

That same day we had a call from Tex Woods, maybe I tld you this, from Radium, he had a couple of oil paintings he had done for Pete to criticise, one of a goat was very good. > then Sam came soon after we returned from Luxtons to tell us they had finished the job at the store. The wood over the windows, it looks so much better. and before long Lynnne Becker arrived and close on her heels Jonny. Lynnne came for subject matter on "the North" which they are studying at school, and Jonny was quite a h&ap as he remembered the article in Life Magazine. We had gingerale, cake and cookies and then Lona dropped in with Penny Mitchell, they came on his motorcycle. By then we had several books out on the subject



and they all began looking at them. I thought we needn't mind worry too much about comic magazines when they found so much of interest in pictures of the Tundra and rivers of the Northland. and in looking at the maps. However it was a bit hectic and afterwards I couldn't find my drawing of a plan for the store or the plan Norman Luxton had made on wrapping paper for Pete. In fact it wasn't until next day I found the latter, evidently had picked up the folded wrapping paper and put it in the cupboard with the rest of our brown paper! That evening we went to Eldon Walls in a pretty snow storm which didn't last long, we have just a sprinkling of it covering the ground.

Eldon built a new house this year, the modern kind with large windows in the living and dining end of the big room. They are on a hill in such a position that they have a lovely view at the back of the mountains and no other house close by, so it really is very attractive. They have a nice kitchen with the window over the sink having another lovely view south west. and one whole wall is just cupboards. Their bedrooms also have a wall of cupboards. It is all in light wood very nice. We had such a pleasant evening. the two little boys were allowed to stay up a short time, one Gordie the oldest is going to Edmonton this week to have some tests made of his heart. He evidently has the kind with an opening between two chambers in the heart, so the blood that has been purified gets mixed with the other blood coming in. If he gets a cold it is really hard on him and if he caught Phneumonia he would very likely die. or measles or anything like that. Just this last year they have operated on several children in the states with the same trouble, and until then there wasn't much hope. so he goes to Edmonton to see if his heart can be operated on and if so they will have to take him to the states to have it done. Eldon is the one who looks after the store properties for Pete.

Friday was a busy day too. Sam put up Venetian blinds in the studio for us, makes it much easier to regulate the light and we can close them at night when working up there. Bob Watt came to finish the plumbing, had the gas line tested, though we won't use it unless something happens to the oil burner, then he cleaned out the drains and in the afternoon came back to ~~exit~~ turn off the water in Mom's house while I hunted round for things that might freeze. Pete and Sam fixed something in the basement where the water gets in, but soon we will have everything set for winter.

Saturday we did the usual things in the morning, cleaning a bit, errands for weekend shopping, the grocery stores now close all day Monday, and then we listened to the football game in Toronto between the Montreal Alouettes and the Edmonton Eskimos for the Gray cup. They are professional teams but such interest and excitement. Montreal was a 5 to 1 favorite, Edmonton was ahead for a short time and then Montreal for most of the game and it wasn't until the last 3 minutes of play that Edmonton got a winning touchdown. It was about the most exciting game I have ever listened to, I was dusting the living room and would come in and out to hear better for the radio was in the kitchen and Pete listening from the kitchen workshop. *we was making the model room*  
Then we had those frost window things put on the Jeep



met Cyril Paris over town and he came back for a sup of coffee and the rest of the afternoon, as we hadn't seen him since his fall trip to Arizona and Mexico, also Texas. While he was still here Bev came down with some pictures of the baby as they are using an old camera of ours for the first time and by the time she left it was supper time for us.

Yesterday, Sunday, we had a good morning and then in the afternoon after we got back from the Post office Jonny came in, he wanted to read "the Sea Around Us" which we have a copy of and while I tried to type this he either read parts that interested him or asked questions in general. about our Gladys and Noel Gardiner came for tea, they leave to-day for Jasper where they are to run a new ski development, Patsy MacKenzie came in later and we had a good visit. We took Patsy home after the others left and just ran in a minute to see the MacKenzies who are just back from a trip south to Tuscon and also a day in Mexico. The kids had to show us all the things they had brought back and it was hard getting away. Last night I worked on the address list for Christmas cards and now this morning we are waiting for Sam to fix a couple of things. It is a lovely day, clear and frosty about 10 above so guess Winter has really started. The river is only just freezing over.

I think the books must have arrived for there was a notice in the postoffice box Saturday but the wicket was closed in the afternoon. Thanks so much for the books and calenders.

This week I shall start in earnest getting the Christmas cards addressed and written on and in the process should get the desk cleaned up!

Shall be interested to hear about your Thanksgiving and how the Palmers were and the rest of the news. How is Robert Swazey? haven't heard mention of him for sometime. Mildred is going to send us the copy of the medical report on Cousin Harriet, shall be interested in that.

The list of books came that you sent from the Concord bookshop. Noticed one "as told to Sam Merwin Jr" didn't know that he wrote as his father did.

Better get on with other things. but will try soon to get organized. Pete has plans for his pictures and once the other things are cleared up will start on those, and then I will have more uninterrupted time for writing.

Heaps of love,

Catherine



Banff, Alberta.

Fri. Dec. 3, 1954

Dearest Mother,

This won't be a real birthday letter but just in case my next one doesn't reach you in time, we send our very best wishes for the happiest birthday yet. We sent you our present yesterday, not very large but we enjoyed making it for you and hope you enjoy it at your leisure, not on your actual birthday perhaps for according to Russell's letter you may be rather preoccupied. and from time to time we hope to add to it, the present that is.

Had such a fine long letter from Russell and he spoke of the small tea they are giving at the house for you on your birthday, wish we might be there to pass the sandwiches and cookies or something. Sounds awfully nice. Evidently you feel much the same as Jean did when you gave her the party on her 80th birthday, she didn't think so much fuss should be made or people invited formally, but after it was over she found she had enjoyed it all tremendously so if you enjoy yours as much it should be a great success.

We are still rather busy and though last night I directed about 200 Christmas cards, there are many left to do and to write on. I lost a couple of afternoons this week but one can't help such things. Monday Mr Lonsdale, the United Church minister came after Rotary, about 2 P.M. and Pete laid in an oil sketch and painted it while Mr Lonsdale watched fascinated, I could hear Pete explaining why he did certain things and from Mr L. enthusiastic exclamations every now and then, he was just thrilled and like a young kid. It was really fun to see him, he just wishes he had started painting 25 years ago! Sam came later his eyes having troubled him, and we all had tea together, I think Mr Lonsdale rather enjoyed it all for it was after four when he left. I tried to write a couple of letters not too successfully.

Tuesday I was all set for a full afternoon, and Pete met Norman Luxton over town who came at 2 to see the model and ideas Pete has made of the room at the museum he is to do the Indian pictures for. After half an hour we went to the museum for another half hour and looked at old photographs and also to meet Mrs Lefroy who had some Indian beadwork to show us, she was late so by the time we got back the afternoon was shot. We listened to Churchill and his 80th birthday program.

Wednesday I had to do various errands and the bank etc. which took most my morning but by getting it all done early I figured I could spend most of the afternoon sorting the letters to answer with the Christmas cards, Then as I came from the post office (Pete was laying in a sketch) Susan Mather appeared, she had been recommended in her studies at school in Calgary and so didn't have to take the exams and was given three days off. very nice. We had barely gotten in the house and I was wondering what to



do while she was here, Do up Christmas presents perhaps, when who should drop in but Jackie, he hasn't been here for a visit for ages and the store closes Wednesday afternoon, he isn't very well and we are rather provoked at him for the way he runs his part of the store but just the same we don't want to antagonize him or get him upset for it only takes more time and leads to misunderstanding. Sam was working upstairs on some door sills that needed fixing so that let Pete out for it looked as if he were busy with Sam and actually he was painting. A few years ago it would have upset him having Jackie come like that and he couldn't have concentrated, but now he can work better with other things going on. Susan stayed a while and helped me listen to Jackie, he spins out all his tales and they are always about what he has done, like their trip to California, goes into endless details, never once asked about Pete's eyes or what we were doing, not that it mattered but I sure got a dose of it and unfortunately didn't have anything I could do but listen, I was caught. We had tea and Sam and Pete came down for that which was fine. Then Susan left and Jackie stayed a while longer. But then the afternoon was shot so I just kept on being as agreeable as possible.

Then yesterday afternoon we felt we must go up to Colin Wyatts as Sam hadn't come at all, They have been asking us up and evidently Elsie has been very difficult ever since the baby was born in the summer. Colin doesn't know quite what to do as she takes every thing the wrong way and no matter what he does or says is wrong. We hope they won't split up and he thought if we dropped up it might help. So up we went for an hour and had tea and a nice visit, then to Sam's to see if he was O.K. as he has had trouble with his eyes lately. But I worked 2 1/2 hours steady last night on cards so that helped.

This morning we were up at 7 o'clock and lucky too for Steam Watt arrived and wants to put a hose on our outside tap to get water to Barbara's as their water line has broken. He is down now working in our basement. Sam hasn't come yet, and I better get on with a business letter. Didn't mean to write so much but when I start typing it is like having a bit of a chat.

The book on mountaineering has come, looks very interesting. but the calendars haven't arrived yet. Will let you know.

Heaps of love and have a very Happy Birthday.

Pete & Catharine

P.S. Don't be surprised if we telephone you the evening of Dec 8th. The night before your birthday. we thought after a tea you would be tired & might not hear as well. If we call it will be early. between 7 and 8 P.M. your time. but if we don't telephone it will be just because we couldn't manage it, so don't worry.



Banff, Alberta.

Dec. 8, 1954.

Dearest Mother,

It's a lovely day here, we have a couple of inches of snow just enough to make the ground white. It was 10 above this morning but it isn't really cold, a beautiful moonlit night last night.

Haven't done much lately except try and get the Christmas parcels away. I have sent each one separately so hope the customs don't bother them. Mrs Round said they shouldn't when "Canadian Handicraft" is written on them. I sent you the book you said you would like to have last summer for Christmas and hope I remembered the right one! The calendars came through without any trouble and thank you so much for them, they really mean a lot to those we give them to and they speak of them throughout the year. Also both books. The one "where the clouds can go" was written by a friend of ours who used to come out every summer but now goes to Switzerland, Dr Thorington. In fact either he or Henry Kingman brought him to the house.

Conrad Kain

We are busy getting the cards written on, I do that part as it gives me a chance to answer the letters I haven't had a chance to during the year. but it takes time, so this won't be much of a letter to you I am afraid.

Haven't been too busy, Saturday Steam Watt came to put a hose on our outside tap to connect with Barbara's house so they would have water while he was repairing their water main from the street. Harold worked hard all morning and some of the afternoon digging holes in their lawn and then Sunday afternoon Steam came and worked all the rest of the day with Cliff to winch the new pipe through the ground attached to the old one. The old one was so rotten it kept breaking but by evening they had it hooked up. It was mild weather luckily. But Saturday the garden hose kept breaking in weak spots until Barbara and family remembered to keep the taps running so there wouldn't be too much pressure on the water hose.

Pete's Uncle Jack Campbell who is now 80 made us a long call Sunday afternoon, nearly two hours, until we went for the mail, he hadn't been here for ages and is quite a talker. Then Monday afternoon Mr Lonsdale appeared about 3.30, just wondered if we had been expecting him with his pictures, he wasn't sure if he was to come again or not, we were having a cup of coffee so of course gave him one and then he went home for the ~~xxx~~ three paintings he had been working on and Pete made suggestions. He is catching on fast and made some remarkably good trees, he is so enthusiastic it is funny I told him to be careful and not talk about oil painting in the midst of his sermons and get mixed up.

Have to go to a tea this afternoon but am going to leave early so as to put in the call to you, should be thinking what I want to say, am not much good on a telephone.

Loads of love and shall be anxious to hear all about your birthday to-morrow.

Catherine.







Baruff.  
Alberta.  
Sunday.

Dearest Mother,

Just to wish  
you the Happiest of Birthdays.  
Don't know if you will  
get my previous letter as  
I stupidly addressed it  
to "Baruff" instead of to  
"Concord", luckily they  
know my hand writing  
so it was in an P.O.  
box yesterday! Haven't



time to write a real  
letter to-day - company  
most of the afternoon -  
but you will be too  
busy to need one!

Will try to telephone  
you some time Wednesday  
evening between 7 and 8  
your time, but if we  
don't you will know  
we couldn't for some  
reason so don't worry.  
but it would be fun to

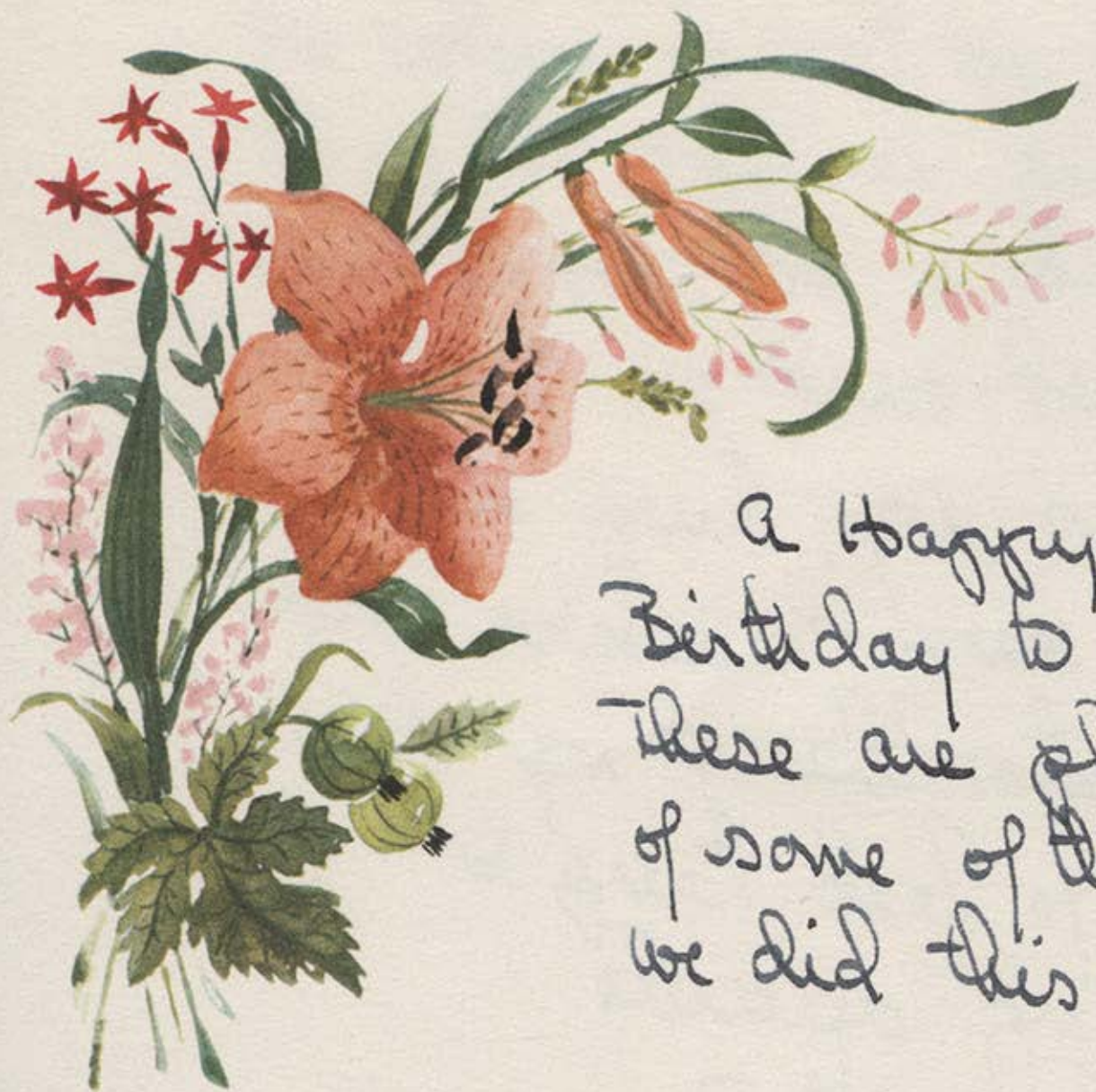


say "hello". Though I'm  
not much good on a  
telephone. I ~~suppose~~<sup>we</sup> will  
first talk about the  
weather.

Beats of love to your  
mother & wish we were  
to be with you to help  
celebrate. Have a lovely  
time.

More love  
Catharine.





A happy 90<sup>th</sup>  
Birthday to you Mother.  
These are photographs  
of some of the sketches  
we did this summer.



the colour is not as rich  
as in the original pictures  
but gives you a little idea  
of what we have been doing.

We send you our very  
best wishes & wish we were  
with you to celebrate this day.

A great deal of love  
always from

Pete and Catherine.



Barry  
Alberta

Dec ~~May~~ 13, 1954

Dearest Mother

Just a note as I am in the midst of getting the major portion of the Christmas cards off - If I send the Eastern Canadian ones to-day they can go for 2¢ instead of 5¢. seems silly to waste the extra.

I experimented with the Canad. ones. When you write inside you have to put 5¢ on. but unsealed its 2¢. The ones to you has 2¢ & we would be interested to know when it gets to you. the one to Russ has 5¢. They may take the same time. Would be good to know for another year. They were mailed yesterday the 12<sup>th</sup>. Our postmaster is quite clever. he was there anyway so opened the packet & gave out parcels & too/2 them in. We came back down & did up



Pete's present to you. It went  
air mail. So it would be fun  
to check on when they arrive.

3 packages have come from  
you already. sort of book size.  
Many thanks.

What a wonderful letter you  
wrote after the party. It must have  
been just lovely in every way to  
think both Mrs. Brown & Mrs.  
Johnson came. To save the little  
figures the Root girl made so  
we can see them.

Mercilia sat right down  
& wrote us all about the party  
too which was so good of her as  
she must be extra busy now.  
It was a fine description & she  
told some things you didn't &  
versa versa. She mentioned some  
things she wrote for you & didn't  
dare present. I mean't to ask  
her to save it & let us all read  
it.



How interesting the Heain girl  
now lives in Canad. believe her  
name is Valentine. She went to  
McGill in Montreal & a friend of  
hers Carolyn Bot told us she was  
now fem. she called her "a painc"  
She also flies a plane having  
gotten her licence. Do hope you  
have a chance to see her. I can  
remember her so well when she  
used to come to Banff at Christmas  
time.

Must run -

Heaps of love

Catharine



Banff, Alberta.  
Thurs. Dec. 16, 1954.

Dearest Mother,

Am just wondering if this will reach you before Christmas, I certainly hope so, maybe I had better send it Air mail and be sure ( just noticed that mark on the paper, don't know where it came from.) None has come from you since the one the morning after the wonderful birthday party, I expect most people wrote their cards that following Sunday and just swamped the post office.

I have worked every night writing letters or notes on our cards trying to get them off and to-day Mary Simpson wrote she had already gotten ours, thinks it very realistic! I guess people really think we go around with those animals all the time. This morning two moose ran through the yard in about the same way the little kids race through after school on their way to the skating rink.

Several other parcels have come from you, I am beginning to lose track but one doesn't look like a book. We got a Perishable parcel from the Campbells, they asked us not to send them anything more as we got red coats for the kids to wear to school and sent them early in case it was cold, so we promised we would send only old second hand things, El thinks it must be a frilly bathing suit for I said I had something that you had given me 25 years ago and might be useful in the summer. It is the electric roasting oven which still looks like new but which we have lent a lot and used ourselves, but for the one turkey we might cook in it each year we thought it would be far more useful to them, especially in summer. So to-day in El's parcel she wrote " just some 2nd. hand things from the ranch " they smelt pretty good right through the paper, and when we opened it there was a lovely branch of pine, When that was removed we could smell something else. A big slab of bacon from the Pillings, then a cake from El, a real white Christmas cake and a jar of home made mince meat, and a pound box of butter, all such good things to eat. We were afraid not to look at things in case they had to go in the refrigerator, and in one little box was a little thing made of velvet, I don't know just what for by Donna and a tiny little wooden stand with a little toy lamb in front and a thimble on a piece of wood made to hold it from Wayne Pilling. They must have worked hard over them. Then El took some little jars that we had sent of jam from Honolulu and painted the top red and put little spots of red and a couple of stars on the side and holes in the top for salt and pepper by the stove. She is so clever that way. To-morrow we are going to do up our parcel for them. Verne

Friday, It is time to send this off, we have worked all day packing the box for the Campbells, Sam doing the last difficult part. So will send this off now with a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. and some pictures we took of the Campbells last fall when we were down. Mrs Loring might be interested at the Book shop. Heaps of love to you and all the family.

Caltherie



Banff, Alberta.

Sun. Dec. 19, 1954.

Dearest Mother,

X I feel sort of lost to-night, all but five of our Christmas cards have been sent and all the letters and notes are written. I worked a couple of hours at least every night this last week and sometimes during the day and the week before too I think. X and it's too funny, several times I have posted a card to a certain person only to get a card from them out of the box *the same day*.

A nice letter from you this afternoon written last Monday I think, anyway after Mrs Mabel Brown had been for dinner on Sunday and Mrs Keyes and Mercelia, I don't wonder you were tired and actually being a little deaf you have to strain to hear so that makes it more so and to have such a big party is exciting, not to mention being ninety. It still seems hard to believe you are supposed to be an old lady.

The 5 books and 1 parcel have come from you and today the Guild picture, We opened it and what a really nice one it is, so gay and so typical of a New England Common.

The Vallances gave a Christmas tea *to day* which they do each year before going to Calgary for Christmas with their children. They have a large and friendly room just right for entertaining and it was very nice. Something like Pete not writing many letters, when he does do one it is such an event it quite bores people over, and the same when we go to a party, they are all so pleased to have him go. There must have been about 40 there and it was very nice.

I don't seem to have done a great deal this last week except get off Christmas parcels to the coast and to the Campbells. That took most of a day, all morning to pack the box inside and do things up, I had promised to just send 2nd. hand things knowing we had some good ones to send. Verne Castella made us a wooden chest to hold the electric roaster that you gave me years ago, for unless you have a convenient place to put the oven one doesn't bother to get it out as often to use. Verne made a good job of it and came down to stain it and two mornings to varnish it. It had a false bottom which lifted out and the extra broiler etc. fitted underneath, the whole little chest was just the right height for the boys to sit on at the end of the table when they have company. Pete had some shirts which scratched his neck, I had some U.S. Army air force boots that were too big and clumsy for me but which I used to use when it was cold for watching hockey games at 20 below. now they don't play here very often and I put in some towels and all sorts of things like that which would be useful to them. and a book each for the boys. Sam did it up in two big cartons from the store and it was good to get that away Friday.

Yesterday afternoon I went to a sale of home cooking and bought more than I mean't to, lucky I did for when I got back Bill MacLean of Morley was here with his wife and two little boys 2 and 3. They were cold so we made tea and had milk and lots of raisin bread toast and cake and a nice talk, they were here about an hour and after they left it still smelled so of smoked buckskin it



sort of took our appetite away for supper, Pete put a coat of size on a panel he is going to use for painting and that helped kill the smell.

This week I am going to try and get the house in order and a bit cleaner for Christmas. The Colin Whatts have asked us for Christmas dinner and the Wards too, and it turns out it is Christmas Eve and not Christmas day, but will be fun just the six of us. The Wards went two years ago.

Better get on with the housecleaning, it is now Monday A.M. and Pete is sizing a board for the first picture for the Museum

You haven't said whether Mildred will be with you but somehow it wouldn't seem like Christmas if she weren't. So give her our love and tell her I keep forgetting to ask her about the Maine Indians?

Loads of love and a very Happy Christmas to you mother, and to Mildred and the family as well.

*from Pete & Catharine*

P.S. We enjoy the letters that were written to you on your birthday especially as we don't have to answer them! Don't think you should worry about it either. I counted up for fun last night and I wrote 55 letters with ~~my~~ our cards, most of them two pages and 126 notes just on the back part of the card. But now I only have half a dozen letters I didn't have time to do, so feel some better. *can do those after New Years*



Banff, Alberta.

Sun. Dec. 26, 1954.

Dearest Mother,

Christmas is over and it was quite a day, I should have written last evening which was quiet for us but instead sat down and really enjoyed the lovely Velasquez book you sent. First time I've looked at a book in that way for a month at least. It is a wonderful book to have and most of the pictures we haven't seen before. Mrs Schier must have helped you get it for she has a wonderful copy she made of the Infanta Margarita in her house. At least I think that is the one. I was interested to read that his greatest fame came between 1880 and 1920 thought he painted in the early 17th century. for the teachers we had at Art School were great admirers of his, like Mr Thompson and so perhaps the way the heads are painted mean more to us. Many thanks for it. The other books too look very interesting, especially the Roosevelt one and the one about Churchill by Virginian Cowles, I have read other books of hers before the war and like the way she writes. one of her best was "Looking for Trouble." and the Mamie Eisenhower one too should be good. What fascinating drawings in the Japanese Animal's frolic, we are so glad to have that.

But I was going to tell you about our Christmas for it is several days since I have written. We tried to get things done before last week but of course one never does. Mr Lonsdale was here a good part of Monday afternoon, Tuesday I cleaned the kitchen for people inevitably want to help do dishes or something and so I had to have the shelves dusted well and etc. and then Wednesday we got the kitchen floor washed and waxed and in the afternoon I did the living room, though it didn't need it too much. Then on Thursday I cleaned silver which should have been done the week before and some late shopping, Pete was painting, and that evening we had promised to help judge the outside decorations of the stores and houses. Luckily they had people enter the contest and so a lot weren't included which helped some for it was hard to decide. We cooked a goose that night or rather all that afternoon for we were going out Christmas eve and if one tries to do it Christmas day it makes the house a bit smelly even if a rather pleasant smell. We also got the tree up though not decorated, a very dainty tree this year sitting in a littered tub. It was really quite a typical Christmas eve though the day before it should be. a gentle snow falling and not too cold. We were just getting supper ready when a Mrs Roberts and her little girl came down with a present, they really shouldn't have but we always send them a box of Groceries and they do appreciate it, then Edmee Moore drove in while they were here but didn't stay long.

We had time to eat a bit of goose which was really roasted to a turn, we would have had someone in but having to go and judge ~~outside~~ the decorations at 7 o'clock we didn't. We all met at Jackie Andersons store, Mrs Hayes and Charlie Beil and Bud Stiles to drive us around in his station wagon.



Its the first time in Banff they have had such a contest as the Jaycees thought it would be a good idea to brighten up the town for the holidays, There was one prize for Commercial buidings, stores and filling stations, and then three for houses, one for over \$2 \$50. one for under and one for the most original. The under \$50, was the hardest as there were only two which might have been over. But we did the best we could and all had a cup of coffee afterwards. Then when we got home at nine I did up the presents that weren't already done and that was most of them for the kids here.

Briday the day before Christmas we were up before 7 o'clock so had a good start, seemed funny to be putting lights on the tree at eight in the morning. but we also decorated the house a bit with spruce and a lot of holly we got from the coast, a friend sent us a big box of it and though we gave a lot away we still had a lot left. It was 30 out and nice and warm so we hung more spruce on the doors and windows outside too with red bows. There were also things to get as there always are at the last minute so we missed the Wards when they came with a big mince pie. We also had all the presents to take around, to the Prossers for the two kids, Christine. The Becker girls, and the MacAenzies. Patsy had baked us a cake and her mother some real mince meat made with meat. We gave Michael and Sandy a ride to the skating rink and while I was in the post office, Sandy said to Pete. / " I am making you something for Christmas but it isn't ready yet." so Pete said that was pretty nice, and she said " yes, I am doing it all myself, but you may have to wait a little while for it. " so Pete asked when it would be ready and Sangy hard and said " I think it will be ready by next Christmas." She evidently wasn't to be out-done by her older sister.

We went up to the Wyatts for dinner a little after six, though we didn't eat right away. Colin had made "Gluwine," which is really mulled wine, heated and flavored with spice and very good. Then the Wards arrived, and the only other guest was a nurse from the hospital, the Physiotherapist, a girl from Hanover, Germany, Ursula was her first name, she has been in Canada three years. Veronica was all excited, she is just 9½ and with so many grownups to spoil her she was demanding a good deal of attention, especially from Sam who she knew best as he worked on their house. Colin had cooked the turkey and I guess the dinner, to do it in the proper English fashion, as Elsa is from Columbia in South America. The table was beautifully set with lovely silver candelabra, old silver and fine china they have brought out. It is rather interesting how the English take their customs with them and their type of home. They always refer to their "drawing room" which undoubtedly it is, for they have a lovely bright warm shade of yellow carpet which would seem a bit impractical, lovely drapes from Libertys I guess, and even the furniture is what one would expect to find in England. Colin was dressed in a pin striped gray suit that he wears when going to tea or a cocktail party, as I have seen him in it before and yet he managed to bring in the turkey and the vegetables still in the immaculate suit. We started off with sliced grapefruit. then Turkey, roast potatoes, peas and cranberry sauce and for desert a fruit pudding with delicious bradny butter sauce. like hard sauce but really butter creamed with brandy in it. the pudding was well sturated with something too for it burnt merrily when it was brought in. ~~Then~~ Colin did it all even to clearing the table and they wouldn't let the rest of us help or even wash up. they left it all until morning.



We stayed until about 10.30, just talked after supper and the baby was brought down to have her bottle, she was awfully cunning. and Veronica was aloud to stay up. So it wasn't too late an evening.

Christmas morning we woke in time to listen to the Empire broadcast and the Queen, then we got up. Mr Scott was taking the nine something bus to Calgary so before breakfast we went up there to wish him a Merry Christmas as we knew he would be a bit lonely as Mrs Scott died just last summer. and Bev and Cliff who live above had gone to her mothers the day before. He was pleased and though he wouldn't have even coffee he came down while we had our breakfast and until it was time for him to catch his bus. We took it nice and leisurely and sat and opened all our lovely presents by the tree. X Had just finished when Ike Mills came to the back door. We had sent him a box of groceries knowing they were a bit hard up, and he was in tears, told Pete it was so like his father and what he always did for Ike, said he couldn't get over it. He often imbibes a bit too much and may have the evening before but he was all right yesterday morning, only the more he talked about how good Pete and his father had been the more the tears rolled down his cheeks, he is a very tough appearing character but has a sentimental side. So we made coffee and treid to cheer him up and he said he was glad to get it off his chest for since 6 that morning every time he thought of it the tears would come. We spoke of old times and he laughed and told us a few good tales and was here a good hour. X When he left Jonny appeared with their presents. A nice line-a-day for me, and a lovely cushion cover Barbara had woven for us. She made three, but when Harold couldn't figure what to get for us she suggested he give her one and then later Harold asked her "do you think Lona could give them one too," so they gave us one each, Barbara having done all the work and perhaps paying the bill, though maybe they bought the zippers!

While Jonny was still here Norman Luxton dropped in to see the work Pete has been doing, he was to have come last week but I guess forgot and came yesterday morning. We think he wanted an excuse to leave the house for he and his wife have great arguments, for he had forgotten his tie and said he had an awful headache. Any way he was pleased with the pictures Pete has drawn in, and gave him some good tips on what the Indians would do or wear. He had only just left when Barbara and Harold appeared but they didn't stay long as we had promised to drop over to see Mr Paris and Georgie his daughter as both Cyril and Herb, his son's were away and their family's

When we got to the Parises about 11.30 we found they were awful glad to see us, no one else had been in and they missed the family. Mr Paris is over 80 and also a bit sentimental and lives a bit in the past and the wonderful old days. Georgie said when she had come down that morning she found her father weepy, he misses his wife too. So we dropped in just the right time and had a nice visit. They were to have Mr Dunsmore and daughter there for dinner as Mrs Dunsmore is in the hospital.

We came back after that and started to have goose with gravy and lima beans. Had it all being warmed up when the Simpsons came, so we said just right, put away the goose and gravy and brought out the wonderful turkey Russ and Kitty sent. A smoked one that came in the



from the Catshills. Had lots of fresh bread and butter made by El Campbell and Cis Wards mince pie, so ~~sta~~ all sat down at the table. I was just making tea for Big Jim when Susan and Patsy arrived, they thought the turkey looked awfully good so we moved things a bit and they sat down. Jim leaving and they expected little Jim to bring David, their grandson down to be taken for a walk. The Simpsons were having their difficulties too as Larrie, Young Jim's wife was just operated on for a very bad appendix the day before Christmas and Mrs Simpson is to go to Calgary next week for a tumor operation in her neck and Larrie's mother and father just arrived Wednesday for the holidays from New York.

Our lunch was too funny for everytime I took a mouthful someone was coming or going, and everyone was having a different combination of things, some milk some lima beans, some tea, some all three but everyone enjoyed the turkey, making their own sandwiches. We were in full swing when Tommy Kelly who works in the store arrived. His wife had a bad stroke about a month ago and still can't speak well and is very ill in the hospital but we had told him to drop in here and he said it was the only place he was going expect his children's. So he joined in to eat the delicious turkey, it was sure lucky we had it, and Mrs Simpson left. The girls were good and stayed long enough to wipe all the dishes and Tommy talked to Pete. We seemed to do more cherring up of people.

They had left and we were just getting ready to go out when the Prossers arrived with candy Dave had made especially. It is good of people to cook so many things for us, Susan also brought a cake and Mrs Simpson too. The Prossers have two small children who were very good and we had a nice visit with them only they stayed much longer than they mean't to and no one else came in, but it was quite a day. We weren't tired for actually no one upset our hours for doing things, we opened our presents quietly and had the meals on time. after supper we went over to Barbara's for a short time to see their things and then came home and I read until Bedtime and Pete too.

To-day we haven't been out yet, were up soon after 8 as Pete wanted to work on his pictures and we only had one caller, Ted White who I kept standing and got rid of by saying I had his letter to write, He is a bit of a nuisance and we are trying to discourage him. Now we are going to see Mrs Moffat and Uncle Jack Campbell who we didn't see yesterday and I better end this lengthy letter. Hope you had a lovely Christmas and will have a very Happy New Year.

Heaps of love to you all

from us both  
Catharine

P.S. No time to read this over.

Jessie Bann of Lake Deundee is Jean's cousin who used to write 2 or 3 times a month - related to the Bannans of Walthrop - sister of Maymie Bann of Chicago.